



Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

NINTH ASSEMBLY

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Thursday, 10 May 2018

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Thursday, 10 May 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.

**Public Accounts—Standing Committee
Reporting date**

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (10.01), by leave: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 15 February 2018 referring the papers relating to methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report be amended by omitting the words “last sitting day in May 2018” and substituting “last sitting day in September 2018”.

Just briefly, Madam Speaker and members, this has become necessary. In the first place, the reference by Mr Coe was a little on the—

Mr Rattenbury: Ambitious side?

MRS DUNNE: Thank you; that was the word I was looking for. Absolutely: the ambitious side. Also, taking into account the number of hearings that are scheduled during May this year already and the privileges inquiry into matters associated with this report, the committee has determined that it will report, at the very latest, by September 2018. There has been discussion in the committee about, hopefully, doing that earlier.

I had asked that this resolution also include the provision for reporting out of session, but I was advised that that was not a good thing to do at this stage and that if we needed to do it later in June, we could do that. I am not quite sure whether I understood the advice, but it was a bit late in the day to argue backwards and forwards, so at this stage we are proposing a reporting date of the last sitting day in September, and the committee has resolved internally to try and finalise the report before then. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (10.04): As Mrs Dunne has stated, we have been in furious debate over the last little while about extending the time frame for this inquiry. I note that this matter was sent to the PAC for inquiry back in February this year by the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Coe. Since that time there have been many scheduled meetings that have been unable to go ahead due to members not making themselves available to meet, particularly members of the opposition. I understand that there was a motion to look at the privileges side of some of the things surrounding that committee, but part of bringing together the privileges committee and setting up the privileges committee was that we did not want to hold up the important work that this inquiry by the PAC looking into rates has to do.

It is very important that, as elected members of this place, when we are asked to further support the will of the community and sit on committees to do important work, we look at what the community believes is important work. The inquiry looking at the methodology for rates on units is a very important inquiry. To be having to stand here and agree to extend the time frame to the last sitting day in September because members of the committee refuse to make themselves available to meet is extremely disturbing and upsetting. I have said that, and I will continue to say that.

The Leader of the Opposition stood in this place on 15 February and explained how important this was to the community and to the people of Canberra, and that we as a government were trying to avoid it. Yet I and my fellow member of the committee Mr Pettersson have asked on several occasions for us to continue to meet so that we can continue to do this important work. I was informed this morning that we have not met for five weeks. Five whole weeks! We have been trying to have a meeting to discuss this important matter, to have a meeting to make sure the people of Canberra are heard, to have a meeting to find out whether the people of Canberra really do have a problem with the methodology behind determining rates for units.

I find it very difficult to have to stand in this place to argue about the fact that we are having to extend a reporting date for an inquiry that we were told by the Leader of the Opposition we were trying to stop when we could not meet to continue to do the important work. I would like to remind members that this week, on 8 May, Mr Coe stood here and said:

This is just another instance of this arrogant Labor-Greens government trying to avoid scrutiny on major policies and issues. The Treasurer has not provided any compelling evidence to back up his claims that this will help the housing and rental affordability crisis faced by so many Canberrans.

Where is he? Why has he not made himself available to meet to continue the important work of this inquiry?

I understand that last month Mr Coe stood in front of the media and announced that there were 19 submissions—19 submissions—that had not quite made it to the public accounts committee inbox.

This committee has not been able to meet to discuss what we will do. This committee has not been able to continue the important work. We have not even set up a meeting schedule for who we might call as witnesses when we do hold public hearings into this matter.

It is with a very heavy heart that I am standing here today to bring this matter to the attention of the Assembly. I note that, on moving the motion to inquire into such things, Mr Coe stated on 15 February:

At its core, the government's rates and land tax regime is unfair. This is a government that is desperately trying to squeeze Canberrans for all they are worth. In particular, with regard to apartments and units across Canberra, the government has had a massive push, trying to drive people into these apartments.

We have not been able to hear from members of the public if that is what they truly think, because we have been unable to meet, to find a quorum to have the meeting, to find out if that is truly what Canberrans think.

I can go on. Mr Coe, in his speech back in February referring this matter to an inquiry, said:

... the ACT government have given up. They have given up trying to provide an affordable product for Canberrans.

We do not know that. Canberrans have not been able to have their say to tell us this.

I have been in many discussions with particularly the chair of this committee about extending the time frames. The chair will agree that this was not my preferred date. In order to make sure that we could actually get on with the business of doing the job that we have to do, I agreed to set a reporting date of the last sitting day in September. We were supposed to report today.

I note that the chair made it very clear that she felt that that was possibly an ambitious claim. We will never know. To continue to stand here and ask why this is happening, we really need to ask the Leader of the Opposition. Is he doing his job? One part of his job is to do the work that the committee has elected him to do and do the work that the community has elected him to do. Being a member of a committee is a very important role in the context of this Assembly. Mr Coe has been unable to perform his duties as a member of the committee. He has been unable to find time in his busy schedule to meet over the last five weeks.

I hope that Mr Coe can find time in his busy schedule to do his job and continue to meet with us moving forward. I hope that Mrs Dunne is correct and the committee is able to report prior to the last sitting day in September. It is very important that the people of Canberra are able to have their say, and it is very important that the members of this place do their job and do it thinking of the Canberrans who elected them here to do their job, to fulfil their duties, on committees, as a local member and, for those lucky enough, as a minister in this great place of ours.

I could continue, but it is really just upsetting and outraging, and it is too much to continue this discussion. I will agree to this motion. Unfortunately, I have to agree to this motion. I have given my word to the chair that I will agree to this motion. Believe it or not, my word means something to me. I am very proud to stand here and give my word and vote for this motion. But it is not without a heavy heart that I am doing it, and it is not without the disappointment I have in the members of the opposition on the public accounts committee in not being able to provide time in their busy lives to meet and continue the work of this committee.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (10.12): I am a little surprised to hear that the public accounts committee has not met recently at all. I want to ask some questions, to be answered, hopefully, before this debate concludes. My understanding is that on 13 April the Leader of the Opposition, Mr Coe, stood up in front of the media and said that 19 submissions had not been provided to the public accounts committee at that

time in relation to their inquiry into the methodology for determining rates and land tax for strata residences. My question is, and I want this answered in this place—

Mr Wall: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat. Stop the clock. A point of order?

Mr Wall: I seek your guidance as to whether it is appropriate for issues currently under inquiry by the Select Committee on Privileges to be debated in this place whilst that inquiry is ongoing.

MR STEEL: On the point of order, I will not be asking about anything to do with the privileges committee. I am asking what the public accounts committee is doing in relation to the submissions that have been made to it in good faith.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Excuse me, but we are debating a motion on a committee and its need. I will listen with interest, but I do not think it has gone into committee machinations, so to speak, the mechanics of the committee or the deliberations of the committee.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Please let me finish. I think Mr Steel was going to pose some questions, and from how I have interpreted that, I think that in Mrs Dunne's closing statement she may be able to provide some information. I will leave it at that, but I will listen with interest. Do you have anything further, Mr Wall?

Mr Wall: See where it goes.

MR STEEL: My simple question is: have the 19 submissions been received by the committee? Has the committee been able to meet to be able to authorise and publish those submissions? Are those submissions published on the committee website right now? And if the committee has not been able to meet to discuss how to deal with those submissions, why is that the case?

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (10.15), in reply: Madam Speaker, the issues are complex. To go to some of the issues raised by Mr Steel, without divulging deliberations of the committee—I am not divulging deliberations of the committee because the committee has not met on this—there is a swag of submissions which have been received, some from the have your say website, some directly to the committee office. And there is a swag of them that have not yet been considered and approved for publication. That will be a matter for the committee when it next meets.

There is a combination of reasons. One of them was that I was on a combination of leave and official duty in relation to the Commonwealth Heads of Government Meeting in London. That had been scheduled for some time, and I had written to the Speaker about that. I was simply not in the territory for three weeks. I was surprised

when I came back to discover that the committee had not met. At one stage I got a message to ask if I was prepared to phone in, but it was 2 o'clock in London, and I had had a full day and was about to have another full day, so I declined to phone in to a 2 am meeting.

Ms Cheyne: A quorum is three, not four. Where was the opposition leader?

MRS DUNNE: I am accounting for myself.

Ms Cheyne: You are also the chair. Account for your party.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Cheyne.

MRS DUNNE: I am accounting for myself as an individual. As we all know, when we go into a committee, we leave our party affiliations at the door. That is what we are supposed to do. I am accounting for myself, Madam Speaker, and answering Mr Steel's questions.

There are a number of submissions, in excess of 20 submissions that I have seen, that have not yet been authorised for publication. Some of them have come from the have your say website; some of them have not. I do not know what the committee will do with those submissions, simply because there is also a privileges inquiry underway. It would be remiss of me to venture any further into those issues.

Suffice it to say that this has become a complicated issue. As I said at the outset, and there has been discussion from time to time in the committee, the reporting date of the end of May was always ambitious. There was a recognition of that and it has been made much more complex by a privileges inquiry. There is also increasing difficulty in having more hearings of the committee through the committee process in May, because at the moment the health committee is meeting on Tuesdays and this Friday; the JACS committee is meeting, I think, on Tuesdays; and the end of life committee is meeting basically from nine to five on Thursday and Friday all through May and into the beginning of June.

Quite frankly, as I said to Ms Cody this morning, I do not have the mental resources to conduct another inquiry whilst being involved in two other quite difficult inquiries and do it justice. I have been very keen not to have PAC hearings that coincide with the very busy committee schedule that is already in place for May. That was one of the reasons. Therefore it means that probably the first time we can seriously schedule hearings for this inquiry is after the hearings of the estimates committee, which means that it will be at the end of June and into July.

Ms Cody suggested an earlier reporting date. I said that the risk is that we might fail to meet that reporting date, and that it would be better to under-promise and over-deliver than to have to come back into the Assembly and adjust the reporting date again. With all of that in mind, I commend the motion to adjust the reporting date from the last sitting day in May to the last sitting day in September.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee Membership

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

That, notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 16, Mr Rattenbury be discharged from the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure for the meeting to be held on 4 June 2018 and that Ms Le Couteur be appointed in his place.

ACT Health—system-wide data review quarterly update Ministerial statement

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.20): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to update the Assembly on the critical piece of work known as the ACT Health system-wide data review. As members are aware, significant development work has occurred across ACT Health over the past 12 months, since the data review commenced. When I announced this comprehensive data review I committed to provide quarterly updates to the Assembly as this work progressed.

Today I am pleased to note the report is now with ACT Health staff for their final consultation because, as key stakeholders of the report, their views are critical to the success of this important work. Final consultation with staff will also inform the next steps and implementation activities as we prepare to embed quality data within the organisation through the outcomes of the system-wide data review. I will circulate the final report to the community and members as soon as possible after final staff consultation as well as the government's response to the review.

As members will recall, I established the review in February last year when ACT Health was unable to provide data on emergency department performance, elective surgery waiting times and mental health for the 2017 report on government services. This also followed independent recommendations for improved data collection, governance and quality. It was clear ACT Health needed to not only respond to the failure to provide some data to the ROGS report but instead to undertake a comprehensive system-wide review. I immediately commissioned this work to identify the gaps and build a solid pathway forward to provide a strong foundation for data management across the health system.

In establishing the review, I committed last year to improving the way ACT Health collects, governs, manages and builds its data expertise and, importantly, utilises its data. Data is a vital resource for managing territory-wide services and planning and making sure that the ACT's health service performance is continually improving. Our community expects that ACT Health have good data collection and management practices, and Canberrans can have confidence that the results of the system-wide data review will achieve that.

To ensure the integrity of the review and robustness in its findings, recommendations and pathway forward, a review panel was established with clear professional expertise, including skills in technology, health delivery and reporting, academia, government transformation and data management. I would like to take this opportunity to once again acknowledge and thank the members of the review panel for their guidance and support to ACT Health over the past 12 months.

The review panel has provided an important balance of internal and external oversight and expertise that has helped shape the outcomes of this review. The terms of reference for the review were designed to get to the core of what the problems were through a root cause analysis, develop much improved governance, management and reporting processes, replace the data warehouse as well as develop a clear framework of outcomes and ensure the publication of accurate data.

The root cause analysis found that there was not an integrated data strategy across ACT Health, with minimal consistency in data management practices across the organisation. The varying user needs were not sufficiently coordinated or integrated, creating fragmentation. Data definitions were not consistent, impacting accuracy in reporting. There was a lack of data maintenance planning; so application updates to support mandatory reporting were impacted. Unfortunately staff did not have a clear understanding of the wider picture of data priorities and management, and training was not sufficient, which also impacted the accuracy of data collection.

I also felt it was essential for the review to advise how data can be used for improving the community's and consumers' understanding of ACT Health information, performance, quality and safety and options for data to be available in real time. This is the future of open, accountable public health services and I asked the system-wide data review to position the ACT as a leader in this area.

Through this process, ACT Health have reached out to key stakeholders, calling for openness and honesty so that no stone remains unturned. ACT Health believes it has listened, taken ownership and responsibility, and embedded a leadership that is ready and committed to the journey ahead. With the completion of the review, further consultation with ACT Health staff is the final step to considering the government's response to the review and the necessary implementation activities.

This journey is about endurance and not a simple overnight fix. I also want to make it very clear that the issues that have been identified in the system-wide data review are of an administrative nature and do not affect the quality of health services delivered to the community of Canberra and the region. Patient information has been and continues to be held to the highest standard of privacy. The delivery of high quality health services remains a key priority for our government.

To ensure openness of the system-wide data review as it is progressed, independent quarterly audits have been undertaken. These audits tracked ACT Health's progress in implementing the 175 external data integrity recommendations that formed part of the review. I am pleased to say ACT Health continues to make significant progress in addressing these recommendations. This progress has been quality assured by an external auditor to ensure transparency and integrity.

Through the extensive work that has been undertaken through this review, it is my intention to ensure ACT Health leads the nation in best practice disclosure of consumer information. Through the review, ACT Health staff will also have an opportunity to be more innovative and better support patients and their families to become more in control of their health care and develop stronger partnerships with their clinical team.

ACT Health is now turning its attention to developing a comprehensive implementation plan to ensure that the outcomes of the system-wide data review are implemented appropriately. One of the key immediate priorities will be to identify and report relevant health information required by our community to inform and support their care and keep them up to date about the performance of their health system. This will include a comprehensive performance statement for 2017-18 and enhanced quarterly performance updates from 2018-19, with the first quarterly update to focus on the July to September 2018 period.

Important performance metrics such as emergency department average wait times and elective surgery wait times and information will be provided in real time through user-friendly web portals. This work will include the input of the Health Care Consumers Association to ensure that ACT Health provide the right information to the community at the right time. I welcome this increase in transparency and openness and I look forward to providing the community with more information about this later this year.

Achieving the outcomes of the system-wide data review will drive ACT Health's best practice performance and underpin quality and continuous improvement of patient outcomes. This will enable intelligence, innovation and leading analytics that will leverage the full capability of the complex datasets that ACT Health holds. It will be important for ACT Health to make sure the information that is collected and used for the benefit of consumers, staff and our wider community is meaningful, helps the management of the health system and transparently informs us all about what is working best and what needs to change. These foundations will enable better access to meaningful information that will benefit patients, clinicians, workforce, research, training and administrators.

It is important that, in addition to clinicians, researchers, health administrators and partners seeing the benefit of the system-wide data review, the community also sees the benefit so that the community can make informed healthcare decisions and scrutinise the quality and safety of our health services. This transparency in data reporting will drive accountability of ACT Health and the government in providing safe, high quality hospital and health services to our community.

The government welcomes the opportunity to continue this significant program of work and demonstrated that by investing \$1.5 million in a new data repository and reporting capability to meet ACT Health's intelligence and data needs as they mature over the coming years.

At the time that I established this review I made it clear I wanted more than just a post mortem of the errors of the past. I wanted a visionary report that maps out how data

can support and enable our future healthcare system. Success in this goal will be measured by the improvements in health outcomes ACT Health can deliver for patients, given that patients are at the centre of everything ACT Health do. Good data is integral to this, whether it be for our community to access data and information to help them feel in control and involved in their own care, through meeting external reporting obligations or to ensure hardworking health professionals have timely access to data and information they need to continuously improve clinical practice.

A key outcome from the system-wide data review is the ACT Health performance, reporting and data management strategy that has been developed to guide this work. The strategy defines the longer term reforms that will enable ACT Health to deliver high quality performance reporting and data services to its stakeholders. The strategy aims to transform the healthcare outcomes of our community through better data and new knowledge. The implementation of this strategy will be ongoing and there is still considerable work for ACT Health to do in driving these changes in a planned and systematic way.

As members will recall, I have spoken in this place and earlier this week about the organisational changes being undertaken at ACT Health, separating it into two organisations, with one focusing on policy and strategy and the other on operational and clinical services. A further important benefit of the system-wide data review is ACT Health having access to quality data that informs strategic planning for our growing health system as well as for clinical operations. Quality and accessible data is absolutely vital for making sure health consumers get the right care they need in the right setting.

In conclusion today, the completion of the system-wide data review marks the beginning of an exciting new journey for ACT Health. This work is nation leading and as Minister for Health and Wellbeing I am excited about the opportunities this review presents for the future of the ACT Health system.

I would like to commend ACT Health on completing the review. I look forward to further input that ACT Health staff will now provide and to ensuring the completeness of this important work and the development of a comprehensive implementation plan. I present the following paper:

ACT Health System-Wide Data Review—Update—Ministerial statement,
10 May 2018.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (10.31): The minister's statement is quite confusing because again she says that the system-wide data review is complete. We do not have anything to see, but there is a strategy. But the strategy has not been tabled. At the beginning of her comments she said it is complete, but it is not really complete because we have not consulted on it and there is a process.

I just want to put on the record some of the inconsistencies in what we are being told today and how they relate to the undertakings that the minister made. In February last year the minister made an undertaking that this review would be completed by March. It is now May and we have probably, at best, a draft report because it has not been consulted on. I do not know when it is going to be consulted on, when we will see the final outcome and how often that deadline will slip.

I also put on the record that we have not seen quarterly reporting out of the hospital since November 2016 when there was a backlog of reports that were produced after the Pricewaterhouse review and we will not see quarterly reporting until the 2018 June to September quarter, which means that we will not see that until at least October-November this year. We will have had at least two years without quarterly reporting.

I do not know how we are going to have a minister who is going to be able to cover the period in which there has been silence, whether there is going to be anything to fill that gap and whether the clear assurances that we received in relation to the PwC report in November 2016, that everything was hunky-dory and that these were correct, will be reviewed and whether or not we know that the last reports that we saw are in fact correct.

There are so many issues still unresolved in this space, as there are in every aspect of health administration, that we need to put on the record that the minister has failed her own deadlines. We were promised this in March. It is now May and it is not complete. If it is complete, why is it not tabled? It is not complete. By your own admission, you said you were out consulting on it, which means there is the potential for it to be changed. It is not complete. The minister has failed her own deadline again. It is just a simple matter of putting on the record this slipping of deadlines which in some cases might be forgiven but when it happens so often they cannot be forgiven.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Ombudsman 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.

Child abuse is unacceptable and there is no higher priority for this government than ensuring children's safety. That is why we introduced legislation in 2016 that established a reportable conduct scheme to ensure allegations of child abuse are properly reported and investigated. This scheme, which commenced on 1 July 2017 after receiving unanimous support in the Assembly, places an appropriate level of

scrutiny on organisations that are investigating the conduct of employees in relation to allegations of abuse, neglect or sexual misconduct.

The ACT scheme is closely modelled on the New South Wales scheme, which has been operating since 1999. A similar scheme is now operational in Victoria administered by that jurisdiction's commissioner for children and young people. Religious organisations and institutions have been in the scope of the Victorian scheme since 1 January 2018. Last year the government committed to expanding and strengthening the reportable conduct scheme to ensure our children are safe wherever they are being cared for in the community, including in religious institutions, and today we are delivering on that commitment.

As was revealed by the inquiry of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses into Child Sexual Abuse, over a third of all abuse victims involved with the commission were abused in a religious institution. Quite rightly, the community is shocked and betrayed by the actions and omissions of organisations that had come to occupy a position of trust and authority in our society. It was no surprise then that the royal commission in its final report recommended that all states and territories establish a reportable conduct scheme that includes religious organisations in its scope.

While religious institutions were already subject to the reportable conduct scheme when they were providing school, child care, health care and out of home care services, the legislation we introduce today will expand the scope of the scheme to also cover activities, facilities, programs or services provided by religious institutions from 1 July 2018. The government has consulted with a wide range of religious organisations on their inclusion in the scheme to ensure they have the information and resources necessary to comply. I advise the Assembly that all the organisations we spoke to are supportive of their inclusion in the scheme.

The government has been particularly attuned to the tension between this legislation and the requirements of some religious organisations to keep religious communications confidential. The nine-month exclusion for information disclosed during a confession acknowledges the complexity of such an inclusion. This period will allow time for discussions with other jurisdictions in a national context and will allow time for religious organisations to respond to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The government was not prepared to delay the application of the scheme to religious organisations to resolve this one issue. Children must be safe wherever they are cared for, and all entities that work with children, small or large, can no longer turn a blind eye to the abuse that is happening within their organisations.

This bill amends the definition of a "designated entity" to include institutions providing spiritual care and pastoral activities and also amends the definition of "employee" to clarify the application of the scheme to people in religious ministry and volunteers who have access to children. It also amends the definition of the "head of a designated entity" to facilitate their identification and nomination of a responsible individual as head of that entity. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.40): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill 2018 seeks to amend the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Act 2008 and the Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation 2008 to allow a monitored medicines database to be established in the ACT. As Minister for Health and Wellbeing, I am committed to minimising the harms that can arise from the misuse of controlled medicines.

The primary objective of this new database is supporting safe and appropriate prescribing and dispensing of medicines in our health system. It will give health professionals access to information about recently prescribed monitored medicines to assist them to identify and reduce harms like addiction and overdose that can be caused by the abuse and misuse of medicines. Of course, many people rely on medicines to support their health at times in their lives. However, some higher risk medicines, classified as controlled medicines, can cause serious harm when misused or abused. Examples of this are morphine and oxycodone, which are used to control severe pain; and dexamphetamine, which is used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder.

In an effort to help protect individual and community health, several state and territory coroners have recommended the implementation of real-time prescription monitoring databases, including in the ACT. Last year, I tabled the ACT government's response to the coronial inquiry into the tragic death of Mr Paul Fennessy. It recommended that all medical files, including mental health records, be available to clinical staff at the hospital when required and to implement the real-time monitoring system known as DORA. The government agreed to both recommendations and work is underway to implement them.

Today's legislation would allow medical professionals to use the monitoring system known as DORA to ensure doctors and pharmacists have access to the most up-to-date information available about medications recently supplied to their patients. The system is commonly described as a real-time system. What this means in practice is that within seven days of a schedule 8 medicine being prescribed, information will be uploaded to the database where it can be accessed in real time. It is my intention to make further regulatory changes upon the passing of this legislation to mandate that

reporting of prescribing information occur at least daily and to continue advocating for a nationally compatible scheme for real-time prescription monitoring.

By introducing this legislation today the ACT joins Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia in establishing a legal framework to support the implementation and use of a monitored medicines database. The monitored medicines database proposed in this bill will enable health professionals to have access to information about controlled medicines supplied to their patients.

This will promote and protect public health and safety by supporting clinical decisions about the prescribing or supply of monitored medicines. Only health practitioners that are involved in the prescription and supply of monitored medicines, such as doctors, pharmacists and some nurse practitioners, will have access to the database.

The legislation seeks to enhance ACT Health's existing drugs and poisons information system, otherwise known as DAPIS, that the health protection service has been using since 2014. DAPIS contains information on controlled medicines prescription approvals and dispensing records in accordance with existing legislative requirements. The proposed upgrade, called the drugs and poisons information system online remote access, or DORA, will enable health professionals to use DAPIS to check what monitored medicines have previously been prescribed or supplied to a patient.

While it is already mandatory for pharmacies to report controlled medicine supply information within seven days, upon the passing of this legislation I intend to make a regulatory amendment to change this to daily. We will take the time over the next few weeks to continue to work closely with dispensers about the impact of this amendment. Making this regulatory amendment would ensure the information available is as up to date as currently possible. As I have said, it is my intention to make this regulatory change as soon as possible upon the passage of this legislation.

We will also consult with stakeholders about whether mandatory use of DORA by doctors and pharmacists prior to prescribing or dispensing controlled medication is something that could be implemented once we have a nationally compatible scheme. In the interim the rollout of DORA will be accompanied by an extensive engagement and education campaign. The use of the system by health practitioners is voluntary, so a stakeholder engagement group will also be established to advise how to best encourage uptake of the system by health professionals, and to influence decision-making in order to maximise public health outcomes.

The use of DORA in the ACT will complement existing safeguards that help protect the public from the misuse of prescription medicines. These safeguards include the requirement for prescribers to apply for approval to prescribe a controlled medicine for a patient who is drug dependent, or for a patient who requires the controlled medicine for more than two months.

Prescribers are also required to declare whether the patient is drug dependent with each approval application. I am pleased to say that, significantly, ACT Health will also be adding a new declaration to its approval application form so that prescribers

must declare whether they have checked DORA each time they submit an application to prescribe controlled medicines to the Chief Health Officer.

ACT Health has also published controlled medicines prescribing standards that guide health professionals in the safe supply of controlled medicines. The health protection service monitors prescriber compliance with the prescribing standards using the DAPIS alert system and has the option to take regulatory action where concerns arise. In the 2016-17 financial year the health protection service responded to more than 12,000 DAPIS alerts and took action in more than 1,350 matters which concerned a range of issues including doctor shopping, compliance with regulations, or where a patient had obtained substantial quantities of controlled medicines.

At present both doctors and pharmacists are limited in their ability to identify patients who may be displaying signs of dependency or drug-seeking behaviours. Importantly, the rollout of DORA in the ACT will provide prescribers and pharmacists with access to information held in DAPIS that may support their clinical decision-making. DORA can help health professionals to make more informed clinical decisions and help stop doctor shopping across the ACT. DORA will also help doctors to identify risks earlier and refer patients who are experiencing signs of addiction to the most appropriate treatment. It will also help to protect the wider public from the on-selling of prescription medicines. The Chief Health Officer will have responsibility for maintaining the monitored medicines database, which will facilitate information available to health professionals in DORA.

It is clear to me, especially after discussions with health ministers at the most recent COAG health council meeting, that the only way to protect our community by monitoring medicines in real time is through a nationally compatible scheme. I urge the commonwealth government to take concrete steps immediately to provide the necessary technical advice to jurisdictions so a nationally compatible scheme can be rolled out as soon as practicable. The ACT remains poised to adopt a national scheme when it is finally rolled out. In the meantime we are adding additional protections to do what we can to help keep people safe in the ACT because at present there is no monitoring scheme in New South Wales, and cross-border issues such as this exist across the country. Again I reiterate that the commonwealth rollout of a nationally compatible scheme is overdue.

ACT Health has been actively represented on the implementation steering committee for the commonwealth's electronic recording and reporting of controlled drugs and strongly supports the progression of this solution. In the interim ACT Health will continue to work closely with pharmacy software stakeholders, local stakeholders and the commonwealth government to improve the rate of reporting by pharmacies to the database, whether that is through a national scheme or on our own. Importantly, today's amendments prepare the ACT to participate with other states and territories in any national monitored medicines database initiative being led by the commonwealth.

The introduction of this bill is positive, important and necessary for the ACT. The rollout of DORA will provide clinicians with real-time access to the most up-to-date information held in the database, offering them a vital resource for monitoring purposes in order to protect their patients from harm. I reiterate that we will continue

to work closely with stakeholders over the coming months, and ACT Health will arrange training and education to ensure health professionals are aware of their obligations and understand how to best engage with their patients.

Under this legislation the Minister for Health and Wellbeing may also declare that information about the supply of other medicines can be reported to the database where there is evidence they are causing harm in the community and where the collection of data could assist in preventing that harm. The ACT government takes the privacy and safety of health information very seriously, and I also confirm that the bill includes privacy protections and disciplinary pathways to protect against unlawful or inappropriate access to the database or unlawful use of information from the database. Access to the database will require secure, individualised logins and passwords, and health professionals will be notified of their obligations in accessing and using database information. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Veterinary Practice Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.50): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Veterinary Practice Bill 2018 to the ACT Legislative Assembly. The bill revokes the ACT's Veterinary Surgeons Act 2015 and the Veterinary Surgeons Regulations 2015. The Veterinary Surgeons Act and the Veterinary Surgeons Regulations came into effect in 2015 removing the regulation of veterinary surgeons in the ACT from the Health Professionals Act 2004. The then new legislation was established after a national health scheme was introduced that did not cover veterinary surgeons.

The former Minister for Territory and Municipal Services advised the profession and the Assembly in August 2015 that further consultation and work would be carried out by the ACT government on the legislation to ensure it is operating efficiently and to identify any further reforms. The Veterinary Practice Bill has been proposed based on the outcomes of the review of the ACT veterinary legislation, alternate models and the outcomes of consultation with key stakeholders, the veterinary profession and the community.

Veterinary legislation between Australian states and territories can vary significantly with respect to the registration process and requirements, and what procedures are classed as acts of veterinary science. However, there are parallels in the way all

jurisdictions' legislations are structured, primarily around the regulatory functions of a governing board. Within each jurisdiction though, veterinary legislation provisions differ slightly in how the board registers and regulates practitioners and veterinary premises.

The ACT government has recognised that the veterinary profession is looking towards a more harmonious system across Australia. That is why the ACT government has modelled this bill on the New South Wales veterinary legislation. The New South Wales legislation is a similar legislative model to the ACT's current veterinary legislation, including the function of a board, but is significantly more comprehensive and intelligible. Harmonising the ACT's veterinary legislation with New South Wales will also help reduce barriers to movement of practitioners between the borders, improving the productivity of the profession in the ACT.

The Council of Australian Governments made a commitment requiring all jurisdictions to adopt national recognition of veterinary registration, which is known as NRVR. NRVR is a part of the movement to reduce barriers in legislation between states and territories across Australia. Under NRVR state and territory registration boards recognise the registration of veterinarians from other states and territories. To date Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and New South Wales have adopted NRVR. Under this bill the ACT will join these jurisdictions by adopting NRVR provisions. These can increase productivity by removing registration burdens and costs for veterinary practitioners flying in and out of the ACT under deemed registration. It also enables the veterinary industry to access expertise when required without legislative burdens.

The adoption of the bill will result in minimal changes for the ACT veterinary profession but will provide substantially clearer and applicable legislation to regulate and register the profession. The language of the bill has also been updated to reflect contemporary terminology including the replacement of the term "veterinary surgeon" with "veterinary practitioner" and associated changes, such as the new board title of "Veterinary Practice Board" or "the board". Under the bill the board has the regulatory role of investigating and imposing disciplinary measures where practitioners breach their standards of practice or where veterinary premises do not meet the veterinary premises standards as prescribed.

The bill provides significant efficiencies through a clearer regulatory framework for the investigation of complaints. The board is now empowered to impose disciplinary measures on a veterinary practitioner's registration without first referring complaints to a complaints panel for review. Under the bill the board will now be able to investigate and appropriately discipline veterinary practitioners through complaints or through the board's own initiative where there is concern to do so. Consistent with the New South Wales model, the bill removes the current cumbersome process of panel investigation of complaints and empowers the board to, at its discretion, create committees to review complaints and appoint investigators as appropriate. The board is made up of expertise paid to assess the performance of practitioners against the professional standards and code.

The current complaint provisions in the ACT create duplicative and costly processes that delay complaint resolution and underutilise the technical skills of the board. The bill will enable the board to now: impose a fine of up to \$1,000; impose conditions; require payment of specified costs relating to any hearings; and, if justified, impose interim suspension of registration prior to taking the veterinary practitioner to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal for occupational discipline. Matters of occupational discipline, which may result in the suspension or cancellation of registration for practitioners or premises, continues under the bill to be subject to an application to ACAT. This process ensures the ACAT as an independent arbiter determines whether a veterinary practitioner's registration should be suspended or cancelled.

The bill will allow the board to more efficiently address malpractice in the sector and to take appropriate action regarding the severity and effect of noncompliance. The ACT's current legislative provisions to jointly consider complaints with the Human Rights Commission have been retained under the bill. However, the provisions for joint consideration have been made clearer on when and how the board jointly considers complaints. The ACT is a human rights jurisdiction, and a joint complaint process with the Human Rights Commission ensures the regulatory body is abiding by human rights principals. Through joint consideration of complaints with the HRC and through ACAT appeal provisions the bill addresses potential impacts to veterinary practitioners' and veterinary premises' right to a fair hearing and any impacts to their rights under the Human Rights Act.

As the bill enhances the regulatory powers of the board, greater public reporting and accountability provisions have been incorporated into the bill. These provisions will enable scrutiny of the board's work and provide the community and the profession with greater assurance that the board is working in line with its legislative duties and performing efficiently. Under the bill and based on the outcomes of consultation with the veterinary profession the board composition includes seven members. These are a president; four members who are registered veterinary practitioners with continuous registration for a period of three years immediately prior to the day of appointment; a community representative who is not a veterinary practitioner; and a member who is not a veterinary practitioner.

The president cannot be a person who works in a veterinary practice or has a material interest in a veterinary practice. This deals with the governance issue that has been identified for potential or perceived bias of the presiding member. It also opens the president's appointment to both veterinary practitioners and non-practising veterinary practitioners.

Under the bill there will be minimal changes to the registration of veterinary practitioners and veterinary premises. The bill will retain the ACT's current registration categories for veterinary practitioners, which are general registration and specialist registration. Recognition is also provided for a general registration where the veterinary practitioner is non-practising, such as when retired. This allows for the requirement for insurance to be waived. A non-practising practitioner will be captured by offence provisions in relation to undertaking restricted acts of veterinary science.

The registration categories for premises includes mobile veterinary clinic, mobile veterinary hospital, veterinary clinic, veterinary consulting room, and veterinary hospital. Registration renewals for premises will now occur annually and at the start of each financial year.

This bill will improve the efficiency and productivity of the veterinary profession in the ACT by harmonising our legislation with New South Wales, and the incorporation of deemed registration under NRVR. The bill will provide the public with greater assurance that veterinary practitioners are suitably skilled and qualified to undertake work, and that the board has the necessary provisions to identify and address malpractice in the sector and to take action appropriate to the severity and effect of noncompliance. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.00): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2018. Ensuring that our residential tenancies legislation supports vulnerable people to be secure in their homes is a key government priority. In August last year a package of government reforms to the Residential Tenancies Act commenced. Those reforms included making it easier for people impacted by domestic violence to change their tenancy agreements and to take practical steps to ensure safety, like changing locks.

The Deputy Chief Minister is currently leading development of a new housing strategy for the ACT. Its focus will be on assisting those who need help most, people experiencing homelessness, and low income households in housing stress. This government's work on residential tenancies reform is happening in concert with our work on a new housing strategy. The announcements in Victoria about residential tenancy reform are being closely examined by my directorate with a view to improve the safety, security and rights of tenants.

Just some of the areas of law reform we will be looking at are: how tenancies are ended and how much notice is required; promoting model behaviour by landlords in setting rent, administering a tenancy and making any decisions that will impact on tenants; and ensuring that rental increases are fair and the processes consider hardship and housing security.

Today's bill demonstrates the government's continuing focus on vulnerable people. It will amend the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 to provide fairer outcomes for vulnerable tenants. These amendments respond to a key recommendation from the 2016 report on the review of the Residential Tenancies Act that consideration be given to amending the conditional termination and possession order, or CTPO, provisions in the act. The bill also makes changes to the act to ensure that new products offered to renters are carefully considered and regulated. This government is open to innovations in our rental marketplace, but those innovations must not come at the expense of vulnerable people.

I turn to the amendments to address new products in the rental market first. There has been recent community discussion about a new product in the rental market called a commercial guarantee. A commercial guarantee serves as an alternative to a rental bond. In exchange for a monthly fee, rather than a deposited bond, a service provider would guarantee the landlord for the amount of a bond. Prior to September last year ACT legislation allowed for these products to enter the market. Last year the ACT government amended the Residential Tenancies Act to limit the entry of these products into the market. The intention was to give time to develop an appropriate regulatory framework.

Passed in September, the legislation set a default date of 7 May for people who wanted to offer this product to be able to apply for an approval to the Commissioner for Fair Trading. Our consultation, particularly with groups who represent renters and people who face financial disadvantage, has shown that there is more work to do. Serious concerns remain about these products. Those concerns must be addressed before we can consider allowing them into the territory.

This bill contains an amendment to reintroduce the legislative stay on offering alternatives to a bond in the ACT. The stay will operate until a written declaration by the minister provides for the commencement of legislation to regulate bond alternatives. The government will keep working in this area to ensure that any future rental bond alternatives are consistent with our consumer protection and residential tenancies frameworks. I thank in particular the Tenants Union, Care Financial Counselling Service and Better Renting for representing renters and, in particular, vulnerable renters in this process.

I now turn to the provisions in the bill about conditional termination and possession orders, or CTPOs. These amendments respond to concerns expressed by parts of the community, notably Canberra Community Law. There are particular concerns about the impact of those provisions on social housing tenants. A CTPO is essentially a payment plan ordered by the tribunal. Under the existing legislation, a person's tenancy automatically terminates if the rent is not paid in accordance with the CTPO regardless of the reason. This occurs even if rent is paid a single day late due to issues beyond the control of the tenant, such as Centrelink processing delays.

The CTPO amendments also respond to the concerns expressed by the ACT Supreme Court in the 2015 case of the Commissioner for Social Housing v Moffatt. In this case then Master Mossop highlighted the issue of what happens when the tenancy

terminates under a CTPO and the tenant stays in the property. Master Mossop said that some provisions in the act suggested that the tenancy was terminated while other provisions suggested that the tenancy remained on foot. Master Mossop recommended that the legislation be amended to clarify the issue.

The bill responds to these concerns by removing the self-executing CTPO provisions and establishing an alternative process for managing rental arrears. This is achieved by introducing the concept of a payment order. This process is very similar to the CTPO process with the exception that after a person fails to comply with a tribunal-ordered payment plan the landlord must go back to the ACAT before taking steps to evict the person. This provides an important safeguard for vulnerable people and clarifies the situation legally so that both landlords and tenants can proceed with certainty.

The new process will be clear and certain for cases where tenants do not pay rent. A lessor will be able to apply for a payment order. If the tenant does not comply with the payment order, this does not automatically end the tenancy. Instead the lessor has the right to apply for a termination and possession order within 60 days of a breach of a payment order. If the lessor does not take action on the breach the payment order, residential tenancy agreement and any debt under the residential tenancy agreement continue unaffected. This gives the lessor and the tenant the opportunity to negotiate a resolution to the failed payment rather than automatically ending the tenancy.

The ACAT will have a role in deciding what happens when a payment order is breached and a lessor decides to take steps towards eviction. At that stage the ACAT will have the ability to confirm the payment order and leave it in place, make another payment order with different terms, set aside the payment order, or issue a warrant for eviction. The ACAT will have the ability to consider hardship to tenants as part of this process. The CTPO amendments are an important reform for vulnerable tenants, and I thank Canberra Community Law and the Real Estate Institute of the ACT for their engagement in the development of the CTPO reforms.

This bill reflects the government's commitment to protecting the most vulnerable people in our community and it is one more step in an ongoing process of reform. There are amendments to help make housing more secure and to help ensure that vulnerable people are treated fairly in the legal system. There are amendments that reflect our commitment to ensuring that innovation in our markets does not come at the expense of people who are at risk. This government will keep working to improve our residential tenancies legislation in line with our commitment to building a safer, stronger and more connected city. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Casino and Other Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.09): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Casino and Other Gaming Legislation Amendment Bill 2018 today. When I introduced the Casino (Electronic Gaming) Bill 2017 I foreshadowed that more legislative and regulatory changes were underway. This government committed to keep working on stronger harm minimisation measures and to ensure a neutral, transparent process for making decisions about redevelopment at the casino.

Today's bill delivers on that commitment by creating an unprecedented level of transparency in decisions about the casino. These amendments will establish casino advisory panels. These will be constituted by people independent of government. They will make a recommendation to me, as the minister responsible for racing and gaming policy, about certain decisions under the Casino Control Act 2006 and the Casino (Electronic Gaming) Act 2017.

The decisions on which a panel will provide a recommendation include decisions about the ownership and leasing of the casino and the grant or transfer of the casino licence. In addition a panel will provide a recommendation about a decision to allow the operation of casino gaming machines or fully automated table game terminals—FATGs.

As members would be aware, the government, through the Chief Minister's directorate, is currently considering an unsolicited proposal by Aquis Entertainment to redevelop Casino Canberra. There is substantial community interest in the decision to allow electronic gaming machines at the casino, including in the context of the unsolicited proposal. It is important to ensure that these changes occur only in connection with the redevelopment of the casino precinct, and in a way that provides clear benefits for the broader Canberra community.

The Casino (Electronic Gaming) Act 2017 establishes the legislative framework, including specific harm minimisation measures, for an increased electronic gaming offering in any proposal for casino redevelopment, whether as part of the existing proposal or a future one. Electronic gaming products include gaming machines and FATGs.

The government has been firm in its position that the casino will only be able to operate gaming machines once it has delivered the economic and social benefits of a significant casino redevelopment. The casino must acquire authorisations from existing clubs and hotels, and these are restricted authorisations until they are converted. A restricted authorisation cannot be used to operate a casino gaming machine or a casino FATG terminal. To ensure the public benefit associated with the redevelopment is realised, a casino advisory panel will consider the casino licensee's compliance with any agreement with the territory about the redevelopment of the

casino and the casino precinct and make a recommendation to me about the conversion of the restricted authorisations.

The bill also provides that the conversion of authorisations cannot be approved unless the planning and land authority has certified that the casino has completed the prescribed stage of the redevelopment of the casino and the casino precinct.

A casino advisory panel will also be established when required to consider whether a change in the ownership or leasing of the casino or the grant or transfer of the casino licence is in the public interest. The panel will be well placed to make this recommendation as it will be constituted by people with significant experience in relevant areas such as governance, law, integrity and probity assessments, finance, risk, urban design and property development.

The panel's oversight will be in addition to the consideration and advice of the Gambling and Racing Commission, which will continue to ensure rigorous oversight is given to the operation of the casino and the gaming undertaken there. Before any gaming machines may be operated in the casino, the commission must be satisfied about the gaming area, gaming rules and control procedures and that sufficient harm minimisation measures are in place. The findings of the panel will be made public by the minister and will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly to deliver an increased level of transparency and independence in relation to the regulation of casino gaming in the ACT.

The bill also provides the requirement for matters to be addressed by, and information that must be given in, a social impact assessment when an application for an authorisation certificate is considered by government. The information to be provided includes the details of the proposed redevelopment of the casino and its precinct.

The Casino (Electronic Gaming) Act limits the maximum possible number of casino gaming machines to 200, and the number of FATG terminals to 60. As I have previously advised the Assembly, the casino licensee will have to undertake a social impact assessment to determine the number of gaming machines and FATG terminals allowed in the casino up to these maximum limits. The social impact assessment will need to be made available for public consultation for eight weeks before the commission determines the number of gaming machines and FATG terminals on the casino's authorisation certificates.

Last year when the government announced the requirements for allowing gaming machines in the casino we introduced a suite of harm minimisation measures for their operation. These measures included: casino gaming machines and FATG terminals must be able to be connected to a centralised monitoring system; the maximum bet for casino gaming machines is limited to \$2 or a lower amount set by regulation; and casino gaming machines require mandatory pre-commitment to a net loss limit, which is the amount a player is prepared to lose in a given playing session, with players also being able to set a time limit.

To maintain the intent of the harm minimisation measures in the Casino (Electronic Gaming) Act, this bill provides that any gaming machines operated within 200 metres

of the boundary of the casino by a gaming machine licensee that is related to the casino licensee will be subject to the same harm minimisation measures as casino gaming machines.

The Canberra community should be reassured that there are harm minimisation measures in place for gaming machines at the casino and in the surrounding precinct. And this bill contributes to the government's comprehensive harm minimisation approach to the industry. We will be reducing the maximum number of gaming machine authorisations in the territory to 4,000 by 2020.

As announced at the start of April, the government has commissioned an independent expert, Mr Neville Stevens AO, to undertake a club industry diversification support analysis to identify opportunities to support clubs to voluntarily surrender authorisations and to diversify their businesses to reduce reliance on gaming machine revenue. Mr Stevens is a former Commonwealth Secretary to the Department of Communications, Information Technology and the Arts, and the Department of Industry. He brings a wealth of experience and understanding in progressing significant reform within a regulated industry. A report will be provided to government by 31 May 2018, after which the government will consider the recommendations made in his report and announce the pathway to reach 4,000 gaming machine authorisations in the territory.

Legislation prior to the 2016 election had set a cap of 15 gaming machine authorisations per 1,000 adults in the territory. That legislation was due to commence in August this year. The amendment to the Gaming Machine (Reform) Amendment Act 2015 in this bill, the commencement of the population-based ratio, is delayed for a further 12 months. The provisions around the population-based cap will be removed when the government brings forward legislation to reach the goal of 4,000 authorisations overall.

As a package, this bill represents a commitment to transparency in decisions about the gaming industry. It represents a focus on regulating the industry in a way that secures benefits for the whole community, while protecting against the impact of problem gambling. This government will keep working to promote renewal, redevelopment and to deliver on our promise of new and stronger harm minimisation rules. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Children and Young People Amendment Bill 2018

Ms Stephen-Smith, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement and a Human Rights Act compatibility statement.

Title read by Clerk.

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

Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (11.19): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Children and Young People Amendment Bill 2018 to the Assembly. The bill amends the Children and Young People Act 2008 to clarify the way care and protection appraisals are carried out, consolidate responsible person delegations and enable subdelegation within an approved care and protection organisation, and correct unintended consequences of previous amendments, including the power to revoke carer authorisation.

These amendments respond to the ACT government's commitments to remove legislative barriers to effectively undertake appraisals and to fully realise the 2016 reforms to enable responsible person subdelegation under A step up for our kids—one step can make a lifetime of difference, the ACT government's out of home care strategy 2015-2020.

The amendments that relate to appraisals seek to protect children and young people at risk of abuse or neglect by removing the legislative barriers to effectively carrying out appraisals. These amendments were prompted by the ACT government's commitment to improve responses to family violence guided by the response to family violence 2016 and, in particular, to respond to recommendation 9(a) of the report of the inquiry *Review into the system level responses to family violence in the ACT*, known as the Glanfield inquiry.

The bill aims to balance the rights of children and young people with the rights of parents and people with daily care responsibility. This is important because children have the right to special protection due to their vulnerability, particularly in circumstances where abuse or neglect is alleged or perpetrated by a parent or person with daily care responsibility.

The bill recognises that children and young people can be profoundly affected by violence within the family, even when that violence is not directed at them. These amendments enable a better response to the needs of children and young people in situations of family violence, by protecting and promoting their best interests.

In addition this bill ensures informed case management decisions are made by individuals within an organisation who have a closer relationship to the child or young person. A responsible person is an individual of an approved foster and kinship care organisation in the ACT who is approved by the director-general to be responsible for services provided by the organisation. This is generally the chief executive officer of the approved organisation.

The proposed amendments will ensure that the responsible person may sub-delegate responsibility to a nominated position at the appropriate level within an approved kinship and foster care organisation. The nominated position will be someone who is in the best position to make informed decisions about the care of a child or young person. The proposed amendments also clarify the requirement to authorise foster and

kinship carers rather than delegate functions of the director-general directly to them. The transfer of parental responsibility to carers is a decision made by the Children's Court.

It is important to note that while certain powers can be delegated the Director-General of the Community Services Directorate retains ultimate responsibility for children in care. This means that the original intent of the responsible person will be realised, supporting the ACT government's ongoing commitment to improving the delivery of out of home care and ensuring the safety of children and young people. Through this bill we are supporting the overarching principles of A step up for our kids by ensuring that case management decisions are made by a person with a closer relationship with a child or young person.

The bill also inserts technical and consequential amendments and rectifies unintended consequences of previous amendments. The bill reinstates the power to revoke the authorisation of foster or residential care services, with the purpose of reinstating a carer's right of review and procedural fairness when revocation occurs. This bill protects and promotes the best interests of children and young people by providing a better response in situations of family violence and ensuring case management decisions are made closest to the child or young person. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

Standing order 30—amendment

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (11.24): I move:

That standing order 30 of the Assembly be amended as follows:

Omit "The Speaker shall also acknowledge, at the beginning of each period of sittings, that the Assembly is meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians.", substitute "The Speaker shall also acknowledge, at the beginning of each sitting day, that the Assembly is meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians."

In moving this motion today I note that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure is currently conducting a review of the standing orders. This is an important review, and I look forward to the committee's report in due course. However, I am moving this motion outside the review process because this is the last sitting week before the ACT celebrates Australia's first Reconciliation Day public holiday on 28 May.

Reconciliation Australia notes that incorporating acknowledgement protocols:

... recognises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Australians and Traditional Custodians of land. It promotes an ongoing connection to place of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and shows respect for Traditional Owners.

Requiring a daily acknowledgement of country rather than this occurring just once at the beginning of each sitting period is a meaningful gesture towards reconciliation that this place can make in the lead-up to Reconciliation Day. It will also align the Legislative Assembly with the House of Representatives, where the standing orders require the Speaker to make an acknowledgement of country at the beginning of each sitting day.

Last year all parties in this place came together to support the establishment of Australia's first public holiday celebrating the culture, contribution and resilience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Reconciliation Day falls during Reconciliation Week, which is celebrated around Australia from 27 May to 3 June to commemorate two significant reconciliation milestones: the 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision. This year's theme, which has also been adopted for the ACT's Reconciliation Day, is "Don't keep history a mystery". Australians are encouraged to explore the past, learn more about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and culture and, in doing so, develop a deeper understanding of our national story.

On Reconciliation Day a flagship community event will be held in Glebe Park from 10 am to 2 pm featuring performances, food stalls, bush tucker talks, children's art workshops and more. The event will feature entertainment from a range of local artists, storytellers and musicians. This will, of course, follow a Reconciliation Day eve concert at the Canberra Theatre featuring the legendary Archie Roach and Tiddas, as well as Briggs and the Bad Apple Crew: truly something for everyone, music wise.

I was also pleased recently to announce that 19 local community organisations and schools are receiving grants for programs and events to demonstrate the importance of reconciliation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories and cultures in a myriad of ways.

I understand this motion has the support of all parties in this place, and I think this is important. This is not about party politics or who is right or wrong; this is about all of us coming together in unity to demonstrate the Assembly's ongoing commitment to the journey of reconciliation. Acknowledging the true history of our beautiful city and region each day may be a small act, but it is symbolic of our commitment, and I thank members for supporting this motion in the lead-up to Reconciliation Day.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (11.27): I thank Minister Stephen-Smith for bringing forward this motion. Conducting an acknowledgement of country at the opening of each Legislative Assembly sitting day will bring the ACT into line with practices in most other states and territories, as well as federal parliament. Importantly, as you all know, an acknowledgement of country is an opportunity to show respect for traditional owners. It also recognises the connection of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to country, which has both substantive and symbolic importance.

But for far too long the Indigenous community of Canberra has watched this government fail across a range of public policy areas. So whilst we support the introduction of daily acknowledgement of country, and I sincerely hope that this helps

in some way, what I would really like to see is better outcomes and action for Indigenous Canberrans and not just words.

Let us review the score card. Indigenous Canberrans are significantly overrepresented in the justice system. The latest Australian Bureau of Statistics report on crime rates in Australia shows that ACT continues to lead Australia in the arrest and imprisonment of Indigenous residents. Today ACT police apprehend Indigenous Canberrans 35 per cent more often than they did just four years ago. The number of arrests for Aboriginal Canberrans has increased by 64 per cent over the last four years.

Despite making up less than two per cent of the ACT population, Indigenous Canberrans represent over 25 per cent of the ACT prison population. Sadly, recidivism is also high as Indigenous clients from the AMC are twice as likely to reoffend versus non-Indigenous clients. Given the recent outcomes from the Steven Freeman coroner's report and the Moss review report, we know all too well that when Indigenous offenders enter the justice system, their risk of drug use, assault and even death increases dramatically.

Indigenous Canberrans have significantly worse health outcomes. The age-standardised rate of hospitalisation related to alcohol for Indigenous Canberrans was 3.5 times the rate for non-Indigenous Canberrans. A higher proportion of Indigenous Canberrans aged 15 and over reported being a victim of physical or threatened violence, at 20 per cent, compared to non-Indigenous Canberrans at eight per cent. The rate of Indigenous Canberrans aged 18 and over who have reported high levels of psychological stress has increased over time. The age-standardised rate of disability or restrictive long-term health conditions was almost twice as high for Indigenous Australians as for non-Indigenous Canberrans. For Indigenous females, the age-standardised hospitalisation rate for self-harm was 2.6 times the rate for non-Indigenous females.

Indigenous Canberrans have less opportunity to benefit from economic participation. The employment rates for people aged 15 to 64 continue to be lower for Indigenous Canberrans than for non-Indigenous Canberrans. The proportion of Indigenous households living in dwellings of unacceptable standards has increased over time from 8.4 per cent in 2008 to 17 per cent in 2014-15.

Young people and children are also equally disadvantaged in our national capital. In 2017 the ACT had the nation's highest rate of Indigenous child care and protection reports as well as the second highest rate of Indigenous children on protection orders. Fewer than three per cent of children in Canberra are Indigenous, but they make up a quarter of kids in child protection systems. Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students face a two-year NAPLAN gap behind non-Indigenous groups. Similarly, school attendance, retention and completion rates for Indigenous kids in Canberra generally lag behind the rest of the country. What a sad indictment this is for Canberra.

The scorecard I have given today is by no means exhaustive, but it paints a picture of how this government is performing in relation to Indigenous affairs. So, yes, we welcome the implementation of a daily acknowledgement of country. This may be

another step towards social and cultural recognition. But what I would prefer to see in this chamber and for the Indigenous people of Canberra is better public policy. I believe this can occur with smarter use of funds that provide more efficient and more effective investment in Indigenous Canberrans. With all the resources and attention given to this policy area, why can this government not produce better outcomes across justice, health, education and community services?

The government must stop using reviews, reports, recommendations, committee hearings and all the other bureaucratic methods to delay action. Ignoring the experience and wisdom of the local community, engaging only with the select few and chosen elite needs to stop. Implementing mainstream solutions to complex problems in the Indigenous community simply does not work. The Canberra Liberals support this motion, but we demand vision, foresight, action and commitment. The time for talk is over; good intentions need to translate into benefits and improvements for the local Indigenous community.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.33): I welcome the proposal put forward by Ms Stephen-Smith today to have a daily acknowledgement of country in the Assembly. This is an important tradition we have, and it has built up over time in Canberra. It is a small step on the path to reconciliation. There are many small steps that must be taken, and this is one that adds to the journey. It is an important part of shaping the true history of Australia—that is, that we understand our history goes back many tens of thousands of years. It is a deep and rich history, and the acknowledgement of country is part of telling that story and sharing it each day that we sit in this place.

As many members in this place will have had the experience, I have observed many welcomes to country at various public events that we go to. They are invariably different each time, and I think it is fair to say that even now, many years down the track of going to many public events where they are held, I often learn something new from a welcome to country. Each elder does it somewhat differently. They relate different bits of history; they relate their perspectives; they relate their own lived experiences as part of the welcome to country. And sometimes they just relate pools of wisdom. But the process is one that enriches our public events when the elders do it. Making that recognition on a regular basis in the Assembly is a very important part of continuing to build our journey of reconciliation and to make sure we understand the long and proud history of our Aboriginal people in Australia. The Greens are very pleased to support this proposed amendment today.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Privileges 2018 (No 2)—Select Committee Establishment

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (11.35), by leave: I move:

That the Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the ruling of the High Court of Australia that Ms Katy Gallagher was ineligible under the Australian Constitution to stand as a candidate for election to the Australian Senate at the 2016 Federal election;
 - (b) the motion of the Chief Minister presented to, and passed by, the Assembly on 25 March 2015, that Ms Gallagher, “a person who is eligible to be a senator”, be chosen to fill a casual vacancy in the Australian Senate;
 - (c) subsequently, the Assembly may have misled the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia and, thus, the Australian Parliament as to Ms Gallagher’s eligibility to fill the casual vacancy; and
- (2) hereby:
- (a) establishes a Privileges Committee:
 - (i) comprising one Member of the Government, one Member of the Crossbench and one Member of the Opposition, and chaired by the Member of the Opposition;
 - (ii) to consider whether the Assembly has been misled in the matter of the appointment of Ms Gallagher to fill the casual vacancy in the Australian Senate; and
 - (iii) to report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in the June 2018 sitting period; and
 - (b) requests the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure to:
 - (i) review the processes the Assembly follows to appoint persons to fill casual vacancies in the Australian Senate, including their eligibility under the Australian Constitution; and
 - (ii) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in the June 2018 sitting period.

I thank members for giving me leave to move this motion today. I believe that this Assembly has been misled. The circumstances of that misleading we do not yet exactly know. But one way or another the systems that we have in place either have not worked or incorrect information has been fed into those systems. Regardless, as at the time that this Assembly chose a person who we thought was eligible to be a senator in the Australian Senate, we now know that this was simply not the case. In effect, we have all been deceived. Whether that was intentional, whether it was wilful, we do not yet know. But we simply cannot have a situation again where members of the Assembly are put in such a compromised situation.

When Ms Lundy resigned from the Senate, Ms Gallagher flagged her intention to run for that vacancy. She resigned from this place and put her hand up for Labor Party preselection. She won that preselection. Then the Chief Minister tabled documents in this place on 25 March stating that Ms Gallagher was a person eligible to be an Australian senator.

I believe that we need to establish a privileges committee to look into all the events surrounding what happened back in March 2015. We also need to make recommendations as to how we can go forward with this in the future. Who is to say

that we will not have exactly the same problem again next time there is a casual vacancy?

I believe the privileges committee should comprise one member of the government, a member of the Greens and a member of the opposition. We should consider where the ACT has been misled in the matter of the appointment of Ms Gallagher to fill the casual vacancy. I think it should be a short and sharp privileges committee. I think we should report back in June, in just a few weeks.

I think we should be able to bring some tangible recommendations to the Assembly so that we are not in this situation again. I very much urge members of the Assembly to support this establishment as I think it goes to the integrity of this place.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (11.38): The government will not be supporting this motion today as the Assembly has already considered this matter. The Assembly determined to refer the matter to the administration and procedure committee, which found that the Legislative Assembly has:

... one of the more robust procedures to select a senator when compared to practices in other State and Territory legislatures.

It is worth observing that the disqualification provisions under section 44 traverse a wide range of matters. The Assembly committee report goes to those questions. They include everything from whether an individual is an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent, may have a direct or indirect pecuniary interest in any agreement with the public service of the commonwealth or whether they hold an office of profit under the Crown. Indeed that is a matter that has been the subject of determination by the High Court on previous occasions in relation to matters of eligibility to sit in the Senate or the House of Representatives.

It is not the role of the Legislative Assembly to take a position ahead of the ultimate arbiter of someone's eligibility to sit in the federal parliament. That is the role of the High Court of Australia. We are simply not in a legal or practical position to do so. The attempt by the Leader of the Opposition to create a little political mischief here is not something that this place should consider.

In fact it is very clear from the advice to the Assembly committee that whether a nominee is disqualified by reason of section 44 of the Australian Constitution is not a matter for state and territory legislators; rather, the issue is properly a matter for the individual concerned, the party of which the nominee is a member and, of course, the High Court of Australia in the event that a matter is referred to the High Court.

It is important to acknowledge that the relevant legislation—that is, the constitution of our nation and the Commonwealth Electoral Act—only requires that the Assembly choose a senator who is of the same political party as the previous senator.

The administration and procedure committee has established, and provided quite detailed information on, the practices of all other states and territories. It is clear from

that that only the territory, Queensland and Tasmania have, in addition to the same party requirement, an additional requirement that the person is qualified to be a senator.

The continuing resolution of this place mirrors the requirement in section 170 of the Commonwealth Electoral Act. In this context, and given the very clear advice and work that have already been undertaken by the administration and procedure committee, I do not believe it is necessary to establish a privileges committee. Nice try, Leader of the Opposition, but we will not be supporting your political stunt today.

MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Ms Lee): The question is that the motion be agreed to. I call Mr Rattenbury.

Mrs Dunne: Madam Assistant Speaker—

Mr Rattenbury: You go.

MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER: I call Mrs Dunne.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (11.42): I thank Mr Rattenbury for giving way. That is not the right word; yielding, I think, is the right word. Madam Assistant Speaker, this is an important matter and it is not a stunt. Members will recall that in November last year I raised these matters with the Speaker. I raised them because of my concerns that as the former Speaker I may have been involved in a chain of events. I think the most important part of this is not just that the Assembly may have been misled but that this Assembly may have misled the Governor-General.

I think that these matters need to be addressed. It is not a stunt. The Chief Minister is right. The administration and procedure report does say that we have the most robust system of any parliament in the country. But it did not work. We succeeded in appointing someone who, as it subsequently transpired, was not eligible to be appointed. I think it is an interesting palm-off by the Chief Minister to say that it is not our job to decide whether or not the person that we appoint is eligible to be appointed. That is utterly wrong and utterly mischievous. It is our job—

Mr Barr: We are not the High Court. We cannot make that determination.

MRS DUNNE: Yes, we are not the High Court, and there are many things that we could do that may have prevented this whole situation from ever getting to the High Court. I have long been of the view that the statutory declaration that has been used on both occasions for casual vacancies in hindsight—in hindsight, Madam Assistant Speaker—is probably deficient because it says at paragraph 2, “In addition, I am not a citizen or subject of a foreign country.”

That is not the test under section 44 of the constitution in relation to citizenship. Perhaps we should be looking at whether or not the statutory declaration should be more fulsome. Should it say, “I am not entitled to the rights and privileges of a citizen of a foreign country”? There is no doubt that many of the people who have fallen foul

of this constitutional issue were not citizens of other countries but they were entitled to the rights and privileges of another country.

Those are things that can be looked at. I actually do not think that any privilege inquiry would come down with any sort of reprimand for anyone in this process. I suspect that everything that has happened has happened inadvertently and unwittingly. But it is still the case that on the basis of the motion moved by the Chief Minister in March 2015 this Assembly was misled.

The Chief Minister moved a motion that said that this was a person qualified to take up the position. That is not true. The High Court has determined that yesterday. It determined that the former senator was not eligible in 2016. Therefore, axiomatically, she was not eligible in 2015.

The other issue in this is our relationship with the Governor-General. In relation to the chain of events, in November I had to seek advice from the Clerk because my memory was not great. My advice from the Clerk was that after the motion was passed I wrote to the Chief Minister and said, "This is the motion that is passed. It is now your job to convey the sentiment of the Assembly to the Governor-General."

I was part of a chain of communication that ended up with the Governor-General that was misleading. On the face of it, it is misleading. I think it is appropriate for a privileges committee to look at not only whether the information provided, wittingly or unwittingly, by the Chief Minister at the time was misleading but also whether there are remedies for that. If a privileges committee said, "Yes, it was misleading," it would probably be the case that the committee would say to the Chief Minister that he needed to correct the record at the earliest possible time. End of story.

The committee should also consider whether or not we misled the Governor-General and what we should do about that. I do not know; perhaps we write a letter and say that we stuffed up, that we have looked at our procedures and we hope this will not happen again. But I think it is worth noting that these things should be acknowledged in a grown-up legislature.

We are approaching our 30th year as a legislature. We should be able to look at ourselves and honestly say where we have failed, if we have failed. That is what a privilege inquiry would do. A privilege inquiry with representatives of all parties in this place would look rationally at the matter, not in a way to blame people but to make sure that we do as much as we possibly can to ensure that we do not repeat the mistakes of the past, because we did make a mistake. We did make an appointment that, as it turned out in hindsight—you know, hindsight makes us very wise—was a mistake.

But now we have the advantage of that wisdom, let us look at our processes and make sure that we get it right in the future. It is my personal view that at the very least this statutory declaration is not prescribed in any way in the continuing resolution but that the same statutory declaration has been used on both occasions. Maybe we need to have a review of the statutory declaration as well, which is why Mr Coe's motion also refers the matter back to administration and procedure.

Administration and procedure has said that it would look at it in the context of the review of standing orders. But I do not know whether that is going to be soon enough. It is quite likely that Senator Gallagher's position will be filled on a countback by the High Court, but if it is not filled by a countback for some reason then there would be a casual vacancy and the continuing resolution would come into play again. We should not be in a situation where we repeat the mistakes of the past.

This is not a cheap stunt. This is not anything other than this Assembly using this opportunity to learn if it has made a mistake. I think it is pretty clear that we did make a mistake and we should be big enough to admit that and to ensure that we have the procedures in place so we do not make that same mistake again. We should also admit to ourselves and to the community that we made a mistake, and, if necessary, we should apologise to the Governor-General because it is not appropriate that the Governor-General should appoint someone in this way.

It is not appropriate that the Governor-General is put in a situation of making an appointment on our advice—on our advice, not on the Labor Party's advice or anything. We are elected members and we advised the Governor-General that this was an appropriate person. We got it wrong and in that process we gave wrong advice to the Governor-General. Constitutionally, I think that is a really difficult situation for us to be in.

I raised this issue in November and it was put off. Mr Rattenbury and the Greens at the time thought that it was not necessary to have a privilege inquiry because there were a whole lot of things that were up in the air. They are no longer up in the air. The High Court has made a decision and that decision reflects badly upon us. We should be able to reflect on that and improve our procedures in the future. I congratulate Mr Coe on his motion. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.50): There are really two parts to Mr Coe's motion, in one way, but they are interwoven. One is to establish a privileges committee. The other is to have the administration and procedure committee look at the broader processes. The administration and procedure committee has done that. I am on that committee, so I was involved in that process. The administration and procedure committee was very clear in its findings, and it has been touched on in the debate to some extent already today. I think it is fair to say that the committee did find that the ACT has one of the stronger processes in Australia for considering the matter of whether somebody is eligible. But it also formed the view, and this was a unanimous report, that, as stated in paragraph 2.11, "For the Assembly to have a role in ascertaining whether all of these requirements have been met"—that is, the requirements under section—

Mrs Dunne: Section 44.

MR RATTENBURY: No, it is from the other sections. You have thrown me now, Mrs Dunne. I am thinking about whether it is the constitution or whether it is the Electoral Act. But the committee speaks to the many requirements that are set out relating to undischarged bankruptcy, office for profit under the Crown and various others. It is section 44; you are right. The committee wrote:

For the Assembly to have a role in ascertaining whether all of these requirements have been met, other than by requiring the current statutory declaration, would place a heavy burden on it. It is not clear what further role the Assembly could undertake.

Given that we currently have the most comprehensive arrangements among the states and territories, it speaks to the fact that the committee formed the view that it is not the Assembly's role to undertake a comprehensive investigation into somebody's eligibility to look into whether they are an undischarged bankrupt or insolvent, for example, and the various other requirements under the section of the constitution, but, rather, that it is upon the nominator in making that statutory declaration. The committee did not form the view that the Assembly should take further steps. Given that we made those findings only a few months ago, I do not know that there is a sense that we should take a different approach.

In terms of the first part of Mr Coe's motion around a privilege matter and whether the Assembly has been misled, for me the most instructive comments were those made by Mrs Dunne in her remarks. She said that it subsequently transpired that Ms Gallagher was not eligible to be appointed. I think this is the central point. The High Court has now made a series of interpretations that have changed everybody's understanding of both the interpretation of section 44 and individual people's eligibility under that section.

These are matters that need to be addressed at a commonwealth level. I do not think they go to matters that sit before the Assembly. On that basis the Greens will not be supporting Mr Coe's motion today.

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) (11.54): As we have heard, the Assembly has already considered this matter. In responding today, I want to draw members' attention to the contribution that Mrs Dunne made on 28 November last year. She said:

... I do not believe that any of the information provided in March 2015 was intentionally inaccurate ...

She made those comments again today, and the standing orders go directly to intention. Mrs Dunne's previous remarks make it clear that even those opposite believe that this crucial element of intent is lacking.

I also note that this matter has been subject to report by the standing committee on admin and procedure. We have heard about that today. I would like to say that this matter has been quite rightly and properly considered by both the federal parliament and the High Court, and they have made their decisions. We should respect those debates and decisions. Let us move on and get on with the business of delivering for this growing city.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (11.55), in reply: To conclude this debate, I think it is important that I point out a couple of the anomalies in what the

Chief Minister and Mr Rattenbury have said. They are, in effect, putting forward this whole process as being an example of how good the ACT is. Quite frankly, it did not work. It simply did not work. Rather than patting ourselves on the back and saying, “Don’t we have a ripper of a system,” I think we should be looking at how we actually improve it.

Quite obviously, regardless of what the High Court said yesterday, Ms Gallagher was a citizen of another country. That is why she had to relinquish the position. Regardless of what the High Court said yesterday, the fact that Ms Gallagher had to write to the British government in the lead-up to the 2016 election suggests, firstly, that she knew that she had foreign citizenship. Secondly, she did not contact the Assembly to advise us that the statutory declaration was wrong.

It is all very well for Mr Rattenbury to say that it is not our role to investigate whether somebody is a bankrupt or eligible for foreign citizenship. If that is the case, why do we have the stat dec process? Why does continuing resolution 9 say in 2(b) that we require a statutory declaration? If that is not required by the Electoral Act, surely our role in this is somewhat blurred. Mr Rattenbury said with confidence, “It is not our role.” That is what this privileges committee should look into. What is our role?

If we are advising the Governor-General, it is actually our responsibility to ensure that the advice that we are providing is accurate. Therefore I think you could argue that it is our role to investigate whether someone was a bankrupt or whether someone is a foreign citizen. You could argue that case. I suggest that we are already going down that path by demanding a statutory declaration to be presented to the Assembly. We already have accepted some responsibility to ensure that the person we are proposing complies with the Commonwealth Electoral Act and with the constitution.

What this privileges committee would determine is the extent of our responsibilities and what is reasonable for us, as a legislature, to research in order to put forward a recommendation to the Governor-General. It is disappointing that the government is putting party politics ahead of the integrity of this place. I very much hope that this Assembly is not misled again.

Question put:

That the motion be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 9

Noes 12

Miss C Burch	Mr Milligan	Mr Barr	Ms Orr
Mr Coe	Mr Parton	Ms Berry	Mr Pettersson
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Ms J Burch	Mr Ramsay
Mr Hanson		Ms Fitzharris	Mr Rattenbury
Mrs Kikkert		Mr Gentleman	Mr Steel
Ms Lee		Ms Le Couteur	Ms Stephen-Smith

Question resolved in the negative.

Executive members' business—precedence

Ordered that executive members' business be called on.

Drugs—pill testing

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (12.02): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the ACT Greens have been consistently strong advocates for pill testing as a harm minimisation measure and committed to realising a pill testing trial in the ACT in the lead up to the 2016 ACT election;
- (b) the wide ranging support for pill testing across the ACT community with more than 1000 signatories to an ACT Greens petition calling for a pill testing trial, and many health and law reform experts, community organisations and musicians signing on to an open letter calling for the trial to go ahead;
- (c) on 29 April 2018 the first pill testing trial in Australia took place in Canberra at the Groovin the Moo festival;
- (d) the trial involved 128 participants and tested 85 samples;
- (e) the testing identified two substances of particular concern that were detected for the first time in the ACT – one was believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties that can cause convulsions and coma, and the other was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in fatalities overseas;
- (f) after participating in pill testing and receiving information about the substances contained within their pill as well as receiving advice about the harms of drug use, a number of patrons made an informed choice to discard their pills in the amnesty bins rather than consume them;
- (g) none of the people who presented to paramedics for treatment or who were arrested by police for drug offences at the festival are believed to have participated in the pill testing trial;
- (h) the pill testing service was able to provide valuable information about substances that may have been circulating at the festival to ACT police and health services to improve drug treatment and detection in real time; and
- (i) the trial likely reduced harm at the event by informing young people about the risks of drug taking, increasing interactions with health professionals and reducing the consumption of dangerous substances;

(2) recognises the:

- (a) leadership demonstrated by the ACT Government in considering the merits of pill testing as a harm minimisation approach through a robust, evidence-based process informed by the expert advice of a cross-government working group;

- (b) subsequent decision of the Government to allow the first pill testing trial in the southern hemisphere to take place; and
 - (c) significant effort invested by many stakeholders to ensure the trial went ahead safely, including the STA-SAFE consortium, ACT Health, ACT Policing, the ACT Ambulance Service and Cattleyard Promotions, and congratulates all involved for a successful trial; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) continue to take an evidence-based harm minimisation approach to drug policy; and
 - (b) support other opportunities to implement harm minimisation approaches including further pill testing services in the ACT.

I am pleased to rise today to discuss the recent successful trial of pill testing in the ACT and put my thanks on record to the many stakeholders involved in ensuring this nation-leading trial went ahead. Since the ACT Greens included a commitment to a pill testing trial in our 2016 election policies, we have been on a roller-coaster ride of approval processes with both territory and commonwealth government agencies, key stakeholder organisations and festival promoters.

After a huge effort from all involved, I am delighted to be able to say that on 29 April 2018 the nation's first official and approved pill testing trial went ahead at the Groovin the Moo music festival here in Canberra. While a full evaluation of the trial is still being finalised, the preliminary results confirm what we expected: that pill testing helps reduce harm by preventing the consumption of dangerous substances. We know that the service at Groovin the Moo provided valuable information to young people, health services and police, with almost 130 people accessing the service and 85 samples being tested.

We also know that the pill testing service identified two substances that could have had potentially fatal consequences if consumed. As the motion notes, one was believed to be a novel NBOMe with psycho-stimulant and hallucinogenic properties that can cause convulsions and coma. This is the same class of drug that is believed to be responsible for three deaths and around 20 hospitalisations in Victoria in early 2017 as well as a spate of hospitalisations on the Gold Coast in 2016.

The other substance was n-ethylpentylone, a cathinone implicated in adverse outcomes overseas, including the hospitalisation of 13 people in New Zealand earlier this year. Physical effects can include raised pulse and blood pressure, high body temperature and convulsions, as well as psychological effects such as paranoia and temporary psychosis.

It is also important to note that neither of these substances had been seen in the ACT previously and that the pill testing service was able to alert both ACT Policing and the ACT Ambulance Service to this to help inform their responses. The Chief Health Officer was also notified so that health services across the territory could be prepared in case someone presented outside the festival with the corresponding symptoms.

As we anticipated, these findings are in line with the findings from overseas, particularly in Europe, where pill testing is already commonplace. Results from Europe have shown that pill testing can save lives and influence people who use drugs to make safer choices. A study in Austria found that two-thirds of users who were informed by a government-funded pill testing service of potential toxic harms decided not to consume their drugs, and told their friends not to. In Switzerland, research has found that a pill testing service is often the first contact with social support systems for many users.

Contrary to the claims of opponents, the evidence supports the assertion that pill testing does not lead to an increase in drug taking but rather that the information offered by these services can instead lead to reduced consumption. At the recent Canberra trial, we know that a number of people discarded their pills after receiving advice about what they contained. Initial reports suggested that, as well as the two dangerous substances I already spoke about, pills contained a number of other substances, such as lactose and paint.

I understand that while there were people at the festival who were treated by ambulance services for alcohol and drug use, none of those people are believed to have attended the pill testing service. Health professionals had the opportunity to directly engage with more than 100 people in a genuine conversation about the risks of drug use and how they can reduce harm through informed decision-making. Real-time information was also provided to ACT police and to health services about what had been identified through the trial to help inform drug detection and treatment efforts.

Despite the fearmongering and misinformation from opponents, the trial worked exactly as it should have, and many festival attendees were safer for it. Madam Speaker, I do not expect that the Canberra Liberals were persuaded by the weekend's results. In fact I heard as much from Mr Hanson the day after the festival. There are only so many times we can present them with the evidence and explain the importance of these kinds of harm minimisation approaches.

The contrast between our approach and the alternative is stark. We have heard recently that the New South Wales Liberal government is doubling down on its law and order approach to drug use. One example is the New South Wales government's use of sniffer dogs to patrol music festivals. The evidence base for this approach is poor at best.

A New South Wales government review of sniffer dogs found that police uncovered drugs in only 26 per cent of cases where the dog gave a positive indication. At the same time we know of at least two cases where young Australians died when they swallowed all of their drugs at once to avoid detection by sniffer dogs. These are the tragic and very real consequences of this sort of ill-informed drug policy.

As I mentioned earlier, it has been a long journey to get to this point. I want to thank Minister Fitzharris and ACT Health for genuinely engaging in a process to consider the risks and benefits of this initiative. I recognise that it takes courage and leadership

for a government to be the first in Australia to adopt this kind of measure. I am so glad that the minister and the government chose to make their decision based on the evidence.

Of course, there are so many others who need to be thanked, starting with the members of the STA-SAFE consortium. I want to particularly mention Dr David Caldicott, Gino Vumbaca, and Matt Noffs, as well as the organisations who supported them. The consortium answered every question, filled in every form, and persisted despite multiple setbacks. This has been years of work in the making. I thank these leading harm minimisation experts for the time and energy they have put in to making this trial a reality.

In addition to the efforts of the harm minimisation experts, support from the law enforcement community has also been crucial. For years, it has been assumed that police would oppose a pill testing trial. Despite the often tough rhetoric, we know that police are also frustrated by the harm they continue to see from young people experimenting with drugs.

Contributions of retired Superintendent Frank Hansen and former AFP Commissioner Mick Palmer are just a couple of examples of an important voice in the debate to show people that harm minimisation is not about endorsing illicit drug use, but it is about reducing harm for young people in our community.

I also want to specifically mention the work of the ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Policing, who were involved in the planning, and were on the ground on the day helping to make everything come together. Our ambulance officers see the harm of these kind of substances every day. They know the benefit that a trial like this can bring.

I was also really pleased to see the comments from the Chief Police Officer, who called the trial a “great success”, and said that ACT Policing would support future pill testing efforts. It is powerful to see an acknowledgement that, while law enforcement has an important role to play, there is also a role for education and health services to respond to illicit drug issues.

Importantly, I want to thank the Canberra community for their strong support, often in the face of political opposition. For a long time the public has been ahead of politicians in knowing that we need to take a different approach to drug use, a health focused approach that makes keeping our young people safe the first priority. The community knows that the law and order approach to drugs is not working, and their support through our petition and the keep Canberra safe campaign has been instrumental in enabling a fundamental shift in the political mindset around how we should treat drug use. This is a great example of how community support can drive change to policy.

My thanks also go to the promoter of Groovin the Moo, Cattleyard Promotions, and their general manager, Kathryn Holloway. I know they had a number of reservations before the event. Again it takes courage for event organisers to allow an initiative like this to go ahead for the first time. I thank them for staying engaged in the negotiations

right until the last moment, and for working with the consortium to find a way forward.

Finally, I want to acknowledge each of the individuals who was there helping in the pill testing tent at Groovin the Moo in Canberra, and I want to take this opportunity to mention each of them by name. In addition to Dr David Caldicott, Gino Vumbaca, Matt Noffs and retired Superintendent Frank Hansen, whom I mentioned earlier, the tent included STA-SAFE consortium members Stephanie Tzanetis, Penelope Hill and Professor Tony Makkai.

I also want to recognise the work of the volunteers who helped with the pill testing operation: Malcolm, Ginny, Patrick and Shelly. These people all played a crucial role in making Australia's first pill testing trial a success. I was lucky enough to be at Groovin the Moo and get a tour of the pill testing set-up on the day. It was a fascinating experience, and it was great to see young people in the ACT engaging with the services and talking to health professionals about their drug use.

I have previously seen a pill testing service operating in the Netherlands, and seeing it working on the ground in the ACT only reaffirmed my belief that it does help to reduce harm. We also know that in the absence of an endorsed pill testing service young people will look for other options, such as reagent testing kits, which are less reliable, and miss the opportunity to collect data and engage with health professionals. A formal pill testing scheme with expert scientific, medical and counselling staff on hand is the best and safest option, and we now know it is achievable.

Over the last 18 months I have vigorously debated this issue, and spoken extensively about supporting this and calling for a pill testing trial in the ACT. We have been talking about this since the last Assembly, and I always remained confident that we would be able to get support for a trial here in this progressive jurisdiction, despite some setbacks along the way.

Reflecting on the campaign now, I see that what we wanted to achieve was to ensure festival goers did not take avoidable risks. I believe we did achieve that. I hope the success of the recent trial will help assure festival organisers and governments around the country that there are good evidence-based strategies that can reduce harm for people who are thinking of either taking or experimenting with illicit substances.

I again want to thank everyone who was involved in the trial, from those at the coalface to the individuals who signed the petition or talked about it with their friends. The Greens are proud to have led the debate on this important issue, and we hope that this trial will open the door for more pill testing and other harm minimisation measures, both in the ACT and across the country. I commend my motion to the Assembly.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (12.14): We will not be supporting Mr Rattenbury's motion. I have outlined in previous speeches why, and I will reiterate those concerns today. The trial and Mr Rattenbury's motion today have done nothing to change the opposition's view. Mr Rattenbury has made much of the evidence, but Mr Rattenbury and his fellow travellers are selective in the evidence they present. He cherry-picks the

bits that support him, but when the evidence is viewed in totality, the argument against pill testing is strong.

The first myth that must be debunked is one that assumes that the vast majority of medical opinions and groups support pill testing. That is simply not true. Many medical professionals and professional bodies have raised serious concerns about pill testing, and their quotes on the record prove it. I will turn to that from the national president of the AMA, Dr Michael Gannon:

And the last thing we would want to do is give people a false sense of security about taking illegal drugs cooked up in someone's bath tub.

I do not think that statement from the president of the AMA should be ignored. Toxicologist Andrew Leibie from Safework Laboratories said public statements made by politicians that the trial would help keep people safe were potentially misleading. He said MDMA is not a safe drug and many of the deaths that have occurred across Europe this year have actually been due to MDMA. When discussing dangerous drugs, toxicologists should not be ignored. And nor should the state health commander of Ambulance Victoria, who recently said:

... it's a poison. You can test a poison all you like, it remains a poison.

Many academic journals have also raised concerns, and I will quote from some of them. The internal medicine journal in November 2016 said pill testing at best gave an artificial shine of safety and that the failure to detect an agent that could be life threatening is a great concern. It said on-site testing will not solve this problem and could lead to other problems of an unpredictable and tragic nature.

We have heard a lot of concerns—the AMA, toxicologists, heads of ambulance services and numerous pieces of academic research. If this were any other area of public health policy and such concerns were being raised by such groups, there is no way that policy would proceed in the ACT or anywhere else.

Another area of concern to the Canberra Liberals is the legal uncertainty that has arisen. I cannot find a single legal opinion that supports the notion that the operation of pill testing in the ACT is legal, nor has any advice been provided to the opposition to the contrary. An article in the *Canberra Times* says that pill testing enters a legal minefield. It reports that a lawyer said people conducting Canberra's pill testing trial could face criminal charges unless the territory's Criminal Code is amended and that while it appeared ACT Policing had agreed not to prosecute anyone involved in the trial, it did not make it legally sound.

Another article entitled "Pill testing trial without adequate legal protection, lawyer says", states:

Paul Edmonds, a solicitor at Canberra Criminal Lawyers, said no legislation had passed ensuring that there was a dedicated area where participants in the trial wouldn't be held criminally liable for drug possession.

Former New South Wales Director of Public Prosecutions and an adjunct professor at the Sydney Institute of Criminology, Nicholas Cowdery, has said that if police enforce laws correctly, any illegal drug user or tester is liable to arrest and prosecution. The simple fact is anyone possessing or supplying a prohibited drug for pill testing purposes or otherwise commits a criminal offence.

The fact is that possession of these substances is illegal in this territory, not to mention the liability issues that arise should a tragedy occur on site. The trial was conducted on a “look the other way” basis by police. That is in my view a reckless way to conduct business. Based on the legal opinion that I have seen, it is unlawful and I have no confidence that what is being conducted is legal.

There is a myth being perpetrated a bit—I see it on Twitter and social media and I hear it in the rhetoric from those opposite—that somehow the Canberra Liberals are out of touch on this issue and are somehow on the fringes of the debate. However, that is the opposite of what is occurring. Canberra is the only jurisdiction to allow pill testing to occur. Every other government, state or federal, remains opposed. The Labor Premier of Victoria, Daniel Andrews, recently repeated his position and said that these drugs cannot be consumed at a safe level and that Victoria will not be putting in place a pill testing regime. He has previously said:

There is no safe level at which these substances can be taken ... We are not having pill testing in this state, not under a government I lead anyway.

I make the point that it is the ACT Labor and Greens coalition that is out of step. These drugs have been made illegal for a good reason—they are not and never have been safe. The American National Institute of Drug Abuse states that the use of even moderate doses of MDMA in crowded, warm environments or during periods of vigorous, extended physical activity can dramatically increase body temperature, with potential deadly consequences. The National Centre for Biotechnology Information describes the effects of MDMA stating that clinical studies on humans and animals reveal that exposure to MDMA alone or in combination with other drugs causes damage to the heart, brain, liver and kidneys and that these abnormalities may potentially lead to death.

This and like substances have been outlawed across the world for good reason. Pill testing sends the exact opposite message to vulnerable young people being pressured into taking illegal substances like MDMA by their peers and by drug dealers. We are sending the wrong message by doing this that drugs are safe. Again I quote toxicologist Andrew Liebie, who said:

... the whole concept is based on the false assumption that if you do know what you're taking, it is safe ... that is absolutely untrue ... MDMA is not a safe drug and many of the deaths that have occurred across Europe this year have actually been due to MDMA ...

Proof that drug testing sends the wrong message is made crystal clear by the responses of unsuspecting festival goers who clearly think that testing will make these drugs safe. Following the pill testing at Groovin the Moo Canberra, ABC Central

Victoria conducted surveys at Groovin the Moo in Bendigo and spoke to young people who were festival goers. I will quote the young people, the festival goers, who were considering whether to take drugs: “The fact that they can test it and make sure that they are going to be safe is definitely a good thing”; “It could make you want to take more drugs. It would definitely give you peace of mind.”

That is exactly the point the AMA, Dr Liebie and others and experience from overseas make: festival goers are under the misapprehension that once their pill is tested it is all safe. This pill testing in the ACT is doing exactly that—it is giving piece of mind and spreading the misapprehension to young people that taking those drugs is safe—in their words it is definitely safe—and that is not the case. Sending that message should be of concern to everybody in this place. More young people taking drugs under the misapprehension that they are safe will lead to more deaths, and this is the experience overseas.

An article entitled “Pill testing sounds like a great idea but there’s a catch” says:

Countries that have gone down the pill testing route do not provide any comfort that this approach works. Britain has roughly two and a half times Australia’s population. In 2015, it had 114 deaths from NPS, a figure that has been rising every year since 2011. Australia recorded less than a dozen deaths from NPS in 2015, yet Britain has pill testing while Australia does not.

According to figures released by the Office for National Statistics in Britain, towards the end of 2016 deaths linked to ecstasy or MDMA were at their highest level in a decade. In 2010 there were eight; in 2015 the count was 57. According to last year’s global drugs survey in which more than 100,000 drug users worldwide were quizzed about their habits this is the worst time to be using MDMA in a generation.

In conclusion, when we look for solutions we need to look at all the evidence and not do as Mr Rattenbury has done and cherry-pick some of it. We need to look at the medical advice, as we have done, including that from toxicologists and from the AMA. We need to look at all the legal advice, as we have done. And we need to look to places where this has been trialled, as we have done. We have seen drug deaths increase as pill testing has increased. What we find, therefore, is that pill testing does not actually reduce harm; it puts young people in harm’s way.

As one report from the UK stated, since pill testing was introduced more people are taking ecstasy than ever before and more people are dying from it. I do not want to see—I am sure no-one in this room wants to—more dying from drugs anywhere in Australia, least of all in Canberra. Young people consuming illicit drugs is a complex issue; I do not dispute that, and there is no silver bullet. I do not dispute the good intentions of the proponents of pill testing, but they are wrong. They are wrong based on the advice. They are wrong based on the evidence. And they are wrong based on the experience. It is said that the road to hell is paved with good intentions. The reality is that pill testing is not going to reduce harm; it will increase harm, and we do not support it.

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and

Research) (12.27): I thank Minister Rattenbury for the opportunity to speak to this motion today. As has been outlined, the pill testing trial was conducted by the independent consortium STA-SAFE at Groovin the Moo last month. It was the first pill testing trial to be carried out in Australia and indeed in the Southern Hemisphere. What this means is that for the first time at an event such as this across the country there was an intervention service available to people that would help them make a more informed choice about their health.

It is through the leadership of the government and many other organisations that the trial was realised, and as Minister for Health and Wellbeing in the ACT I am very pleased to note that the trial at Groovin the Moo was indeed successful. As Minister Rattenbury's motion notes, the trial was well attended, with approximately 130 patrons using the new service and around 85 tests conducted. What these results show is that there is a demand for this type of service at events such as music festivals.

Let me be clear that taking drugs is not legal and it is never safe. For the ACT government, providing a supportive policy environment for the trial to occur has been about reducing harm and ensuring that people receive as much information as possible so that they can make informed choices. It has also been about providing a health intervention prior to a person taking a substance, which could be what changes their mind from taking the illicit substance and putting themselves at risk.

I am proud of the leadership demonstrated by the ACT government through the cross-directorate working group that was set up almost 12 months ago led by ACT Health. There has been significant work undertaken across government to enable the pill testing trial to occur. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the working group.

I would also like to thank the festival organisers, Cattleyard Promotions, for their cooperation and acknowledge that by allowing the trial to take place they had the best interests of their patrons at heart. I would also like to acknowledge the STA-SAFE consortium and Harm Reduction Australia for not only successfully carrying out the trial but for their continued advocacy regarding harm reduction measures, including pill testing. I would also like to thank the University of Canberra for their cooperation and interest in the trial.

In regard to the next steps for pill testing in the ACT, the government looks forward to receiving the evaluation report associated with the trial at Groovin the Moo. This evaluation will assist better understanding of how pill testing may help reduce the harms of illicit drug use at festivals and will also inform next steps and future drug policy. The government is committed to being open and transparent on the outcomes of the trial and we will release the evaluation once complete. As the first trial to be conducted in Australia, I know that other jurisdictions will be looking on with interest to see the results of the evaluation.

In regard to the calls contained in this motion, I want to emphasise that the government is committed to minimising the harms associated with recreational and illicit drug use. And, through our drug policies, we will continue to pursue measures such as pill testing that are focused on minimising and reducing harm.

As members would be well aware, the review of the previous ACT alcohol, tobacco and other drugs strategy was put on hold in 2015 while the national drug strategy was developed. The new ACT drug strategy action plan which has been significantly progressed in the past six months will be consistent with the three pillars of supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction which are set out in the national strategy agreed by all governments. Following targeted consultation with the alcohol and other drugs sector, the draft drug strategy action plan will also be released for broader community consultation and I look forward to making further announcements about this in the coming weeks.

It is important to be very clear that the ACT government does not approve or condone illicit drug use. Our message to the community will always be that it is dangerous to take illicit drugs. They are inherently unsafe. But pill testing services provide information on the content of the drugs tested which might include unexpected contaminants or substances, indeed as was found at the trial, the risks involved and how to reduce them.

Patrons of pill testing services are never advised that taking drugs is safe. Indeed perhaps the most prominent advocates of this important message were the proponents of the pill testing trial themselves. The members of the consortium consistently said that they will never advise a patron that it is safe to take drugs. They are simply providing a service to help people make safer and more informed decisions.

The government will continue to support pill testing which is conducted by an independent consortium. The government will continue to take a stance on important issues such as this. Indeed this is a milestone harm reduction activity which demonstrates the contemporary approach of the government. I am pleased to say that, should we receive future proposals to conduct a pill testing trial at another festival, the government will again consider the proposal on its merits and welcomes the opportunity to work with an event open to supporting pill testing.

I think this is a really tremendous example of a number of organisations, advocacy groups and political parties coming together on an important public policy matter. I certainly acknowledge Minister Rattenbury in his capacity as the leader of the ACT Greens over a long time advocating this.

The momentum of community advocacy from public health organisations and advocates, from the medical community, from the harm reduction community and, indeed, as we have seen, from senior former law enforcement officials right around the country has led to a recognition, as has been the case in a cross-partisan way for many years, that drug policy is informed by three key pillars: harm reduction, supply reduction, demand reduction.

It is of particular interest to note the opposition has never spoken about harm reduction. Their health spokesperson has not spoken on this issue in any way that reflects any commitment from the opposition to harm reduction in drug policy. It is widely supported by all political parties around Australia and I note that their approach to this has been only on a supply or demand reduction solely focused on the law enforcement aspects of drug policy.

I would also note that of course there is a debate about this issue, as there should be. It is an important way that we progress progressive policy in the country. I would note that as recently as 1 May the Tasmanian AMA supported calls for pill testing in Australia. At the time of the announcement last year that the government would allow a pill testing trial to go ahead, the local AMA supported the trial. The Capital Health Network supported the trial.

I note Mr Hanson's comments about cherrypicking and would ask him to reflect on his own cherrypicking. There has been widespread support for this trial in Australia, significant interest from other jurisdictions. I look forward to sharing whatever evidence and background we can provide from the ACT to other jurisdictions to support their consideration of pill testing. This is just the start. It was a successful one but I look forward to this. It is the same as previous harm reduction measures such as a needle and syringe exchange program, which was extremely controversial but is now considered an essential part of harm reduction in drug policy right across the country.

Once again we see the Canberra Liberals are absent on matters of important public health policy. Their leader has stated in this place they have no position on a women's health policy and women's health matters that are important to many Canberra women. It appears they have no health policy in relation to harm reduction in drug policy, which is disappointing but not at all surprising.

I welcome the opportunity to reflect on and celebrate the ACT's achievements, a reflection of the long history of the ACT to support sound, evidence-based, progressive policy advocated across party lines, supported by public health and medical professionals. And we look forward to further opportunities to advance progressive health policy in the ACT.

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (12.35): I rise today following Mr Hanson—and I am very happy I get to follow him because I quite enjoyed listening to his speech because his speech said a lot but did not actually have any substance to it—who cherrypicked statements from Labor identities, health associations, but ultimately failed in his most important duty in this place; that is, to legislate. Mr Hanson is full of criticism but he has no ideas. Mr Hanson is opposed to pill testing. That is okay.

But what is your solution? From the looks of it, from what I heard today, you do not have a solution. You simply hope the problem will go away, or what I actually suspect will occur is that you will do what Liberals across the country do, which is use law and order, law enforcement, to further perpetuate the war on drugs, ultimately a failed policy. I am very glad I got to listen to your speech, Mr Hanson, because I found it, on the whole, completely lacking.

That is not entirely why I rose to speak today. I rose today to speak about the Groovin the Moo festival last month. I think the festival was a great success. The live music was wonderful, from all accounts. You could hear it on the north side of Canberra. But it also featured the first pill testing trial here in Australia. These trials save lives. There were 85 pills tested and two of them contained deadly or dangerous ingredients. I will say it again: trials like this save lives.

However, there are those in this place who oppose pill testing and they have taken every step to sabotage this policy. I hope everyone in this place can remember when the Canberra Liberals made a phone call to their mates at Parliament House to get the last trial stopped. It is embarrassing. They cannot win an ACT election; so they have to call their mates in the feds to try to get anything done. They are still in denial that the people of Canberra do not want their leadership. The people want nothing to do with them.

The commentary over that weekend, the Groovin the Moo weekend, was an interesting thing to observe because it was led by the stand-in shadow health minister, Mr Hanson. I find that incredible. It was a giant tantrum but it was from Mr Hanson. I do believe that Mrs Dunne, the actual Liberal health spokesperson, was absent from the ACT for some reason, which is why Mr Hanson had to step in.

But it says a lot that the legal affairs spokesperson for the Canberra Liberals was out there addressing pill testing. It speaks volumes on how they view this issue. They do not think this is a public health issue. They refuse to view it as one. They refuse to let their health spokesperson address the issue. How can you possibly embrace harm reduction if all you want to do is sic law enforcement on to people?

I think it is time the Canberra Liberals got with the program. Pill testing does not encourage anyone to take drugs. If you did your research, if you actually looked into it, you would know this. Pill testing does not say the drugs are safe. If you did your research, if you looked into it, you would know this. Pill testing quite simply gives young festival goers more information about the illicit drugs they have purchased and are intending to consume.

But all I will ever hear from the other side is, “Just don’t do it.” They will argue for greater police powers and an increased police presence. That has been the policy for generations. It has got us to where we are now. It does not work.

Mr Hanson: Look at England. How is that going?

MR PETTERSSON: We will have a look at that one, Mr Hanson, but all you want to do is criticise policies, not—

Mr Hanson: But you said we have got to legislate. Where is the legislation?

MR PETTERSSON: But what you do every single time is criticise but you do not come to this place with ideas and solutions. I find that incredible. I find it incredible that you have been in this place for so long—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, you were heard in silence. Mr Pettersson, continue.

MR PETTERSSON: If pill testing was not available that weekend and those deathly pills were not identified and thrown away, we would be in this place mourning the death of young festival goers. Mr Hanson said that if something happened it would be on the government's head. He is wrong. It has been and always will be on the heads of those who oppose harm reduction. For every kid that has overdosed on a dangerous batch of pills, they have got a group to blame, the arch conservatives that stopped harm reduction methods.

I think the Chief Police Officer put it quite well:

I think we all understand that when it comes to addressing the impact of drugs in our community the solution is not to arrest our way out of it.

Let us be clear. Pill testing does not say that drugs are safe for use. Drugs are dangerous. Pill testing is the last chance to convince those who are otherwise going to use drugs to think again. Prohibition has failed. The war on drugs has failed. We have a duty as legislators to find solutions. This approach, an approach grounded in common sense, grounded in evidence, is the best way forward. This will save lives.

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

Sitting suspended from 12.42 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Cabinet—meetings

MR COE: My question is to the Chief Minister. The Freedom of Information Act, in section 23, sets out that open access information for the Chief Minister includes information about each cabinet or cabinet committee decision. The latest available summary of cabinet decisions is dated 19 February. Chief Minister, why have there been no summaries of cabinet decisions published since that date?

MR BARR: I will inquire of the Head of Service in relation to that matter and advise the Assembly in due course.

MR COE: Chief Minister, do you approve what information is published on the cabinet decisions register, and will you publish all the summaries since 19 February?

MR BARR: Cabinet approves the summaries. That is part of the cabinet agenda. They are approved in accordance with the legislation and the *Cabinet Handbook*. I will check with the Head of Service as to why there are not summaries for the month of March available on the website.

MR WALL: Chief Minister, has cabinet approved any cabinet summaries since the February meeting of the 19th?

MR BARR: Yes, my understanding is that those summaries would have been approved. There has obviously been a delay for some reason in their being placed on the website.

Federal government—facial recognition scheme

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Chief Minister and relates to the intergovernmental agreement on identity matching services and your agreement in COAG last year for the ACT to participate in the new federal government facial recognition scheme which, based on the bill tabled in February, will enable the Department of Home Affairs to disclose private information potentially to private corporations. Minister, can you assure the Assembly that any facial recognition scheme that the ACT signs up to is compatible with our Human Rights Act?

MR BARR: Yes, I can. That was one of the conditions of the ACT's agreement. Ms Le Couteur, in the 30-odd seconds of your question I could not quite get the communique of that COAG meeting open in front of me. I will endeavour to do so in the next minute or so. But I am aware that the schedule that is attached to that agreement has some arrangements required that are specific to the ACT and the conditions under which we are participating in that intergovernmental agreement.

MS LE COUTEUR: Chief Minister, Victoria has, in fact, threatened to pull out of the regime because the federal bill goes beyond the scope of what had been agreed by the states and territories. Will the ACT pull out of the scheme if the scheme cannot be made compatible with our Human Rights Act?

MR BARR: I make the observation that at the time of this COAG meeting I was the only leader of any state or territory to point out those issues publicly and to seek a special arrangement for the ACT's participation. So it was with a degree of irony that we saw the Victorians change their position somewhat. Maybe the commonwealth have overreached in their legislation. The only grounds on which the ACT signed up to that intergovernmental agreement were on the basis that it would be compatible with our Human Rights Act.

Animals—dangerous dogs

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. On 12 January 2018 an article appeared in the *Canberra Times* under the heading "Canberra's dog rangers open up on horror year". The article reports that domestic animal services rangers, or DAS, had been "many times before" to a house in Molesworth Street, Watson where a woman had been killed by a dog in October 2017. Minister, how many times in total had DAS rangers attended that Watson house prior to October 2017?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Lawder for the question. I do not have the precise number. I will take that question on notice.

MS LAWDER: Minister, on how many occasions had a dog or dogs been seized from the house?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, were all the dogs seized from the house subsequently returned?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take the question on notice.

Sport—international fixtures

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Minister, can you outline the significance of Canberra hosting its first international cricket test match next February?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question and his interest in cricket in the ACT. The historic nature of the test match will shine a spotlight on Manuka Oval and Canberra as a new venue for international test cricket. This event and, we hope, more tests in the future will build Canberra's growing reputation as a host city for significant national and international sporting events and add to Canberra's major events calendar.

For Canberra cricket fans this will allow the pinnacle of test cricket in Canberra for the first time. For aspiring young cricketers it will be a great opportunity to get close to the best in world cricket. This historic match will generate extensive national and international media coverage and remind everyone of Canberra's credentials as a leading city for sport, tourism and events.

Importantly, Canberra's successful involvement with elite cricket aligns neatly with its passionate fan base. This was highlighted during the Women's Ashes T20 matches played at Manuka Oval in November 2017, which attracted the highest attendances for the series. A more recent demonstration was during January's Big Bash League, which saw a crowd of 11,319 on hand for Sydney Thunder versus the Melbourne Renegades.

MR PETTERSSON: What benefits will this event bring for the ACT?

MS BERRY: As I said this match will generate extensive national and international coverage, which can only serve to further enhance Canberra's reputation. It builds on the Chief Minister's success in attracting international flights and record tourism growth by adding to Canberra's major events calendar and the government's major events strategy.

From that perspective, the opportunity for Canberra to host its first-ever test match in February 2019 is a significant development that reinforces Canberra's standing as a world-class events host. Visitors from interstate and overseas will obviously spend on local hospitality, and we expect that they will leave with knowledge of what Canberra offers.

Staging national and international cricket in the ACT delivers economic benefits to the territory through direct employment as well as match-related activity, community development activities and tourism. It also capitalises on the ACT government's investment in Manuka Oval, including the installation of state-of-the-art light towers, additional grandstand seating, the re-laying of playing surfaces and the scheduled media centre upgrade.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what steps has the ACT government taken to grow Canberra's place as a host of international sporting fixtures?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary. International sporting events have proven to be an excellent vehicle for showcasing the best of Canberra. As a host city for both the ICC Cricket World Cup and the AFC Asian Cup football tournament in 2015, we demonstrated Canberra's outstanding credentials as a major events destination.

These successes have shaped the way international sporting bodies see us and paved the way for a host of other opportunities on the international sporting landscape. In 2017 Canberra played host to the Rugby League Anzac Test between Australia and New Zealand, test matches for both Rugby Union and netball, and three Rugby League World Cup matches. Earlier this year Canberra was announced as a host city, and Manuka Oval as a host venue, for the ICC Women's World Twenty20 to be played in Australia in February and March 2020.

The ACT government continues to invest in facilities and participation at all levels of sport, and it is this thriving sports community which underpins the success of elite events. I have no doubt that the February test match will further lock in Canberra's place on the world sporting stage.

Industrial relations—work safety

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services. Minister, I refer to your answer to my question yesterday about a meeting that you and Minister Stephen-Smith had with the then secretary of the CFMEU on 22 January this year. You stated in your answer that this was about WorkSafe practices in the ACT. Minister, what aspects of WorkSafe practices in the ACT were discussed in this meeting and what was the outcome of the meeting?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Wall for the question. My recollection of the meeting is that it was a relatively broad conversation around improved safety and the ongoing commitment to safety, to better workplaces and better work practices across the ACT, knowing that the government has a very strong commitment to ensuring that everyone who goes to work can go home safely. The outcomes of that meeting were our ongoing dedication to ensuring WorkSafe practices are good for all workers in the ACT.

MR WALL: Minister, is there currently an inquiry, investigation or audit underway into the Work Safety Commissioner, WorkSafe ACT or its powers or functions?

MR RAMSAY: No.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, have you been asked by anyone in the construction industry or elsewhere in the union movement to conduct such an inquiry into the Work Safety Commissioner?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mrs Dunne for the supplementary question. Yes, a number of conversations have taken place in relation to the nature of WorkSafe in the ACT. Yes, it has been suggested that it could take place.

National Multicultural Festival—service of alcohol

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Minister, in January you told the ABC that the ban on community organisations selling alcohol at this year's Multicultural Festival was "in response to feedback from stakeholders, including Policing". In reality, ACT Policing's concern was about commercial vendors with no cultural significance selling cheap alcohol, and their specific recommendation for limiting alcohol on the festival's footprint was to support "alcohol sales that fall within a multicultural context" instead. Minister, were you aware of ACT Policing officials' advice on this issue when you told the ABC that the ban was in response to their feedback?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I was aware that ACT Policing had provided advice—and that has been confirmed through the FOI—that they were concerned about the amount of alcohol that was for sale on the footprint and the level of intoxication on the footprint. I was not aware that ACT Policing had provided specific advice by email in relation to what would be a better way to limit licences. I was, I have to say, extremely disappointed to learn that that specific advice had been provided.

I think it is fair to say that in responding to the Policing and other stakeholder views in relation to the amount of alcohol available on the footprint, that advice was conflated with CSD's decision on how this would best be undertaken. I did say in January that this was a response to concerns from stakeholders, including ACT Policing, about the amount of alcohol available on the footprint and in relation to responsible service of alcohol. Those things are both confirmed through the FOI and the CPO's recent interview.

I did also say at the time that the approach that had been chosen and that was publicly known since August last year was perhaps not the best approach, and committed to revisiting that decision as part of the festival review. That is exactly what is happening now.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, why did the ACT government introduce an alcohol policy at this year's festival that directly contradicted the clear recommendations from ACT Policing?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I do not know that that is an accurate representation. The Community Services Directorate and office of multicultural affairs introduced a

policy to address what they considered to be the primary concern that had been expressed by ACT Policing and other stakeholders, which was the amount of alcohol available, the level of intoxication and the behaviour on the footprint. I would like to highlight that the email feedback from police as released under FOI starts with the sentence that they believe this is a terrific, progressive step for the festival in relation to the issue of restricting the amount of alcohol available on the footprint.

We know from the feedback from this year's festival that the festival's reputation as a family-friendly event increased compared to last year and that more people agreed or strongly agreed that they felt safe at this year's festival. As I said the specific way in which that policy is implemented will be part of the review.

MR PARTON: Minister, will you apologise to Canberra's multicultural community organisations for imposing on them a policy that, if not opposite to what ACT Policing clearly advised, was clearly in conflict with that advice?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Parton for his supplementary question. I will continue to engage with the multicultural community, as I do. I explicitly requested also that the Community Services Directorate continue to engage with the multicultural community about all aspects of the festival.

I did understand that what I believed was the steering group for the festival would have been involved in this decision. Again I was disappointed to discover that that was not the case and that the community was not as engaged in making this particular decision as I had believed they would have been. Another thing that we will be looking at in the review is exactly how we manage that consultation in the lead-up to each festival to ensure that we really are reflecting the views of the multicultural community.

I did also say, though, in October to the Community Services Directorate that if we had a lot of feedback on the changes to the participation policy at that time, when stallholder applications closed, it was very transparent—

Mr Parton: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Parton.

Mr Parton: It is on relevance. The question was: will you apologise to Canberra's multicultural community? That was the question. Will you apologise?

MADAM SPEAKER: In the context of the policy of banning alcohol, I think the minister was going to the principles of the conversation she had. You have 30 seconds to continue.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you very much, Madam Speaker. As I was saying, the stallholder application process closed in September and I was perfectly happy to respond to feedback that was received. There was a small amount of feedback received in relation to this policy and we engaged with stakeholders to ensure that they could deliver the best stall that they could in the context of this policy.

Canberra Hospital—adult mental health unit

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. I refer to the draft accreditation report into the Canberra Hospital, which found that mental health patients were placed at extreme risk due to the failure to carry out robust reviews following four suicides in the mental health ward and one in a general medical ward. It also found that there was no regular review of high risk areas within the Canberra Hospital. Minister, why has the Canberra Hospital placed patients at extreme risk by failing to conduct robust reviews into the suicide of patients at the hospital?

MR RATTENBURY: Yes, this is a very concerning element of the accreditation report, one I was disappointed to read but one that we are taking decisive action to address. Mrs Dunne is right to cite the issues she has cited. In particular, for ACT Health, one of the key concerns raised in the accreditation report is the failure to adequately address ligature points.

I am taking two approaches to that. One is to make sure the work gets done immediately. I think that is the most important thing. We need to make sure that we do that as quickly as possible. There is obviously a degree of physical infrastructure involved, so it will take a little bit of time, but work has already commenced. Significant progress is being made in removing those potential ligature points and putting new infrastructure in place.

The second part of it goes to some of Mrs Dunne's question. She is interested in the blaming part. Clearly, there needs to be some assessment of why this work was not done sooner. I will get to that in good time. But my primary focus at the moment is on addressing the work that needs to be done and ensuring that ACT Health and the ACT hospital gets its accreditation within the 90-day period ahead of the advanced accreditation study in July.

MRS DUNNE: Whilst passing over the snide comments in that, minister, why is there no regular review of high risk areas in the adult mental health unit? Why did it take the accreditation review to point out this failing?

MR RATTENBURY: The accreditation report has recognised that and we are now putting mechanisms in place to ensure that that does not happen again. The government has accepted, and I have accepted, all of the recommendations in the accreditation report. As has been outlined by the minister for health, and in comments I have also made, we now have a clear timetable to deliver on all of those recommendations.

MR WALL: Minister, why is that issues within the adult mental health unit have to exceed crisis point, such as high occupancy rates and staff turnover, before action is actually taken to address them?

MR RATTENBURY: If I go to the premise of Mr Wall's question, it should not take that, and this work should have been done sooner. I am disappointed that it was not, and that is a matter we will reflect on very carefully. But, as I said, my primary focus

is on making sure that we get this work done and that we rectify the concerns that have been identified.

What I can say—and I have said this publicly and I will say it again here—is that the adult mental health unit is still the safest place in Canberra for someone to be if they are having a serious mental health crisis. Whilst some physical concerns have been identified, the safety of people and the care of people are not solely determined by the physical environment. Obviously, we have staff there. A range of protocols are in place to ensure the safety of individuals. That goes to things such as regular staff rounds and the frequency of observations made of individuals. Those sorts of things change based on the understanding of risk of an individual.

It is still fair to say this is a very safe environment. But what the report has identified is that further improvements can be made to the physical infrastructure of the facility to improve safety for patients going forward.

Greyhound racing—government policy

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Regulatory Services, who has responsibility for gaming and racing. Minister, can you update the Assembly on the status of the ban on greyhound racing?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question and for her interest in dog welfare. As of 30 April, it is now illegal to race or trial greyhounds in the ACT. The maximum penalty for undertaking these activities is \$15,000, one year of imprisonment, or both. We will be taking a zero tolerance approach to these activities. As we know, they come with a high risk of injury to the dogs involved.

We also know that those who come and race in the ACT do so from jurisdictions where there is a demonstrated record of animal welfare breaches, such as doping and live bating. We will not allow a sport to continue here which rewards such behaviours.

The changes also make it illegal to bet on a greyhound race held in the ACT, with those arranging or receiving proceeds from the gambling, and those owning the place it is conducted, being subjected to maximum penalties of \$15,000 or a year in jail. The maximum penalty for participation in illegal gambling on greyhound racing is \$7½ thousand.

We have been clear about why the ban has been introduced. The New South Wales greyhound industry has demonstrated systemic failures in its animal welfare. The ACT cannot allow a sport to continue where people who repeatedly breach animal welfare laws are allowed to cross the border and race here in the ACT.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will the greyhound racing ban improve animal welfare in the ACT?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. While we have banned the racing and the trialling of greyhounds in the ACT, it will still remain

lawful to breed, train and own them in the territory. We have done this because, while we cannot control who comes here to race, we can regulate what happens to the dogs that are in Canberra.

More regular racing registration renewals, new licensing requirements on owners, trainers and breeders and a mandatory code of practice for people who have day-to-day control of greyhounds registered for racing are now in place to improve our oversight of the welfare of greyhounds here in the ACT.

The new legal framework for monitoring is designed to give us a better line of sight on the entire lifetime of greyhounds here in the ACT. The hardworking staff at Access Canberra and domestic animal services will be working closely together to monitor the ban and other associated changes to ensure that the welfare of animals is upheld here in the territory.

MR STEEL: Minister, can you please update the Assembly on where people affected by the greyhound racing ban can seek support?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Steel for his question. The government has established the greyhound industry transition task force. The task force has engaged Woden Community Service, which has strong experience in providing support to a diverse variety of members of the public. The government strongly encourages anyone affected by the end of greyhound racing in the ACT to contact either the transition task force or Woden Community Service to access the support.

Free counselling is also available to anyone who is impacted by the end of greyhound racing in the ACT whether or not they are pursuing a transition support package. This can be accessed by contacting Woden Community Service, who have been engaged to provide dedicated support, case management, information and counselling services for those affected by greyhound industry transition and those wishing to consider support package options.

While some industry lobbyists have publicly stated that they do not intend to engage with the transition process, the government strongly encourages individual members of the industry to consider their own futures and engage with the task force while the opportunity is still available.

Planning—land use

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, what is your policy in regard to selling land parcels that are currently zoned urban open space under the PRZ1 code?

MS BERRY: If Mr Parton is referring to a particular parcel of land that he has a concern about, perhaps he could let me know and I can get some advice for him on that. With regard to whether the government has a policy around purchase of land that he has referred to, I will take the question on notice and provide some more detail for the Assembly.

MR PARTON: Minister, what urban open spaces generally are you planning, intending or considering for sale or for rezoning?

MR GENTLEMAN: Madam Speaker, it is probably appropriate that I respond to that question. I can say that there are indications for land sales on our four-year indicative land release program but not in the urban open spaces, that I am aware of.

MR COE: My supplementary question is to either minister. Will you guarantee there will be no decrease in urban open space in Canberra, as has been Labor Party policy in the past, in keeping with the character of Canberra? In particular, does the government have any plans in Belconnen to develop on PRZ1 or PRZ2 land?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Coe for the supplementary question. We do have a policy of ensuring that we have as much urban open space for recreation and amenity as we possibly can. Particularly in discussions with the minister's statement of planning intent workshops a couple of years ago, whilst the Canberra community said to us that they would like to see denser living, and less spread of the city's borders, they do want urban open space alongside those revitalised areas in the city, to ensure they have amenity and places to recreate. We have taken that on board, and that is part of our policy.

Education—gifted and talented students

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, in answer to question on notice 1273 on the number of ACT government schools offering gifted and talented classes and the number of students in those classes, you replied that the ACT Education Directorate does not collect such information. You were also not able to advise how many students are enrolled in those classes or whether the numbers had changed over the past four years. Minister, why do you and your directorate not know this information?

MS BERRY: Because we trust that schools, school principals and schoolteachers will be able to provide appropriate programs for all students, including students that are gifted.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, if basic information on gifted and talented classes is not available, how do you and your directorate provide or plan for appropriate resources to meet the needs of schools in delivering these classes?

MS BERRY: Because the ACT government has respect for and values the work of school principals and schoolteachers within our school communities. They will make arrangements for education programs that suit the needs of every child, no matter what their background, how they learn or the circumstances in which they come to our schools.

MS LAWDER: Minister, do you support ACT government schools offering gifted and talented classes?

MS BERRY: ACT government schools meet the needs of all children, including students that are gifted or talented.

Waste—strategy

MR STEEL: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Can the minister update the Assembly on the ACT government's waste feasibility study?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Steel very much for this question. I was very pleased yesterday to release the findings of the *Waste feasibility study—a roadmap to improved resource recovery* for consultation with the community and stakeholders. The study was established to identify pathways to achieve the territory's waste management goals, which are outlined in the ACT waste management strategy 2011-25.

This includes a target of 90 per cent of waste being diverted from landfill by 2025, when the resource recovery rate has plateaued at around 70 per cent for the last decade. The government recognised the need for a “step change” to achieve this target and committed \$2.8 million over two years in the 2015-16 budget.

With the study now complete, the government has received its final recommendations at a time when public interest in waste management has never been higher, with television programs like the ABC's *War on Waste* prompting a necessary and very interesting debate on waste management issues.

The recent changes to conditions surrounding the importation of recyclable products to China have also highlighted the need to encourage more local value adding of waste. The waste feasibility study has given the ACT government a better understanding of local and national waste management systems, their sensitivities and areas for improvement and opportunity. The study's road map and recommendations are designed to provide a framework to drive change in the ACT community, businesses and the waste industry over the next five years.

MR STEEL: Minister, what did the waste feasibility study deliver, and what are its key recommendations?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Mr Steel for the supplementary. The study's road map and recommendations are designed to provide a comprehensive framework to drive change in the ACT community, businesses and waste industry over the next five years. The road map follows a materials recovery pathway and is consistent with the waste hierarchy principles of reduce, reuse and recycle before energy generation or landfilling.

Many of the recommended steps have already commenced. The Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016 is now being implemented by Transport Canberra and City Services, and the green bins scheme is up and running and is hugely popular. A new recommendation for a food organics and garden organic service, called FOGO, is a key focus of the study and would be a large undertaking, with the experiences of

other jurisdictions indicating that a lead time of around five years is required to identify and set up an appropriate processing location. Another recommendation and initiative, one sadly opposed by those opposite, is a container deposit scheme, which will reduce litter and increase recycling. It is set to start in the ACT on 30 June.

The road map also includes recommendations on waste to energy, which is low down the waste hierarchy. I acknowledge that incineration of waste is a contentious issue in the community, and any utilisation of processed engineered fuel, or PEF, would be as a last step on the road map for residual waste. The study has recommended the ACT develop a clear policy on waste to energy that seeks to address community concerns, provides certainty to industry, and establishes a framework for assessing any future proposals. The government looks forward to consulting further on this issue.

MS CODY: Minister, how will community and industry stakeholders be able to have their say on the road map and its recommendations?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary question. The recommendations in the road map to improved resource recovery require community support and participation to succeed. I encourage the community to visit the your say website to review the road map, make a submission or attend an information session to ask questions. The discussion paper will be on the your say website for a six-week period and ACT NOWaste will host information sessions for community and industry groups.

It is important to note that the study itself was significantly informed by two consultative groups, a community consultative group and an industry consultative group, over the last two years. The opportunity for the community more broadly to contribute will take place over the coming six weeks. A community information session will be held on Wednesday, 30 May at 5.30, and the industry information session will be held on Thursday, 31 May at 8 am. Both will be held at the Griffin Centre in Genge Street, Civic.

This is a very exciting time for our waste industry here in the ACT. It is clear we are leading the way when it comes to addressing the challenges facing the waste sector. We are also very blessed to have a very active recycling community here in Canberra who are keen to do what they can and are very aware of the need to reduce, reuse and recycle to limit our impact on the environment. I am sure Canberrans will have ideas about how we can best implement the recommendations from the waste feasibility study. I invite the community and industry to explore the report recommendations and have their say on how we can better use resources and be less reliant on landfill.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—health services

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Minister, the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service was promised \$12 million for a new health and community services facility in 2016. Now, almost two years on from that announcement, what is the status of this project?

MS FITZHARRIS: Madam Speaker, I will take that question. I note that Minister Stephen-Smith and I have been working at length with Winnunga Nimmityjah over the past year, since the funding of this important initiative in last year's budget. I am pleased to say that we are very close to making a further announcement with Winnunga Nimmityjah on the exciting progress of the government's \$12 million investment in Aboriginal health services in the ACT.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, can you clarify for the Indigenous community who will own and operate the facility after the building has been completed?

MS FITZHARRIS: As I indicated to Mr Milligan, that is an announcement that the government is set to make very shortly.

MR COE: Minister, how much of the \$1 million in capital allocated in the 2017-18 budget has been expended, and on what?

MS FITZHARRIS: At this point I do not have that precise figure, but I look forward very much to making further announcements about this very important and exciting project very shortly.

Rural fire services—Molonglo

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, on 1 August 2017, ACT fire brigade staff were advised that renovations of the Molonglo brigade's RFS shed would commence on 10 August and conclude on 1 October 2017. Staff were told that during this three-week period RFS tankers would need to be housed at the west Belconnen fire station. Minister, is it the case that seven months later these RFS tankers are still being housed at the west Belconnen fire station? If so, why?

MR GENTLEMAN: I welcome Mr Hanson back to the police and emergency services portfolio from his respite in the health area. Unfortunately, I do not have any update for Mr Hanson on those matters at the moment. I am happy to take the question on notice and come back to him.

MR HANSON: Nothing has changed. Minister, do the renovations to the Molonglo brigade's RFS station comply with the fire safety requirements of the Building Code of Australia, and if not, why not?

MR GENTLEMAN: All construction in the ACT should comply with the fire regulations of Australia. I will ensure that that occurs.

MR COE: Minister, how much money has the government spent on renovations of the Molonglo RFS station?

MR GENTLEMAN: Quite a lot but I do not have the detail in front of me. I will come back to the chamber with the actual record.

Work safety—young workers

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Cody, a question without notice.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members! Ms Cody has the call for a question without notice.

Mr Wall interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Wall!

MS CODY: It is difficult; I could not hear myself think, let alone ask my question.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members! On the next outburst that person will be warned.

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations. Minister, what is the ACT government currently doing to improve safety for young workers in the ACT?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her question and for her deep and abiding interest in workers' safety. The safety of our young and most inexperienced workers is, of course, a high priority for the ACT government, as it should be for all employers also. We know young workers are at risk for a range of reasons: they may not fully understand their health and safety rights and responsibilities or where to go if they have questions or concerns; they may be worried they will look silly if they ask questions or question why something is done in a particular way if they believe it is not safe; or they may simply believe they are invincible, as young people tend to do, highlighting the need for proper supervision of young workers.

Young workers were the focus of this year's World Day for Safety and Health at Work, which was themed "Generation Safe and Healthy". I was honoured to represent the government at a moving ceremony held at the National Workers Memorial in Commonwealth Park on Saturday, 28 April, which is both World Day for Safety and Health at Work and also International Workers Memorial Day. The event was not only an opportunity to honour those who have died or been seriously injured at work and to pay respect to them, their families and friends and co-workers, but also to focus on workplace health and safety for young workers and future generations.

This focus of ensuring the health and safety of young workers is, as I have said, shared by the ACT government. WorkSafe ACT is currently undertaking a proactive audit across a range of high risk industries for apprentices, looking at issues such as supervision and safety to improve safety outcomes and understanding. I understand that approximately 40 workplaces have been visited so far, with the audit to continue well into this year. In addition WorkSafe is also working closely with SafeWork NSW to improve compliance and strengthen the safety culture throughout the construction industry in Canberra.

MADAM SPEAKER: Before I call the supplementary, members on my left, it is permissible to have quiet conversations, but you may need to be aware of what is going on around you. As you were chatting and laughing, the question asked was about workplace deaths. I do not think it is appropriate for some conversations to occur given the content of some of the answers. A supplementary, Ms Cody.

MS CODY: Minister, what work is being undertaken to inform the next steps in relation to improving the safety of young workers and ensuring their workplace rights are upheld?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Thank you, Madam Speaker; and thank you also for your comments. I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question. In August 2017, following a number of concerning workplace incidents involving young workers, I requested that the Work Safety Council establish an apprentice and young workers safety advisory committee to consider the next steps to ensure that apprentices and young people are working in safe environments and are aware of their workplace safety rights and obligations.

Since its establishment the committee, which is a tripartite body, has extensively engaged with stakeholders from employer and employee groups, training organisations, the community sector and government. Meetings have been dedicated to issues impacting young workers in hospitality, construction and plumbing, business services, community services, electrical and retail industries. I am expecting the committee's report early in the second half of the year. I look forward to it providing me with recommendations for action to improve young worker health and safety.

While government can set the frameworks to support safety in workplaces and on worksites, we need industry, regulators, industry groups, employers, unions and workers to work together to lift safety across all industries and ensure worker safety is a primary consideration for employers and employees alike.

No young person should feel that their job is a place where their safety, their health or indeed their mental health is at risk. No parent should worry that they might one day receive a call that their child has been seriously injured at work. It is imperative that we keep strengthening our safety practices, especially as the next generation of Canberrans gets their start in the workforce.

MS ORR: Minister, what else is impacting on the workplace rights and safety of young workers in the ACT?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Orr for her supplementary question. Safety and security issues concerning the wider workforce are magnified for many young workers who are starting their careers and trying to get ahead. The rise of insecure work, including the casualisation of the workforce and the emergence of the gig economy, are particularly pertinent issues for young workers.

The ACT government is committed to doing what it can to ensure that young workers are safe in their place of employment and are treated fairly, paid well and have their rights at work upheld.

The government's secure local jobs package will deliver better, more secure jobs for Canberrans by establishing clear principles to ensure worker safety, fair pay and conditions on public projects and contracts.

Fundamental to this commitment is a recognition that the ACT government can play an important role in delivering better outcomes for young workers, as for all workers, by using its purchasing power to set high standards for workplace safety and workers' rights alongside the delivery of quality goods and services to the people of the ACT.

It is unfortunate that our efforts to protect young workers in the ACT are often undermined by the increasing insecurity of work. While we endeavour to protect the rights of young workers in the ACT, I cannot account for those rights being rewritten by a federal government determined to sell our young workers out. When we have a federal government that is intent on cutting penalty rates, intent on driving the casualisation of the industries that young people work in and intent on cutting the supports for those young people who find themselves out of work, some young workers in the ACT will continue to struggle and to suffer unnecessarily. The ACT government will do what it can to support the safety and health of those young workers.

Energy—policy

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability. Minister, can you update the Assembly on how the national energy guarantee is developing following the COAG Energy Council meeting on Friday, 20 April?

MR RATTENBURY: I thank Ms Orr for the question. The national energy guarantee is progressing. The ministers agreed at that meeting on 20 April for work to continue ahead of the next COAG Energy Council, which will be held in Sydney in August. It would be fair to say that there are some quite mixed views on the progress of this work. We are seeing two very distinct streams of work developing here.

There is the piece led by the Energy Security Board, which is very focused on the technical details of reforming the national energy market. I think that is progressing reasonably well. On the other side we have now seen a commonwealth paper, which is the policy work that goes alongside that. What we are seeing is significant and ongoing intransigence on the part of the commonwealth and a lack of clarity of what their position is. Certainly, from the federal minister, Josh Frydenberg, there is a clear reluctance or lack of willingness to engage in any kind of detailed discussions about what the commonwealth position will be. I think this is problematic. This means there is not a lot of latitude as we go forward.

Certainly, the commonwealth position continues to be highly problematic in terms of the approach they have taken on things like the greenhouse gas reduction targets built into this system, the approach to offsets, and the very significant concerns from the renewable energy industry that the national energy guarantee, as it is currently formed, will stymie the growth of the renewable energy sector over the next decade.

MS ORR: Minister, can you detail why the ACT took the position it did on the national energy guarantee at the COAG Energy Council meeting?

MR RATTENBURY: Certainly, the ACT went to the meeting committed to being at the table because we know that we need to make progress on the national energy system. We need a system that is reliable, provides affordable energy and meets future needs of the grid in Australia whilst reducing our greenhouse gas emissions.

It would be fair to say that we do remain deeply concerned, as I touched on in my earlier answer.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Some silence for Mr Rattenbury to answer the question, thank you.

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, I did say that you were going to be warned.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Both Mr Hanson and Mr Coe are warned.

MR RATTENBURY: One of the biggest concerns we have is the impact the national energy guarantee will have on the future of the renewable energy industry in Australia. What we have seen already is a freeze on investment in Australia. I have been meeting recently with key players in the renewable energy sector who have outlined to me the fact that there are already signs of an investment freeze.

We have just seen, courtesy of the analysis by Mark Butler, the federal shadow minister for climate change and energy, out of this week's budget, the fact that the federal government is already investing less money in the renewable energy sector through the Clean Energy Finance Corporation, as he has identified. After drawing nearly \$2 billion of investment in 2017-18, they will only be drawing \$530 million in 2018-19.

We are already seeing the impact, the chilling effect, that the national energy guarantee is having on the future of the renewables industry here in Australia coming from both the federal budget and from experts in the industry telling us this.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, can you provide details on how the ACT is moving ahead with its renewable electricity targets in light of how the national energy guarantee is progressing?

MR RATTENBURY: I am certainly happy to answer that for Mr Pettersson. The ACT is proceeding with our 100 per cent renewable energy target. We are well on track. We recently saw the wind farm in the northern tablelands, Sapphire Wind Farm,

come on stream and start providing energy equivalent to around 35,000 to 40,000 households for the ACT. This is a very significant step forward in our renewable energy purchases. A number of other wind farms will come on stream over the next 18 months that will push the ACT to that 100 per cent target.

We are also happy, through the national energy guarantee negotiations, to make sure that the rules do not inadvertently counteract the work that the ACT has already done, so that ACT consumers are not punished as a result of the work and the investment that the ACT has already made. I have had undertakings from both the federal minister and from the head of the Energy Security Board that they believe those matters can be addressed. I am grateful to them for those undertakings and confident that, through the negotiations over the coming months, we can ensure that the ACT's 100 per cent renewable energy target is protected in the final model, if one can be agreed.

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

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Animals—dangerous dogs

MS FITZHARRIS: Ms Lawder asked me a question earlier regarding dogs at a property at Watson. Ms Lawder asked me how many times prior to October 2017 DAS had visited the house in Watson. The answer is that rangers had attended the address twice prior to October 2017, both at the request of ACT Policing. How many times were the dogs seized from the Watson house? None. Were all dogs seized returned to the house? No dogs were seized. I would also note that Mrs Klemke's death is the subject of a coronial inquiry, so I am limited in the information that can be provided.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—assault allegations

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I am rising to address matters arising from yesterday's question time. Yesterday Mrs Kikkert asked two questions about the investigation of an incident at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre that took place on 6 May 2016. Given the sensitivity of the matter, I took the questions on notice so I could seek advice as to what detail I was able to provide.

In her first question, Mrs Kikkert asserted that she understood that the investigation of the 6 May incident at Bimberi had been finalised and a financial settlement reached with those staff involved, and asked if the settlement meant that the government had accepted full responsibility for the incident. Without accepting the premise of Mrs Kikkert's question, I can advise that the short answer to her actual question is no.

For the further information of members, I can confirm that the Community Services Directorate was involved in proceedings in the Fair Work Commission in relation to decisions of the directorate following an investigation undertaken in accordance with the provisions of the enterprise agreement. I can confirm that the proceedings in the Fair Work Commission were resolved between the parties. However, this did not involve any admission by the territory of responsibility for any of the events that

occurred at Bimberi on 6 May 2016; nor was there any finding of liability against the territory with respect to those matters. In relation to the matters of misconduct, I am satisfied that the directorate has taken appropriate action in accordance with the enterprise agreement.

In response to Mrs Kikkert's further questions about non-disclosure clauses, I have also sought advice and have been advised that it is not appropriate to discuss the resolution of proceedings before the Fair Work Commission. Agreements between parties are routinely used to bring matters in dispute to conclusion. Whether such an agreement includes a confidentiality clause is a matter for the parties to agree upon, and is considered on a case-by-case basis. I would reiterate that both I and the Community Services Directorate take very seriously any allegations of misconduct at Bimberi or, indeed, in any other aspect of the directorate's responsibilities.

There is a clear process for investigating such matters laid out in the enterprise agreement that ensures due process and procedural fairness. Part of ensuring fairness for employees is protecting their right to privacy. This is why we consistently advise that it is inappropriate to publicly discuss the details of such matters. If it is determined through such investigations that misconduct has occurred, the delegate will consider appropriate sanctions, ranging up to and including dismissal. Employees subject to sanctions under the enterprise agreement may have a right to bring forward an application to the Fair Work Commission.

In closing, I would also note that current and former staff at Bimberi have ongoing obligations under both the Children and Young People Act and the ACT Public Sector Management Act not to inappropriately disclose information that they hold as a result of their employment. This includes particularly, of course, information that may identify a young person who is or has been involved with the youth justice system.

At the same time staff and other members of the community have legitimate avenues to raise concerns about misconduct or other matters regarding the management of Bimberi. These include public interest disclosure processes, making a complaint to the Children and Young People Commissioner and Public Advocate or, in the case of potential criminal matters, reporting allegations directly to police.

All of these avenues allow matters to be fully and appropriately investigated by bodies that have the power to access relevant information and undertake investigations. I continue to strongly encourage anyone who has such concerns to raise them through the appropriate channels so that they can indeed be investigated.

Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—reports

Papers and statement by minister

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (3.26): For the information of members, I present the following papers:

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

Report 1 of 2018—Regulated water and sewerage services prices 2018-23—
Final report, dated May 2018.

Report 2 of 2018—Regulated water and sewerage services—Price Direction—
1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023, dated 1 May 2018.

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

Leave granted.

MR BARR: As the referring authority for the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission, I present to the Assembly the following two reports of the commission: report 1 of 2018, *Regulated water and sewerage services prices 2018-23*; and report No 2, the price direction for 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2023.

The commission has now completed its investigation process for setting the prices of regulated water and sewerage services provided by Icon Water for the five-year regulatory period. Through the investigation, the commission undertook consultation with the community and key stakeholders, conducted public hearings and a consultation forum, and welcomed submissions from interested members of the community. The tabling of the final report and price direction represents the final step of a comprehensive investigation process by the commission, which commenced in December 2016.

As the ACT's economic regulator, the commission is responsible for balancing the many competing objectives to ensure regulated water and sewerage prices are reflective of efficient costs, reliability and quality standards, whilst also maintaining the viability of Icon Water. The commission's decision incorporates some of the modifications proposed by Icon Water, whilst other issues will be subject to further investigation over the next regulatory period.

The commission's final report outlines in detail the final decisions of the commission in relation to the regulatory model and approach used by the commission to determine the water and sewerage price path for the next five years. This decision will result in a decrease in the combined water and sewerage bill for a typical household, consuming 200 kilolitres of water a year, of around 3.5 per cent, or \$42, for the 2018-19 year when compared with 2017-18, with prices in future years expected to increase broadly in line with inflation.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Senior Commissioner, Mr Joe Dimasi, and his staff for their work in undertaking this important regulatory function in the territory. I commend the reports to the Assembly.

Land Development Agency 2016-2017 annual report— corrigendum 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) (3.29): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual report 2016-2017—Land Development Agency—Corrigendum, dated May 2018.

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

Leave granted.

MS BERRY: The Land Development Agency presented its final annual report to the Assembly in 2017. The report included, at section C.5, “Government contracting”, a list of the contracts valued at over \$25,000 that were identified at that time. Since the presentation of the report, the government has identified four additional contracts that were entered into by the Land Development Agency but were not included in the annual report. These were identified by the Suburban Land Agency when reviewing contracts transferred under administrative arrangements. The Suburban Land Agency has taken steps to ensure staff have the knowledge and use the appropriate tools and that contracts under its management are identified and reported appropriately.

I wish to correct the record on this matter and present the corrigendum to update the 2016-17 annual report of the Land Development Agency. I commend the corrigendum to the Assembly.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (3.31), by leave: It is interesting that we should have the minister present, once again, a corrigendum for the LDA. And once again it is because of contracts that have not been published. This government seem to have a real problem when it comes to disclosing how they are spending taxpayers’ money.

A quick glance at past annual reports shows that there was a corrigendum issued in 2013-14, two issued in 2014-15, and one issued in 2015-16. And now we have one for 2016-17. On several occasions it was because they did not publish all the contracts. This is despite all the attention that was on the LDA and their contracts. It is pretty outrageous that the minister, despite having the benefit of Auditor-General reports, was still unable to present an accurate report last year with regard to the LDA.

This corrigendum is not yet published on the Suburban Land Agency’s website. We will be looking at this document with some interest, but it would be very interesting to know what the circumstances are regarding these contracts not being presented. I hope that the minister will be able to answer any questions that my office puts to her in the coming days by email.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—freedom of information request

Paper and statement by minister

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (3.33): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copy of notice provided to the Ombudsman—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—Freedom of Information request—Decision not made in time, dated 4 May 2018.

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

Leave granted.

MS FITZHARRIS: Today I am tabling a notice provided to the Ombudsman by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate as required under the Freedom of Information Act 2016, section 39(1)(c), when a decision on an application for access to information is not made within the time allowed in the act, that time being 20 working days.

An application under the FOI Act was received in the directorate on 3 April 2018 for access to documents. An administrative delay in the processing of the decision led to the delay in responding to the applicant. The need for an extension was not identified at the time of processing the application. TCCS, like all government agencies, is committed to the principles of the FOI Act, and in particular to ensuring the rights of individuals to access all government information that falls within the act.

Papers

Mr Gentleman presented the following paper:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Statement of leases granted for the period 1 January to 31 March 2018, dated May 2018.

Mr Ramsay presented the following paper:

Courts Construction Project—Update to the Legislative Assembly on the progress, dated May 2018.

Executive members' business—precedence

Ordered that executive members' business be called on.

Drugs—pill testing

Debate resumed.

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) (3.35): I rise to speak, both as the Minister for Police and Emergency Services and as the member for Brindabella, to support the efforts that are being made to keep Canberrans safe. I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion forward today. Of course, drugs cause harm in our community. It is important that we strive to minimise their impact. It is also

important that we tackle this with a range of initiatives, recognising that there is no single silver bullet.

Pill testing is one important tool in this endeavour. I want to congratulate the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on her leadership on the issue and also acknowledge the many members of the Labor Party, both here and across Australia, who have advocated for and worked to bring about pill testing. I thank Mr Rattenbury for his efforts as well.

I am also proud that the trial of pill testing has happened for the first time at a music festival here in Canberra. I want to thank the safety testing and advisory service at festivals and events, STA-SAFE, for their leadership and determination to bring about this trial of pill testing.

This trial was supported by the ACT government as well as the University of Canberra and the promoters, Cattleyard Promotions. I am told that the report is being prepared by STA-SAFE into the trial but I understand that at least two potentially lethal chemicals were identified in the 85 tests that were performed. I am also informed that following testing, a number of patrons used the amnesty bins to discard their pills instead of consuming them.

Pill testing is harm minimisation intervention that includes the chemical analysis of a sample of drugs surrendered by festival patrons and the provision of relevant drug information counselling by qualified personnel. The service was provided by appropriately qualified and trained staff co-located with the medical and first-aid facilities at the festival. An evaluation of the trial is currently underway, with results to be released in the near future.

The ACT government reinforces that it is illegal to manufacture, process, distribute and sell illicit drugs in the ACT. The ACT government does not approve or condone illicit drug use. It is risky and dangerous to consume illicit drugs. Madam Assistant Speaker, it is reckless. The use of illicit drugs is a national challenge and requires a holistic approach broader than just a police response.

I also acknowledge the work of ACT Policing and the leadership shown by them, particularly by the Chief Police Officer. ACT Policing work closely and in a constructive manner with ACT Health and other stakeholders in respect of harm minimisation strategies for illicit drug use and supported the decision to provide an accommodating environment to allow for pill testing at Groovin the Moo.

I am advised that in relation to the trial of pill testing, in accordance with established protocols with ACT Health, ACT Policing did not actively target the health precinct in regard to those utilising the pill testing service; nor did ACT Policing receive any personal information about those attending the health precinct. The Chief Police Officer said:

Our intention was to focus our efforts on those who were trafficking and selling drugs, focusing on the criminality of drugs but allowing the pill testing to occur in a safe way.

I am also informed by ACT Policing that they strongly support any strategy that supports harm minimisation, educates and reduces risks to the community. As ACT Policing have said, even if one person decides not to consume an illicit substance because of the availability of pill testing then the initiative should be considered a success.

The ACT government is committed to harm minimisation in line with the national drug strategy. Pill testing, as a component of harm reduction measures, is a sensible approach to limiting the dangers of illicit drug use at ACT music festivals. Harm minimisation is the right approach and one I hope every member in this place supports.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (3.40), in reply: In closing the debate, I want to thank members for their various contributions to the debate today.

Mr Hanson: Pleasure.

MR RATTENBURY: Let me turn to Mr Hanson's remarks, with that cue from Mr Hanson. I think that Mr Hanson talks very much about the world we wish we lived in. I think this policy is about the world we actually live in, because the reality is that people are taking drugs, whether we like it or not. I do not particularly like it. In respect of these kinds of tablets, someone—I think it might have been Mr Hanson—earlier made reference to some dodgy bloke making them in his bathtub. I cannot think of anything worse than seeing people taking those kind of risks. But people do; they do and the reality is that we need to make sure that people do not die as a result of these choices or end up with serious medical conditions.

Mr Hanson cited a number of medical groups who opposed the testing. He certainly highlighted differing views on these issues. It was interesting in the couple of days after the successful trial here in Canberra that we saw the Tasmanian AMA urging pill testing in Tasmania. They have a number of significant music festivals down there.

I think this reflects that whilst people may have had views in the past, they have also seen the reality of the success of this and are actually willing to take on board new experiences and learn from things that have worked, and that have worked well.

Similarly, Mr Hanson cited somebody from the Ambulance Service. I would point to the fact that the ACT Ambulance Service spoke very positively of this trial at Groovin the Moo and identified the harm minimisation components of it.

Mr Hanson also quoted a couple of young people from Victoria who said, "Yes, this will be great." He spoke to the fact that they said it would encourage them. I think that reflects the fact they had actually not yet had the experience. When people do, there is a serious conversation that takes place that highlights the risks of taking these kind of tablets, that actually questions people about why they are taking them and these sorts of things.

These sorts of perceptions that the testing somehow encourages pill taking do not reflect the reality. They come from a place and from people who either do not want to

listen or who have not listened. They also reflect an ideological view rather than a real view of what is actually being done through these processes. I think that is unfortunate.

Nonetheless, the good news is this actually did go ahead in the ACT, despite some of these approaches. I think it was a great success. As I said in my earlier remarks, and reflecting the real purpose of bringing this motion forward today, I simply want to congratulate those who were involved in both helping to get this off the ground and who actually conducted it on the day.

As I said earlier, it takes real courage to do something like this when it has not been done before in Australia. I really do acknowledge all of those involved, including the University of Canberra who I did fail to mention earlier. Their willingness to acknowledge this as a positive thing, given that Groovin the Moo was taking place on their land, was an important part of the process as well. I was pleased to run into University of Canberra staff on the day and chat to them about it. I really thank them for their support of this initiative.

I hope that this is a start of a different discussion on drug law policy in Australia in recognition that drug responses do require that three-pronged approach to supply reduction, demand reduction and harm reduction. I am pleased to see that we have actually been able to get into a space where the harm reduction part of that discussion has actually had a serious airing. We have seen a significant new effort in that space taking place in Australia. In conclusion, thank you again to all those involved. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

Question put:

That the motion be agreed to.

The Assembly voted—

Ayes 12

Noes 9

Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Miss C Burch	Mr Milligan
Ms J Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mr Coe	Mr Parton
Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	
Mr Gentleman	Mr Steel	Mrs Kikkert	
Ms Le Couteur	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder	

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Australian public service—impact of relocations

Discussion of matter of public importance

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

The importance of maintaining the ACT as the centre of the federal public service.

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (3.49): Yesterday I spoke about how well the Barr Labor government is doing in delivering a strong local economy and good jobs for the people of Canberra. Today I have yet again been forced by the Canberra-hating Liberal Party to focus our attention on the challenges they are putting in our way.

Despite the extensive spin campaign that happened before the federal budget, on Tuesday night we discovered that the Liberal Party federal government continue their plan to rip the guts out of our town. Canberra is not just our home but also our nation's capital. Its construction over the last century has seen many visionary and great leaders growing this city and moving the various departments of the federal public service here—building a city, building our suburbs, building our economy, building a centre of expertise in public administration.

After decades of resisting rent-seeking from the Country Party, the Liberal Party of today has capitulated and has agreed to reverse the nation-building project of earlier generations. Whilst the bungled attempt to move the APVMA from Canberra to New England is the most infamously botched attack on our city, there are many more. Just this week we heard of attempts to move the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations from Canberra to Darwin; the Unique Student Identifier Registrar from Canberra to Adelaide; the Department of Infrastructure's Indian Ocean Territories office from Canberra to Perth; and the Inland Rail Unit from Canberra to Toowoomba in Queensland, Dubbo in New South Wales and Wodonga in Victoria. Some of those so-called decentralisations are not even to regional areas. This is not even a plan to build regional economies. It is just a plan to smash Canberra.

It is a good thing we have got a territory government with the skill and vision to attract new private investment. The Liberals only want to trash the place. Of course, these jobs are only a small number of those being lost in our town. The general haphazard gutting of the public service also has its toll.

Whilst the Liberals have not fessed up to the share of cuts that will hit our town, we know the cuts across many departments will fall disproportionately on Canberra. So far 14,044 jobs have been cut by the Abbott-Turnbull government, including 6,740 in the ACT between June 2012 and December 2014. Last year it was 2,000 jobs. This year it is more than 3,500. And I want to make sure we give every one of those cuts the emphasis it deserves because every single one hurts a family and deprives Australians of services they deserve. Every single one is shameful.

They are: the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity, one job; the Australia Council, one job; the Clean Energy Regulator, one job; the Independent Parliamentary Expenses Authority, one job; the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation, one job; the National Australia Day Council Ltd, one job; Infrastructure Australia, one job; the Fisheries Research and Development Corporation, two jobs; the Department of the Senate, three jobs; the Australian Film, Television and Radio School, four jobs; SBS, five jobs; the APVMA, six jobs; the Australian Electoral

Commission, seven jobs; the Department of Finance, seven jobs; the National Archives, 10 jobs; the National Library, 12 jobs; the Department of Jobs and Small Business, 13 jobs; the Digital Transformation Agency, 13 jobs; the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, 30 jobs; the Department of Agriculture and Water Resources, 36 jobs; the Department of Education and Training, 58 jobs; the Department of Veterans' Affairs, 84 jobs; the Department of Infrastructure, Regional Development and Cities, 85 jobs; the Department of Social Services, 140 jobs; the Australian Bureau of Statistics, 169 jobs; the Attorney-General's Department, 360 jobs; civilians in the Department of Defence, 1,127 jobs; and finally the Department of Human Services, 1,280 jobs.

As a person concerned with national security, the cuts in Defence worry me. But as a person responsible for the welfare of the people of the ACT, the cuts in Human Services are our business to oppose. Those cuts in Human Services are not only an attack on the families of those who are being sacked but also an attack on the whole community because those public servants are directly employed in helping the most vulnerable Australians. And the Liberal Party know that these vicious attacks are hurting the most vulnerable.

Just this morning I received correspondence from Mr Milligan begging for contributions to Mustard Seed, which is a food bank in Gungahlin providing assistance to over 650 families. Whilst I commend Mr Milligan for his charitable work, I would advise him to have the courage of his convictions and go see his mate, his co-conspirator in the Liberal Party, his comrade, the senator, Zed Seselja. And I would advise Mr Milligan to say, "Comrade Seselja, stop these mad cuts to Canberra and these mean cuts to disadvantaged Canberra families." Perhaps he could take his colleague Comrade Wall with him.

Whilst that idea may seem humorous to some, the failure of the Canberra Liberals to stand up for this community is actually more of a tragedy—a tragedy the Barr Labor government is taking steps to address, taking steps like a massive investment in infrastructure without the commonwealth support it deserves, taking steps like upgrading local schools and hospitals without the commonwealth support it deserves, taking steps like supporting CIT to provide the skills and training to attract new business to Canberra without the commonwealth support it deserves.

It is a sad day when we have to debate the importance of maintaining the ACT as the centre of the federal public service. And I look forward to a Shorten Labor government overturning the incompetent nastiness of the current Liberal government and restoring our place at the heart of our nation.

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (3.58): I thank Ms Cody for the opportunity to speak today on this important matter. The Canberra Liberals remain opposed to decentralisation of the Australian public service. We are opposed to any attempts to take public service jobs out of Canberra and to take away the value that centralisation brings to the public service and to Canberra. We support the ongoing role of Canberra as Australia's centre of government and the centre of the Australian public service.

Canberra was conceived as the national capital and as the centre of government. It makes sense for the public service to be based here in Canberra. There are people in other cities who love to bash our city and to bash the public service. There are even people in Canberra who love to bash the public service. But this is a very short-sighted view. It is good for the commonwealth government and it is good for Canberra to have commonwealth agencies based here in our national capital. We are lucky to have some of the brightest minds in the country choosing to work in the public service and choosing to make Canberra their home.

The Australian public service, like the ACT public service, is filled with hardworking, dedicated and passionate people who are committed to serving our country. Their contribution to the public service is matched by their contribution to Canberra. They make their homes in Canberra. Their children go to school in Canberra. Their families build their lives in Canberra.

Decentralisation of the public service rips at the social fabric of our society and our city. Public service families will have to make hard decisions about whether to uproot their families and move to another city or give up their jobs serving our country. These hard decisions are why we have seen some previous attempts at decentralisation strip public service capability and blow out costs.

The Canberra Liberals have opposed decentralisation of the federal public service at every turn. Our Liberal senator, Zed Seselja, has steadfastly opposed decentralisation and continues to lobby his government colleagues to this end. He continues to stand up for the ACT and demand that, when decentralisation does occur, jobs be taken from Sydney or Melbourne and not Canberra.

The Canberra Liberals were vocal in our opposition to the relocation of the Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority from Canberra to Armidale. We expressed these views in public and in private to the federal government. The APVMA move led to more than 60 per cent of staff refusing to move and instead leaving the agency. How much experience was lost and how much institutional knowledge was lost in this misguided attempt at decentralisation? When we lose public servants in highly skilled, highly technical positions it can take years to rebuild that capability. Decentralisation threatens to hollow out the capacity of agencies and puts public service capability at risk.

There are enormous efficiencies in having the public service centralised in Canberra. Agencies benefit from having easy access to their departments and their ministers. This makes face-to-face conversations easy. The relationship between the government and the public service is enhanced by proximity.

Commonwealth government departments and agencies have important policy work and service delivery to do. We are all better off with our public servants spending their money in Canberra, rather than the public service spending more taxpayer money on airfares and travel. Moving jobs simply for the sake of moving jobs also costs the taxpayer money which could be put to much better use.

This push for decentralisation is being promoted as a way of boosting regional centres and creating jobs. The Canberra Liberals are of course in favour of job creation. We are just not in favour of moving jobs around for the sake of it. Canberra is itself a thriving regional centre away from the big cities of Sydney and Melbourne. We want to make sure that it continues to grow and thrive.

Ms Cody has today conveniently forgotten that it was the Gillard Labor government that began the process of decentralisation. When they set up the national disability insurance scheme did they base it in Canberra, near the national centre of government, near the centre of social services policy? Did they put it where it could be administered efficiently? Did they integrate it with FAHCSIA at Tuggeranong? No, they moved FAHCSIA staff to Geelong in Victoria. They set up the NDIA there to promote Labor votes in Corio and Corangamite. They also located Infrastructure Australia and other entities outside Canberra.

Ms Cody has conveniently ignored the fact that this federal budget delivers a net increase in APS jobs. She stood here and rattled off job losses but perhaps needs a maths lesson. This budget has created 912 jobs, a net increase over the next 12 months, many of which will be in Canberra. The Department of Home Affairs is rapidly expanding. DFAT, the Australian Taxation Office, the Department of Industry, Innovation and Science will all be employing more people. The AFP, ASIO, AusTrack, the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission are all also employing more people. That is a net increase of 912 jobs.

Ms Cody has also conveniently failed to provide any context around the agencies which are being moved. These are not large agencies, as she would like to have you believe. They are small business units or offices within much larger departments. As I have said, the Canberra Liberals do not support the decentralisation of the APS and recognise the threat of decentralisation is causing uncertainty and worry to many of our small business owners.

However, Ms Cody and her Labor colleagues have claimed on numerous occasions that the federal coalition government is going to destroy the ACT economy and smash the value of house prices. This has not happened. House prices in Canberra are up 25 per cent since 2013.

In talking about the impact of public service job losses on the ACT economy, Ms Cody has also conveniently ignored that where job losses have gone from the public service the work of the federal government has not stopped. As does Ms Cody's own government, the federal coalition government uses contracting and service level agreements to deliver many public services. Federal government spending on contractors has doubled since 2013. While these may not be public service jobs, they are still jobs created by the federal coalition government, largely in Canberra. There are in fact 17,300 more people in work in the ACT since the coalition federal government was elected.

Ms Cody has selectively chosen to take a very pessimistic view of the impact of this federal budget on Canberra and on Canberrans. Over 190,000 Canberrans will benefit

from income tax cuts announced in the budget. This will mean over \$1,000 a year more for many Canberra families, money that will be spent on local businesses and to grow our local economy. Unlike those opposite, the Canberra Liberals believe that Canberrans know how to spend their money better than any politician.

The federal coalition government has also continued to invest in Canberra and has delivered benefits to the Canberra economy. In the 2017-18 budget the ACT government was allocated \$2.136 billion in federal funding. We can now see from the revised budget estimates that the ACT government will receive \$139 million more in 2017-18 than was previously expected.

The budget also contains \$200 million in infrastructure spending for upgrades to the Barton and Monaro highways. There is another \$130 million in ICT upgrades for the Department of Home Affairs and the Bureau of Meteorology. There is also additional funding to fix road black spots and money for the National Gallery and the National Capital Authority. There is \$2.6 billion more for ACT hospitals, nearly double what the ALP promised in their last year of government. This is our federal coalition government continuing to invest in Canberra.

The Canberra Liberals strongly support Canberra as the centre of government in our country and the Australian public service continuing to be the lifeblood of our city. It is important, however, that the ACT economy is not solely reliant on the public sector. The Canberra Liberals strongly support local business. We continue to advocate for diversifying the ACT economy. The public service is a great source of employment for Canberra and the money that public servants earn continues to build a diverse local economy. The Canberra Liberals want our local economy to be self-sufficient and self-sustainable so that it is not immediately threatened by policy changes from either side of federal politics.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.07): I thank you, Madam Assistant Speaker, for giving us the opportunity to talk about the Liberal Party's incessant push for decentralisation against both economic sense and common sense. As I said in the adjournment yesterday, this week's federal budget is yet another budget that is almost worse for the ACT than nothing. It has job cuts, budget cuts and efficiency dividends, which are all part of this federal government's radical ideological agenda and further proof that unfortunately the Liberal Party sees Canberra as basically just a good political punching bag.

Canberra was, of course, founded for one reason: to be the seat of our new—at the time—federal government. It was to be, and is, our nation's capital and was and is to house our national institutions, our commonwealth public service and our commonwealth parliament. The ideological push by the Liberals to decentralise the public service is not built on any genuine concern for unemployment in regional communities. If it was, they would first off commit to: raising the rate of Newstart, on which it is simply not possible to live; funding new programs like climate change resilience or region-building infrastructure; or even creating new Australian public service positions, services and remote working hubs in these regional towns. No, decentralisation is all part of the same agenda that leads to job cuts, budget cuts, privatisation and every dead-end zombie policy left over from the 1980s. It is about

weakening the position, influence and effectiveness of the public service so that they can cut more funding, cut more jobs, and eventually sell it off altogether.

Setting up public services in other capital cities or regional centres makes sense in some circumstances. I agree with this 100 per cent. It made 100 per cent sense for the Albury-Wodonga Development Corporation to be located in Albury-Wodonga. Government-led job creation in other regional centres is important, but it should not be as the result of forced relocations or decentralisations of current workplaces that just leave workers worse off, laid off or less able to do their job.

Keeping our public service expertise in our capital makes really good sense. It is a pretty standard practice in the private sector to consolidate your staff so that they can share knowledge and services, have quick meetings and develop a corporate community. That is, of course, the role that Canberra plays for our public service. We are the hub; we are the apex; we are where people get together. We should also reflect on the fact that at present a bit less than 40 per cent of commonwealth staff are employed in the ACT. Nobody is suggesting for one instance that all commonwealth staff should be employed in the ACT, and they never have been. It is just that the ACT is the centre; it was designed to be the centre, and it should continue to be the centre and the hub. It is a hub for our APS community, and this is one of the things that keeps the public service one of the world's best and brightest.

I will touch briefly on a slightly different aspect of having the public service in Canberra. This is the symbolic aspect of having a central place that represents the national government. This used to be the parliamentary precinct between the lake and Parliament House. The reason I say "used to be" is because the commonwealth government has been recently been selling off buildings in this area—the East Block and the West block offices. West Block is now going to be a five-star hotel. I am not against hotels, but the symbolic significance of putting one in the parliamentary precinct just below Parliament House is, sadly, that well-off people can get excellent access to federal Parliament and less well-off people do not get quite as good access.

There are other things that we could put in the parliamentary precinct instead that would be much more appropriate—the Australian Electoral Commission would be a good example because independent election bodies are crucial for our democracy. One or other of our public broadcasters could have been moved into the parliamentary precinct, which would then symbolise the role of the media as such an important check on the power of government and such an important way to ensure that our government remains accountable to the people and to the parliaments.

The consolidation of government services in Canberra and, by extension, state government public services in their respective capital cities is, in general, a positive. It allows for more interaction, more collaboration, a better lifestyle for their workers, and—in the words that every Liberal loves and repeats—efficiencies of scale and proximity.

The bottom line, though, is that where public servants work should not be up to short-term decisions by politicians. Just because Barnaby Joyce was worried about his electoral prospects and wanted to make sure there was significant pork-barrelling in

his electorate does not mean the government should inflict pain and employment insecurity on a whole government agency. I understand Tuesday's budget put the cost at \$25 million for this bit of pork-barrelling.

Any efforts towards decentralisation should be driven by the needs and wants of the government agency in particular and, of course, their workers, and not just a self-serving political objective.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (4.14): You may want to consider bunkering down—indeed, we all might—because Canberra is under attack. We are taking fire from those on the hill who continue to up the ante by pursuing a pointless and foolish bid to destabilise the ACT's role as the centre of the federal public service. I do not need to remind this Assembly of the ill-conceived and farcical policy of decentralisation that the federal government announced just over a year ago. We knew then that this policy offended cost-benefit analyses and principles of good governance and management. We knew the policy would cause uncertainty in our community. And we knew we were being treated as nothing more than pawns, with the commonwealth government discounting the human cost of its political games.

The policy's architects are now all but out of the picture, with the former Nationals deputy leader found ineligible to even sit in Parliament, and now Barnaby has been bounced to the backbenches. There was hope that the federal government would see sense and take the opportunity presented by their colleague's demise to abandon the futile policy of decentralisation, but no. We continue to be plagued by the senselessness of this policy.

I appreciate the Canberra Liberals' opposition to decentralisation, too. However, for all that Miss Burch might speak about how much she and her colleagues, including Zed—also known as “Where's Zed?”—have lobbied their federal colleagues—

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Cheyne, refer to senators by their appropriate name.

MS CHEYNE: Senator Seselja. Regrettably, for us they have not been particularly effective or their efforts are, frankly, overstated. And we can take what we will from that.

In Tuesday's budget the federal government announced a further six agencies will be moving out of Canberra, including one agency to Parramatta in Sydney. That is insulting—moving a federal agency out of Canberra so those jobs can be taken to the biggest city in Australia. It smacks of hypocrisy and, quite frankly, shows all of their rhetoric about creating regional jobs for what it is—misleading obfuscation to conceal their true motives in undermining the role of Canberra as the home of the federal public service.

We are not out of the woods yet. Yes, maybe it is just a handful of agencies now, but the federal government has also said that there will be further decentralisation announcements in coming months. When will they stop looking at the small, easy-to-pick agencies and start appropriating the bigger ones? Time will tell. They are feeding the uncertainty for Canberrans.

If that was not enough, the federal government has now also announced a review of the APS. I do not know about you, but when I read the open letter to the public service announcing the review I was put on guard, and many others would have been too. I thought the letter's pleasantries thinly veiled a foreshadowing of serious changes in the APS. I do not think any of us in this place will be surprised if we hear the words "efficiencies", "cuts" and "privatisation" bandied around in the near future. All members in this place must be vigilant and continue to fight for Canberra as the centre of the federal public service.

All of these efforts by the federal government continue to undermine Canberra and overlook the fact that Canberra is a regional centre itself. In fact, we are arguably the greatest regional success story in Australia. In the early 1900s the decision was made that the federal parliament would be located not in Sydney or Melbourne but here, over 100 years ago. Now that rural site, Canberra, is a thriving, regional, diverse centre with a strong and increasingly growing economy.

When it comes to creating jobs, stimulating an economy and bolstering business confidence, the ACT is a leader. The federal government should be taking some tips from us in how to do it. We have the lowest unemployment rate in the country. In 2016-17 our economy grew by 4.6 per cent, the fastest of all states and territories. Business confidence is the highest in Australia, and over 10,000 jobs were created in the ACT in 2017. Yes, created—not moved to us.

Unlike any other region, Canberra, the nation's capital, is the centre of the national administrative expertise and the natural home of the federal government. This proximity enables departments and agencies to work closely together more easily and more coherently. Canberra is a city that has developed around the public service into the city best suited for the needs of the Australian Public Service.

Our first-rate institutions and great opportunities for work have made Canberra Australia's pinnacle in public administration. The public servants working here are experienced, well-qualified, intelligent professionals, all with a proven dedication to doing the best for the entire country. I was very privileged in my previous career to work with so many of them. The decentralisation of the APS to other regional areas will only cause the loss of these dependable, committed individuals and the invaluable knowledge that they hold. An agenda of piecemeal fracturing of the public service will only dilute the effectiveness of the public service without transplanting the benefits.

Decentralisation threatens good policy development. Australian federalism requires a central strategic capability that is agile and able to respond to crisis and new ideas. The agenda to fracture this central capability risks undermining the quality and legitimacy of national policy development. We have watched this warning play out with the move of the APVMA to Armidale. Only a handful of staff have completed the move so far, but the agency's workforce is haemorrhaging. With the loss of more than 100 staff, including 33 regulatory scientists, goes hundreds of years of combined service, knowledge, competence and capability. And to add salt to the wound the federal government is spending \$25 million on the relocation of the APVMA. That

represents a full quarter of the money the federal government has committed to infrastructure in the ACT in this year's budget. It is very clear to me that those on the hill do not care about the future of Canberra and Canberrans.

We all remember the trying times in the wake of Abbott's severe public service cuts for several years from 2013. Canberra small businesses struggled to keep their doors open as the public service endured a severe hiring freeze and more and more insecure work was created. We thought we saw the end of the federal government undermining the public service it rests on when the former Prime Minister made his exit but, sadly, his successor has shown he is just as indifferent to the future of this city.

For our part, the ACT government will continue our efforts to build a thriving economy. We are supporting an increasingly diverse economy and we have seen strong growth in higher education, health care, professional services, ICT, defence, tourism and hospitality. But the fact remains that our efforts to create and sustain jobs in Canberra will be undermined by a poorly advised decision to move the APS elsewhere.

I thank Ms Cody for bringing forward this important matter today. No good has come or will come from the federal government's efforts to debase the importance of Canberra as the centre of the federal public service. No good will ever come of it. Canberra was built for the Australian public service and is uniquely placed to ensure that Australian departments and agencies can provide the best support for the federal government.

Moving the APS from Canberra will only hurt everyone involved—from the federal government to the departments and agencies, to the diligent Canberrans working there, to the policies that guide our nation and, therefore, Australians as a whole. As long as decentralisation remains a live option, it adversely affects our great Canberra community. It is time the federal government showed some actual courage and ruled it out once and for all.

Discussion concluded.

End of Life Choices in the ACT—Select Committee

Statement by chair

MS CODY (Murrumbidgee) (4.23): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Select Committee on End of Life Choices in the ACT. The select committee advertised for submissions to be lodged with the committee by the end of March 2018. In response to invitation addressed to the community generally and directly to a number of organisations and groups having an interest in this very important area, the select committee accepted 487 submissions—it is still considering a small number—which the committee understands is by a considerable margin a record for submissions lodged with an Assembly committee inquiry.

These submissions, which needed to be carefully assessed and considered by the committee before publication, are now published on the committee website. I invite

all members, the media and particularly the Canberra community to read them. Assessment of these submissions included consideration of a number of sensitive issues in submissions made by individuals which those individuals did not want published for personal reasons, a request the committee has taken care to honour.

One of the matters in the committee's terms of reference is the consideration of Victorian legislation passed in 2017 which governs voluntary assisted dying in that state. The committee travelled to Victoria last month and held informative and valuable discussions with palliative care administrators, with members of the 2015-16 Victorian Legislative Council committee on end of life choices and with officials from the Victorian health agency coordinating the implementation of the Victorian legislation.

The select committee will start its program of public hearings this month, with hearings over five days in May and one day in June. A program for the first of the announced committee hearings on 17 and 18 May 2018 will be published before those hearings. The committee's hearings will be public, and all interested in the inquiry are invited to attend or view the proceedings online. The committee's reporting date is the last sitting day for 2018.

I will clarify something very briefly, Madam Speaker. The committee has received a total of 490 submissions. It may receive more, and it has published 487. The committee is currently seeking clarification on minor matters from a small number of submitters.

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (4.25), by leave: I want to put on the record my thanks to the Canberra community for putting in such an effort on their submissions. I have had many people approach me to tell me how difficult it was for them to put in a submission but also how important it was for them to do so. Putting in a submission is not necessarily very easy, and on a topic that for many people is so sensitive and so personal it can take quite a bit of courage and conviction to make views known, whatever those views might be. The record number of submissions received absolutely points to how important this issue is to the ACT and how important it is that we debate it and give these issues a forum. I am very grateful that this committee exists to give that opportunity to people. Through you, Madam Speaker, I want to put on the record my thanks to the Canberra community and the many people who have taken the time to lodge submissions.

Privileges 2018—Select Committee Reporting date

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (4.27), by leave: I move:

That the resolution of the Assembly of 12 April 2018 which established the Select Committee on Privileges 2018, be amended by inserting a new paragraph (4A):

“(4A) if the Assembly is not sitting when the report is completed, the Speaker, or, in the absence of the Speaker, the Deputy Speaker, is authorised to give directions for its printing, publication and circulation;”.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Debate resumed from 22 March 2018, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (4.28): As members know, the Canberra Liberals opposed the introduction of light rail at the last election. Now that light rail is coming, we intend to ensure that it is run well, that it is well integrated into Canberra’s transport mix and that it operates as smoothly as possible. For that reason, the Canberra Liberals will be supporting this bill today.

This bill amends the road transport legislation to establish the regulatory framework for the operation of light rail as a public passenger service. It also brings territory legislation into line with the rail safety national law to incorporate national amendment regulations and mandates that light rail operators must be accredited under the rail safety national law.

The Canberra Liberals do have concerns about the fact that this bill extends the period for national regulations under the Rail Safety National Law to be presented to the Assembly for consideration from six sitting days to 20 sitting days. I understand that the government would like to avoid a repeat of recent situations where regulations have not been tabled in time. We remain concerned, however, that a delay of 20 sitting days means that national regulations may have the force of law in the ACT for up to six months without the Assembly’s consideration.

I note the minister’s response to the justice and community safety committee’s concerns about this. I understand that the national regulations have gone through significant consultation and that all ministers agree to them prior to notification, and that this somewhat reduces the risks that a long period without the Assembly’s scrutiny might entail.

The bill also establishes the requirements for ticketing and ticket inspection. In other jurisdictions in Australia, and internationally, there have been many difficulties when implementing integrated ticketing across multiple modes of transport. We hope that the government has learnt from the experience of other jurisdictions. We hope that ticketing will provide an easy and convenient travelling experience for everyone who is using both light rail and buses and that the customer experience will be as seamless as possible.

We also hope that the government has learnt from the problems that continue to occur with the MyWay ticketing system and will therefore improve ease of access, incorporating feedback from passengers using the current MyWay system. Commuters are unlikely to complain about not having to pay when the MyWay system is down on their bus, or the entire network, so we do not hear much about these sorts of problems. This still costs the territory, not only in direct revenue but also in the loss of useful passenger data that would have otherwise been captured. For this reason, we will closely monitor the ticketing aspects of light rail and will hold the government to account if the ticketing experience is not seamless and reliable for both light rail and bus passengers.

The bill also sets standards for acceptable passenger conduct and behaviour on the light rail service. The bill gives light rail staff the power to issue move-on directions to unruly passengers and the police the power to remove those passengers from light rail vehicles and platforms. We agree that we should protect the safety, security and comfort of all passengers on light rail. We accept that any limitations on personal freedom contained in this bill are reasonable and demonstrably justified to protect the safety of light rail passengers, staff and infrastructure.

I also note that the bill provides for the carriage of pets on light rail, as long as they are contained in a carrier. There is also provision for the minister to make further determinations to allow animals to travel on light rail in other ways. I encourage the minister to consider allowing pets to travel on buses in the same way. Australia is a nation of pet owners. Most Canberrans own at least one pet. Pets should be allowed to travel safely on our public transport. This would boost community engagement and accessibility by allowing owners to take their pets to the park, or even to the vet, on the bus, and would enhance the operation of light rail as part of Canberra's integrated transport network.

While not opposing the bill, the Canberra Liberals will remain vigilant to ensure that the light rail operations are conducted efficiently and that they provide the best possible service to Canberrans along the route. We will continue to hold the government to account in this area.

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) (4.33), in reply: To conclude the debate, I am pleased to speak to the Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Bill 2018. Passing this bill is another milestone in the delivery of light rail, which will help create a modern and sustainable public transport network for the Canberra community.

This stage of reforms is focused on regulating the operation of the light rail as a public passenger service and provides the foundation for the delivery of light rail passenger services later this year. The bill addresses matters such as ticketing and the conduct and behaviour of passengers and persons engaging with the light rail service. The bill also takes the first steps in regulatory reform to create a seamless customer experience across the territory's public transport network.

This bill includes amendments to align the light rail and bus ticketing requirements. Integrating the light rail service with the ticketing system used for ACTION buses will enable convenient connections for commuters between light rail and bus services. Any existing concession entitlements or free travel arrangements will apply across both public transport modes. Regulatory amendments currently being drafted will further align the regulatory framework for buses with those for the light rail. Those amendments will focus on aligning the regulation of passenger conduct and behaviour and will commence prior to light rail passenger services commencing.

Whilst we have sought to align the services as far as possible, to simplify the experiences of commuters, there will remain some differences between the regulatory frameworks for the light rail and buses. These differences arise from the different nature of the transport modes, contractual arrangements for the services and the application of the Rail Safety National Law to the light rail. Any differences are not detrimental to operators or users of the different passenger public services.

The amendments made by this bill will deliver a safe and accessible light rail service for the Canberra community. The bill regulates ticketing and the behaviour of passengers and persons engaging with the light rail service. Ticket inspections will be undertaken on light rail vehicles and at light rail stops and will predominantly be undertaken by staff of the light rail service operator appointed by the territory.

Police and some territory officers will also have the power to inspect tickets on the light rail service. The appropriate regulation of behaviour surrounding the light rail service is integral to encouraging patronage of the light rail and revenue protection. Unacceptable passenger conduct is known to make people less willing to use public transport services.

This government is committed to delivering a public transport network that meets community needs and is attractive and easy to use. The community expects that access to public facilities and services is regulated so that they are safe, efficient, effective and affordable for everyone. With this in mind, the bill contains a number of provisions that address matters that affect public safety, the accessibility of the service and enforcement and compliance with the regulatory framework being established.

As I mentioned when the bill was introduced, it creates a number of criminal offences relating to ticketing, passenger conduct and public conduct at light rail premises. The offences are drafted with an emphasis on the behaviour and the risk it poses to public safety, property and the individual.

For example, we understand that people may wish to use public transport to take their pet to the vet. The bill allows a person to travel on a light rail vehicle with an animal, as long as it is confined in a box, basket or other container, or as otherwise determined by the territory or the light rail service operator. Recognising the important role of assistance animals, this restriction does not apply to guide dogs, animals that are assisting a person with a disability or an animal that is being trained to assist a person with a disability.

The bill contains a number of provisions that are aimed at protecting light rail property, light rail vehicle equipment, emergency equipment and security cameras. The provisions focus on the act of damage, removal or interference with such property or equipment. The associated enforcement powers ensure that the light rail service operator can take action quickly to address any safety risks arising from such conduct.

The bill ensures that police and authorised persons have sufficient powers and effective means to address unacceptable passenger conduct and protect revenue and property. Police and authorised persons will have the power to direct a person to leave a light rail vehicle in specific circumstances, including when a person is engaging in unacceptable behaviour or under the influence of liquor or a drug and is causing a nuisance to someone else.

The ability to move on a person who is intoxicated or under the influence of a drug and is behaving in a way that causes or is likely to cause a nuisance or annoyance to someone else is important to ensure the safety of the public and the amenity of light rail vehicles and light rail stops for the benefit of the broader community. Passengers on a light rail vehicle will, in most instances, not have the option to remove themselves from unacceptable behaviour, especially if the light rail vehicle is crowded. Therefore, if there is a risk of harm to the individual or the public, the source of the harm should be able to be removed.

Authorised persons and police must satisfy the reasonable grounds test before directing a person to leave a light rail vehicle or light rail stop or not get on a light rail vehicle. Authorised persons will be trained to ensure that the person being issued with a direction is informed that failure to comply with the direction may result in them committing an offence and/or being removed from the light rail vehicle or light rail stop. This provides the person with an opportunity to modify their behaviour.

The ability to remove a person from a light rail vehicle or light rail stop is limited to police. This minimises the risks of unreasonable force being applied to a person or a person being unreasonably or illegally detained. The police exercising the powers will be suitably qualified and, through their training, understand the legal concepts surrounding reasonable force and what constitutes lawful detention.

The bill seeks to support an early intervention process where a person has the ability to leave a light rail vehicle or light rail stop of their own accord, once given a direction by an authorised person or police. Light rail vehicles and light rail stops will be frequented by many people, and as such any dangers represented by unacceptable passenger or public conduct need to be able to be addressed as quickly as possible. The regulatory framework established by the bill focuses on public safety measures that are directed at changing behaviour or removing the source of the behaviour from the light rail vehicles or stops as quickly as possible.

As I mentioned when the bill was introduced, a public education campaign will be run by the light rail service operator and the territory to inform the community of its obligations when using the light rail service. This work has already commenced with the rail ready light rail safety program that is being run by Canberra Metro and

Transport Canberra, with a current focus on schools in the Gungahlin district and the broader Gungahlin community. The program aims to ensure that people know how to keep safe when cycling, walking or driving near the light rail.

This bill is a significant step in the delivery of this government's commitment to develop an integrated public transport network across Canberra. I would like to notify members that I have written to the Leader of the Opposition and to the chair of the scrutiny committee to advise of my intention to move government amendments. The amendments are minor and technical in nature and result from further consideration of the regulatory framework for the light rail service. I will move those amendments in the detail stage. To align with the government amendments I will be moving, and to address comments from the scrutiny committee, I will be presenting a revised explanatory statement. I thank members for their support of the bill today.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail stage

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole.

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) (4.41): Pursuant to standing order 182A(b), I seek leave to move amendments to the bill that are minor and technical in nature together.

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: I move amendments Nos 1 and 2 circulated in my name together and table a supplementary explanatory statement to the amendments [*see schedule 1 at page 1840*].

I am moving government amendments to the bill which are of a minor and technical nature. The amendments result from further consideration of the appropriate regulatory framework for the light rail service.

Clause 1 removes the requirement for a person to hold a contract with the territory to provide a light rail service in order to be entitled to operate a light rail service in the territory. Clause 1 also clarifies that a person's accreditation under the Rail Safety National Law must be as a rail transport operator operating a light rail service in the territory. These amendments mean that the requirement to be entitled to operate a light rail service in the territory will be accreditation under the Rail Safety National Law. The Rail Safety National Law provides the regulatory framework for the safety of the Australian railway industry and provides a comprehensive accreditation scheme for rail transport operators, with accreditation occurring on an annual basis. It is an offence under the Rail Safety National Law to carry out railway operations without accreditation under the national law.

Clause 2 is a consequential amendment resulting from amendment 1. It removes the regulation-making power in relation to a light rail service operator's contract with the territory to provide a light rail service. With that brief explanation, I commend the two amendments to the Assembly.

Amendments agreed to.

Bill, as a whole, as amended, agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Sport—Gungahlin Jets

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (4.43): I rise this afternoon to talk about the start of the 2018 season for the Gungahlin Jets. I was fortunate to attend the Jets season launch back in March. The club has done an incredible amount of work over the off season, bringing in a wealth of new players, new coaches and a new approach. There was a real air of excitement to the night, which I seemingly got caught up in while bidding on the player option. The club raised over \$3,000 that night, vital funds for a community club committed to servicing the Gungahlin region.

For those unfamiliar with the Gungahlin Jets, while their women have had great success in recent years, the men's footy team have been long-suffering. You may have seen an article in the lead-up to round 1 of the Canberra AFL which highlighted the fact the men's division 1 side had not won a game in 624 days. Over that period there were some dark days for the club, accompanied by some heavy defeats.

The Jets invited me to attend their round 1 match against Tuggeranong Hawks at Gungahlin enclosed oval on Friday, 20 April. The start of the night was a clear reflection of what it is the Jets are trying to achieve, when Callan Veal, a Jets junior player who is vision impaired, tossed the coin. The Jets have taken great steps in ensuring Callan can access the game, symbolic of their commitment to inclusivity.

For all the hard work the club has done, they were immediately rewarded, winning by 21 points, leading from start to finish to hold off the late charge to the Hawks. To Matt Porter, chair of the board; Anthony Hambleton, senior football president; John Love, men's division 1 coach; and all the board, players and families that make up the Gungahlin Jets, congratulations on a well-deserved result.

I was back at the Gungahlin enclosed oval the following afternoon to see the women's team win 122 points to 1 in their first hit-out against the Hawks. Three rounds in and both the men's and women's division 1 sides are in the top four. I wish the Jets all the

best for the rest of the season and look forward to getting out to see another game soon.

The Jets have also been hard at work in offering more opportunities to women in sport. The club are committed to improving the facilities for their women players and have increased the number of age groups available to junior players. Expanding beyond women's football, the Jets began offering netball in 2017 when they entered two teams in the north Canberra netball competition.

This season they have doubled in size, to four teams. Saturday was a huge day for the club, with the women's Pink Footy Day and round 1 of netball. The club held a women in sport event that evening, where they heard from a number of prominent women, including Olympic gold medallist Sharni Williams and the unstoppable Bronwyn Fagan.

They also heard from netball vice-president Hayley Bushell, who spoke about playing in a grand final while being 23 weeks pregnant. Hayley highlighted some of the barriers that they are looking to overcome as a club and facilities is one of them. I appreciate the work this government is doing in addressing the topic. So many of our sports and community facilities are designed with men in mind. The Jets women's football team talk of in the past having team meetings in a dressing room where the urinals would flush whenever the door opened.

Hayley also spoke about netball uniforms and how some players may not wish to play because they feel uncomfortable in a spandex A-line dress. The Jets are seeking to challenge this. I completely support them in their endeavours. To all the players, families and volunteers who make up this great club, I wish you all the best for the season in 2018. I look forward to joining you in celebrating the community you have built throughout this season.

Light rail—stage 1 construction

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (4.47): I want to make sure that this government is aware of the very real impact of light rail construction activities in my electorate. I have a background in small business. This was one of my motivators for joining the Legislative Assembly. There is no denying that local businesses throughout Yerrabi are hurting as a direct result of light rail. The impact is real. Business owners are experiencing acute stress from this project.

When I talk about acute stress, I speak from knowledge. Recently Alistair Coe and I held a breakfast in Gungahlin to meet with business owners. Their stories were heartbreaking. The emotions in the room were real and very raw. They spoke of outstanding rent, overdue bills, legal letters of demand, reduced employee shifts, cutting costs, high interest loans, taking on second jobs and even looking at options to sell or close.

These are people who have worked hard to acquire enough capital and have risked it all to open a business, to pursue their dreams, people who provide employment opportunities and take pride in serving their community. They are really hurting. The

government is hell-bent on delivering light rail, no matter what the cost. What this government is doing to the businesses and communities of Gungahlin is appalling. It sucks, plain and simple.

We note that construction is underway in most areas of the tram corridor and we accept that there will be disruptions and delays. But what is really hurting businesses is the constant change to pedestrian access, parking, traffic flows, noise levels, fencing, dust and general disruption. As a result, customers are actively avoiding the Gungahlin town centre. They are shopping elsewhere and, sadly, they may never return. There appears to be no consideration of the impact of trading when drilling, digging and jackhammering happens all day, every day during the working day.

During my visits in Gungahlin, local businesses have reported a significant impact to their trade. Any profit has disappeared. For some, trade has reduced by 30, 40 and even 50 per cent. I ask members here: how would you cope if your income was reduced by 50 per cent? What could you cut or go without? Which bills wouldn't you pay? What would it mean to your household? How long would it be until the bank foreclosed on your mortgage due to not being able to make repayments?

Multiply this by 100, because that reflects the pressure and stress of running a small business. It is not only their livelihood but also that of all their employees and suppliers. The effects flow on to their families as well. These business owners deserve to be supported when the government has imposed this project upon them without any meaningful assistance.

The actions of this government in their complete failure to accept any responsibility are appalling. The situation has reached crisis point. The construction is driving customers away from the Gungahlin town centre. The government claim that they are communicating and consulting, but they keep pushing forward with their agenda. Platitudes are offered like: "Just hold on," "Weather the storm," and "There is light at the end of the tunnel." This view is naive and ill informed. Businesses cannot hold on any longer.

Light rail construction has disrupted the Gungahlin town centre for almost 18 months. Business owners have suffered serious losses of trade for too long. Many will never make up the losses. Some might not make it to the end of the project. They will be forced into a fire sale. I repeat: the business owners deserve to be compensated for the ongoing and severe decline in trade they have experienced during this overly prolonged and poorly planned construction of light rail. The cost of light rail should not be worn by small business owners.

Waste—food waste

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.51): Last week I had the privilege of attending the YWCA Great Ydeas breakfast and hearing from a number of female leaders, including Olympia Yarger, who is the founder and managing director of Canberra company GOTERRA. GOTERRA produces sustainable feed suitable for pets, chickens, pigs and aquaculture. This innovative company grows the larvae of the black soldier fly. This particular breed of fly, if you knew as much about it as I did a

couple of weeks ago, I can tell you is indigenous to Australia and does not have any of the health concerns of the common blowfly.

The company started based on Olympia's interest in sustainable agriculture. She found that 70 per cent of the production costs for animal farmers are feed, and while she had originally planned to do animal farming the cost of that was just too high. With the help of an ACT innovation grant in 2016, Olympia has grown her business to an efficient, local, closed system that is water efficient and requires no arable land. She is, in fact, based in a warehouse in Fyshwick.

Her home-grown maggots are bred and fed with local food waste and are turned into food for, amongst others, some of the 170,000 backyard chickens in Canberra. For maggot farming, one tonne of maggots consumes 2½ tonnes of food waste, thus saving it from landfill. This then produces 180 kilograms of maggot meal with less than one litre of water needed per kilo of protein. These clever little critters also eat aerobically; so they do not smell.

There are certainly people who advocate for insects to be included as part of the human food chain and I think they do have a point. Insects are a sustainable protein source and in many countries and cultures they have been included in people's diets for millennia. More recently I believe that up-market restaurants are marketing insects as the next great culinary trend.

On this of course I should note that climate change is making farming more difficult due to more variable and extreme conditions. There is the risk of food shortages into the future as arable land becomes more scarce and the global population continues to boom. A staggering one-third of food produced worldwide and 20 per cent of food in Australia becomes waste. Olympia Yargers's maggot farm and institutions like that can make good use of the waste. Her company has developed decentralised modular options so that the maggots can be grown close to both the food waste sources and the stockfeed end users.

On Tuesday the government released the waste feasibility study and as part of this made a renewed commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by focusing on the reduction of organic material from landfill. GOTERRA could be part of how this happens. There clearly is an actual synergy here and hopefully we are going to hear more about Olympia's business in the future.

It is, of course, imperative that we reduce our impact on the planet. This could be one currently small—possibly to become large—way that the people of the ACT and people elsewhere do so, by moving into maggot farming.

Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club Legislative Assembly—visitors

MS J BURCH (Brindabella) (4.55): Tonight I just want to let the Assembly know that I was very pleased to join members of the committee of the Tuggeranong 55 Plus Club just recently in Tuggeranong as they celebrated their 10th birthday. I have had a long association with the Tuggeranong 55 club. I was there to turn the first sod when

we began construction, and I tip my hat to the late Rusty Woodward, who was so crucial to getting this club up and running. I also recall cutting the ribbon when it was officially opened in November 2011. When I was there to celebrate their 10th birthday it was good to see many familiar faces and champions that have been part of the journey and the success of the Tuggeranong 55 club over the last 10 years.

The centre is, indeed, a very modern facility. It has got one of the best views of Lake Tuggeranong. It is close to public transport. But the club has had such success that in many ways it is a victim of its own success because it is just busting at the seams. They have programs running every day for just about every opening hour of the day. The committee members, the relevant ministers and I are having conversations about how we could look to expand that building to accommodate the growing success and the growing numbers of people that want to use that facility.

At the 10-year celebrations there was recognition of awards, and I just want to read out the names of the people who have been the champions: Laurel Boyd, Pat Dahl, John Dahl, Betty and Bruce Grant, Rodger Hall, Linda Lawrie, Carlene Lockyer, Beverley Richards, Judy and Tom Walters, Maggie Watts, Jenny Welsh, Sheila Williams, John Winter and Robyn Young. I also want at this time to recognise other people that have been involved and quite critical to its success: Communities@Work, because before the club was independent they were part of a program with Communities@Work, and the project officers, Tricia Hoad and Karen Jesson, who were very important in the early days.

I would like to take my hat off to and commend Louise Nicholls, the president of the Tuggeranong 55 club; and Laurie Towers, the vice-president. Also down there on the day was John Hargreaves, who needs no introduction for many of us here. He has been involved in and supportive of the Tuggeranong 55 club from the get-go as well. I wish them all the success.

Today in the chamber I had the honour and the privilege of hosting two groups of young people. The first was girls from Caroline Chisholm School's girls club. I want to thank the teacher, Amanda Pickering, for bringing the girls in. Natasha from year 10, Rose from year 10, Abbee from year 8 and Karissa from year 7 came in to have a look at the Assembly. They were full of questions. They were full of interest.

There were also students from Hughes Primary School. Smilja Rajak was the teacher, and the students were Jessica, Erin, Charlotte, Abbey and Phoebe, all year 6. They came in and had a Cook's tour of the place. I think members should check their seats. They were very eager to sit in members' seats and experience what it is like being a member. But it is very good to see the next generation showing such an active interest in the Assembly.

Public housing—community program

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (4.59): I rise to address the chamber on a number of housing issues that have come to my attention as shadow housing minister that I think are very important matters which should be recorded here. The first of those matters is to commend a wonderful grassroots, on-the-ground program that is being done by Mark Ransome, on behalf of Reclink, in a number of our public housing complexes in

Reid, specifically on Ainslie Avenue. The Australian Institute of Criminology has recently released a glowing report of the high density housing program and—credit where it is due—I commend the ACT government for getting behind this collaborative program involving Reclink Australia. Of course, it also involves JACS, ACT Housing, ACT Health and ACT Policing.

It involves the application of an on-the-ground, grassroots, community development approach to prevent crime and antisocial behaviour in Ainslie Avenue. I must commend the Reclink officer, Mark Ransome, who is a unique individual with street cred and the skills needed to navigate through some extreme scenarios on the ground. Mark is maintaining a continuing presence across the site, coordinating existing services to residents and introducing new events, activities and programs that provide opportunity for resident interaction and relationship building that address the needs of residents.

This program draws on Australian search evidence that showed social approaches to crime prevention, including community development, can improve neighbourhood cohesion, and it is working. The benefits of this program are very clear to see. As the report was done by the Institute of Criminology, it must be said that it focuses, as you would expect, on crime reduction, so it ignores many of the other benefits from the program. So the program is giving much more benefit than has been stated in this report, but well done to Reclink. I hope this will help in placing Reclink front of mind when the second Reclink community AFL cup game for Canberra comes around on 16 September this year. I am hoping to pull the jumper on for the Noise, and I look forward to an appearance from Mr Rattenbury at the event as well.

Continuing in the housing space, I could not let the week in this chamber pass by without mentioning some of the comments made yesterday by David Smith, the man most likely to fill the vacancy in the Senate. Speaking yesterday, Mr Smith said that he was concerned by revelations about 35,000 Canberrans, including 8,800 children, who are living below the poverty line. He said these figures from the ACT Council of Social Service cost of living report should be, in his words, “a real wake-up for the territory”. They were his words—that it should be “a real wake-up for the territory”, which I can only assume means the territory government.

He went on to make a statement that could well have been from a Canberra Liberals MLA. I will tell you exactly what he said: he said a lot of Canberrans do not realise that there are almost two cities here. This is soon-to-be Labor Senator David Smith, who I might say was one of the party’s opponents of the light rail network, but that is by the by. This is the killer statement from Mr Smith:

There are a lot of people doing really well, but there are a lot of people doing it quite tough ...

Those are the words of Labor’s David Smith. I thought he must have stolen one of my speeches from in here, but this was his. He went on to say:

... we actually have one of the highest percentages of homelessness in the country, which is quite amazing in a city that, on the face of it, is quite prosperous.

That is from David Smith. If he wants to borrow more of our material, we are more than happy for him to do it.

Australian Medical Association ACT
Answers to questions on notice—costs

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (5.03): Last night I had the singular pleasure of addressing the annual general meeting of the ACT branch of the AMA, and I want to take this opportunity to put on record my appreciation to the outgoing president, Steve Robson, for the fantastic work that he has done in service to medicine in the ACT, not just through his presidency of the AMA but through his work in his specialised field of obstetrics and gynaecology, the research work that he has done and also in his role as the chair of the college of obstetricians and gynaecologists.

The AMA provides important services to medical practitioners in the ACT. Perhaps they could be construed as a union, but they act in a very professional way and provide a range of professional services to medical practitioners and have considered and strong views about the state of health in the ACT, which I will not go into now. Dr Steve Robson has just concluded his term as the president of the AMA and his role is being taken over by Dr Antonio di Dio, a GP from Yarralumla. I know that Antonio recognises that he has big shoes to fill, following on from the work that has been done by Steve Robson.

I also want to draw to members' attention Dr Ailene Fitzgerald, who won an award last night for outstanding contribution to health services in the ACT. Dr Fitzgerald is a trauma surgeon and has pioneered the introduction of a new modality of treatment for surgical trauma in the ACT. I received representations from the college of surgeons some time ago, which I passed on to the minister, and I am glad to see that this model of care has eventually been adopted. The ACT college of surgeons were very concerned that a lot of work done had been done in changing the mode of service for trauma surgery, but it was taking a long time to get approval through ACT Health. I am glad to see that that has finally happened.

On a couple of other health-related matters, and also to pick up on a theme that Ms Le Couteur raised in question time earlier this week, there is the new habit of costing out answers to questions on notice. When this first appeared on answers to questions on notice that I received from the Minister for Health, being the sort of person I am, I decided that I would ask a question on notice about the motivation for this. I got a quite succinct answer back from the minister which covers most of the issues that were covered by the Chief Minister in answer to Ms Le Couteur the other day.

I am pleased to tell members that the answer to that question took 30 minutes to complete and cost approximately \$65, and it is about half a page of text. I was surprised, in the same batch of questions, to receive a question that took 1,530 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of \$2,296. For those not as arithmetically inclined as we should be, that is \$2,296 for 25½ hours of work. There were five questions, which were: how many communications staff are employed in

the Health Directorate and the hospital and the minister's office; what were the classifications of these things; how many levels of management are required to clear a media release in the Health Directorate; does the minister personally clear all media releases; and is every media release by the directorate cleared in the minister's office? It is not difficult.

The answer is that there are 28½ FTE communications people employed in the Health Directorate and in ACT hospitals and 0.8 of a person in the minister's office. Then there is a small table that gives a run-down of that: one SES, three SOGAs, 4½ SOGBs, five SOGCs, nine ASO6s, three ASO5s, one ASO4, a PO2, a PO3 and a quarter of an RN. Quite frankly, I am gobsmacked that that information took 1,530 minutes to compile. I do not know whether they had them all in a room and they had trouble counting them or what. (*Time expired.*)

Katy Gallagher—tribute Children and young people—achievements

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) (5.08): I rise today to reflect on some of the recent successes of young people in our community. But before doing so I wish to take this opportunity to endorse the comments made yesterday by my colleagues the Deputy Chief Minister and Minister Gentleman about Katy Gallagher's contribution to Canberra over the last 17 years.

Katy has been a committed representative for the people of Canberra and has made an enormous change and difference for the better in our community. I want to place on record my thanks to Katy for the support and advice she has given to me over the last 2½ years and say that she has my full support in whatever she chooses to do next, noting that she is too good to lose.

Ahead of ACT Youth Week last month, I spoke in this place about the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year awards as a way for us to recognise and highlight the contribution young people make to our community. This turned out to be a prescient description of the winners and the work they do in creating a better, safer and more inclusive city for all Canberrans.

The winner of the Personal Achievement Award, Shay-Leigh Willis, is a determined advocate for young people in the LGBTIQ communities. Maddie Diamond won the Individual Community Service Award, in part for her work setting up Trash Mob and, through it, improving and protecting the local environment. The Group Achievement Award went to Jasiri Australia. I know many members in this place are familiar with the work they do through their skill-based programs to help women feel safe and secure in the community. Dhani Gilbert was announced as the Young Canberra Citizen of the Year. Dhani's volunteer work, participating in Aboriginal community events and the ACT Cancer Council's Relay for Life, and providing peer support to other young people who have had a family member diagnosed with cancer, has made her an exceptional role model for all young people in our community.

In listing just some of the achievements of these few young people, it is evident how much capacity there is among younger Canberrans to make a real contribution to our community. I am proud to be a part of a government that supports young people to make these contributions. We do this in part through our Youth Week grants, our Youth InterACT scholarships and the work of the Youth Advisory Council.

There can be significant barriers that can inhibit the participation of young people, and we must be proactive in including young people in our discussions. That is why I am so pleased to inform members of the recent appointment of six new members of the Youth Advisory Council. These new members—Ngalan Gilbert, Sukanya Ananth, Liam Jones, Grace Kemp, James Morgan and our Young Canberra Citizen of the Year, Dhani Gilbert—will bring a range of new perspectives to the council and ensure that it continues to provide excellent and crucial advice to the government. I had the pleasure of meeting with the Youth Advisory Council earlier this week and I can tell you, Madam Assistant Speaker, that it is a very impressive and somewhat intimidating group of young people.

An existing council member, Natasha Tioukavkin, has been appointed as a new co-chair, alongside existing co-chair Isaac Martin. It was, as I said, a pleasure to meet the new-look council at their meeting earlier this week. I would like to thank the outgoing members of the Youth Advisory Council, including the co-chair, Rashna Farruhk, for their dedication to the council and to creating a Canberra that works better to support and engage young people.

While taking this moment to reflect on the achievements of young people in our community, Madam Assistant Speaker, I want to also take the opportunity to talk about a group of young people whose successes we do not usually hear much about. Not long ago, the young people at Bimberi held the first relay for life at the centre. The young people were rostered to walk in one to two-hour shifts on the oval during daylight hours and in the gym at night. They walked, along with Bimberi and Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre staff, approximately 115 kilometres over a period of 24 hours.

At last tally, the young people's efforts had raised \$1,400 for the Cancer Council, with more donations still to be added. I had the opportunity to join the young people for the completion of the 24-hour relay and heard from one of the young people how cancer had touched their life and that this was a major motivating factor to get involved in this fantastic initiative. I am pleased to say that preparations are already underway for next year and to make the event a permanent fixture on the Bimberi calendar. Congratulations to all involved, particularly to the young people who showed such dedication during the walk.

Sport—squash

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (5.13): I want to briefly touch on some fantastic squash that was played in the ACT last week at the ACT open. It was won by Rex Hedrick from Melbourne, who most recently had competed in the Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast. He beat Malaysian No 6 seed Addeen Idrakie in the final, 11-5, 11-5, 11-3, in just 35 minutes.

I would like to congratulate Mike Nuttall, President of Squash ACT, and his committee for such a fabulous tournament. It was a great success. It included growing the prize money from about \$2,000 to about \$13,000, a significant achievement. I would also like to thank the sponsors, Alucom, Blueline Plumbing, LJ Hooker Tuggeranong and Zokic design. Without sponsors, events such as this, run by small sporting clubs, are almost impossible to put on. Thanks to those organisations for stepping up.

If you have read an article in the *Canberra Times* today about masters squash players, you will know that you should not mess with masters squash players. A couple of older squash players in Weston Creek coming out of the squash club took on a few thugs. Well done to them. (*Time expired.*)

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.14 pm until Tuesday, 5 June 2018, at 10 am.

Schedule of amendments

Schedule 1

Road Transport Reform (Light Rail) Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Amendments moved by the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety

1

Clause 5

Proposed new section 27B (1) and note

Page 3, line 16—

omit proposed new section 27B (1) and note, substitute

- (1) A person is entitled to operate a light rail service if the person is accredited under the *Rail Safety National Law (ACT)* as a rail transport operator to operate a light rail service.

Note It is an offence to carry out railway operations without accreditation (see *Rail Safety National Law (ACT)*, s 62).

2

Clause 5

Proposed new section 27D (a) (ix)

Page 6, line 11—

omit

Answers to questions

Torrens—car park (Question No 945)

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

- (1) How many car parks are currently available for public use at the Torrens shops.
- (2) Has any funding been allocated to provide additional car parks for public use at the Torrens shops.
- (3) Has the Government considered the impact on parking of the soon to be completed child care centre adjacent to the Torrens shops; if so, what were the conclusions of these considerations.

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

- (1) Thirty-seven, including four reserved for use by mobility parking scheme users.
- (2) No.
- (3) The parking needs for the childcare centre was assessed as part of the Development Application process. The developer demonstrated that the parking needs for the childcare centre, including staff parking, could be accommodated within the existing shops car park and through other car parking available within the local area without significant impact on other users. The childcare centre has peak parking periods twice a day, typically for less than 15 minutes.

National Multicultural Festival—participation (Question No 1021)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 23 February 2018:

- (1) How many (a) community group, (b) community club, (c) commercial club and (d) diplomatic stalls were present in total at the 2018 National Multicultural Festival.
- (2) For each kind of stall as listed in part (1), how many occupied a stall on (a) Friday only, (b) Saturday only, (c) Sunday only, (d) Friday and Saturday only, (e) Friday and Sunday only, (f) Saturday and Sunday only and (g) Friday, Saturday and Sunday.
- (3) How many (a) 3 x 3 and (b) 3 x 6 tent stalls were erected.
- (4) How many empty tent stalls were present on each day of the festival.
- (5) What is the estimated number of people who attended the festival (a) on each day of (i) Friday, (ii) Saturday and (iii) Sunday this year and (b) for each year over the past 10 years.

- (6) What has been the total costing allocated and spent on the festival (a) this year and (b) for each year over the past 10 years, excluding multicultural grants.

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

In response to the member's questions, I can inform the Assembly that:

- (1) Data about stallholders is held under the following categories listed in the Participation Policy.

For the 2018 National Multicultural Festival how many stalls, in total were present for:

- (a) Community Food – 93
- (b) Community Information - 58
- (c) Community Clubs - 9
- (d) Commercial Operators (food only) – 9
- (e) Commercial Operators (food & liquor) – 26
- (f) Diplomatic Mission - 81

- (2) For each kind of stall as listed in part (1), how many occupied a stall on:

	Community Food	Community Information	Community Clubs	Commercial Operators (Food Only)	Commercial Operators (Food & Liquor)	Diplomatic Missions
Friday Only	There were no Friday only package available to stall holders					
Saturday Only	29	3	0	0	0	67
Sunday Only	2	55	0	0	0	14
Friday and Saturday Only	7	0	3	0	2	0
Friday and Sunday Only	There were no Friday and Sunday packages available to stall holders					
Saturday and Sunday Only	6	0	0	0	1	0
Friday, Saturday and Sunday (3 days)	49	0	6	9	23	
Total	93	58	9	9	26	81

- (3) (a) & (b)

A total of 349 3 x 3 structures were built for use over the three days of the Festival. A number of these were reconfigured across the weekend to provide 3 x 6 structures as required by stall holders.

- (4) How many empty tent stalls were present on each day of the festival.

In order to meet the needs of stallholders, and public safety requirements, it is necessary to pre-build stalls in the days before the festival to ensure adequate numbers are available on Saturday, the busiest day of the Festival.

There were a number of empty stalls over the three days of the festival, including:

- 156 on Friday, mainly because there are very few diplomatic or information stall bookings on Friday and overall demand for stalls is reduced due to it being a half day;

- 7 empty stalls on Saturday due to late cancellations; and
- 80 empty stalls on Sunday.

- (5) What is the estimated number of people who attended the festival,
- (a) on each day of
- Friday,
 - Saturday and
 - Sunday this year

A survey of festival attendees to determine feedback and satisfaction has been undertaken.

The Directorate is using a survey methodology to improve the data collection. This methodology results in a crowd estimate of approximately 200,000 people across three days. It is not broken down by day.

- (b) for each year over the past 10 years.

Estimates of attendance have been based on a range of different sources over the past ten years.

In 2017 and 2018 a more conservative survey methodology was used. This methodology produces a conservative estimate and may not account fully for national and international visitors, attendees who work in the city or those that made multiple visits. It however is considered a suitable baseline for future estimation.

Year	Estimated Attendance
2018*	200,000
2017*	200,000 (new methodology) 280,000 (previous methodology)
2016	280,000
2015	270,000
2014	250,000
2013	260,000
2012	250,000
2011	250,000
2010	100,000
2009	150,000
2008	170,000

* Introduction of new survey methodology.

- (6) What has been the total costing allocated and spent on the festival

- (a) this year

The total budget allocated for the 2018 National Multicultural Festival was \$730,000. This comprised \$475,000 in base funding plus a one-off second appropriation of \$255,000 for festival operating costs and two staff.

As invoices for services are still being submitted and reviewed, the final figure spent cannot be provided at this time.

(b) for each year over the past 10 years, excluding multicultural grants.

Controlled recurrent payments for the annual National Multicultural Festival over the past five financial years were as follows:

- 2012-13: \$562,734
- 2013-14: \$572,000
- 2014-15: \$575,000
- 2015-16: \$475,000
- 2016-17: \$475,000

ACT Community Services Directorate is unable to provide historical information prior to the 2012-13 financial year.

Expenditure on the annual National Multicultural Festival prior to that time was made available from the general operating budget of the ACT Office for Multicultural Affairs. A cost code or specific funding was not allocated.

The allocated budget together with the revenue received from stallholders and sponsorships is used to cover the following costs:

- Festival infrastructure (hire of marquees and stages)
- Performers/Entertainment (fees, travel, accommodation and other related costs)
- Pre and post event costs (permits, approval, insurances, waste removal, clean up, security, safety, first aid, etc)
- Communications, advertising, volunteer management, catering and other related costs.

Roads—traffic management (Question No 1029)

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

- (1) What traffic studies were performed on Cotter Road, Dudley, Kent and Novar Streets, Yarralumla prior to the decision to commence works on Dudley Street.
- (2) Were any other traffic management techniques considered to manage the congestion at Cotter Road, Dudley, Kent and Novar Streets; if so, what were they; if not, why not.
- (3) Can the Minister provide details of any cost benefit analysis the Directorate performed to assist in this decision making.
- (4) What plans does the Government have to manage traffic at the Mint Interchange.

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

- (1) Prior to the decision to commence works on Dudley Street a traffic study was undertaken as part of the Site Investigation for the Canberra Brickworks Precinct.

The design for the Dudley Street upgrade and Canberra Brickworks Precinct access road also includes a traffic study.

This led to an additional traffic study being undertaken for the intersections of Novar Street/Kent Street/Dudley Street/Adelaide Avenue on-ramp, Kent Street/Adelaide Avenue off-ramp and Kent Street/Denison Street as part of the Concept Design Report for future planning associated with signalisation of these three intersections by Transport Canberra and City Services.

- (2) The traffic studies detailed above considered options for traffic management in these locations as noted.
- (3) No.
- (4) The Mint Interchange study was undertaken by the former LDA in 2014 as part of the redevelopment proposal in the Yarralumla Brickworks. Due to a reduced development proposal at the Brickworks site, works proposed at the Mint Interchange have been deferred.

Canberra Hospital—drinking water (Question No 1031)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the yearly average number of units of bottled water purchased for patients at The Canberra Hospital (TCH).
- (2) What is the yearly average cost.
- (3) Why is bottled water purchased instead of deploying re-usable water containers.
- (4) Are there any plans to cease purchasing bottled water in favour of deploying re-usable water containers at TCH.
- (5) What capital works are involved.
- (6) What equipment purchases are involved.
- (7) What is the timeline.
- (8) What is the cost to the point of commissioning into use.
- (9) What drinking vessels will be provided under a policy that deploys re-usable water containers.
- (10) What is the forecast recurring cost, including, but not limited to, water, replacement containers, and drinking vessels.

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

- (1) For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017, the average number of water bottles purchased yearly for patients at Canberra Hospital is 382,733.

- (2) For the period 1 January 2015 to 31 December 2017, the average yearly cost is \$100,215.
 - (3) Bottled water is currently the most suitable and efficient model for patient water distribution at Canberra Hospital.
 - (4) There are no plans to cease purchasing bottled water in favour of deploying re-usable water containers at Canberra Hospital however ACT Health may consider options to provide re-usable water containers at Canberra Hospital for patient water distribution.
 - (5) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
 - (6) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
 - (7) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
 - (8) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
 - (9) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
 - (10) A decision to deploy re-usable water containers has not been made.
-

Health—communications (Question No 1033)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many communications staff are employed in the (a) Health Directorate and in ACT hospitals and (b) Minister's office.
- (2) What classifications are held by communications staff working in the (a) Health Directorate and in ACT hospitals and (b) Minister's office.
- (3) How many levels of management are required to clear a media release for the Health Directorate or a hospital.
- (4) Does the Minister personally clear each media release put out by the Directorate.
- (5) Is every media release by the Directorate cleared by the Minister's office.

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

- (1)(a) There are 28.75 FTE communications staff employed in the Health Directorate and in ACT hospitals
- (b) There is one staff member in the Minister's office employed at 0.8 FTE.
- (2)(a) The breakdown of classifications held by communications staff working in the Health Directorate is:
 - SES - 1
 - SOG A - 3

- SOG B – 4.5
- SOG C - 5
- ASO6 - 9
- AS05 - 3
- AS04 – 1
- PO2 – 1
- PO3 – 1
- RN – 0.25

(b) The Minister's office staff classification is Senior Adviser.

- (3) ACT Health use the ACT Public Service Media Communications and Engagement Policy and associated guidelines to support its engagement with media.

As a general rule, ACT Health media releases are approved by:

- Director of the relevant line area(s) and/or any spokespeople in the release;
- Executive or Senior Manager of Communications in the Directorate;
- Deputy Director-General or Director-General; and
- Relevant Minister's Office (if applicable).

For all public health alerts issued by the Directorate, approval is through the ACT Chief Health Officer. In the event of a health emergency, all public information is approved by the Incident Controller of the emergency.

(4) No.

(5) No.

Government—music grants (Question No 1037)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What grant funding did the ACT Government provide to the Australian National University (ANU) for the delivery of music outreach programs by the ANU School of Music for (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016 and 2017.
- (2) How much of the grant funding, for each year listed in part (1), was for the delivery of the (a) Music Engagement Program, (b) Music Development Program, (c) Music for Colleges Program and (d) Student Outreach and Engagement Program.
- (3) If the total funding for the programs listed in part (2) does not equate to the funding provided in answer to part (1), what is the explanation for the difference.
- (4) What grant funding is the ACT Government providing in 2018 to the ANU for the delivery of music outreach programs by the ANU School of Music.
- (5) What specific programs are to be delivered under the funding provided in the answer to part (4).

- (6) In relation to the specific programs outlined in the answer to part (5), how much of the grant funding provided in answer to part (4) is for the delivery of each program.
- (7) What is the explanation for the difference if the total funding for the programs listed in parts (5) and (6) does not equate to the funding provided in the answer to part (4).
- (8) How much grant funding has the ACT Government provided to the ANU for programs other than music outreach programs for (a) 2013, (b) 2014, (c) 2015, (d) 2016, (e) 2017 and (f) 2018.
- (9) What specific programs were or are being delivered for each year listed in part (8).
- (10) How much of the grant funding was provided for each specific program provided in the answer to part (9) and for each year listed in part (8).
- (11) Has the Government delivered on its election promise that it would provide the ANU with funding of \$1 million over four years for its “advanced music program”.
- (12) Is this funding in addition to any amounts provided in the answer to parts (1) to (10) as they relate to the years 2017 and 2018; if not, why not.
- (13) What does the Government understand to be offered in the “advanced music program.
- (14) In relation to the Minister’s answer to the question without notice asked on 15 February 2018 about the Music Engagement Program, what were the stated reasons for the decision that the funding application for the Music Engagement Program for Years 1 to 6 students and for teacher professional development was unsuccessful.
- (15) Will the Minister provide a copy of the statement of reasons; if not, why not.
- (16) What specific criteria were used to evaluate the application.
- (17) To what extent were the annual “Summary of Activity” documents provided by the program reviewed in the context of the assessment of the application; if none, why not.
- (18) To what extent was further information sought from the funding applicant; if none, why not.
- (19) What other consultation was undertaken in assessing the application, and with whom; if none, why not.
- (20) Which national peers provided independent advice on the new music outreach program.
- (21) What written advice was provided in that process; if none, why not.
- (22) Will the Minister provide a copy of any written advice; if not, why not.
- (23) As part of giving the independent advice what review did the national peers undertake of the existing Music Engagement Program; if none, why not

- (24) What written outcome of the review was provided; if none, why not.
- (25) Will the Minister provide a copy of the written review; if not, why not.
- (26) What is the structure and curriculum of the new music outreach program.
- (27) To what extent does the new program engage (a) ACT primary school students, (b) ACT secondary school students, (c) ACT secondary college students and (d) the broader community.
- (28) To what locations will the new program travel.
- (29) On what date did the Government decide that the funding application for the Music Engagement Program was unsuccessful.
- (30) On what date was that decision communicated to the funding applicant.
- (31) Will the Minister provide a copy of that communication; if not, why not.
- (32) Given that, under the ACT arts policy, one of the principles of artsACT is participation in and access to the arts, achieved in part through partnerships and collaboration, and that artsACT recognises that the ACT Government's priorities include health and education, how, and to what extent, did the funding application for the Music Engagement Program fail to align with those attributes and qualities.

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

(1) Grant funding to the ANU

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$1,214,003	\$955,000	\$773,536	\$929,474	\$640,021

(2) Grant Funding for Music Programs

Music Engagement

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$376,116	\$400,000	\$389,185	\$346,185	\$211,176

Music Development

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$166,565	\$200,000	\$154,288	\$244,980	\$105,588

Music for Colleges

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$240,714	\$255,000	\$281,319	\$252,273	\$270,463

Student Outreach and Engagement

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
\$0	\$100,000	\$73,400	\$69,448	\$52,794

- (3) In 2013, there was \$430,608 in funding to a number of other music outreach programs that were discontinued after that year. In 2015, there was unspent funds of \$124,656 which was deducted from the total funds provided in that year. In 2016, there was funding of \$16,455 carried over from the previous year.
- (4) Funding of \$786,843 is being provided in 2018 to the ANU School of Music to deliver the music outreach programs.
- (5) The programs for 2018 are Girls Rock, Girls Jazz, Community Rock, My Song, Developing Musicians and Music for Colleges.

(6) Grant Funding provided in 2018 for Music Outreach Programs

Girls Rock	Girls Jazz	Community Rock	My Song	Developing Musicians	Music for Colleges
\$83,782	\$84,265	\$82,927	\$50,830	\$209,444	\$275,595

- (7) The amounts are the same.

(8) Grant Funding other than for Music Outreach

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$287,997	\$335,000	\$326,638	\$318,660	\$180,248	\$43,675

- (9) For 2013 to 2017, the programs were the Visual Arts Open Access, Public Art Lecture Series and Library Access programs. For 2018, the programs are College, Jacks and Punties, Bundian Way and Professional Development for students.

(10) Grant Funding provided by Program

Visual Arts Open Access

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$191,282	\$135,000	\$163,250	\$142,544	\$74,660	\$0 (funding not continued)

Public Art Lecture Series

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$69,850	\$175,000	\$137,443	\$149,719	\$92,390	\$0 (funding not continued)

Library Access

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
\$26,865	\$25,000	\$25,945	\$26,397	\$13,198	\$0 (funding not continued)

- (11) The Government and the ANU are discussing the Deed of Grant for the Advanced Music Performance Program. The funding has been allocated in the 2017-18 ACT Budget.

- (12) Yes, this funding is in addition to the funding for the Community Outreach Program.
- (13) The Advanced Music Performance Program is currently being developed by the ANU.
- (14) The ANU's proposal for the Community Outreach Program, including for the Music Engagement Program, was assessed by artsACT with advice from peers. The new Community Outreach Program is a move away from a focus on school students in the school environment to providing access to music programs for all members of the community. The Music Engagement Program did not align to current funding guidelines where arts funding is not for courses of study or that form part of any requirement or assessment at an educational or training institution. This funding guideline is included on artsACT's website under eligibility. It was also considered that professional development for teachers falls within the responsibility of individual schools and should not be allocated from arts funding. The Music Engagement Program was a relatively high cost program and therefore was considered to be not value for money.
- (15) The reasons are outlined in response to question 14.
- (16) The specific criteria were: demonstrated strong arts development outcomes for participants; a high quality contemporary program and value for money.
- (17) The "Summary of Activity" documents and the annual acquittals over a number of years were reviewed and included as part of the assessment of the application.
- (18) No further information was sought from the ANU. The Government already had considerable historic information from the acquittals and Summary of Activity over a number of years.
- (19) Consultation was undertaken with the Education Directorate.
- (20) Ms Julie Ewington, Professor Cat Hope, Dr David Sudmalis and Ms Sheona White.
- (21) The peers provided their comments in the context of the assessment criteria.
- (22) Peer comments are obtained in confidence.
- (23) The peers considered the Music Engagement Program as presented in the application by the ANU.
- (24) The peers did not review the Music Engagement Program.
- (25) There was no written review of the Music Engagement Program.
- (26) The new music outreach program is delivered by the ANU Open School unit and is a series of programs accessible by the community. Given that the programs are designed for general community access, they are not based on a curriculum.
- (27) ACT primary school students can access the Girls Rock program. ACT Secondary and College students can access the Developing Musicians program. ACT Secondary College students can access the Music For Colleges program. The broader community can access the Girls Rock, Girls Jazz, Community Rock, and My Song programs.

- (28) The new programs propose to travel to a range of places off ANU campus, which are yet to be determined.
- (29) The Government made a final determination on 7 December 2017 that the Music Engagement Program was unsuccessful for funding. The Government first flagged with the ANU it was looking for an alternative methodology for the Community Outreach Program in December 2016. This position was communicated to the ANU prior to the submission of its proposal in April 2017 and reiterated in June 2017. The Government provided verbal advice to the ANU that the Music Engagement Program was unlikely to be successful on 20 November 2017. Funding for the Music Engagement Program ceased on 30 June 2017. The ANU requested and received transition funding for one month for the Music Engagement Program to 31 July 2017.
- (30) The Government advised the ANU on 18 December 2017 that funding for the Music Engagement Program was not successful.
- (31) A copy of the letter to the ANU dated 18 December 2017 is at Attachment A.
- (32) While the Music Engagement Program broadly supports participation and access to the arts, it is implemented as part of the curriculum within the school environment. The decision to cease funding the Music Engagement Program, falls in line with other arts funding programs where funding is not intended to support school students in the school environment, or to support the professional development of ACT teachers. Music programs for school age students within the school environment are funded through the Education Directorate's Instrumental Music Program and provided by individual schools within their curriculum priorities. The Government funds a number of organisations including the Canberra Symphony Orchestra and Music for Canberra to enable school students to access music programs. There are also a number of providers in the ACT for in school music programs.

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

Education—international students (Question No 1038)

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

- (1) How many international students are enrolled in ACT government schools.
- (2) How many international students are enrolled, by school, in each grade from K-12.
- (3) How are students assessed for eligibility into a particular (a) school and (b) grade.
- (4) Are all schools eligible to accept international students; if not, how are schools selected for enrolment of international students.
- (5) Do all international students pay fees; if not, how are students assessed as to whether their enrolment requires a fee; if so, what fees are payable per (a) student, (b) year and (c) grade.

- (6) What is the average number of years an international student studies in an ACT school.
- (7) How many receive an Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking to attend an Australian university.

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

- (1) As of 10 April 2018 there are 479 international students enrolled in ACT Government schools.
- (2) The following table shows the number of international student enrolments across the year grades per school. Due to a small number of enrolments in some year levels at many schools, the statistics have been provided at school level, rather than year level to prevent inadvertent release of identifiable statistics. This includes a total of 14 international students across all primary schools.

SCHOOL	TOTAL STUDENTS
Alfred Deakin High School	15
Amaroo School	10
Belconnen High	5
Campbell High School	16
Canberra College	63
Canberra High School	9
Dickson College	46
Dickson College (Secondary Introductory English Centre)	14
Erindale College	13
Gold Creek High School	9
Gungahlin College	55
Harrison School	15
Hawker College	31
Lake Ginninderra College	19
Lake Tuggeranong College	34
Melba Copland Secondary School	40
Melrose High School	7
Namadgi School	5
Narrabundah College	53
Stromlo High School	6
Total number of students in Primary School	14
Total number of students in secondary school	465
TOTAL NUMBER OF STUDENTS	479

(3) (a) and (b)

International students must meet the following criteria to be eligible:	
<u>Preschool students</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must live with a parent/guardian approved by the Department of Home Affairs • Must be dependents of a temporary resident • Must be four years of age by 30 April of the year they commence preschool • Enrolment offers are subject to the availability of places • Enrolment in a preschool is subject to the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) policy. If the PEA preschool is already at capacity, a student may be offered enrolment in another preschool subject to availability and Principal discretion.
<u>Primary school students</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must live with a parent/guardian approved by the Department of Home Affairs • May only stay for a period up to two years (as prescribed by the Department of Home Affairs) • Must be five years of age by 30 April of the year they commence school (student must be at least 6 years old to be eligible to apply for a student visa). • Enrolment in a school is subject to the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) policy
<u>High school students</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must live with a parent/guardian approved by the Department of Home Affairs if under the age of 16 years. • Must be aged 16 years or over to be accommodated in the Homestay Program or the Family Friends and Relatives Program.
<u>College Students</u>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Must be aged 16 years or over to be accommodated in the Homestay Program or the Family Friends and Relatives Program. • Must not be over the age of 19 years at the commencement of Year 11 mainstream.

*A student's ability to speak and understand English is assessed upon commencement in the school they are enrolled in. If a student requires additional support, they are enrolled in one of five Introductory English Centres (IEC) for intensive language teaching before transitioning back into their enrolled school.

(4) All ACT Government primary schools, secondary schools and colleges are eligible to accept international students.

Although international students are able to nominate their preferred school as part of the admissions process, enrolment in a school is only offered if the school has the capacity to accept a student. Further consideration is given to the residential address of the Homestay Program and their proximity to schools and the public transport network.

If a student is living with a parent/guardian approved by the Department of Home Affairs or is participating in the Family Friends or Relative Program, enrolment in a school is subject to the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) policy.

International students with a disability, who are dependents of temporary residents, are subject to specific assess and placement procedures prior to acceptance and admission to an appropriate school in the ACT.

- (5) Not all international students pay fees. The holders of certain visa subclasses may be eligible for fee exemption for temporary residents and their dependents to study in an ACT Government school. The enrolment of a student will be subject to the Priority Enrolment Area (PEA) policy.

Fee Exemptions for temporary residents and their dependents:

Visa Type	Criteria
Subclass 309 and 820 Partner Visa and Subclass 445 – Dependent Child	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence of Australian Citizenship • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
Subclass 403 – Temporary Work (international Relations) Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only bilateral agreements between the Commonwealth or ACT Government and a government of another country are eligible for fee exemption. Private company arrangements are liable for full international student tuition fees. • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Commonwealth or ACT Government Employment contract in the ACT, including the start and end date • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
Subclass 407 – Training Visa	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Letter of Offer from an Australian Tertiary Institution, or a Commonwealth or ACT Government Employment contract in the ACT, including the start and end date • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
Subclass 457 – Business (Long stay) & Subclass 489 Skilled Regional (Provisional)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please be advised that only the occupations listed on the Department of Home Affairs (https://www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Work/Work/Skills-assessment-and-assessing-authorities/skilled-occupations-lists/combined-stsol-mltssl) are eligible for fee exemption. • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Employment contract in the ACT, including the start and end date • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill

Visa Type	Criteria
Subclass 500 – Vocational Education & Training Sector Subclass 500 – Higher Education Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the dependents of Commonwealth assisted students, or dependents of students whose tuition fees are paid in full by a publicly funded Australian Higher Education Provider, physically located in the ACT are eligible for fee exemption. • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Letter of offer from the tertiary institution • Copy of your Confirmation of Enrolment (CoE) • Evidence of scholarship, including the start and end date • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
Subclass 500 – Postgraduate Research Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note that fee exemption applies only to the dependents of eligible students whose main course of study is a Masters degree by research or a Doctoral degree. Only the dependents of students who are enrolled in an Australian higher education provider, physically located in the ACT are eligible for fee exemption. • Copy of Passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Letter of offer from the university • Copy of your CoE • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
Subclass 500 – Foreign Affairs or Defence Sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Please note all accompanying family members must travel on a 500 dependent visa to be eligible for fee exemption. Only the dependents of students who are enrolled in an Australian Higher Education Provider, physically located in the ACT are eligible for fee exemption. • Copy of passport for the primary visa holder and dependent • Department of Home Affairs - Notification of grant for the primary visa holder and dependent • Evidence of Foreign Affairs/Defence scholarship, including the start and end date. CoE is not sufficient evidence • Proof of ACT residential address. Valid documentation includes a copy of a tenancy agreement (lease), electricity, water or gas bill
<p>Fee exempt students are only exempt from international student tuition fees. All other payments and voluntary contributions required by the school still apply.</p> <p>If applicants are not eligible for fee exemption, full international student tuition fees will apply for their dependents.</p>	

(5) (a), (b) and (c) All other international students are subject to the following fee schedules:

Tuition and administrative fees for mainstream schooling – Student Visa Subclass 500

School year	Amount
Years K - 6	\$11,100 per year, per student
Years 7 - 10	\$14,500 per year, per student
Years 11 - 12	\$16,200 per year, per student
A non-refundable application fee of \$265 per student is payable at the time of their initial application.	

Tuition and administrative fees for mainstream schooling – Dependents of temporary residents

School year	Amount
Years K - 6	\$11,100 per year, per student
Years 7 - 10	\$14,500 per year, per student
Years 11 - 12	\$16,200 per year, per student
A non-refundable application fee of \$265 per student is payable at the time of their initial application.	

Tuition and administrative fees for mainstream schooling – Short term

(The following fees and charges are for students studying in ACT Government schools as a short-term student. The study period for these charges is for 5-10 weeks only and the fees are scaled).

School year	Amount
Tuition and Administrative fee for 5 weeks	\$2365 per student
Tuition and Administrative fee for 6 weeks	\$2675 per student
Tuition and Administrative fee for 7 weeks	\$3165 per student
Tuition and Administrative fee for 8 weeks	\$3565 per student
Tuition and Administrative fee for 9 weeks	\$3965 per student
Tuition and Administrative fee for 10 weeks	\$4365 per student
A non-refundable application fee of \$250 per student is payable at the time of their initial application.	

- (6) The average number of years an international student studies in an ACT Government school is 2 years.

This accounts for 1493 full-fee students who completed studies in ACT Government schools between January 2010 and December 2017.

(7) International students receiving an Australian Tertiary Admission Ranking (ATAR)

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
Number of students receiving an ATAR	71	90	112	99	133

**Schools—social media
(Question No 1039)**

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

- (1) In relation to Chromebooks for secondary school students, will students be able to access social media on these Chromebooks.

- (2) Has the Government considered the risks and impact of addictive use of technology and social media; if so, what advice has the Minister sought or has the Directorate provided on how to address this problem; if not, what is the Government's position on these risks.
- (3) What strategies does the Government have for teaching students about cyber security.
- (4) What training sessions have been given to teachers and directorate staff.
- (5) If no training sessions have been given to teachers and directorate staff, will the Government require and provide training.
- (6) What role will teachers play in determining correct use of Chromebooks.

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

In designing the delivery of devices to ACT public schools, I established a School Education Advisory Committee (the committee) to review evidence, and research, and to advise on best practice for implementation. The committee comprised of stakeholders with a particular expertise in the use of technology in education - teachers, students, parents, academic experts and education administrators.

- (1) Chromebooks allocated to students under the initiative are managed like any other ICT asset provided by the Government to schools. The Territory's filtering software reduces the risk of accidental access to inappropriate online content at school. The filtering is age appropriate and allows limited access to social media depending upon the age of the student. Appropriate provisions are in place as per the Communities Online: Acceptable use of ICT – Parents and Students Guidelines. In addition, the parent information booklet developed as part of the initiative provides age appropriate guidance on how to keep students safe at home, including sensible social networking.
- (2) Chromebooks are being delivered to bridge the equity gap in access to technology for learning and complements the existing school Bring your Own Device (BYOD) programs already in place. It is common practice for students to bring devices into school to support their learning. In line with the committee's advice that schools maintain a balanced and pedagogy focused approach to ICT use, consistent with the Australian Curriculum, device usage has always been balanced and focused on educational best practice. Not all learning requires a device.
- (3) All Canberra public schools teach students about cyber safety and responsible online behaviour and provide information to their school community. The Office of the E-Safety Commissioner, in partnership with the ACT Education Directorate, delivers cyber safety programs to ACT schools and there are complementary resources on their website available for parents. Consistent with the committee's recommendation that guidelines include links to best practice digital citizenship programs, the website link is included, along with other guidance material, in the parent information booklet and is available on the Directorate's website.
- (4) The ACT Education Directorate is expanding its existing professional learning program to support schools. In addition to the current program featuring Google for Education quarterly workshops and annual Canberra Summit, the Directorate has sought input from schools and teachers to inform further professional learning priorities, which are being developed into a program for the duration of the initiative.
- (5) Additional professional learning opportunities will commence in Term 2, 2018.

- (6) Teachers apply well established existing practice in determining appropriate use of information technology in schools, relying on existing policies.
-

**Municipal services—street sweeping
(Question No 1040)**

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

- (1) How many street sweeping machines does the ACT (a) own, (b) lease and (c) contract to sweep ACT roads.
- (2) In relation to each category listed in part (1), how (a) many hours per day/week/year does each machine operate, (b) is the weekly/monthly/annual suburb schedule determined and (c) many days/weeks/months in advance are schedules determined.
- (3) What role does changing weather conditions have on the published schedule.
- (4) What is the annual budget for this service.

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

- (1) (a) Nil.
(b) The ACT Government currently leases six street sweeping vehicles.
(c) Nil.
 - (2) Street sweeping vehicles operate five days per week. Typical hours of operation total 8.5 hours per day per vehicle, but can vary seasonally.
 - (3) The published schedule is reflective of the leafier suburbs and greater leaf fall in Autumn and Winter.
 - (4) The typical annual cost of street sweeping is \$1.8 million.
-

**Parking—spaces
(Question No 1043)**

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

- (1) How many car parks are being provided at the off-leash dog park in Duffy.
- (2) What is the width of the individual car parks and how do they comply with parking and vehicular access codes that exist in the ACT.

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

- (1) There are 41 car spaces available at the Weston Creek Dog Park, Duffy. 21 spaces are line marked, including 3 accessible spaces.

- (2) Line marked spaces are approximately 2.5 metres wide in accordance with the Australian Standard - AS2890.1 Parking facilities off-street car parking. The balance of parking is not line marked, however will facilitate 20 spaces of approximately 2.5 metres in width.

ACT Policing—recruitment (Question No 1044)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many new recruits commenced into ACT Policing in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14, (e) 2014-15 and (f) 2015-16.
- (2) What were the dates of these recruitment rounds into ACT Policing in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14, (e) 2014-15 and (f) 2015-16.

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

ACT Policing records show the following number of police recruits attested and commenced duties with ACT Policing between 2010 and 2016:

Financial Year	Dates of attestation	Police graduates commencing with ACT Policing
2010 – 2011	02/07/2010, 30/07/2010 x 2, 28/04/2011	103
2011 – 2012	28/11/2011	23
2012 – 2013	30/07/2012, 17/09/2012, 08/12/2012	89
2013 – 2014	26/08/2013, 09/12/2013 x 3	77
2014 – 2015	28/06/2014 x 4	64
2015 - 2016	20/06/2015 x 2, 17/08/2015 x 2, 25/01/2016	83

Crime—ACT Crime Stoppers hotline (Question No 1045)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many calls have been made to the ACT Crime Stoppers hotline during operating hours in 2017-18 to date.
- (2) What is the average number of calls received in 2017-18 to date.
- (3) How many calls were not initially answered of all the calls made to ACT Crime Stoppers in 2017-18 to date.
- (4) How many FTE staff are employed in the ACT Crime Stoppers call centre.
- (5) How many staff are rostered during different times and days of the week.

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

- (1&2) In the current financial year-to-date, 8054 calls have been made to the ACT Crime Stoppers hotline, averaging 805 calls per month.
- (3) Calls to Crime Stoppers are to provide confidential information rather than an immediate policing response. In the event that a Crime Stoppers call is not answered on first presentation, it is transferred to an automated message bank. In the current financial year to date, 2048 Crime Stoppers calls were not answered on first presentation. The community can have confidence these messages are reviewed on a regular basis to ensure the information is actioned in a timely manner.
- (4&5) ACT Crime Stoppers, 131 444 and Triple Zero telephone calls are received by ACT Policing Operations. ACT Policing Operations operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. On average, one team of two supervisors and eight team members are rostered as radio operators and/or call takers. Overlapping of teams occurs during peak periods, during which time up to four supervisors and 16 team members are rostered as radio operators and/or call takers.

ACT Policing—staffing (Question No 1049)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

How many sworn officers (FTE) were moved from ACT Policing to AFP National in (a) 2010-11, (b) 2011-12, (c) 2012-13, (d) 2013-14, (e) 2014-15, (f) 2016-17 and (g) 2017-18 to date.

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

The ACT Government contracts the Australian Federal Police (AFP) to provide for a minimum number of FTEs.

As ACT Policing advises, resources fluctuate throughout the year due to mobility between ACT Policing and AFP National Operations. This occurs for a number of reasons including attrition and the timing and commencement of recruits. Mobility also helps develop and further the skills and knowledge of ACT Policing members.

I am also advised by ACT Policing that considering resources through the lens of frontline or sworn officers is not an accurate reflection of ACT Policing capabilities. For example, non-sworn members of ACT Policing support, direct and influence ACT Policing's flexible and nimble responses to a range of complex issues; with a focus on prevention, disruption and response.

Additionally, Canberra is in a unique position because ACT Policing are able to call on resources from the broader AFP as operational requirements arise. This includes Specialist Response Group and K9 capabilities, which in the past have been included within FTE counts.

**ACT Ambulance Service—crews
(Question No 1051)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

On how many occasions, broken down by area, did ACT Fire and Rescue crews respond to emergency situations on behalf of ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) when ACTAS crews were not immediately available to respond in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.

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

I am advised that to answer the Member's question would require the ACT Emergency Service Agency (ESA) to analyse each incident individually. This would take a considerable amount of staff time and resources to answer, and unreasonably redirect ESA personnel away from important service delivery functions.

**ACT Policing—staffing
(Question No 1053)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

In relation to the answer to Question on Notice No 4 (2) for the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety's Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2016-17, the Minister stated that "Overall FTE numbers at the end of each financial year indicate there were 719 sworn police officers in 2010-11, versus 687 in 2016-17." The 2016-17 ACT Policing Annual Report states that there were 684 sworn FTE officers (including three sworn protective officers - See Table H.2, p.48.). What is the reason for the discrepancy between the Minister's answer and the statistics provided in the annual report.

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

In preparing a response this question, I have become aware of an error in an answer I had provided to a Question on Notice to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety inquiry into the Annual and Financial Reports 2016-17.

In answering Question on Notice Number 4(2), the number of sworn officers within ACT Policing had been incorrectly transcribed as 687 rather than the 684 figure that is derived from Table H.2 on page 48 of the ACT Policing Annual Report.

I apologise to the Assembly and the Members of the Standing Committee for this transcribing error. I also thank Mrs Jones for bringing this to my attention.

As the Legislative Assembly is not sitting, answering this Question on Notice is the first opportunity I have to correct the record.

I reiterate that the Government remains committed to working with ACT Policing to keep Canberra safe as our city grows.

We have provided over \$8 million in funding for new initiatives in the most recent budget.

I also reiterate the Chief Police Officer's advice that considering resourcing through the lens of frontline or sworn officers is not an accurate reflection of ACT Policing capabilities.

Canberra is also in a unique position because ACT Policing are able to call on resources from the broader AFP as operational priorities require.

Energy—solar (Question No 1055)

Ms Lawder asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability*):

- (1) Have there been any recent changes to how solar panel feed in payments are paid to householders; if so, what changes have been made.
- (2) How were these changes communicated to householders.
- (3) What has been the effect of these changes on individual households.

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

There have been no recent changes to the payment amount or method for households who are receiving the ACT Government supported solar feed in tariff. The Government supported feed in tariff scheme has closed to new entrants. Households who participate in the Government supported scheme must have applied by 13 July 2011 and installed their solar panels by 31 December 2016 to be eligible to receive the ACT Government supported feed in tariff.

Householders who are not paid the ACT Government supported feed in tariff may be paid a feed in tariff by their electricity retailer. Electricity retailers offer these solar feed in tariffs on a voluntary basis as part of their electricity tariff product offerings to customers.

Retailer supported feed in tariffs are set at a rate determined by retailers and are not regulated by the ACT Government. These rates may change from time to time at the discretion of the retailer. Electricity retailers are required under national energy laws and rules to advise customers of any changes to their retail tariff, which may include changes to their feed in tariff.

Crime—Gungahlin (Question No 1058)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Concerning crime rates in Yerrabi given that in January 2017 it was reported that crime rates in Gungahlin have risen by 16% with more than 728 crimes reported in 2016 than the year prior. Do you deny that there is an issue with crime in our suburbs.

- (2) Can you provide data on the relatively new suburbs of Moncreiff, Jacka, Bonner and Casey with regards to crimes that impact household such as burglary, theft and property damage and car theft.
- (3) When will the Government adequately resource police to protect and prevent crime in the ACT given Canberra has the lowest number of police per capita in the country and the slowest Police investigations process.
- (4) Can the Minister confirm the number of police on shift at the Gungahlin Police station at any given time.

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

Your question contains several assumptions it is important to correct.

- (1) Gungahlin is a rapidly developing region of the ACT with a growing population and evolving demographic profile. The ACT Government and ACT Policing are working together to ensure police are equipped in terms of resourcing and equipment, effective use of technology and legislative reform.

It is instructive to review the crime trends in the ACT over the last ten years. Homicide is down by 70%, burglaries are down by 30%, motor vehicle theft is down by almost 20% and property damage is down by almost 40%. Also of note, over the same ten year period, the ACT's population has increased by about 13%. Short term crime rates fluctuate in the ACT, but over the longer term it is clear that crime rates are dropping.

- (2) Data relating to crime statistics, including by suburb, are available on the ACT Policing website at www.police.act.gov.au
- (3) The ACT Government continues to invest in ACT Policing to ensure it has the appropriate resources, equipment, facilities, technology and legislative tools available to deliver quality policing services to the community, as outlined in the *Agreement between the ACT Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Australian Federal Police Commissioner, and the Chief Police Officer for the ACT for the provision of policing services to the Australian Capital Territory 2017-2021*.

In addition, the ACT Government has invested \$2.1 million to review current operating models and infrastructure to enable future planning for policing in the ACT. The Chief Police Officer (CPO) has indicated that the issue of resourcing is not simply about numbers, it is more complex than that. A body of work called *Policing for Tomorrow's ACT* is being developed to provide advice and options on the future needs of ACT Policing so that it remains a high performing law enforcement capability. The \$2.1 million is part of the \$8.8 million provided in the 2017-18 budget for new initiatives.

- (4) The Gungahlin Police Station establishment structure consists of 39 members. The station's rostered shift strength is one supervisor and five team members. Teams overlap during peak periods and specialist policing resources augment community policing numbers in line with operational requirements. Members from other areas within ACT Policing can be utilised if required.

**Sport—ground maintenance
(Question No 1059)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Concerning the synthetic surface used on the Gold Creek School sporting ground as I have been contacted by local residents, parents and family members who are concerned about both the state of the synthetic sporting oval surface and the actual substance that is used to top up this ground, Minister are you aware of the top up material used on the Gold Creek School sporting oval is known as rubber crumb and do you acknowledge that rubber crumb contains an array of toxic substances.
- (2) Can the Minister confirm that adequate information has been reviewed about this material prior to its installation and that this has been made available to the communities in which it is present.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a Safety Data Sheet for rubber crumb.
- (4) How much does rubber crumb cost in comparison to other natural materials both in terms of initial purchase and ongoing maintenance costs.
- (5) Can the Minister confirm that this sporting oval is due to be replaced in two years' time; if so, what materials will be in the new surface to ensure reduced risk both to users and the broader environment.

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

- (1) The crumbed rubber is sourced from recycled car tyres which have been used in synthetic sports fields for nearly 20 years. The synthetic "SBR" rubber is made by bringing together various chemicals to make polymers into rubber latex and plastics. This process is used for many products such as shoes, toys and other products that are handled and used daily, as well as commercial products including rubber matting and vehicle tyres. The safety of SBR as a playing field surface is demonstrated by independent research conducted by the Washington State Department of Health and the University of Washington School of Public Health which investigated the safety of the infill in response to heightened public concern in 2016-17.
- (2) Please see attached.
- (3) No Safety Data Sheet is available for the specific product at Nicholls due to its age. However, all new or upgraded facilities will meet current standards and will have a Safety Data Sheet available.
- (4) Organic forms of infill are around 30% higher in initial cost than rubber infill. Synthetic sports surfaces are approximately 20% cheaper to maintain than natural grass per hour of use.
- (5) Any new surface will utilise the latest synthetic technology and ensure the highest standards of health and safety and environmental sustainability.

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

Parking—infringements (Question No 1060)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) Are mobile enforcement vans targeting parking near schools such as Palmerston Primary School around peak pick up and drop off.
- (2) Why are infringement notices being issued for parking on verges when there is insufficient parking options available given Access Canberra has stated that when parking on verges presents no danger or access issues that they would choose not to issue infringement notices.
- (3) How many parking infringement notices have been issued on Kosciusko Avenue in Palmerston in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.
- (4) How many parking infringement notices have been issued on the main artery roads that connect to Kosciusko Avenue in Palmerston in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.
- (5) How much revenue has parking infringements issued in Palmerston generated in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.
- (6) Will any of the revenue from parking fines be reinvested into providing improved parking to local schools and businesses in areas such as Palmerston based on the fact the ACT Government raised more than \$10 million dollars in revenue from parking fines last year.
- (7) How much did the Government spend on maintaining local infrastructure and community facilities in Palmerston in (a) 2016 and (b) 2017.

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

- (1) Yes, mobile enforcement vans are targeting parking near schools at peak times across the ACT.

The ACT Government takes pedestrian safety seriously and Parking Operations has been tasked with attending ACT Schools during peak pick up and drop off times in order to protect our community's most vulnerable road users.

Parking inspectors are checking to see if there are any vehicles parking on the nature strip causing line of sight issues or illegally parked on the street and taking appropriate action consistent with the Parking Compliance Framework.

Parking Operations makes regular patrols through residential suburban areas of Canberra, as well as responding to specific complaints (including from concerned parents and school principals) about vehicles that may be illegally or dangerously parked in and around school zones.

- (2) Parking Operations operates on a risk-based compliance model. The risk-based compliance approach enables the targeting of resources to those areas where they are most needed and will be most effective.

This approach involves a series of steps to identify and assess risks and to then apply the most appropriate regulatory tool to control the risk. This means that resource allocation and enforcement responses are determined based on priorities determined through risk assessment.

For example, vehicles causing line of sight issues or blocked footpaths near school zones are prioritised as they can force parents and young children to walk on rough and uneven ground or the road if they are blocked by cars.

- (3) (a) 2
(b) 26
- (4) (a) The Pinforce database used by Parking Operations is unable to break down 'road related' infringements (which are infringements issued to offending vehicles illegally parked on nature strips) into individual streets within a suburb.
(b) As above
- (5) (a) \$476.00
(b) \$3604.00
- (6) The revenue received from parking fines is included as part of consolidated revenue which may provide improved parking to local schools and businesses.
- (7) Maintenance costs for local infrastructure and community facilities are not broken down to suburb level. The breakdown for Gungahlin Region is as follows:

Gungahlin Maintenance Costs*

	(a) 2016 Calendar Year	(b) 2017 Calendar Year
Asset Maintenance	\$138,815	\$95,407
Cleaning	\$238,900	\$226,787
Horticultural Maintenance	\$211,151	\$245,209
Litter Removal	\$267,920	\$288,735
Mowing	\$762,200	\$930,930
Sports & Facilities Management	\$643,540	\$424,801
Urban Tree Maintenance	\$377,725	\$372,799
Weed Control	\$145,986	\$244,154
Total	\$2,786,238	\$2,828,821

* Breakdown of maintenance costs by suburbs is not available

**Waste—smart bins
(Question No 1061)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister explain why there are not bins in the major playgrounds around Moncrieff.

- (2) Would the Minister consider installing smart bins to the smaller playgrounds and open communal areas in Moncrieff.
- (3) Are smart bins going to be implemented in any other locations around Canberra following completion of the trail in Campbell and Molonglo.
- (4) What is the cost of maintaining a smart bin on an annual basis as opposed to the traditional bin system.

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

- (1) Rubbish bins are not provided at all playgrounds across Canberra. Bins are generally provided in high use parks and other locations such as sporting fields. The Moncrieff Recreation Community Park has several bins located at the entrances to the park.
- (2) No. Where bins are not provided, there is an expectation that users will take their rubbish with them to dispose of responsibly.
- (3) The trial of solar powered compacting bins (smart bins) at Link Park in Wright, Section 5 Campbell and East Lake Parade Kingston Foreshore is complete. These three bins remain at the trial sites, however there are no plans to install smart bins at any other locations at this time. TCCS is continuing to investigate the benefits of the sensor technology used in the solar powered compacting bins. The sensor technology is being trialled in traditional bins.
- (4) The costs of managing solar powered compacting bins with smart technology will vary over the life of the bin, dependent upon factors such as the location, collection frequency and type of use. As a guide, the cost comparisons from the trial in 2016-17 are:
 - The cost of purchase, installation and first year of repair and maintenance of traditional 240 litre plastic bin is \$170.
 - The cost of purchase, installation and first year of repair and maintenance of traditional 240 plastic bin with metal shroud is \$2,600.
 - The cost of purchase, installation and first year of repair and maintenance of solar powered compacting (smart bin) is \$8,250.
 - The cost of emptying traditional bins, bins with metal shrouds and smart bins averages \$700 per bin per annum.

While small savings might be realised at times by having to service compactor bins in isolated locations less frequently, overall this would not offset the higher installation and maintenance costs of the solar powered compacting (smart) bins over the life of the bin.

Schools—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (Question No 1062)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many indigenous students are enrolled at each ACT Government School.
- (2) What is the breakdown of indigenous students by (a) gender and (b) year level at each ACT Government School.

- (3) Are there any schools in the ACT with more than 40 (a) male and (b) female indigenous students.

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

- (1) Table 1 lists the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in ACT public schools at the February 2018 census of ACT schools.

Table 1: Numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students enrolled in ACT public schools at the February 2018 census of ACT schools^{1,2}

<i>School Name</i>	<i>Number of students</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>Number of students</i>
Ainslie School	16	Kaleen Primary School	12
Alfred Deakin High School	19	Kingsford Smith School	83
Amaroo School	43	Lake Tuggeranong College	33
Aranda Primary School	7	Lanyon High School	26
Arawang Primary School	15	Latham Primary School	8
Belconnen High School	14	Lyneham High School	25
Black Mountain School	7	Lyneham Primary School	11
Bonython Primary School	24	Lyons Early Childhood School	7
Calwell High School	17	Macgregor Primary School	29
Calwell Primary School	12	Macquarie Primary School	17
Campbell High School	29	Majura Primary School	13
Campbell Primary School	10	Malkara School	5
Canberra College, The	53	Maribyrnong Primary School	8
Canberra High School	25	Mawson Primary School	14
Caroline Chisholm School	63	Melba Copland Secondary School	40
Chapman Primary School	13	Melrose High School	39
Charles Conder Primary School	12	Miles Franklin Primary School	6
Charles Weston School	16	Monash Primary School	18
Charnwood-Dunlop School	20	Mount Rogers Primary School	30
Cranleigh School	11	Mount Stromlo High School	21
Curtin Primary School	13	Namadgi School	96
Dickson College	14	Narrabundah College	7
Duffy Primary School	12	Narrabundah Early Childhood School	45
Erindale College	43	Neville Bonner Primary School	17
Evatt Primary School	20	Ngunnawal Primary School	53
Fadden Primary School	9	North Ainslie Primary School	18
Farrer Primary School	13	O'Connor Cooperative School	np
Florey Primary School	17	Palmerston District Primary School	16
Forrest Primary School	18	Red Hill Primary School	17
Fraser Primary School	24	Richardson Primary School	38
Garran Primary School	np	Southern Cross Early Childhood School	6
Gilmore Primary School	23	Taylor Primary School	15
Giralang Primary School	8	Telopea Park School	23
Gold Creek School	50	Theodore Primary School	36
Gordon Primary School	21	Torrens Primary School	12
Gowrie Primary School	11	Turner School	9
Gungahlin College	28	University of Canberra High School Kaleen	19
Harrison School	48	University of Canberra Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra	18
Hawker College	15	Wanniassa Hills Primary School	16
Hawker Primary School	8	Wanniassa School	62

Hughes Primary School	np	Weetangera Primary School	10
Isabella Plains Early Childhood School	7	Woden School, The	10
Jervis Bay School	51	Yarralumla Primary School	15
		Public school total	1,887

¹. Includes a small number of students who attend more than one school

². Enrolment counts less than four have been suppressed (np) to prevent release of identifiable statistics
np = not published.

(2) Tables 2 to 4 list the numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by gender and schooling level (primary, high and college) enrolled in ACT public schools at the February 2018 census of ACT schools. Due to the small numbers of enrolments at many schools the statistics have been provided at schooling level rather than year level to prevent inadvertent release of identifiable statistics.

Table 2: Numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by gender enrolled in ACT public primary schools at the February 2018 census of ACT schools ^{1,2,3}

<i>School name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>School name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Ainslie School	7	9	Kingsford Smith School	30	30
Amaroo School	18	13	Latham Primary School	np	np
Aranda Primary School	np	np	Lyneham Primary School	7	4
Arawang Primary School	6	9	Lyons Early Childhood School	np	np
Bonython Primary School	13	11	Macgregor Primary School	14	15
Calwell Primary School	7	5	Macquarie Primary School	8	9
Campbell Primary School	6	4	Majura Primary School	9	4
Caroline Chisholm School	18	16	Malkara School	4	np
Chapman Primary School	10	np	Maribyrnong Primary School	np	np
Charles Conder Primary School	4	8	Mawson Primary School	9	5
Charles Weston School	9	7	Miles Franklin Primary School	np	np
Charnwood-Dunlop School	10	10	Monash Primary School	11	7
Cranleigh School	8	np	Mount Rogers Primary School	12	18
Curtin Primary School	7	6	Namadgi School	37	37
Duffy Primary School	8	4	Narrabundah Early Childhood School	23	22
Evatt Primary School	14	6	Neville Bonner Primary School	10	7
Fadden Primary School	np	np	Ngunnawal Primary School	40	23
Farrer Primary School	8	5	North Ainslie Primary School	10	8
Florey Primary School	12	5	O'Connor Cooperative School	np	np
Forrest Primary School	14	4	Palmerston District Primary School	8	8
Fraser Primary School	8	16	Red Hill Primary School	8	9
Garran Primary School	np	np	Richardson Primary School	18	20
Gilmore Primary School	16	7	Southern Cross Early Childhood School	np	np
Giralang Primary School	np	np	Taylor Primary School	11	4
Gold Creek School	14	11	Telopea Park School	np	np
Gordon Primary School	8	13	Theodore Primary School	21	15
Gowrie Primary School	np	np	Torrens Primary School	7	5
Harrison School	15	13	Turner School	5	4
Hawker Primary School	4	4	Wanniassa Hills Primary School	8	8
Hughes Primary School	na	np	Wanniassa School	29	17
Isabella Plains Early Childhood School	np	np	Weetangera Primary School	4	6

<i>School name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>School name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Jervis Bay School	22	29	Yarralumla Primary School	9	6
Kaleen Primary School	7	5			
			Total primary schools	675	541

- ^{1.} Includes a small number of students who attend more than one school
 - ^{2.} Enrolment counts less than four have been suppressed (np) to prevent release of identifiable statistics
 - ^{3.} Includes students reported as indeterminate/intersex/unspecified Small random adjustments made to the male/female cell values to prevent release of identifiable statistics
- np = not published.

Table 3: Numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by gender enrolled in ACT public high schools at the February 2018 census of ACT schools ^{1,2,3}

<i>School Name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>	<i>School Name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Alfred Deakin High School	7	12	Kingsford Smith School	8	15
Amaroo School	np	np	Lake Tuggeranong College	np	np
Belconnen High School	10	4	Lanyon High School	16	10
Black Mountain School	np	np	Lyneham High School	11	14
Calwell High School	8	9	Melba Copland Secondary School	7	23
Campbell High School	16	13	Melrose High School	22	16
Canberra High School	8	17	Mount Stromlo High School	12	9
Caroline Chisholm School	15	14	Namadgi School	13	9
Dickson College	np	np	Telopea Park School	10	11
Erindale College	np	np	University of Canberra High School Kaleen	9	10
Gold Creek School	16	9	Wanniassa School	8	8
Harrison School	11	9	Woden School, The	np	np
			Total high schools	224	222

- ^{1.} Includes a small number of students who attend more than one school
 - ^{2.} Enrolment counts less than four have been suppressed (np) to prevent release of identifiable statistics
 - ^{3.} Includes students reported as indeterminate/intersex/unspecified Small random adjustments made to the male/female cell values to prevent release of identifiable statistics
- np = not published.

Table 4: Numbers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students by gender enrolled in ACT public colleges at the February 2018 census of ACT schools ^{1,2,3}

<i>School Name</i>	<i>Males</i>	<i>Females</i>
Black Mountain School	np	np
Canberra College, The	14	39
Dickson College	6	7
Erindale College	18	23
Gungahlin College	12	16
Hawker College	9	6
Lake Tuggeranong College	15	16
Melba Copland Secondary School	4	6
Narrabundah College	np	np
University of Canberra Senior Secondary College Lake Ginninderra	7	10
Woden School, The	np	np
Total colleges	91	130

- ^{1.} Includes a small number of students who attend more than one school
 - ^{2.} Enrolment counts less than four have been suppressed (np) to prevent release of identifiable statistics
 - ^{3.} Includes students reported as indeterminate/intersex/unspecified Small random adjustments made to the male/female cell values to prevent release of identifiable statistics
- np = not published

(3)

a) At February 2018 census, there were 50 male Aboriginal and Torres Strait students at Namadgi School across preschool to year 10.

b) At February 2018 census, there were 45 female Aboriginal and Torres Strait students at Kingsford Smith School and 46 female Aboriginal and Torres Strait students at Namadgi School across preschool to year 10.

Schools—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students (Question No 1063)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Which schools have Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officers.
- (2) What is the percentage of time each Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officer spends at their respective schools.
- (3) What do you attribute the comparatively low rate of year 12 completions at 73 per cent with retention rates for indigenous students from year 7 to year 12 at 98.8 per cent in 2016.
- (4) What measures and investment is being put in place to increase year 12 completion.

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

- (1) The Education Directorate employs 10 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Officers (IEO) who are based across 11 ACT Government schools and more broadly across the four school networks. From their base schools, IEOs also support their local cluster of schools by connecting with students and staff. They also facilitate and support local school based programs and initiatives as well as system wide activities such as the Buroinjin carnivals. The schools are:

South/Weston

- Melrose High School

Tuggeranong

- Caroline Chisholm School, Wanniasa School, Richardson Primary School, Namadgi School

North/Gungahlin

- Amaroo School, Harrison School, Ngunnawal Primary School

Belconnen

- Melba Copland Secondary School, Macquarie Primary School, Macgregor Primary School

- (2) Estimating a specific percentage of time spent at school by each IEO is not recorded.
- (3) It is not possible to accurately compare year 12 completion and the year 7 to 12 apparent retention rate, as they are two separate measures which are based on different cohorts of students. The apparent retention rate is inflated by cross border enrolment

into ACT colleges of students who have completed year 10 in NSW. In addition, some students who commence year 7 in the ACT may move to another jurisdiction before reaching year 12.

- (4) Colleges and high schools collaborate closely to provide relevant and timely orientation and transition programs for all students. Each high school and college has an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education contact teacher, a student services/support team and a pastoral care program. Students are also able to access Transitions and Careers Officers and Work Experience Coordinators at each school.

The Education Directorate provides several system wide programs and initiatives:

- The Mura Awards are open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in years 10 and 11, providing students with a small bursary to assist with educational expenses relating to such things as book packs, excursions and uniforms.
- The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Secondary Scholarship Program is available for years 11 and 12 students interested in a career in teaching, the health field or a vocational pathway.
- Pathways is an award winning ACT government website containing three plans: the 5-6 Plan, Pathways Plan and 11-12 Plan. The Plans aim to assist young people with their career planning and support them in times of transition. Every young person in the ACT is invited to take the opportunity to develop their own personalised plan on Pathways.
- A new approach to Cultural Integrity in schools, as I outlined in my Ministerial Statement, will also support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student engagement.

Environment—carbon emissions (Question No 1066)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How will effectiveness of changing peoples' perceptions and habits be measured in relation to the Community Zero Emissions grants as a result of the (a) \$25 000 grant to The Neighbourhood Effect to develop a free, interactive smartphone app and website to encourage the use of sustainable lifestyle habits, products and initiatives, (b) \$24 785 grant to Unions ACT to establish a deep-engagement program to recognise and promote positive changes to reduce carbon emissions in the workplace and home, (c) \$24 200 grant to Canberra Environment Centre to purchase a solar powered composter to service the Acton community's composting needs, (d) \$23 000 grant to Woden Community Service to train young people to fix and build bicycles which will then be donated to disadvantaged members of the community, (e) \$22 160 grant to SEE Change to engage project home builders and developers to build more sustainably and promote living with a smaller environmental footprint and (f) \$21 550 grant to Australian Dance Party to change perceptions and behaviours through a dance, short film and community awareness campaign.
- (2) What are the details of the deep-engagement program facilitated by Unions ACT and when (a) did this engagement program commence and (b) does this engagement program cease.

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

- (1) The application form for Round One of the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program required applicants to set objectives for their projects, set targets for outcomes indicating the success of their projects and outline their methods of evaluating the effectiveness of their projects.

Applications for the Community Zero Emission Grants were assessed by a four person panel made up of Penny Sackett from the Climate Change Council, Stephen Bygrave, Executive Director Climate Change and Sustainability, Anna McGuire, Policy Officer, Climate Change and Sustainability and Emma Humphreys, Manager Actsmart Low Income and Community Programs.

The panel assessed applications against several selection criteria including community engagement, generation of new knowledge and information and whether a project directly reduced emissions. In addition, the panel assessed how well projects demonstrated innovative solutions to assist the community to transition to net zero emissions in key sectors identified in the guidelines, clear project management and value for money. The information provided below is based on the application submitted for each project.

- (a) The success of the Neighbourhood Effect (NE) project will be evaluated by using the following methods:
- User benchmarking survey,
 - Energy usage and billing data;
 - Users' self-reporting/logging of actions taken while using the app;
 - Users' purchase of recommended products and services through digital tagging;
 - Extent of users' engagement with app content, with each other, and the frequency and type of app content they share; and
 - Qualitative interviews with selected users and user feedback forms.
- (b) Unions ACT has withdrawn their application for funding for the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program, however the application for the Climate Champions project submitted by Unions ACT included a planned audit process at the beginning, middle and end of the project, and included participant surveys.
- (c) The Canberra Environment Centre (CEC) will measure success of the Canberra Community Compost project against education objectives by the number of people attending workshops and information sessions and the number of people engaged with their online campaign.
- (d) The Woden Community Service project, ReBike, will be evaluated twice during the project. Once at the mid-point of the project and then towards the end of the funded portion of the project in late 2018. Qualitative evaluation will be conducted via a number of methods including Survey Monkey, one to one interviews, evaluation forms completed at workshops and small focus groups. Quantitative evaluation will be via ongoing collection of data including numbers of bikes 'adopted', workshops held, donations received and volunteers recruited (including turnover).

- (e) The success of the SEE-Change project, Sustainable Demonstration Home Education will be evaluated 6 months after the launch of the house opening, by monitoring:
- The number of attendees at workshops during the construction phase.
 - The amount of media received when the house is officially launched.
 - The numbers of visitors attending the house tours.
 - The amount of media occurring in local and national media over the 6 months after the launch.
 - The number of queries from visitors and others asking for more information and details.
- (2) The Unions ACT project, Climate Champions, which was successful in Round One of the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program, proposed to support members of the workforce to take on leadership roles in reducing emissions in their workplaces. The initiative proposed to establish and run engagement and education through informative learning resources, webinars, workshops, small group sessions and through a competition. It intended to provide participants with resources and support to implement innovative behaviour-based strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in their workplace.

Unions ACT withdrew their application for funding on 21 February 2018. The project has not commenced and will not be funded by Round One of the Community Zero Emissions Grants Program.

OzHarvest Food Rescue Expansion Canberra (ACT)

The withdrawal for the funding application from Unions ACT allowed for the allocation of \$25,000 of funding for OzHarvest Limited to deliver the project OzHarvest Food Rescue Expansion Canberra (ACT). This project aims to:

- Increase capacity for storing and redistributing up to 60,000 kilograms of quality, surplus food (equivalent of 180,000 meals) per annum.
- Increase the number of food donors (up to 4 additional food donors), and the number of vulnerable people receiving nutritious food (up to 1,000 people) per annum.
- Reduce carbon emissions through diverting quality food from landfill, by up to 120,000 Kilograms per annum.

The effectiveness of the project will be measured through quantitative and qualitative data that is collected through Food Rescue software used by OzHarvest Drivers. The Food Rescue Program is measured by recording and reporting outputs from vehicles, including: the number of meals collected and delivered each month, the number of charitable agencies food is delivered to, the number of people assisted through this food and the nutritional content of food. Outputs are used to determine food run design efficiency to ensure that optimal, nutritional, surplus food is being collected and redistributed to agencies supporting vulnerable people in need.

The number of food donors and recipient charities (new and past) are also recorded through the software program (Crittah) and are tracked by logistics staff to ensure that OzHarvest are operating effectively. The kilograms of greenhouse gases saved through the Food Rescue Program are calculated and monitored, as emission reduction is key to the Program.

Feedback is also obtained from food donors and recipient charities through surveys pre and post involvement in the food rescue program. This information is used to change and improve the Program, maximising efficiency and customer service.

**Waste—recycling
(Question No 1067)**

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

- (1) What financial implications will Chinese refusal to accept 24 categories of recyclables have upon the ACT's kerbside recycling.
- (2) Will the refusal translate to higher costs associated with the Yellow Bin collections; if so, how much and will this increased cost impact ACT rate payers; if not, why not.
- (3) Will the refusal lead to previously recyclable goods now being redirected to landfill; if so, which categories of recyclable goods and what weight of each category.
- (4) Will the refusal force changes to the ACT Waste Feasibility Study; if so, how.
- (5) When will the ACT Waste Feasibility Study be released.

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

- (1) The Hume Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) operator, Re.Goup, primarily sells its recyclables (commodities) into domestic markets. This includes the paper and cardboard which is the main material impacted by the China import restrictions. While domestic prices in some commodity markets have been impacted by the China import restrictions, it is expected that any short-term cost pressures will be managed within existing budget funding.
 - (2) There is no change to household recycling bin collections or to the cost of those collections. The cost of the kerbside collection service by SUEZ is set by contract, and is not affected by the sale of the sorted recyclable material from the MRF.
 - (3) No. Re.Group's existing commodity sale agreements are within domestic markets.
 - (4) The China import restrictions do not change the recommendations of the Waste Feasibility Study. With over 250,000 tonnes of waste sent to landfill in the ACT each year, the Study has identified a wide range of opportunities for waste minimisation and resource recovery.
 - (5) The outcomes of the Study are expected to be announced in the near future, followed by consultation with the community and industry.
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**Multicultural affairs—community language grants program
(Question No 1068)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In 2017-18, 42 out of a total of 51 community language schools in the ACT received financial support as determined by the ACT Community Languages School Association. Which 9 schools did not receive financial support, and what is the reason for not receiving financial support.
- (2) In 2017-18, \$90 per eligible student was provided as an annual grant to community language schools. What criteria determines a student to be eligible for such funding and are students who reside in (a) NSW or (b) the ACT but attend a community language school in NSW considered eligible.
- (3) Is funding given to community language schools in cases where the school has already been granted funding by the NSW government; if so, which schools have been granted funding and how much funding has been given in 2017-18; if not, will the Government consider granting funding for community language schools who seek additional financial support.

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

- (1) In 2017-18, out of the nine community language schools that did not receive financial support, three schools and one playgroup did not apply for funding:
 - i. Alliance Francaise de Canberra;
 - ii. Canberra Japanese Supplementary High School;
 - iii. Samoan Language School; and
 - iv. Les Petite Etoiles French Language Playgroup.

Five additional schools joined the ACT Community Languages School Association (ACTCLSA) after May 2017 when funding applications for the 2017 school year, closed.

The five new members are:

- i. Civic-Arabic Language School (rejoined 12 July 2017);
- ii. Tongan Association School (joined 12 July 2017);
- iii. TACA Mandarin Language School (joined 29 August 2017);
- iv. Dositej Serbian Language School (joined 8 December 2017); and
- v. Monaro Portuguese School (joined 19 February 2018).

All these school will be eligible for funding for the current school year.

- (2) Students must be Australian permanent residents or citizens and attend a community language school that is a financial member of the ACTCLSA to be eligible for the \$90 annual grant.
- (2a&b) Students residing in NSW or the ACT attending a community language school in NSW are eligible for financial support if the school is a financial member of ACTCLSA.
- (3) No ACT Government funding is provided to community language schools in NSW that are receiving NSW Government funding.

The ACTCLSA has one community language school member with a campus in Queanbeyan. This member has not applied for, and does not receive, NSW Government funding.

The ACT Government has no intention of changing the current arrangement of funding community language schools through ACTCLSA.

Domestic and family violence—government initiatives (Question No 1069)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What online and/or print resources directed towards families before crisis or breakdown does the ACT Government make available with information designed to help strengthen families and/or make them more resilient and how can each of these be accessed.
- (2) Does the ACT Government offer any educational programs, seminars, training or other similar services designed to help strengthen families and/or make them more resilient and how can each of these be accessed.
- (3) What other services, if any, does the ACT Government provide to help strengthen families and/or make them more resilient before a crisis or breakdown can occur.

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

The Australian Government provides assistance to help families manage relationship issues under Family Law Services.

The Family Relationships Online website, an Australian Government initiative, serves as a place to find out about the services that can assist families manage relationship issues. The website also contains information about:

- Dealing with relationship difficulties;
- Going through separation;
- Children and parenting after separation;
- Dealing with family and domestic violence;
- Who to talk to about family relationship issues; and
- Finding family relationship services in your area.

Further information on the services available to support individuals affected by relationship or separation issues can be at www.familyrelationships.gov.au.

Additionally, the ACT Government funds a range of programs which support children and families, with a focus on parenting. Further information on these supports is below:

(1) ParentLink

The ACT Government's ParentLink program is a parenting information program designed to increase confidence and skills in parents and caregivers.

The Community Services Directorate facilitates the dissemination of the ParentLink suite of resources, which comprises over 70 parenting guides (parenting fact sheets) across topics such as childhood development, raising toddlers, issues relating to young people and family issues.

ParentLink is delivered under a licensing agreement with the South Australian Government. ParentLink parenting guides are available in printed form and online. They can be accessed via the ParentLink website at www.ParentLink.act.gov.

ParentLink is aware of the importance of the early years and maintains a presence of printed material in early childhood education and care centres, schools, Child and Family Centres and Health Clinics. There are sites for ParentLink printed material across the Territory, in both government and non-government organisations.

ParentLink has had great success in reaching Canberran parents. In 2016-17, there were over 74,333 visits to the ParentLink website. During the same period, over 22,450 paper based parenting guides were distributed across the ACT.

ACT Health provides all new parents with a My Personal Health Record (the Blue Book). The Blue Book includes valuable health information and links to external support services such as ParentLink.

(2) Child and Family Centres

The early years of a child's life set the foundation for their future health, development and learning. The Child and Family Centres (the Centres) are a 'one-stop-shop' supporting families during this important time.

The Centres are staffed by professionals including social workers and psychologists, and are designed to provide a range of support programs to assist parents, carers and children. The services and support provided through the Centres focus on children pre-birth to 8 years, however selected services can be offered to children up to 12 years of age.

Child and Family Workers are available to provide both drop-in and ongoing support to children and their families. The Centres recognise that no two families are the same, so Child and Family Workers will provide a tailored service to children and their families.

Child and Family Workers work with families in many different ways. For example, Workers can:

- Provide drop-in parenting and family support through the Intake Service either in person or over the telephone;
- Help coordinate services that might be involved and provide support to families;
- Help develop strategies to support a child's behaviour and wellbeing;
- Assist with access to other services including short-term child care assistance for eligible families; and
- Courses and groups for parents and children relating to parenting and family relationships.

Child and Family Workers can meet with children and families at the Centre, at home, at school or another convenient location.

The intent of the provision of this comprehensive service offer is to strengthen and build capacity of families to enable them to effectively approach the challenges and rewards of family life and parenting.

ACT Maternal and Child Health

The ACT Health Maternal and Child Health (MACH) Service facilitates a number of parenting groups designed to provide families with therapeutic support and advice to better manage and overcome challenges that may arise in the early stages of family life, including New Parent Groups, Parenting Enhancement Program, Early Parenting Counselling Service, Integrated Multi-agencies for Parents And Children Together (IMPACT) and Community Paediatrics.

Mothers are referred to MACH after the birth of a child. Parenting Enhancement Program is accessed by MACH referral. New Parent Groups and Early Parenting Counselling Service can be accessed by contacting Community Health Intake on telephone 6205 2611 or the ACT Health website at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/community-based-services/cancel-community-based-appointments>.

IMPACT and Community Paediatrics are by referral through a doctor such as a GP.

The Children of Parents with a Mental Illness (COPMI) program supports families to better manage the effects of mental illness on the family unit. COPMI can be accessed by telephone 6205 1110 or the ACT Health website at <http://www.health.act.gov.au/our-services/mental-health/mental-health-services>.

(3) OneLink

OneLink is the single access point for a range of universal and targeted services, including housing and homelessness, tenancy support, disability and child, youth and family services.

OneLink brings together the former Specialist Homelessness Services' Gateway, and the Child, Family, and Youth Services' Gateway.

When a person first contacts OneLink, either by phone, dropping into Nature Conservation House or through the internet, they receive an initial assessment which may simply be a conversation around their service needs.

Many people simply require information and advice; for example, on eligibility for social housing or information on the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Others may need more intensive support, such as those who are experiencing family crisis or homelessness. They receive a more intensive tailored needs assessment. Based on this assessment, they will be connected with support services (such as those offered through the Child, Youth and Family Services Program) that address their immediate and long-term needs. This may include family case management services or youth engagement services, as well as homelessness accommodation and housing support services.

Child, Youth and Family Services Program

The Child, Youth and Family Services Program continues to deliver holistic, wraparound services and supports for vulnerable children and young people aged 0 to 25 years and their families in the ACT.

The aim of the Child, Youth and Family Services Program is to improve coordination, collaboration and integration between service providers and across the service system.

Some of the services offered to children, young people and families include:

- case management activities;
- group programs;
- youth engagement services;
- therapeutic services;
- the Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Youth Engagement Service; and
- the Young Carers and their Families Engagement and Support Service.

Children's Services Program

Long Day Care

The Children's Services Program (CSP) is designed to assist vulnerable families and children within our community to access short-term early childhood education and care where the primary care giver is unavailable.

Nine community organisations are funded under the CSP to deliver short-term early childhood education and care, across 33 centres across the Territory.

Vulnerable families with children aged zero to five years benefit most from high quality education and care, however, are the least likely to access it. The CSP continues to progress evidence based policy development to address the issue of equity of access for vulnerable families.

A single referral and assessment point ensures that the most vulnerable families in the ACT are able to access child care in times of crisis or emergency and that high quality early education and care can be accessed.

Parenting Support Program

The Family Foundations Program (Family Foundations) delivered under the Children's Services Program by Belconnen Community Service is a free, early intervention program that promotes strong, secure, and healthy relationships between children aged 0-5 years and their parents/carers.

The Family Foundations team aims to support parents and carers to strengthen family relationships and bonds during early childhood. Parents gain knowledge, experience and strategies to build on their parenting skills. Family Foundations provides flexible options and supports that meet individual needs. Home visits through an outreach model are provided to families that face barriers to transport.

ACT Public Schools

ACT Public Schools provide support to children and young people to reduce barriers to their learning. At times these barriers may have their origins within the student's family. Directorate staff will work with parents/carers to address issues that are impacting on the family's functioning.

Network Student Engagement Teams (NSET):

NSET are multi-disciplinary teams working with the student, family and school to address the underlying issues that contribute to disengagement from learning. The NSET response is tailored to the needs of the individual student and family, and may include a social worker, senior psychologist, speech pathologist, occupational therapist, and specialist teachers in behaviour support, disability education or engagement.

The social worker's role in NSET is to work with the student's parent/carer to address issues that are having an impact on the student at home. This often takes the form of advocating for and/or supporting parents to connect with community or government agencies e.g. access to drug and alcohol counselling, addressing housing issues etc.

School Psychologists:

The role of the school psychologist forms an important part of the mental health approach in the school community by identifying and working with personal difficulties early in the life of the problem, responding to an immediate crisis, working with school staff to put in preventative strategies at the whole school level, working with the family and referring moderate to severe mental health issues to other specialists. School psychologists, like social workers, play a role in connecting parents/carers to community and government agencies to address specific issues e.g. family violence, sexual assault, respite support etc. School psychologist at times work with parents/careers in managing a child/young person's behaviour at home.

School psychologists at times provide/organise parenting programs for parents.

Currently the school psychology service provides parent protective behaviours training (primary school) to help parents be aware of how they can talk with their child/young person about how to respond when they feel physically/sexually unsafe.

General supports:

Schools at times organise access to basic family needs e.g. food parcels, support the family to access transport and links to services

Schools alert relevant government agencies to family concerns that are having an impact on a student.

Information:

The Education Directorate provides information to parents on how they can support their child at school and what to do if they are concern about their child. When families and schools work together, children are more likely to build good

relationships and do better at school. The following links on the Education website takes parents to information on various supports:

- Student Wellbeing:
https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/guidance_and_counselling_service
- Family and Domestic Violence:
https://www.education.act.gov.au/school_education/guidance_and_counselling_service/domestic-and-family-violence-support
- Parent Engagement in school: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/parental-engagement>
- Who can help at school: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/inclusion-and-wellbeing/students-and-families/who-can-help>
- Support for Students: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/inclusion-and-wellbeing/students-and-families/support-for-students>
- Community support for families: <https://www.education.act.gov.au/inclusion-and-wellbeing/helpful-resources/community-partners-and-supports>

Yarrabi Bamirr

Yarrabi Bamirr, Ngunnawal words for Walk Tall, involves using a family-centric service support model with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families to improve life outcomes and reduce or prevent contact with the justice system. The trial involves a range of agencies (including Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, ACT Policing and Aboriginal Legal Service) working to provide culturally sensitive and intensive support to families.

As part of the program, Justice Reinvestment workers are working together with families to co-design unique family plans to address their goals related to matters such as housing, health, justice, education and employment. Cross-government support is then provided to these families to address their identified needs.

JACS has employed an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trial coordinator to oversee the operational and evaluation requirements of the trial. The trial is seeking to build upon the successes and lessons of related programs, such as the Strengthening Families program.

This process will be evaluated by the Australian National University.

Conflict Resolution Service – Family Tree House Program

The Family Tree House Program supports young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness due to family conflict, to rebuild and reconnect their family relationships.

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1070)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents on Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent) each year for the past 10 years.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents in part (1) resulting in injuries each year for the past 10 years.
- (3) What is the total number of fatalities on Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent) each year for the past 10 years.
- (4) How many road accidents on Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent) (a) this year and (b) each year for the past 10 years (i) occurred between two motor vehicles, (ii) occurred between more than two motor vehicles, (iii) involved at least one pedestrian and (iv) involved at least one cyclist.

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

- (1) – (4)

Reported crashes at Ginninderra Drive between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent are listed below.

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	Total	Crashes involving 2 vehicles	Crashes involving more than 2 vehicles	Crashes involving pedestrian	Crashes involving cyclist
2008			1	1	1			
2009		1	4	5	2			
2010		1	4	5	3	1		
2011			2	2	1			
2012		2		2				
2013			1	1				
2014			3	3	2			
2015	1	1	4	6	2			
2016			1	1				
2017*			2	2	1			
2018*				0				
Total	1	5	22	28	12	1	0	0

- Preliminary data
- Note: Published crash data has a lag of approximately six months to allow for changes to the crash records resulting from police inquiries.

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1071)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Kingsford Smith Drives each year for the past 10 years.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents in part (1) resulting in injuries each year for the past 10 years.

- (3) What is the total number of fatalities at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Kingsford Smith Drives each year for the past 10 years.
- (4) How many road accidents at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Kingsford Smith Drives (a) this year and (b) each year for the past 10 years (i) occurred between two motor vehicles, (ii) occurred between more than two motor vehicles, (iii) involved at least one pedestrian and (iv) involved at least one cyclist.

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

- (1) - (4)

Reported crashes at the intersection of Kingsford Smith Drive and Kuringa Drive are listed below.

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	Total	Crashes involving 2 vehicles	Crashes involving more than 2 vehicles	Crashes involving pedestrian	Crashes involving cyclist
2008		1	6	7	4	2		
2009			5	5	5			
2010			1	1	1			
2011			2	2	2			
2012				0				
2013			4	4	4			
2014			1	1	1			
2015			1	1	1			
2016			2	2	2			
2017*			2	2	2			
2018*				0				
Total	0	1	24	25	22	2	0	0

*Preliminary data.

Note: Published crash data has lag of approximately six months to allow for changes to the crash records resulting from police inquiries.

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1072)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Owen Dixon Drives each year for the past 10 years.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents in part (1) resulting in injuries each year for the past 10 years.
- (3) What is the total number of fatalities at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Owen Dixon Drives each year for the past 10 years.
- (4) How many road accidents at or near the intersection of Kuringa and Owen Dixon Drives (a) this year and (b) each year for the past 10 years (i) occurred between two motor vehicles, (ii) occurred between more than two motor vehicles, (iii) involved at least one pedestrian and (iv) involved at least one cyclist.

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

(1) – (4)

Reported crashes at the intersection of Kuringa Drive and Owen Dixon Drive are listed below.

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	Total	Crashes involving 2 vehicles	Crashes involving more than 2 vehicles	Crashes involving pedestrian	Crashes involving cyclist
2008			1	1		1		
2009			1	1	1			
2010		1	3	4	4			
2011			3	3	3			
2012		2	6	8	7	1		
2013		1	1	2	1	1		
2014			7	7	7			
2015		2	4	6	6			
2016		3	8	11	10			
2017*		4	5	9	8			
2018*		1		1	1			
Total	0	14	39	53	48	3	0	0

*Preliminary data

Note: Published crash data has a lag of approximately six months to allow for changes to the crash records resulting from police inquiries.

Roads—accident black spots (Question No 1073)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What is the total number of road accidents at or near the intersections of Ross Smith Crescent/Southern Cross Drive and Chewings Street/Southern Cross Drive each year for the past 10 years.
- (2) What is the total number of road accidents in part (1) resulting in injuries each year for the past 10 years.
- (3) What is the total number of fatalities at or near the intersections of Ross Smith Crescent/Southern Cross Drive and Chewings Street/Southern Cross Drive each year for the past 10 years.
- (4) How many road accidents at or near the intersections of Ross Smith Crescent/Southern Cross Drive and Chewings Street/Southern Cross Drive (a) this year and (b) each year for the past 10 years (i) occurred between two motor vehicles, (ii) occurred between more than two motor vehicles, (iii) involved at least one pedestrian and (iv) involved at least one cyclist.

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

(1 – 2)

Reported crashes at the intersection of Ross Smith Crescent and Southern Cross Drive are listed below.

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	Total	Crashes involving 2 vehicles	Crashes involving more than 2 vehicles	Crashes involving pedestrian	Crashes involving cyclist
2008			1	1				
2009		1	2	3	3			
2010		1	3	4	4			
2011		1		1	1			
2012			2	2	2			
2013		1	4	5	5			
2014		1	1	2	2			
2015		1	1	2	2			
2016			1	1	1			
2017*				0				
2018*				0				
Total	0	6	15	21	20	0	0	0

*Preliminary data.

Note: Published crash data has a lag of approximately six months to allow for changes to the crash records resulting from police inquiries.

(3 – 4)

Reported crashes at intersection of Chewings Street and Southern Cross Drive.

	Fatal Crashes	Injury Crashes	Property Damage Only Crashes	Total	Crashes involving 2 vehicles	Crashes involving more than 2 vehicles	Crashes involving pedestrian	Crashes involving cyclist
2008			1	1	1			
2009			1	1	1			
2010		1	1	2	2			
2011			2	2	2			
2012			3	3	3			
2013			1	1	1			
2014			2	2	2			
2015	1			1	1			
2016		1	2	3	1	2		
2017*			2	2	2			
2018*				0				
Total	1	2	15	18	16	2	0	0

*Preliminary data.

Note: Published crash data has a lag of approximately six months to allow for changes to the crash records resulting from police inquiries.

Roads—traffic management (Question No 1074)

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

- (1) How often is traffic speed monitored on Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent) and surrounding areas and what safety traffic measures has the Government undertaken in this area.

- (2) What is the total of number of vehicles passing through this area that have been speed-checked in the past 2 years and how many of these vehicles were found to be driving (a) within or (b) in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
- (3) What safety measures will the government take to reduce speeding and improve road safety in this area.
- (4) Will the government consider reducing the speed limit in this area; if so, when will a decision be made; if not, why not and what alternatives will the government provide to improve safety and reduce speeding in this area.
- (5) Will the government consider installing speed humps in this area; if so, when will a decision be made; if not, why not and what alternatives will the government provide to improve safety and reduce speeding in this area.

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

- (1) Traffic surveys on arterial roads are generally programmed once in every four to five years. Not every mid-block section has speed data. Currently there is no data for the mid-block section of Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent). A traffic survey in this mid-block is planned for May 2018.
- (2) There were 91 occasions where the speed camera vans monitored the area of Ginninderra Drive (between Kingsford Smith Drive and Companion Crescent) in the past two year period and a total of 52,664 vehicles had their speed checked.
 - (a) Four of these vehicles were found to be driving within 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
 - (b) 13 of these vehicles were found to be driving in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.

The counts refer to vehicles that have been issued with infringements and exclude speed checks and infringements issued by ACT Policing.

- (3) The planned survey in May 2018 on this mid-block will determine the level of travel speeds and if speed management measures may be required.
 - (4) Generally all speed limits are determined by the function of the road. Ginninderra Drive is an arterial road and its main function is to move large volumes of traffic between town districts. In this context the current 80 km/h speed limit is appropriate. The planned survey will assist in the determination of the current travel speeds for this section of Ginninderra Drive and any enforcement strategies if required.
 - (5) Ginninderra Drive is an arterial road with a posted speed limit of 80km/h with no driveway access points, carrying approximately 17,000 vehicles per day. Installing speed humps would be inappropriate for this road environment and a potential hazard to the motorist using this road. As part of the local area traffic management study in Flynn, Charnwood and Fraser, Companion Crescent was identified for the installation of speed cushions. These are planned to be installed by the end of 2018.
-

Roads—traffic management (Question No 1075)

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

- (1) Has there been, or is there currently a traffic study that includes the intersections of Ross Smith Crescent/Southern Cross Drive and Chewings Street/Southern Cross Drive in the last 5 years; if so, (a) when was the study conducted, (b) what were the concerns and recommendations raised and (c) what was the outcome; if not, why not and will a traffic study be considered in the near future for these intersections.
- (2) How often is traffic speed monitored at these intersections and surrounding areas and what other safety traffic measures has the Government undertaken in this area.
- (3) What is the total of number of vehicles passing through these intersections that have been speed-checked in the past 2 years and how many of these vehicles were found to be driving (a) within or (b) in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
- (4) What safety measures will the government take to reduce speeding at these intersections and surrounding areas.

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

- (1) Yes, two studies have been completed in the last five years.

Location of study	Southern Cross Drive intersections with Chewings Street, Ratcliffe Crescent and Ross Smith Crescent	Southern Cross Drive intersection with Chewings Street
(a) When was the study conducted	October 2013	December 2015
(b) what were the concerns and recommendations raised	<p>Community was concerned about difficulties experienced when attempting to drive across Southern Cross Drive between Scullin, Page and Florey due to the volume and speed of through traffic on Southern Cross Drive.</p> <p>The study concluded that inter-suburban crossing movements can be made with safety and without incurring unreasonable delays.</p> <p>A recommended modification was to convert the left turn configurations at both Chewings Street and Ratcliffe Crescent (west) to high entry angle approach turns to increase visibility for exiting traffic.</p>	<p>The study concluded that signalisation of this intersection would improve the safety to road users at the intersection, particularly for turning vehicles. It could also improve the performance of the side roads at neighbouring unsignalised intersections by providing additional gaps in the traffic on Southern Cross Drive.</p>
(c) what was the outcome	To be considered in future Capital Works Programs.	To be considered in future Capital Works Programs.

- (2) Traffic surveys are programmed once in every four to five years. The intersections and mid-blocks are regularly monitored for any deterioration in traffic conditions.
- (3) There are no speed cameras (fixed or mobile) located at the intersections of Ross Smith Crescent/Southern Cross Drive and Chewings Street/Southern Cross Drive.
 - (a) N/A
 - (b) N/A

Please note: This excludes speed checks and infringements issued by ACT Policing
- (4) The average speed on this section of road is about 81km/h on a road with a posted speed limit of 80km/h. This indicates some speeding, but at a moderate level relative to comparable locations. Hence, no traffic calming measures are currently planned.

Roads—traffic management (Question No 1076)

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

- (1) Has there been, or is there currently a traffic study that includes Ratcliffe Crescent, in the vicinity of Florey Primary School, in the last 5 years; (a) when was the study conducted, (b) what were the concerns and recommendations raised and (c) what was the outcome; if not, why not and will a traffic study be considered in the near future for this road.
- (2) How often is traffic speed monitored on this road and surrounding areas and what other safety traffic measures has the Government undertaken in this area.
- (3) What is the total of number of vehicles passing through this area that have been speed-checked in the past 2 years and how many of these vehicles were found to be driving (a) within or (b) in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
- (4) What safety measures will the government take to reduce speeding on this road and surrounding areas.
- (5) Will the government consider installing speed humps along Rattcliffe Crescent, particularly in the areas surrounding Florey primary school; if so, when will a decision be made; if not, why not and what alternatives will the Government provide to improve safety and reduce speeding in this area.

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

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) A traffic investigation was conducted in April 2013
 - (b) Concerns raised included signage visibility, safety at the children crossing and parking issues at the vicinity of Florey Primary School. The study recommendations were to improve visibility and safety of the children crossing on Ratcliffe Crescent, prevent illegal parking, and improve school signage visibility.

- (c) Improvements around Florey Primary School were implemented in early 2014 including:
- Lane narrowing on Ratcliffe Crescent at the vicinity of the school;
 - Refuge island at the children crossing;
 - Installation of parking restriction signage; and
 - School signage improvements.
- (2) Traffic surveys are programmed once every four to five years. The Government commenced the School Crossing Supervisor Program at the beginning of the 2018 school year at 20 crossings throughout Canberra. Florey Primary School is one of the schools benefiting from this program.
- A crossing supervisor has been patrolling the children's crossing on Ratcliffe Crescent for an hour each morning and afternoon to assist children to safely cross the road.
- (3) There were 23 occasions where the speed camera vans monitored the 40km school zone on Ratcliffe Crescent, Florey in the past 2 year period and a total of 8,110 vehicles had their speed checked.
- (a) Three of these vehicles were found to be driving within 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
 - (b) Eight of these vehicles were found to be driving in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.

Please note: The counts refer to vehicles that have been issued with infringements. The counts exclude speed checks and infringements issued by ACT Policing.

- (4) Speed data on Ratcliffe Crescent indicates that vehicles travel at an average speed of around 37km/h during school hours and 47.5km/h outside school hours, indicating general compliance with the 40km/h school zone and 60km/h speed limit outside school hours. As part of the School Crossing Supervisor Program, infrastructure improvements will be made around Florey Primary School in 2018. The improvements will include updated signage on Ratcliffe Crescent and a new footpath connection from the children's crossing to the school, which will remove the need for children to walk on the footpath directly adjacent to the road.
- (5) Given the results of the speed data there are currently no plans to install speed humps along Ratcliffe Crescent (refer to Question 4 response). The Government will continue to monitor and enforce the current school speed limit zone in the area.

Roads—traffic management (Question No 1077)

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

- (1) Has there been, or is there currently a traffic study that includes Southern Cross Drive (between Starke Street and O'Reilly Street) in the last 5 years; (a) when was the study conducted, (b) what were the concerns and recommendations raised and (c) what was the outcome; if not, why not and will a traffic study be considered in the near future for these intersections.

- (2) How often is traffic speed and traffic volume monitored in this area and what other safety traffic measures has the Government undertaken in this area.
- (3) What is the total of number of vehicles passing through this area that have been speed-checked in the past 2 years and how many of these vehicles were found to be driving (a) within or (b) in excess of 10km/hr above the prescribed speed limit.
- (4) Has there been monitoring of the volume of heavy vehicles travelling through this area; if so, (a) when did the monitoring occur and (b) what is the average total of number of heavy vehicles found to be travelling through this area on a daily and weekly basis; if not, why not and will the Government consider monitoring the volume of heavy vehicles in this area.
- (5) What safety measures will the government take in the future to reduce speeding at these intersections and surrounding areas.

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

- (1) No. A study has not been undertaken in the past five years. The next traffic survey is programmed for June 2018.
- (2) Traffic surveys are programmed once in every four to five years. The intersections and mid-blocks are regularly monitored for any deterioration in traffic conditions.
- (3) There were 21 occasions where the speed camera vans monitored the area between O'Reilly Street/Starke Street in the past two year period and a total of 14,071 vehicles had their speed checked.
 - a. 25 of these vehicles were found to be driving within 10km/h above the prescribed speed limit
 - b. 57 of these vehicles were found to be driving in excess of 10km/h above the prescribed speed limit.

Please note: These counts refer to vehicles that have been issued with infringements. The counts exclude speed checks and infringements issued by ACT Policing.

- (4) Yes.
 - (a) The last traffic survey was undertaken in September 2013.
 - (b) There were approximately 80 trucks travelling daily through this section of road, and about 575 trucks travelling weekly.

The next traffic survey is programmed to be undertaken in June 2018, which will also include the collection of heavy vehicle data on this section of road.

- (5) Survey indicates moderate levels of speeding on this section of road. This is managed through enforcement by ACT Policing.

Ginninderra Creek—flood mitigation (Question No 1078)

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

- (1) Has a flood mitigation study been conducted for Ginninderra Creek within the last 5 years; if so, when did it occur and what were the concerns, recommendations and consequent implementation; if not, why not and will the Government consider conducting such a study.
- (2) What were the concerns, recommendations and consequent implementation in specific relation to the (a) Umbagong District park area, (b) Umbagong stepping stones and (c) surrounding area of Ginninderra Creek near Ginninderra Drive in Flynn.
- (3) What steps will the Government take to improve the impact of flood waters near (a) Umbagong District park, (b) the Umbagong stepping stones and (c) the surrounding area of Ginninderra Creek near Ginninderra Drive in Flynn.
- (4) What steps will the Government take to improve the impact of Ginninderra Creek flooding.
- (5) What is the estimated cost of a flood mitigation study to be conducted for (a) Umbagong District park, (b) the whole of Ginninderra Creek and (c) the surrounding area of Ginninderra Creek near Ginninderra Drive in Flynn.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is in the process of revising and upgrading the flood modelling for the 1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP) mapping (previously referred to as 1 in 100 year flood events) for eight catchments across the ACT. Ginninderra is one of these catchments. Once this mapping and analysis is completed it will be used to inform relevant land use planning decisions and flood mitigation work.
- (2) Until the flood modelling and consequential design of flood remediation work is completed it is not possible to provide a response to this question.
- (3) Until the flood modelling and consequential design of flood remediation work is completed it is not possible to provide a response to this question.

The timing and delivery of the remediation works will be subject to the outcomes of the modelling and design work.

- (4) The ACT is committed to the five steps of National Best Practice flood risk management, as identified by the Australian Emergency Management Institute.

The above mentioned 1% AEP maps define the nature and extent of flood risk. Once priority areas have been identified, the Government will work collaboratively with the community to develop Flood Management Options Studies that will identify the mitigation options from an economic, social and ecological perspective.

- (5) Cost estimates cannot be determined until flood modelling and consequential design of flood remediation work is completed.

Public housing—complaints (Question No 1079)

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many complaints do you receive each year concerning anti-social and criminal behaviour by public housing residents, including multiple complaints from a single complainant.
- (2) Out of the total received, what is the categorisation of complaints in terms of (a) nuisance and disturbance including, but not limited to, noise, other disruptive activity, intimidation, abuse and other threatening behaviours, (b) criminal allegations or reports of criminal activity including, but not limited to, theft, vandalism, drug taking, assault, trespass, break and enter and the like, (c) placement of rubbish, debris, motor vehicles and furniture in a way that impinges on or disrupts neighbours or impacts on the amenity and tidiness of the neighbourhood and (d) other categories of complaints.
- (3) Other than criminal allegations or reports of criminal activity, how many complaints constitute breaches of the Housing ACT Tenancy Lease Agreement.
- (4) What types of action does the Minister take in relation to complaints.
- (5) How many complaints are resolved each year without resort to ACAT.
- (6) How many complainants are advised to take their problem to ACAT.
- (7) How many public housing tenants or residents or are evicted or relocated as a result of complaints.

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

- (1) Please refer to page 85 of the Community Service 2016-17 Annual report available at [Http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1114528/CSD-Annual-Report-2016-17_v2.pdf](http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1114528/CSD-Annual-Report-2016-17_v2.pdf)
- (2) See above
- (3) Housing ACT captures and sorts complaints under the categories of anti social behaviour, fraud, property condition, maintenance and other. The complaints data process does not specify if a breach of the tenancy agreement has been established. It would be an administrative burden to try and extract this data from hard copy files.
- (4) Complaints are referred to Housing ACT for a range of actions, from communication with the parties, review of supports and referrals, to legal action (usually as a last resort).
- (5) Housing ACT seeks to work actively with clients and the community in an attempt to resolve concerns and will only refer a matter to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal once all attempts have been made. Three Performance Orders were issued to public housing tenants for anti-social behaviour, by the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal in 2016-17.
- (6) If a complainant is not happy with a response to their complaint they may seek an independent arbiter to assess their complaint. The independent arbiter could be the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, the Human Rights Commission or the ACT Ombudsman.

- (7) Complaints would only be one factor in considering such action. For the 2016-17 financial year, one tenancy was terminated for anti-social behaviour. The relocation data process does not specify why relocation is required. It would be an administrative burden to try and extract this data from hard copy files.

**ACTION bus service—staffing
(Question No 1080)**

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

Of the 66 staff employed as Bus Operator (Training) and 708 staff employed as Bus Operator under the ACTION Enterprise Agreement 2013-17 as at 15 December 2017, what is the number of staff employed on a continuous basis for the time frames of (a) 1 day to 1 year and 264 days, (b) 2 years to 4 years and 364 days, (c) 5 years to 9 years and 364 days, (d) 10 years to 14 years and 364 days, (e) 15 years to 19 years and 364 days, (f) 20 years to 24 years and 364 days, (g) 25 years to 29 years and 364 days, (h) 30 years to 34 years and 364 days, (i) 35 years to 39 years and 364 days, (j) 40 years to 44 years and 364 days, (k) 45 years to 49 years and 364 days, (l) 45 years to 49 years and 364 days and (m) 50 years or over.

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

Please see response to Question on Notice 999, which is attached for reference.

(For the response to Question No 999, see Hansard, 22 March 2018, page 1102).

**Transport—light rail
(Question No 1081)**

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

- (1) How many vehicles will be deployed on the Light Rail network.
- (2) What is the cost of each vehicle.
- (3) Will all Light Rail vehicles be retrofitted with battery packs.
- (4) What is the cost per vehicle of retrofitting with battery packs.

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

- (1) There will be 14 light rail vehicles, including reserves.
- (2) The cost of the vehicles was not separately bid for the project as it is a Public Private Partnership.
- (3) All of the vehicles fully enabled for future wire free running. They can be retrofitted as required with either battery or super-capacitors or a mix of them.

- (4) The cost for fitting of an on-board energy solution will not be known until the wire free performance requirements are established and a procurement process is undertaken.
-

Transport—light rail (Question No 1082)

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

- (1) How many full-time equivalent (FTE) drivers will be employed to operate light rail vehicles once the service commences.
- (2) Of those drivers identified in part (1), at what (a) grades and (b) salary bands will they be employed.
- (3) What penalty rates will light rail drivers be paid for working (a) at night, (b) on Saturday, (c) on Sunday and (d) on public holidays.
- (4) Will drivers of light rail vehicles be rostered on a 5-day or 7-day basis.

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

- (1) The drivers of the Light Rail Vehicles will be employees of Canberra Metro not the Territory, hence all aspects of their engagement are matters for Canberra Metro's determination. Is expected there will be around 30 drivers in place at the commencement of services to the public.
 - (2), (3), (4)
These are matters which are managed by Canberra Metro, not the Territory.
-

City Renewal Authority—promotional materials (Question No 1085)

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

In relation to the video content produced by the City Renewal Authority, 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.

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

Video 1

- (a) Facebook live video – City Renewal Authority chair Michael Easson and deputy chair Christine Covington meeting with Chief Minister Andrew Barr.

- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) As this was a live video it was uploaded directly to the City Renewal Authority Facebook page at the time of filming.
- (e) This was viewed 149 times and had a reach of 192.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 2

- (a) Time-lapse video of the transformation of West Basin at Lake Burley Griffin, focusing on the construction of the first 150 metres of boardwalk.
- (b) Photos supplied by the contractor; Cre8ive was involved in the production.
- (c) Production costs totalled \$1010 and this was boosted on Facebook for \$13.
- (d) As there were over 10GB of images, assistance was sought in the production of this content.
- (e) This was viewed 901 times and had a reach of 1891.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page and offered to media outlets.

Video 3

- (a) Haig Park safety upgrades underway.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 178 times and had a reach of 322.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 4

- (a) Locally sourced sandstone being used to construct the retaining walls at West Basin.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 89 times and had a reach of 112.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 5

- (a) Promoting #GetFramed at Dickson Shops and Garema Place.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil
- (e) This was viewed 1003 times and had a reach of 2431.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 6

- (a) Live Video – promotion of the Dickson seven day makeover.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) As this was a live video it was uploaded directly to the City Renewal Authority Facebook page at the time of filming.
- (e) This was viewed 2000 times and had a reach of 4655.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 7

- (a) Encouraging the community to enjoy spring time in the city.

- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 270 times and had a reach of 625.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 8

- (a) To notify the community that the Haig Park upgrades in Braddon have been completed.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 1129 times and had a reach of 3099.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 9

- (a) To inform the community about the greenery at West Basin, specifically that over 20000 trees, plants and shrubs will be planted to create a new public park with many of these being grown in Canberra at the Yarralumla Nursery.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 543 times and had a reach of 1056.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 10

- (a) To involve the community to help choose a name for the new park at West Basin.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 186 times and had a reach of 530.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 11

- (a) To involve the community to help choose a name for the new park at West Basin, specifically informing the community about one of the name choices, Dame Sylvia Crowe.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 111 times and had a reach of 175.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 12

- (a) To involve the community to help choose a name for the new park at West Basin, specifically informing the community about one of the name choices, John Gale.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 124 times and had a reach of 225.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 13

- (a) To involve the community to help choose a name for the new park at West Basin, specifically informing the community about one of the name choices, Henry Maitland Rolland OBE.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 142 times and had a reach of 356.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 14

- (a) To involve the community to help choose a name for the new park at West Basin, specifically informing the community about one of the name choices, John McLoughlin.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 65 times and had a reach of 153.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 15

- (a) To promote the wayfinding signs to and from Floriade.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 774 times and had a reach of 2164.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook and Instagram page.

Video 16

- (a) Facebook Live – to promote the Floriade Fringe Festival.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) As this was a live video it was uploaded directly to the City Renewal Authority Facebook page at the time of filming.
- (e) This was viewed 1,500 times and had a reach of 4142
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 17

- (a) To encourage the community to vote for their favourite name, in the naming of West Basin's public park.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 72 times and had a reach of 124.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 18

- (a) Time-lapse video of the Pic & Mix pop up urban picnic tables and umbrellas.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 791 times and had a reach of 310.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 20

- (a) To promote the first planting of greenery at West Basin, to inform the community of the progress in this area.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 497 times and had a reach of 1220.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 21

- (a) To inform the community that Henry Rolland has topped the poll for the naming of West Basin Public Park.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 66 times and had a reach of 118.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 22

- (a) This 3D imagery of Henry Rolland Park and West Basin was created to assist in planning and design of the area and future stages, to be submitted to the National Capital Authority as part of the Works Approval process, and to provide imagery of the park to inform the community of the development in this area.
- (b) The material was procured by the project's construction contractor, Chincivil, and outsourced and undertaken by Formswell.
- (c) The total cost was \$41,007. The following is the breakdown of costs:

Pre-Production	\$1500
Video Production	\$17500
3D asset creation	\$16500
Post Production	\$5500
\$7 was spent on promoting this video on Facebook	

- (d) This video was viewed 730 times and had a reach of 1,588.
- (g) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page and offered to media outlets.

Video 23

- (a) To promote the Pic & Mix pop up urban picnic tables in Garema Place and to encourage feedback about these.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 674 times and had a reach of 1008.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 24

- (a) To promote the taste of Braddon event in Haig Park.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production or distribution of the content.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 88 times and had a reach of 188.
- (f) This is located on the City Renewal Authority Facebook page.

Video 25

- (a) To promote spending time in the city.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally through the use of online editing platform, Animoto.
- (c) Material produced using the City Renewal Authority's online subscription to Animoto which is \$264 for the whole year.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 487 times and had a reach of 882.
- (f) This video was shared across The City Renewal Authority and City Renewal Canberra (formerly named In the City Canberra) Facebook and Instagram pages.

Video 26

- (a) To promote the City Renewal Authority activation outside of the 221 London Circuit Building.
- (b) Material captured internally and edited using the ACT Government's online video editing platform, Shootsta.
- (c) Material produced using Shootsta, the ACT Government's video editing service platform for which the City Renewal Authority has contributed \$18000 as part of a yearly subscription.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 2904 times and had a reach of 448.
- (f) This video was shared across The City Renewal Authority and City Renewal Canberra (formerly named In the City Canberra) Facebook and Instagram pages.

Video 27

- (a) To encourage subscription to the city renewal authority newsletter.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally through the use of online editing platform, Animoto.
- (c) Material produced using the City Renewal Authority's online subscription to Animoto which is \$264 for the whole year.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 311 times and had a reach of 1041.
- (f) This video was shared across The City Renewal Authority and City Renewal Canberra (formerly named In the City Canberra) Facebook and Instagram pages.

Video 28

- (a) To promote the City Grants program.
- (b) Material captured internally and edited using the ACT Government's online video editing platform, Shootsta.
- (c) Material produced using Shootsta, the ACT Government's video editing service platform for which the City Renewal Authority has contributed \$18000 as part of a yearly subscription.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 2322 times and had a reach of 912.
- (f) This video was shared across The City Renewal Authority and City Renewal Canberra (formerly named In the City Facebook) and Instagram page; statistics are reflective of this.

Video 30

- (a) Facebook Live – to promote the Art Not Apart festival.
- (b) Material produced wholly internally.
- (c) No cost associated with the production and distribution of this content.
- (d) As this was a live video it was uploaded directly to the City Renewal Authority Facebook page at the time of filming.

- (e) This was viewed 573 times and had a reach of 1531.
- (f) This video was shared on the City Renewal Canberra Facebook Page.

Video 29

- (a) To inform the community of the changes to the Sydney and Melbourne building laneways where the development application has been approved to install waste enclosures.
- (b) Material captured internally and edited using the ACT Government's online video editing platform, Shootsta.
- (c) Material produced using Shootsta, the ACT Government's video editing service platform for which the City Renewal Authority has contributed \$18000 as part of a yearly subscription.
- (d) Nil.
- (e) This was viewed 766 times and had a reach of 2173.
- (f) This video was shared across The City Renewal Authority and City Renewal Canberra (formerly named In the City Canberra) Facebook and Instagram pages.

**Government—fees and charges
(Question No 1088)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

What fees and charges imposed by the ACT Government is the Commonwealth exempt from paying.

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

In general, the Commonwealth pays fees and charges which are required for the provision of goods and services, such as motor vehicle registration fees, number plate fees and parking fees.

However, most ACT Government fees and charges are, by their nature, only applicable to activities undertaken by individuals or businesses, and therefore do not apply in relation to the Commonwealth.

**Government—taxes and charges
(Question No 1092)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Does the Commonwealth Government make payments to the ACT Government in relation to (a) rates and (b) land tax; if so, can the Treasurer provide, for the last three financial years to date (i) the total value of the rates and land tax revenue paid by the Commonwealth and (ii) a breakdown of the total number of Commonwealth owned properties by type; if not, (i) why is the Commonwealth Government exempted, (ii) what is the total value of the rates and land tax revenue that has been forgone during the last three financial years to date and (iii) can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of exempted Commonwealth owned properties by type during the last three financial years to date.

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

- (a) No. Section 114 of the Constitution states that "A State shall not, without the consent of the Parliament of the Commonwealth, raise or maintain any naval or military force, or impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to the Commonwealth, nor shall the Commonwealth impose any tax on property of any kind belonging to a State." On that basis, Commonwealth Government owned properties are not rateable.
 - (b) No. As with rates, the ACT Government does not levy land tax on the Commonwealth Government due to Section 114 of the Constitution. State and Territories' inability to levy taxes on the Commonwealth Government is recognised as part of the Commonwealth Grants Commission's assessment of State and Territory land tax capacity for the purposes of Horizontal Fiscal Equalisation and the distribution of the Goods and Services Tax.
 - (i) See answers above.
 - (ii) Information on the value of Commonwealth land holdings in the ACT is not kept by the ACT Government. Because of the restrictions of Section 114 of the Constitution, the ACT Government has no need for the data that would allow for such a calculation.
 - (iii) The requested information on Commonwealth owned properties is not kept by the ACT Government.
-

**Westside village—costs
(Question No 1093)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) What was the initial total budget for the decommissioning and re-use of the Westside Village assets.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total cost to decommission and re-use the Westside Village assets, broken down by (a) Westside disassembly and site reinstatement, (b) transport and relocation of fifteen containers, (c) purchase of existing café container for Stromlo, (d) transport and re-erect roof at Stromlo Forest Park, (e) hard paving of new Stromlo Forest Park meeting place, (f) Stromlo Forest Park landscaping, (g) Stromlo Forest Park site servicing, (h) project management costs and day labour and (i) any other relevant category of costs.
- (3) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the funding arrangements associated with the decommissioning and re-use of the Westside Village assets, including (a) any financial transfers of assets, (b) the total amount each Government agency paid and (c) the specified reason for the payment or transfer of assets.

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

All below figures exclude GST.

- (1) \$813,000.
- (2) The total cost to decommission and re-use Westside is \$801,532.31. Costs were not broken down under exact headings requested.
 - a. \$252,133.36.
 - b. Included under (a).
 - c. \$29,040.
 - d. \$212,555.47.
 - e. Included under (d).
 - f. Included under (d).
 - g. Included under (d).
 - h. \$132,040.15.
 - i. \$175,763.33 (includes procurement fees, temporary fencing, site establishment, cartage etc).
- (3) The former Land Development Agency budgeted \$813,000 for costs associated with the decommissioning and re-use of the Westside Village assets. The project budget transferred to the Suburban Land Agency (SLA) on 1 July 2017. All actual costs have been incurred by the SLA.
 - a. The assets associated with Westside Village include six 40ft containers, five 20ft containers and structural roof. They are being transferred during the 2017-18 financial year.
 - b. There has been no cash payments for the transfer of the assets. The assets are being transferred at book value.
 - c. The assets have been moved to other Government agencies after an internal expression of interest to utilise the assets across Government.

Westside village—costs
(Question No 1094)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of where each Westside Village container has been redeployed or relocated, and include (a) the ACT Government agency that owns the container, (b) if sold to an external party, the value of the sale, (c) what the container is used for, (d) who covered the funding for redeployment or relocation costs, (e) the costs associated with redeployment or relocations, including any site works and contractor costs and (f) the date it was redeployed or installed.
- (2) Was a public expression of interest for private re-use considered of the Westside Village assets by the ACT Government; if so, why was this option not undertaken; if not, why not.

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

- (1)
 - a. 2x40ft containers transferred to Active Canberra for suburban playing field storage. 2x20ft containers transferred to EPSDD's Lyneham depot for use as storage. 2x20ft containers transferred to the Suburban Land Agency for use as storage and signage. 2x40ft containers transferred to West Belconnen joint venture for use as storage.

1x20ft container transferred to Stromlo Forest Park for site shed. 1x40ft container purchased from vendor for Stromlo Forest Park café. 1x40ft container transferred to Stromlo Forest Park for storage.

- b. No containers were sold.
 - c. Covered under (a).
 - d. The Suburban Land Agency.
 - e. The total cost to decommission and re-use Westside, and re-instate the original site in West Basin was \$801,532.31.
 - f. Work to relocate Westside was completed in late 2017.
- (2) A public expression of interest for private re-use of Westside village assets was considered. This was not pursued, as an internal ACT Government expression of interest identified respondents from various Directorates with a need and ability to reuse the structure and individual containers.

Government—services (Question No 1096)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Does the ACT Government provide any of the following services to the Commonwealth Government (a) road planning, (b) fire brigade services, (c) municipal services and (d) hospital services; if so, can the Treasurer provide for each of the last three financial years to date (i) the total cost of providing the service to the Commonwealth Government, (ii) whether the Commonwealth Government made any payments in relation to the service and (iii) the total value of payments made by the Commonwealth Government to the ACT Government, or why no payments were made.

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

- a) No.
 - (i) Not relevant.
 - (ii) Not relevant.
 - (iii) Not relevant.
- b) The ACT Government provides Fire and Rescue Services to the Commonwealth Government under a Memorandum of Understanding for the Provision of Fire Services ("MoU"). This MoU forms part of a broader arrangement and costing model that the Commonwealth Government has entered into with all States and Territories. The costing framework incorporated by the Commonwealth Government is a uniform approach for all jurisdictions.
 - (i) The Emergency Services Agency does not maintain specific cost records of services provided to the Commonwealth Government as these services are provided as part of the MoU with the Commonwealth Government.
 - (ii) The Commonwealth Government made payments to the ACT Government in accordance with the MoU.
 - (iii) The ACT Government received the following funding over the three years to 30 June 2017 under the MoU:

2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
\$m	\$m	\$m
4.941	5.114	5.293

- c) Yes - Transport Canberra and City Services provides Traffic Signals Operation and Maintenance Services to the National Capital Authority.
- (i) The total cost of providing the service to the Commonwealth Government in 2015-16 and 2016-17 was \$182,655 per annum. The year to date figures for 2017-18 is currently \$121,767.
- (ii) The Commonwealth Government made payments in relation to the Traffic Signals Operation and maintenance services.
- (iii) The ACT Government received the following payments from the Commonwealth Government over the past three years:

2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 YTD
\$m	\$m	\$m
0.183	0.183	0.122

- d) No.
- (i) Not relevant.
- (ii) Not relevant.
- (iii) Not relevant.

Government—procurement policies (Question No 1097)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Can the Treasurer provide a list of all Procurement Board decisions since 1 July 2012 to date that relate to the (a) Land Development Agency, (b) City Renewal Authority and (c) Suburban Land Agency including the (i) procurement classification, (ii) procurement method, (iii) nature of the proposal or issue, (iv) estimated value of the decision and (v) the Procurement Board's decision or outcome.

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

The ACT Government Procurement Board (GPB) is established under Part 2, Division 2.1 of the *Government Procurement Act 2001*. The Board is prescribed under legislation to:

- a) to review, and give advice to territory entities on, procurement issues;
- b) to review, and give advice on:
 - (i) procurement proposals and activities referred to the board by a Minister or responsible Director-General officer; or
 - (ii) procurement proposals for procurement matters declared by the Minister;
- c) to review procurement proposals of territory entities in accordance with the relevant regulation;
- d) to consider, advise on and, if appropriate, endorse procurement practices and methods for use by territory entities;
- e) to provide advice to the Minister on any issue relevant to the procurement activities of territory entities or the operation of this Act; and
- f) to exercise any other function given to the board under this Act or any other Territory law.

The GPB does not provide any decisions, rather the Board provides advice to the delegates to enable decisions. During this period the Board has considered 43 items from the Land Development Agency, one item from the City Renewal Authority and three items from the Suburban Land Agency.

**Federal government—financial disputes
(Question No 1099)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

Can the Treasurer provide the total number of times a dispute has arisen between the Australian Taxation Office and any ACT Government directorate or agency since 1 July 2012, including the (a) relevant ACT Government directorate or agency, (b) value of payments or money in dispute, (c) financial year in which the dispute arose, (d) nature of the dispute, (e) financial year in which the dispute was resolved, (f) resolution or outcome of the dispute and (g) value of any payments or money returned to the Australian Taxation or ACT Government.

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

Since 1 July 2012, there has only been one instance of a dispute between an ACT Government directorate or agency and the Australian Taxation Office (ATO). The details of this dispute are as follows:

Question	Response
(a) Relevant ACT Government directorate or agency	Land Development Agency (LDA)
(b) Value of payments of money in dispute	\$8.5m
(c) Financial year in which the dispute arose	2015-16
(d) Nature of the dispute	<p>This dispute consisted of four questions which were due to be addressed through an Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR). A decision was handed down by the independent evaluator on one of the questions on 24 May 2017. The dispute surrounded the application of <i>A New Tax System (Goods and Services Tax) Act 1999 (GST Act)</i> on the supply of varying parcels of Territory Land.</p> <p><u>Question 1:</u> The ability for the LDA to apply Item 4 of the table in s75-10(3) of the GST Act on unimproved Territory land. In particular the discussion around what constitutes an improvement was explored. The value of the monies in dispute was \$0.7m.</p> <p><u>Question 2 and 3:</u> The ability for the LDA to apply the GST free provisions of the GST Act and the supply of Englobo land. The value of the monies in dispute was \$7.8m.</p> <p><u>Question 4:</u> Discussed the Tax Commissioner's discretion to provide a refund under the old provision of s.105-65 of the <i>Tax Administration Act</i>.</p>

(e) Financial year in which the dispute was resolved	Q1. 2016-17. Q. 2, 3 and 4 – Unresolved.
(f) Resolution or outcome of the dispute	<u>Question 1</u> : The independent evaluator found against the LDA in assessment of whether improvements were on the specified blocks of land as at 1 July 2000 for the purposes of Item 4 of the table in s75-10(3) of the GST Act. This resulted in \$0.7m payable to the ATO. <u>Question 2-3</u> : The ATO sought to change the wording of these questions. As a result these did not form part of the questions put to the independent evaluator. These questions are now planned to be addressed through a request for a private binding ruling (PBR) to the ATO and therefore are no longer in dispute as part of this ADR. <u>Question 4</u> : This question was a flow-on from the outcome of Question 2-3. Given these questions did not form part of the ADR, this question was not addressed. This matter will form part of a PBR request to the ATO.
(g) Value of any payment or money returned to the ATO or ACT Government	\$0.7m was paid to the ATO.

Government—taxes and charges (Question No 1102)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total revenue collected through the ACT Revenue Office for each financial year since 2007-08 inclusive to date by (a) rates charges, (b) land tax charges, (c) rates penalties, (d) land tax penalties, (e) rates interest and (f) land tax interest.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the (a) total number of properties and (b) type of properties for each financial year since 2007-08 inclusive to date that accrued (i) rates penalties, (ii) land tax penalties, (iii) rates interest and (iv) land tax interest.
- (3) What is the current total value of outstanding payments in relation to (a) rates charges, (b) land tax charges, (c) rates penalties, (d) land tax penalties, (e) rates interest and (f) land tax interest.

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

- (1) Number of rateable properties and revenue collected from rates and land tax, including penalty tax and interest

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Number of rateable properties					
Residential	126,818	128,658	129,286	133,370	136,813
Commercial	5,112	5,252	5,391	5,587	5,697

Revenue (\$'000)					
Rates	171,388	183,094	192,822	202,993	213,596
Rates – Penalty Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Rates – Interest	1,131	1,083	962	1,313	1,347
Land Tax	72,436	85,491	97,348	108,107	113,410
Land Tax – Penalty Tax	114	183	234	409	467
Land Tax – Interest	541	750	810	1,242	1,342

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Number of rateable properties					
Residential	140,657	144,685	148,585	151,663	154,452
Commercial	5,731	5,784	5,997	6,018	6,033
Revenue (\$'000)					
Rates	298,441	345,736	382,752	424,657	458,779
Rates – Penalty Tax	-	-	-	-	-
Rates – Interest	1,527	1,837	2,197	2,484	2,703
Land Tax	68,564	79,427	96,177	101,006	106,084
Land Tax – Penalty Tax	915	1,220	1,801	1,220	987
Land Tax – Interest	1,294	1,900	2,741	2,140	2,124

(2) Number of properties incurring penalty tax and interest

	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2010-11	2011-12
Rates – interest					
Commercial	512	1,355	1,285	1,419	1,551
Residential	12,589	27,157	28,715	30,656	31,438
Rural	2	11	22	16	51
Land tax – interest					
Commercial	813	1,682	1,622	1,710	1,801
Residential	4,552	8,805	8,912	9,735	10,051
Land tax – penalty tax					
Commercial	-	-	-	2	1
Residential	178	207	207	227	242

	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17
Rates – interest					
Commercial	1,660	1,810	1,851	1,967	1,943
Residential	32,065	33,637	33,859	36,715	37,732
Rural	60	55	44	55	53
Land tax – interest					
Commercial	828	141	34	25	24
Residential	10,511	11,803	12,523	14,348	14,113
Land tax – penalty tax					
Commercial	-	-	-	-	-
Residential	261	463	705	734	553

(3) Outstanding debts (including collectable and uncollectable debts) as at end of March 2018 are shown below. It is not possible to provide a breakdown between the principal tax amount and the penalty tax amount for outstanding land tax. The amount shown for rates includes the fire and emergency services levy and the safer families levy.

Rates: \$50.5 million.

Rates – interest: \$3.1 million.

Land tax (including penalty tax): \$10.6 million.
Land tax – interest: \$1.4 million.

**Municipal services—mowing
(Question No 1104)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) When was the grass mowing schedule last reviewed and when is it next scheduled to be reviewed.
- (2) Are any suburbs not included in the current grass mowing schedule or only mown on request; if so, can the Minister advise (a) the name of the suburb, (b) why it was not included in the current schedule, (c) number of requests received for mowing for that suburb, (d) whether or when it was mown by Transport Canberra and City Services during 2017-18 and (e) whether or when it is next scheduled to be mown in 2017-18.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of times mowing was delayed by reason for delay and whether any backlog has now been caught up.

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

- (1) The mowing schedule is reviewed and updated weekly against the standard program which is drawn up at the start of the mowing season, in this case, late August 2017.
 - (2) The schedule includes all suburbs and outlines the expected frequency of mowing. The specified frequency may be affected by weather conditions and grass growth rates, for example if grass height in a suburb or part of a suburb is within specifications it may not be mown during a cycle. The 2017-18 peak mowing season finished at the end of March 2018 and all mowing across Canberra is now being carried out on an as-need basis. TCCS officers will continue to inspect suburbs to identify where mowing is needed.
 - (3) No. Throughout the peak mowing season numerous events and conditions may affect the delivery of the mowing program. Precise data is not collected in relation to what causes these delays and how long such delays are. However, when these events occur additional internal or contracted resources are allocated to minimise any delays and maintain the programmed schedule as closely as possible. There is no mowing backlog at this time.
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**ACTION bus service—repairs
(Question No 1105)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of how many (a) instances of damage to ACTION bus driver seats were reported and (b) investigations lead to repairs or replacement of bus seats, during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.

- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of how many (a) instances of ACTION bus driver seats “bottoming out” specifically were reported and (b) investigations lead to repairs or replacement of bus seats, during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of ACTION bus driver seats that needed (a) repairs or (b) replacement, including the total cost of the works during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of instances of injury to ACTION bus drivers by category of injury during (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.
- (5) What is the current maintenance schedule for ACTION bus driver seats.
- (6) What specifications must be met during maintenance for a seat to be classified as in working order and how were the specifications determined.

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

(1)

(a) Damage to ACTION bus driver seats that have been reported is as follows:

(i)	2014-15	1
(ii)	2015-16	5
(iii)	2016-17	2
(iv)	2017-18 (to date)	1

(b) The amount of investigations that lead to repairs or replacement of bus seats is nil.

(2)

(a) ACTION bus driver seats “bottoming out” reported is as follows:

(i)	2014-15	1
(ii)	2015-16	4
(iii)	2016-17	2
(iv)	2017-18 (to date)	3

(b) The amount of investigations lead to repairs or replacement of bus seats is nil.

(3)

(a) The total number of ACTION bus driver seats that needed repairs is difficult to obtain as the repairs are normally of minor nature that are carried out on work orders that have more than one repair attached to the work order. Generally if the seat requires any maintenance other than minor repairs the seat is changed out and replaced with a new or factory reconditioned item.

(b) The total number of ACTION bus driver seats that needed replacement:

- (i) 132 driver seats were replaced at a component value of \$231,203;
- (ii) 117 driver seats were replaced at component value of \$200,848;
- (iii) 102 driver seats were replaced at component value of \$136,091; and
- (iv) 78 driver seats were replaced at component value of \$112,350.

- (4) The amount of instances of injury to ACTION bus drivers by category of injury during:
- (a) Back pain, lumbago, and sciatica (2)
 - (b) Back pain, lumbago, and sciatica (6) and Leg pain (1)
 - (c) Back pain, lumbago, and sciatica (3) and Leg pain (2)
 - (d) Back pain, lumbago, and sciatica (3) and Neck pain (1)
- (5) Transport Canberra inspects the driver seats on all vehicles as part of the periodic scheduled maintenance program. Faults detected during this inspection are rectified prior to the vehicle returning to service. In addition to periodic inspection a service all in-service fleet have the driver seat assembly removed and replaced with a new replacement seat or a seat that has undergone a factory refurbishment at four year intervals on a scheduled driver seat specific maintenance program.
- (6) Transport Canberra Maintenance Personnel perform minor repairs and maintenance to the driver seats currently fitted to the TC in-service fleet, this includes the replacement of damaged or faulty controls, security of mounting hardware, replacement of faulty or worn seatbelts, and repairs to air supply lines. Seats that are have more serious faults such as worn or torn covering material, damaged or worn seat foams or any structural damage are replaced with a new or factory refurbished seat.

A damaged or faulty driver seat is considered as a non-releasable defect. The vehicle is not to be returned to service until service works on the driver seat has returned the seat to a condition that allows for all controls to be operational and the seat is in a condition that is consistent with a new or refurbished seat of the type fitted to the particular vehicle type. All replacement parts used by TC for driver seat repairs are sourced from the original driver seat supplier.

ACTION bus service—costs (Question No 1106)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) In relation to Bus Operations (ACTION Output 1.1) in the 2017-18 Budget Papers, what process was followed and factors considered when determining the 2017-18 farebox recovery as percentage of total network operating costs target.
- (2) In relation to Bus Operations (ACTION Output 1.1) in the 2016-17 Budget papers, how does Transport Canberra and City Services plan to achieve a 2017-18 farebox recovery as a percentage of total network operating costs target of 16.4 percent.
- (3) Will the light rail network have a farebox recovery as a percentage of total networking operating costs target; if so, can the Minister advise (a) how this target will be developed and (b) what strategies will be implemented to ensure that this target will be reached; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Farebox Recovery is a calculation of the 2017-18 Annual Fares Budget over the budgeted total expenses. The Fares budget is determined through incremental

increases to the base to recognise factors including population growth, network improvements and fare increases.

- (2) Transport Canberra and City Services plan to achieve the 2017-18 farebox recovery percentage by increasing patronage through initiatives to improve public transport services and use. These initiatives include infrastructure improvements to bus stops and community paths to access bus stops, new bus purchases to improve quality of the services, and the new rapid and other service improvements introduced in October 2017.
- (3) There is currently no farebox recovery target for Light Rail. The introduction of new performance indicators for Transport Canberra will be developed with consideration to an integrated public transport network.

Municipal services—mowing (Question No 1107)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What is the total number of complaints or queries relating to the cutting of wild grass received by (a) Access Canberra, (b) Transport Canberra and City Services or (c) any other the relevant agency or ministerial office in the financial years (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the number of complaints or queries relating to wild grass cutting received by the areas of (a) Belconnen, (b) Gungahlin, (c) Inner North, (d) Inner South, (e) Tuggeranong, (f) Woden Valley and Weston Creek, (g) north roads, (h) central and south roads and (i) nature strips.

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

- (1) The term wild grass is not used by Access Canberra or Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). For the purposes of this response, wild grass is taken to be dryland (non-irrigated) grass in urban open space.
 - a. Access Canberra received the following number of complaints or enquiries that related to the keyword 'grass':

2015-16	N/A – Please refer to 2 below
2016-17	110
2017-18 (to February)	107

- b. TCCS received the following number of complaints and enquiries from the public and Ministers that relate to the keywords 'grass' and 'mowing':

2015-16	91
2016-17	55
2017-18 (to date)	37

- c. All relevant complaint and enquiry data is held by Access Canberra and TCCS.

- (2) I have been advised that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require considerable resources.

Access Canberra—service delivery (Question No 1109)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) What is the average Access Canberra wait times for (a) telephone inquiries, (b) each shop and specialised centre and (c) chat service in the (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date financial years.
- (2) What is the average response time and rate for (a) online and (b) postal inquiries during (i) 2014-15, (ii) 2015-16, (iii) 2016-17 and (iv) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) What is the number of complaints that have been received by Access Canberra in relation to wait times by the method of contact in (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) (a) Contact Centre wait times (telephone enquiries):

Contact Centre	Average wait times
14/15	67 Seconds (1 min, 7 seconds)
15/16	68 Seconds (1 min, 8 seconds)
16/17	143 Seconds (2 mins, 23 seconds)
17/18 (to end February 2018)	314 Seconds (5 mins, 14 seconds)

In 2017/18 a significant number of new services lines were added to the Contact Centre. These additional services have resulted in an increase in waiting times.

- (b)

Service Centre	Belconnen	Woden	Tuggeranong	Gungahlin
2014-15	11:15	6:05	5:33	3:41
2015-16	7:35/6:39	9:35	7:29/7:21	2:45
2016-17	10:30	9:16/ 1:10	6:32	5:42
2017-18 to date	13:44	14:18	4:56	8:38

Specialty Shopfront	Environment, Land and Planning Dickson	Building Services Mitchell	Civic Driver Licence Service	Dickson Motor Registry	Office of Regulatory Services Fyshwick
2014-15	N/A	N/A	03:08	9:34	07:58
2015-16	N/A	4:43	3:34/05:15	08:25	08:31
2016-17	3:33	3:33	4:43	10:21	08:46
2017-18 to date	3:00	3:29	7:23	06:29	N/A

The Environment, Land and Planning and Building Services Shopfronts did not have a system in place to capture customer traffic and wait times until 20/12/2016. Tuggeranong Service Centre moved to QFlow on 07/03/2016. Belconnen 20/06/16, Mitchell 21/11/16, Civic 20/06/16 and Woden 13/2/2017.

The customer ticketing system was replaced in some service centres and shopfronts through 2015/16 and 2016/17. Working with Vulnerable People applications have been added to the transactions accepted at the Civic Drivers Licence Service this financial year.

The Office of Regulatory Services Shopfront at Fyshwick closed on 24/12/16.

(c) Chat service: The Oracle Service Cloud keeps stats of the chat related actions (e.g. wait times) for last 180 days only. The average chat initiation wait time is 20 seconds.

(2) This is not measured.

(3) Access Canberra commenced measuring the reason for complaints on 1/7/2017. Since then 183 complaints have been received relating to wait times. In that time approximately 710,000 customers have been served in the service and contact centres.

Westside village—costs (Question No 1110)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide an update on the status of the Westside Village assets and redeployment to Stromlo Forest Park.
- (2) What involvement did the National Capital Authority (NCA) have in the relocation of Westside Village assets and development of the café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park.
- (3) Did the NCA have any concerns or place conditions on the use of Westside Village assets and development of the café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park; if so, can the Minister outline the concerns and conditions and how they were handled or met by the ACT Government.
- (4) Are there trading and concessional arrangements associated with the development of the café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park; if so, what are the arrangements and can the Minister provide a breakdown of any revenue or costs associated.
- (5) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the revenue and cost of the Westside Village and development of the café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park, including (a) Westside Village construction costs, (b) Westside Village maintenance or running costs, (c) Westside Village revenue, (d) Westside Village decommissioning or re-use costs, (e) café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park construction costs, (f) café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park maintenance or running costs and (g) café and bike support facility in Stromlo Forest Park revenue.

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

- (1) Construction has been completed for the re-establishment of containers and associated structure at Stromlo Forest Park.
 - (2) Other than ensuring the site in West Basin was reinstated to its previous condition, the National Capital Authority (NCA) had no involvement in the relocation of Westside Village assets and the establishment of assets at Stromlo Forest Park.
 - (3) N/A.
 - (4) Negotiations with the preferred operator are to commence shortly.
 - (5)
 - a. The total costs associated with the relocation of Westside village and reinstatement of the West Basin site was \$801,532.31 (excluding GST).
 - b. See response to (4).
 - c. See response to (4).
 - d. The total costs associated with the relocation of Westside village and reinstatement of the West Basin site was \$801,532.31 (excluding GST).
 - e. Venues Canberra has spent \$10,515.00.
 - f. Operation has not commenced.
 - g. Operation has not commenced.
-

Planning—easements (Question No 1111)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of land acquisitions made by the ACT Government directorates or agencies, including Icon Water, in relation to easements, including the (a) nature of the easement, (b) method of acquisition and (c) total value of payments made in relation to the easement acquisitions, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Can the Minister outline the process undertaken by the ACT Government directorates or agencies, including Icon Water, to identify where and when an easement is needed and the acquisition process for easements.
- (3) How are easements planned or acquired during or after land releases and new suburb development.
- (4) What is the total number of land acquisitions made by the ACT Government directorates or agencies, including Icon Water, in relation to easements connected to land release or new suburbs, including the (a) nature of the easement, (b) method of acquisition and (c) total value of payments made in relation to the easement acquisitions connected to land release or new suburbs, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17 and (iii) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) An easement is a right to cross or use someone else's land for a specified purpose. The landowner is compensated for this right, but maintains ownership of the land. Easements are therefore not acquired. The answer therefore to the question is Nil.

The Suburban Land Agency has, however, facilitated, or is in the process of facilitating, the followings easements.

Block	Nature of Easement	Method	Compensation	Year
1582 Belconnen	Electricity easement for Second Point of Power Supply Project	Compensation for use of land for purposes of utility easement	\$147,182.75	2017/18
1600 Belconnen	Electricity easement for Second Point of Power Supply Project	Compensation for use of land for purposes of utility easement	\$116,752	2016/17
Block 1601 Belconnen	Electricity easement for Second Point of Power Supply Project	Compensation for use of land for purposes of utility easement	Not yet settled	Deed of Agreement entered into - due to settle in 2017/18
Block 1601 Belconnen	Water Main Easement	Compensation for use of land for purposes of utility easement	Not yet settled	Deed of Agreement entered into - due to settle in 2017/18
Block 1601 Belconnen	Access Easement	Compensation for use of land for purposes of utility easement	Not yet settled	Deed of Agreement entered into - due to settle in 2017/18

- (2) The facilitation of easements is the result of a negotiation. This involves parties seeking valuation advice as to the amount of compensation applicable, a negotiation and agreement of the compensation payable based on the valuation advice, and approval in accordance with the relevant policies and delegations of the organisation.

Generally, easements are determined and created over land:

- (i) prior to lease issue, where service infrastructure or access by right of way is proposed in the future through the land; or
- (ii) post lease issue by registering a transfer and grant of easement (TGE) over the existing lease.

The easements in (i) above may be the result of an approved development application, being shown on a Deposited Plan and referred to in a lease.

- (3) Easements planned for in new suburbs are proposed and approved in a development application for an estate development plan.
- (4) Nil.

**Government—sister city agreement
(Question No 1115)**

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

- (1) Can the Chief Minister provide an update on the status of the Sister City Agreement between the City of Wellington, New Zealand and Canberra, Australia.
- (2) Can the Chief Minister provide a summary of how the ACT Government has met or delivered on each of the commitments outlined in the Sister City Agreement with Wellington, New Zealand including a breakdown of any associated costs.

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

- (1) The Sister City Agreement (SCA) between Canberra and the Wellington City Council (WCC) was signed on 6 July 2016 by the then Mayor of Wellington, Councillor Celia Wade-Brown and myself as Chief Minister. This is the third SCA that the ACT has entered into following Nara, Japan (1993) and Beijing, China (2000).

The SCA with Wellington details a program of activities through 14 clauses, each dedicated to a specific area of activity identified by both cities as a matter of importance.

I have tasked the Commissioner for International Engagement (CIE) and the Office of International Engagement with the delivery and maintenance of the Canberra Wellington SCA.

The status of the Canberra Wellington SCA is that it is actively engaged, reciprocated and ongoing. The SCA is activated through continuous contact, multiple exchanges of delegations and individuals, WCC's *Capital Collab* and through the ACT's annual *Canberra Week in Wellington* (CWW).

The strength of the relationship is such that both cities have and will continue to conduct joint activity in Singapore in the areas such as screen and innovation. Possible future activity includes areas such as smart cities, city development, tourism, festivals, botanic and zoological gardens.

Regardless of the impending loss of direct air services between the two cities the ACT Government and the WCC are both committed to making the SCA work.

- (2) The clauses of the Sister City Agreement and the activity in each are as follows:

Clause 1: Cultural exchanges that connect arts communities, events development and national institutions

As a part of each of the CWW delegations, there has been a strong arts focus. As a promotion for the first CWW a concert coinciding with Wellington's Guy Fawkes Night fireworks was conducted. Street art and other activations were also planned.

WCC organised *Capital Collab* (CC), held in Acton, Canberra, in October 2017 which had an arts as well as a New Zealand food and beverage showcase component.

A number of local Canberra arts organisations are building stronger relationships with their counterparts overseas, particularly in Wellington. A number of ACT Government funded arts organisations are forming relationships with their counterparts in Wellington, including Canberra Contemporary Art Space, Canberra Youth Theatre, Screen Canberra.

artsACT is exploring opportunities for future collaboration with a number of arts organisations in Wellington including: City Arts and Events Team at Wellington City Council, Toi Pōneke Arts Centre, and City Gallery.

Discussions have taken place with the World of Wearable Art and the NZ Festival about possible joint activity and reciprocal activity. The Royal New Zealand Ballet has expressed an interest in working with and performing in Canberra. Future activities based around Floriade and Nightfest are being explored.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between Screen Wellington and Screen Canberra has been signed to see the screen industries in both cities working together to build the industry in both cities. During CWW March 2017 Screen Canberra conducted an intensive script preparation course in conjunction with Screen Wellington and the New Zealand Film Commission. Continuous information exchange has been undertaken between the two organisations.

With the CIE, Screen Canberra and Screen Wellington have been in discussion with interested parties in Singapore concerning future joint screen activity. The organisations have had joint discussions with the film industries in Singapore and Los Angeles, with a view to coproduction screen activity.

Discussion with Te Papa Museum and their cultural incubator Mahuki have occurred.

Clause 2: Partnerships that facilitate tourism promotion, marketing and product development.

Both cities have been conducting promotions to grow the tourism market through activities like CWW and CC, business to business activity as well as tourism operators familiarisation programs.

EnterpriseCanberra is working with the Wellington Regional Economic Development Agency (WREDA) on how best to promote both regions to each other. Visit Canberra and the CIE have had discussions with various tourism operators, the hospitality sector and the Wellington Airport concerning new opportunities.

The ACT Government and the WCC are looking at options to re-establish the direct flights between Canberra and Wellington.

Clause 3: Collaboration and knowledge sharing about urban renewal and sustainable growth

Collaboration and knowledge sharing about urban renewal and sustainable growth has occurred in areas such as transport, housing, municipal services, smart cities, liveability, the environment and economic development. This has occurred through government to government meetings both at elected representatives and at official level, forums and site visits.

Clause 4: Jointly supporting innovation and technology start-up ecosystems

Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and WREDA have now signed a MoU with a focus on closer collaboration and information sharing.

CBRIN invited BizDojo, a Wellington based innovation start-up centre, to nominate market ready businesses to join them in a joint Investor Showcase in Singapore in April 2017. It is intended for this to occur again at the next Investor Showcase in Singapore. CBRIN also had a strong presence and participation in the CWW 2017.

The CIE was invited to present and participate in the Creative Economy Conversation concerning the growth of New Zealand's creative economy in May 2017.

Clause 5: Collaboration on opportunities, to secure events, grow partnerships and increase participation in sport.

In particular the CWW March 2017 had a strong sports focus with almost a dozen Canberra sport peak bodies, sport based businesses and facilities attending to build the relationship between the two cities.

Activities included regional sport facility tour and information sharing session with Sport Wellington, exchange of information with Sport NZ, Westpac stadium tour and discussion on future uses of the stadium, Cyclo-Tourism meeting with Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, meeting with Wellington City Council regarding the Shift Program (young women's active participation program), meeting with New Zealand Recreation Association on recreational strategy, and a tour of Wellington Regional Aquatic Centre.

The WCC Councillor with responsibility for sport has been to the ACT and the ACT's Sports Minister has recently had meetings in Wellington concerning events, partnerships and facilities.

Clause 6: Programs that support opportunities for Indigenous people from both countries.

An ACT Government official heading Indigenous programs has travelled to Wellington to further indigenous activity between the two cities meeting both the Deputy Mayor and officials. Initial discussions concerning ACT participation in Matariki, the Maori lunar festival have been held. CWW has seen indigenous performers involved.

Meetings have been held with the cultural officer in Te Papa Museum to exchange information concerning the involvement of indigenous peoples in national and local cultural facilities and their programs.

Clause 7: Biodiversity initiatives and nature based partnerships.

The ACT Woodlands and Wetlands Trust has been involved in CWW activities and as a consequence have now signed a MoU with Zealandia for joint activity between the two organisations. This has resulted in an active staff exchange program to accelerate skills transfer in relation to sanctuary management and visitor engagement.

The Mayor of Wellington and an official have visited Mulligans Flat and were briefed on activities at the sanctuary. Members of an ACT delegation visited Zealandia for a briefing on their programs.

Following the signing of the MoU between the National Botanic Gardens of Singapore and the Canberra International Arboretum work is underway to extend the MoU to include the Wellington Botanic Gardens.

Initial discussions have been held with the Wellington Zoo and the National Zoo and Aquarium concerning closer ties.

Clause 8: Mutual exchange regarding smart city technologies and implementation

During the March 2017 CWW, the then head of the ACT Government's Smart City unit gave a presentation on the various programs that the ACT has delivered or is delivering to further its smart city and digital city ambition. WCC has shared knowledge on its programs.

NEC Wellington has hosted various ACT delegation as they maintain a smart cities lab in Wellington. As a consequence ACT delegations have been to similar NEC labs in Singapore and Tokyo.

As mentioned, CBRIN and WREDA, have now signed a MoU with a focus on closer collaboration and information sharing, which includes smart cities technologies.

Clause 9: Collaboration for the development of community services and affordable housing solutions.

Both cities have expressed a strong interest in addressing the housing needs of their cities. The Mayor of Wellington and his officials have been briefed by Housing ACT on the ACT's approach to a number of housing issues.

The Minister for Housing and the Executive Director, Housing ACT met with Wellington officials during a recent delegation to discuss affordable housing solutions.

Clause 10: Collaboration on civic programs for building Nationhood.

The Chief Minister and the Mayor of Wellington laid wreaths on the Australian War Memorial, Wellington in November 2016 as part of the Centenary celebrations of World War One. Following the ceremony, they jointly launched traffic lights in the area that use an image of an "Aussie digger" on the green light to walk, honouring the ANZAC tradition and the Wellington born, Australian Army soldier, Captain Alfred John Shout, who received a Victoria Cross on Gallipoli.

During the first CWW the National Capital Education Tourism Program (NCETP) had organised for the New Zealand Prime Minister to be interviewed via satellite by a group of students in Canberra. This was then to be reciprocated by the Australian Prime Minister. Unfortunately the 2016 earthquake prevented this from happening.

Clause 11: Collaboration for the development of sustainable transport solutions

The delivery of public transport has been a key topic of discussion between the two cities with Canberra's Light Rail of great interest to the WCC. The Mayor and his

officials, as well as a delegation of Councillors have been briefed by Transport Canberra officials on the project

In Wellington discussions have been had on how smart city technology is being used to manage traffic flows in the city.

Clause 12: Mutual exchange regarding renewable and sustainable energy supply.

The ACT Government and the CIE have briefed with the Mayor of Wellington and the WCC about the ACT Government's 100% renewable energy target and how it will be reached. Given the renewable energy sector is markedly different to Australia's, the WCC is considering how they may take a similar approach to their energy management.

Clause 13: Mutual exchange of delegations that would connect Wellington City Council and the ACT Government.

There has been a continuous program of delegations connecting the two cities.

Since the signing of the SCA the Chief Minister has led delegations to Wellington in November 2016 and 2017 for CWW. The Mayor of Wellington led a delegation to Canberra in May 2017. The Deputy Mayor of Wellington led a delegation to Canberra for the *Capital's Collab* in October 2017.

The Deputy Chief Minister was in Wellington in March 2018 with a focus on sport and education.

A number of Wellington City Councillors have travelled to Canberra as a group and individually to discuss issues such as municipal services, public transport, light rail, sport, tourism and the arts.

The CIE has made several trips to Wellington to build the relationship, prepare for CWW, to travel with the Chief Minister and to participate in various forums.

Officials from both cities have been involved in delegations covering government to government relations, tourism, business, innovation, education, municipal services, indigenous issues, sport, the arts, the environment and housing.

Clause 14: Mutual exchange of delegations that connect businesses of each city.

The SCA has provided a platform for business to business activity between the two cities.

Each CWW has had a business component. The March 2017 delegation (following the cancellation of November 2016 due to an earthquake) had a strong sports focus, while the November 2017 had a film focus.

Since the signing of the SCA, the Canberra Business Chamber has signed a MoU with the Wellington Chamber of Commerce, offering reciprocal rights to their members and working closer together.

The November 2017 CWW included a Property Forum where information about the Canberra property market was delivered to Wellington investors.

Costs

The costs for these activities have been the subject of several Questions on Notice. I refer you to the answer for QoN 178 and QoN 983.

As at 23 March 2018, the costs totalled AUD\$410, 150.00 for the delegations to Wellington in support of the sister city engagement. These costs can be broken down by delegations:

July 2016	Signing of the Sister City Agreement	\$26,404.00
November 2016	Canberra Week in Wellington	\$331,972.00
March 2017	Canberra Week in Wellington	\$30,225.00
November 2017	Canberra Week in Wellington	\$21,549.00

**Health—cancer treatment
(Question No 1117)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of cancer patients treated at ACT Health facilities by cancer type, during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of cancer patients by cancer type that have been required to pay out of pocket cancer costs, during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the average value of out of pocket costs incurred by cancer patients by cancer type, during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.
- (4) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total value of out of pockets costs paid by cancer patients by cancer type, during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and (c) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) The total number of cancer patients treated at ACT Health facilities by financial year is:

(a)	2015-16	5,261 patients
(b)	2016-17	5,467 patients
(c)	2017-18 as at 28 February 2018	3,785 patients

Attachment A reflects the breakdown by cancer type.

- (2) No. An actual figure is unable to be provided due to the variable treatment pathways and treatment choices made by each individual patient.
- (3) No. An actual figure is unable to be provided due to the variable treatment pathways and treatment choices made by each individual patient.

- (4) No. An actual figure is unable to be provided due to the variable treatment pathways and treatment choices made by each individual patient.

Attachment A

Please note: This is a count of individuals treated for each cancer, irrespective of the number of treatments they received
Data taken from ACTPAS coded data as at 16/04/2018

n.p. = not provided (suppression rules have been applied to those cancers with low numbers)

* = provisional data

ICD10 Description	ICD10 Code	2015-16 Full Year	2016-17 Full Year	2017-18 to 28 Feb *
Carcinoma in situ of breast	D05	33	32	14
Carcinoma in situ of cervix uteri	D06	79	73	43
Carcinoma in situ of middle ear and respiratory system	D02	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Carcinoma in situ of oral cavity, oesophagus and stomach	D00	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Carcinoma in situ of other and unspecified digestive organs	D01	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Carcinoma in situ of other and unspecified genital organs	D07	9	8	5
Carcinoma in situ of other and unspecified sites	D09	49	43	30
Carcinoma in situ of skin	D04	47	57	38
Follicular lymphoma	C82	25	21	19
Haemangioma and lymphangioma	D18	64	55	37
Hodgkin lymphoma	C81	16	12	13
Kaposi sarcoma	C46	n.p.	0	0
Leiomyoma of uterus	D25	150	133	100
Leukaemia of unspecified cell type	C95	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Lymphoid leukaemia	C91	45	54	31
Malignant immunoproliferative diseases	C88	10	7	n.p.
Malignant melanoma of skin	C43	76	109	84
Malignant neoplasm of accessory sinuses	C31	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of adrenal gland	C74	0	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of anus and anal canal	C21	9	12	6
Malignant neoplasm of base of tongue	C01	8	13	8
Malignant neoplasm of bladder	C67	98	98	69
Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage of limbs	C40	n.p.	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of bone and articular cartilage of other and unspe	C41	8	11	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of brain	C71	65	82	58
Malignant neoplasm of breast	C50	240	275	206
Malignant neoplasm of bronchus and lung	C34	243	249	169
Malignant neoplasm of cervix uteri	C53	22	19	9
Malignant neoplasm of colon	C18	206	217	132
Malignant neoplasm of corpus uteri	C54	39	43	31
Malignant neoplasm of eye and adnexa	C69	5	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of floor of mouth	C04	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of gallbladder	C23	11	10	9
Malignant neoplasm of gum	C03	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of heart, mediastinum and pleura	C38	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of hypopharynx	C13	n.p.	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of kidney, except renal pelvis	C64	79	63	39
Malignant neoplasm of larynx	C32	10	9	10
Malignant neoplasm of lip	C00	5	6	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of liver and intrahepatic bile ducts	C22	80	69	35
Malignant neoplasm of malignant neoplasm of retroperitoneum and perit	C48	11	5	5
Malignant neoplasm of meninges	C70	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of nasal cavity and middle ear	C30	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of nasopharynx	C11	n.p.	5	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of oesophagus	C15	48	46	24
Malignant neoplasm of oropharynx	C10	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined digestive organs	C26	9	5	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites	C76	n.p.	8	6
Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the lip, oral ca	C14	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other and ill-defined sites in the respiratory	C39	0	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified female genital organs	C57	n.p.	n.p.	7
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified major salivary glands	C08	n.p.	0	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of biliary tract	C24	14	18	12
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of mouth	C06	6	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified parts of tongue	C02	13	12	12
Malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified urinary organs	C68	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of other connective and soft tissue	C49	15	12	10

ICD10 Description	ICD10 Code	2015-16 Full Year	2016-17 Full Year	2017-18 to 28 Feb *
Malignant neoplasm of other endocrine glands and related structures	C75	n.p.	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of ovary	C56	45	49	20
Malignant neoplasm of palate	C05	5	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of pancreas	C25	92	84	67
Malignant neoplasm of parotid gland	C07	14	12	8
Malignant neoplasm of penis	C60	n.p.	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of peripheral nerves and autonomic nervous system	C47	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of prostate	C61	209	221	180
Malignant neoplasm of pyriform sinus	C12	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of rectosigmoid junction	C19	72	93	51
Malignant neoplasm of rectum	C20	76	77	45
Malignant neoplasm of renal pelvis	C65	7	13	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of small intestine	C17	14	12	9
Malignant neoplasm of spinal cord, cranial nerves and other parts of	C72	n.p.	n.p.	5
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	C16	43	49	29
Malignant neoplasm of testis	C62	15	15	5
Malignant neoplasm of thymus	C37	0	n.p.	0
Malignant neoplasm of thyroid gland	C73	44	36	35
Malignant neoplasm of tonsil	C09	14	7	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of trachea	C33	0	0	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of ureter	C66	5	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of uterus, part unspecified	C55	n.p.	16	13
Malignant neoplasm of vagina	C52	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm of vulva	C51	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Malignant neoplasm without specification of site	C80	84	78	59
Mature T/NK-cell lymphomas	C84	6	7	7
Melanocytic naevi	D22	41	38	28
Melanoma in situ	D03	26	24	24
Mesothelioma	C45	19	19	16
Monocytic leukaemia	C93	5	6	7
Multiple myeloma and malignant plasma cell neoplasms	C90	91	64	51
Myelodysplastic syndromes	D46	40	31	16
Myeloid leukaemia	C92	62	49	40
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of brain and central nervo	D43	14	19	9
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of endocrine glands	D44	n.p.	6	5
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of female genital organs	D39	9	9	6
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of male genital organs	D40	n.p.	0	0
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of meninges	D42	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of middle ear and respirat	D38	n.p.	7	n.p.
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of oral cavity and digesti	D37	38	18	17
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of other and unspecified s	D48	10	22	9
Neoplasm of uncertain or unknown behaviour of urinary organs	D41	56	58	42
Non-follicular lymphoma	C83	84	90	67
Other and unspecified malignant neoplasms of lymphoid, haematopoietic	C96	n.p.	n.p.	0
Other and unspecified types of non-Hodgkin lymphoma	C85	23	24	16
Other benign neoplasms of connective and other soft tissue	D21	17	10	11
Other benign neoplasms of skin	D23	31	32	29
Other benign neoplasms of uterus	D26	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Other leukaemias of specified cell type	C94	9	5	n.p.
Other malignant neoplasms of skin	C44	370	452	340
Other neoplasms of uncertain or unknown behaviour of lymphoid, haemat	D47	24	31	17
Other specified types of T/NK-cell lymphoma	C86	n.p.	0	n.p.
Polycythaemia vera	D45	n.p.	n.p.	n.p.
Secondary and unspecified malignant neoplasm of lymph nodes	C77	467	532	332
Secondary malignant neoplasm of other and unspecified sites	C79	532	530	385
Secondary malignant neoplasm of respiratory and digestive organs	C78	622	654	431
Total (inclusive of suppressed values)		5261	5467	3785

Government—communications (Question Nos 1119-1147)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) What is the total number of staff by full-time equivalent and headcount assigned to media and communications roles, including strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles for each directorate and government agency for which you are responsible.
- (2) What is the breakdown, by ACT Public Service classification type, of the number of staff assigned to media and communications roles, including strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles for each directorate and government agency for which you are responsible.
- (3) Do any of the directorates or government agencies for which you are responsible engage any consultants or contractors to perform media and communications roles, including strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles; if so, for 2017-18 to date what is (a) the number of consultants or contractors engaged, (b) the total value of each contract, and, if available or paid hourly, the hourly rate paid, (c) the period of the contract, (d) contract name, (e) contract number and (f) method of procurement.

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

In responding to your questions we have interpreted media and communications roles (strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles) as those which ensure the community is well informed about the full breadth of government programs, policy and services. ACT Government public information activities and campaigns are undertaken for the following reasons:

- public health or safety campaigns and campaigns that assist in the preservation of order in the event of an emergency or crisis;
- campaigns that help ensure public safety, personal security or that encourage responsible behaviour and to maximise compliance with the law;
- campaigns that attract investment and promote the ACT as a business and tourist destination;
- to inform the community of new, existing, changed policies, programs and services;
- to raise awareness of a planned or new initiative or event;
- to initiate community consultation;

- to promote awareness of rights, responsibilities, duties or entitlements;
- to encourage social cohesion, civic pride, community spirit, tolerance, or to inform the community about a public policy outcome.
- routine advertising carried out by agencies in relation to their core operational activities (for example changes to conditions or fees for services such as Transport Canberra buses, public housing or public landfill or jobs and tender advertising).

A Whole of Government response by Directorate is attached as:

Attachment A - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Attachment A (i) – CIT

Attachment B – Community Service Directorate

Attachment C – Education Directorate

Attachment D – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Attachment D (i) – City Renewal Authority

Attachment D (ii) – Suburban Land Agency

Attachment E – Health Directorate

Attachment F – Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Attachment G – Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

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

Government—communications (Question Nos 1148-1176)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 *(redirected to the Chief Minister)*:

- (1) How does each directorate and government agency for which the minister is responsible for (a) collect data and (b) keep data on members of the public for use as part of communication and engagement strategies.

- (2) For each directorate and government agency for which the minister is responsible for, provide a breakdown of the (a) total number of subscription or distribution lists for members of the public that are maintained, (b) the name or nature of the list, (c) the reason for the list and nature of content sent out, (d) how many contacts are in the subscription or distribution list and (e) how often content is sent out.
- (3) Do any directorate and government agency for which the minister is responsible for share subscription or distribution lists with (a) other ACT Government directorates or agencies, (b) contractors or consultants or (c) other third parties; if so, (i) which subscription or distribution list is shared and with what entity, (ii) what protections are in place to preserve the privacy of individuals and (iii) what restrictions are placed on the use of data.

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

In responding to your questions we have interpreted media and communications roles (strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles) as those which ensure the community is well informed about the full breadth of government programs, policy and services. ACT Government public information activities and campaigns are undertaken for the following reasons:

- public health or safety campaigns and campaigns that assist in the preservation of order in the event of an emergency or crisis;
- campaigns that help ensure public safety, personal security or that encourage responsible behaviour and to maximise compliance with the law;
- campaigns that attract investment and promote the ACT as a business and tourist destination;
- to inform the community of new, existing, changed policies, programs and services;
- to raise awareness of a planned or new initiative or event;
- to initiate community consultation;
- to promote awareness of rights, responsibilities, duties or entitlements;
- to encourage social cohesion, civic pride, community spirit, tolerance, or to inform the community about a public policy outcome.
- routine advertising carried out by agencies in relation to their core operational activities (for example changes to conditions or fees for services such as Transport Canberra buses, public housing or public landfill or jobs and tender advertising).

A Whole of Government response by Directorate is attached as:

Attachment A - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Attachment A (i) – CIT

Attachment B – Community Service Directorate

Attachment C – Education Directorate

Attachment D – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Attachment D (i) – City Renewal Authority

Attachment D (ii) – Suburban Land Agency

Attachment E – Health Directorate

Attachment F – Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Attachment G – Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

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

**Government—FOI requests
(Question Nos 1177-1205)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) What is the total number of staff by full-time equivalent and headcount assigned to handling Freedom of Information (FOI) requests for each directorate and each government agency for which the Minister is responsible for.
- (2) What is the breakdown, by ACT public service classification type, of the number of staff currently assigned to handling FOI requests for each directorate and each government agency for which the Minister is responsible for.
- (3) How did each directorate and each government agency for which the Minister is responsible for prepare for the implementation of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, including amending processes, extra recruiting or restructuring.
- (4) Is there a review or evaluation scheduled to be undertaken on the implementation, effects, or processes associated with the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* by each directorate and each government agency for which the Minister is responsible for; if not, why not; if so, (a) who will undertake the review or evaluation, (b) whether it will be part of a whole of government initiative or undertaken by individual directorates and government agencies, (c) when that review or evaluation is scheduled to occur, (d) when the review or evaluation is scheduled to be finalised and (e) whether the review or evaluation will be released publicly, and where.

Mr Ramsay: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.

- (2) Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- (3) A whole-of-government project for the implementation of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* commenced in March 2017.

Prior to 1 January 2018, all ACT Government Directorates and agencies participated in a series of activities to implement the new FOI Act. Directorates and agencies contributed to the establishment and maintenance of an FOI working group, which was supported by a project team comprised of a SOG C Project Manager and an ASO5 project officer and the project board.

In addition to the overarching project, ACT Government Directorates and agencies also prepared for the introduction of the Act in the following ways:

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, a SOG C was taken off-line to manage the implementation of the FOI and Open Access requirements of the Act.

From 1 January 2018, CMTEDD has restructured and established an FOI team which centralises the functions of previous action officers and decision makers that were within business units, into the one team. New processes have been managed through the Whole of Government FOI working group.

Community Service Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, an additional SOG B was recruited to manage the FOI and Open Access Information Scheme within CSD. CSD developed communication and training to all CSD staff, directorate-specific resources and internal procedures and processes.

From 1 January 2018, CSD has continued to support staff in implementing the FOI Act and Open access information scheme while contributing to the WhoG FOI Working Group.

Education Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, Education participated in the WhoG implementation project of the new FOI Act.

From 1 January 2018, Education has continued to support staff in implementing the FOI Act and Open access information scheme while contributing to the WhoG FOI Working Group.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, EPSDD circulated an all-staff email advising of the commencement of the FOI Act 2016. EPSDD has also updated processes and procedures to ensure all relevant information is identified, decisions are made within statutory timeframes and quality assurance, including developing and implementing a new FOI Register.

From 1 January 2018, EPSDD has continued to support staff in implementing the FOI Act and Open access information scheme while contributing to the WhoG FOI Working Group.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, an existing SOGA was tasked with the overarching coordination of the project, including the oversight of the working group and the implementation of the FOI and Open Access requirements of the Act, with support from the Legislation Policy and Programs Team.

From 1 January 2018, JACS is trialling a centralised FOI process where all requests are managed within a corporate team within the directorate, with Information Officers remaining in the business units. A trial resource at the ASO6 level has been incorporated into the team. New processes will be managed through the Whole of Government FOI working group.

Transport Canberra and City Services

Prior to 1 January 2018, TCCS participated in the FOI working Group. Executive briefings were held and several information sessions with business units in the directorate to prepare for the implementation of the Act and Information Officers were appointed. From 1 January 2018, open access documents were published and the Directorate's disclosure log was implemented.

SOG A attended workshops, coordinated internal implementation of Open Access and arranged for directorate's compliance with legislation, including input into templates and standard operating procedures.

ACT Health Directorate

Prior to 1 January 2018, ACT Health participated in the WhoG implementation project of the new FOI Act. A temporary SOG C position was created to manage the implementation of the FOI and Open Access requirements within ACT Health.

From 1 January 2018, ACT Health has restructured their FOI unit and continued to support staff in implementing the FOI Act and Open access information scheme while contributing to the WhoG FOI Working Group.

Canberra Institute of Technology

Prior to 1 January 2018, CIT participated in the WhoG implementation project of the new FOI Act.

From 1 January 2018, a new SOG C position has been established in 2018 which will include a greater focus on FOI and Open Access.

ICON Water

Prior to 1 January, Icon Water updated agency-specific FOI procedure guidelines, created instructions responding to the new Open Access requirements of the FOI Act 2016 and updated relevant boards, executives and teams.

From 1 January 2018, Icon Water has continued to support staff in implementing the FOI Act and Open access information scheme.

- (4) Yes, reviews are required under s67 and s110 of the Act and will be undertaken accordingly.

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

**Government—FOI requests
(Question Nos 1206-1234)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of freedom of information (FOI) requests each directorate and government agency for which the Minister is responsible for has received during 2017-18 to date, by (a) requests made under the repealed *Freedom of Information Act 1989* and (b) requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2016; that are (i) received or active, (ii) transferred, (iii) withdrawn and (d) finalised.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of FOI requests each directorate and government agency for which the Minister is responsible for has received during 2017-18 to date, by (a) requests made under the repealed *Freedom of Information Act 1989* and (b) requests made under the Freedom of Information Act 2016; that (i) have been finalised within the statutory time frame, (ii) have been finalised outside of the statutory time frame and (iii) are yet to be finalised.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of FOI requests which were received during (a) 2015-16 and (b) 2016-17 by each directorate and government agency for which the Minister is responsible for, that are pending or were processed, in part or wholly, during 2017-18, by those that (i) have been finalised within the statutory time frame, (ii) have been finalised outside of the statutory time frame and (iii) are yet to be finalised.

Mr Ramsay: The answer to the member's questions is as follows:

- (1) Please refer to the attached spreadsheet.
- (2) Please refer to the answers to Question (3), as agreed with Mr Coe's office on 28 March 2018.
- (3) I am advised that a clarification was provided by Mr Coe's Office on 28 March 2018.

This question was redefined to be:

“Clarification (28 Mar 18): requesting the total number of FOI Requests received during 2015-16 and 2016-17 that are pending or processed. Separately, we are also requesting the number of FOI Requests that were pending or processed, in part or wholly during 2017-18 to date. We are requesting all three of these datasets to be broken down individually by parts (i), (ii) and (iii).”

The information requested is outside the annual report requirement for the *Freedom of Information Act 1989*. To produce the answer to Mr Coe’s question, directorates will have to assess all FOI requests from the past three years to determine whether they are (i) finalised within the statutory timeframe, (ii) outside the statutory timeframe and (iii) not yet been finalised. The FOI legislation (both 1989 and 2016) allow additional time when there is a third party consultation or extension granted by the ACT Ombudsman. The addition time varies from case to case, and it is hard to say which FOI request is within the statutory timeframe by looking at total processing time. For example, the stats for 46-60 days could be either a late item or an item not late but was under consultation. Although the answers to (iii) for 15-16 and 16-17 can be found in the annual reports, answering all parts of Questions 3 could still result in substantial diversion of resources.

I have asked ACT Government Directorates and agencies to

- a) provide the information on 15-16 and 16-17 by referring to the relevant annual reports;
- b) provide information on the period of July to December 17 following the annual report directions for *Freedom of Information Act 1989*;
- c) Provide information on the period of 1 Jan – 23 March 18 (FOI requests received under the new FOI Act) broken down into (i) within statutory timeframe; (ii) outside statutory timeframe and (iii) yet to be finalised.

The answers are provided below:

- (a) Please refer to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate’s Annual Report in 2015 16 and 2016-17 for the requested information:
<http://justice.act.gov.au/resources/uploads/JACS/annual-report-2016-2017/page30.html>
http://justice.act.gov.au/resources/uploads/JACS/annual-report-2015-2016/section_n_justice_and_community_safety/2_freedom_of_information.html
- (b) Please see the answers to Question (3) (b) in the spreadsheet attached.
- (c) Please see the answers to Question (3) (c) in the spreadsheet attached.

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

Government—communications (Question Nos 1235-1263)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, the Minister for Urban Renewal, the Minister for Economic Development, the Treasurer, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the Attorney-General, the Minister for Police and Emergency

Services, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, the Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, the Minister for Sport and Recreation, the Minister for Women, the Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, the Minister for Planning and Land Management, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, the Minister for Tourism and Major Events, the Minister for Regulatory Services, the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, the Minister for Veterans and Seniors, the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, the Minister for Corrections, the Minister for Mental Health, the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 March 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) What is the breakdown of total spending on media and communications of each directorate and government agency for which the Minister is responsible for in (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and 2017-18 to date by (i) internal staff costs, (ii) software or other internal infrastructure, (iii) goods and services contracts and (iv) consultancy services.
- (2) Have any of the directorates or government agencies for the Minister is responsible for engaged external consultants or contractors for the provision of communications or media services, including instances where the contract value is below \$25,000, during (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17 and 2017-18 to date.
- (3) If the answer was yes to any of part (2)(a) to (c), can the Minister advise (a) whether the consultant or contractor was engaged under a whole of Government panel contract; if engaged outside of a whole of Government panel contract, why the existing panel contractors did not meet requirements, (b) nature of services, (c) total value of the contract, (d) total period of the contract, (e) contract name and (f) contract number.

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

In responding to your questions we have interpreted media and communications roles (strategic communications and media, digital communications, and marketing and advertising roles) as those which ensure the community is well informed about the full breadth of government programs, policy and services. ACT Government public information activities and campaigns are undertaken for the following reasons:

- public health or safety campaigns and campaigns that assist in the preservation of order in the event of an emergency or crisis;
- campaigns that help ensure public safety, personal security or that encourage responsible behaviour and to maximise compliance with the law;
- campaigns that attract investment and promote the ACT as a business and tourist destination;
- to inform the community of new, existing, changed policies, programs and services;
- to raise awareness of a planned or new initiative or event;
- to initiate community consultation;
- to promote awareness of rights, responsibilities, duties or entitlements;

- to encourage social cohesion, civic pride, community spirit, tolerance, or to inform the community about a public policy outcome.
- routine advertising carried out by agencies in relation to their core operational activities (for example changes to conditions or fees for services such as Transport Canberra buses, public housing or public landfill or jobs and tender advertising).

A Whole of Government response by Directorate is attached as:

Attachment A - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

Attachment A (i) – CIT

Attachment B – Community Service Directorate

Attachment C – Education Directorate

Attachment D – Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

Attachment D (i) – City Renewal Authority

Attachment D (ii) – Suburban Land Agency

Attachment E – Health Directorate

Attachment F – Justice and Community Safety Directorate

Attachment G – Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

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

Answers to questions on notice—costs (Question No 1272)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Further to the answers to questions on notice Nos 1032 and 1034, what is the basis for stating the approximate cost of completing the answers, when that information was not sought.
- (2) What elements of process were included in the costing.
- (3) What hourly rate was applied for each element of process.
- (4) How long did it take to calculate the approximate cost for each question.
- (5) Was the time taken to calculate the cost included in the overall cost.
- (6) Why did the final figures for the approximate cost translate to different hourly rates.

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

- (1) Inclusion of this information is now a standard practice for all directorates responding to questions on notice. This is intended to transparently communicate the level of resourcing needed to respond to each question on notice and, by extension, support an understanding of why some questions may not be answered due to an assessment of when there would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- (2) Costings reflect the total time taken to prepare and provide each response. Where applicable, this includes time spent by administrative support staff to identify and coordinate input from other business units, as well as time taken during review and clearance processes.
 - (3) The hourly rates applied correspond to the classification/level of the particular staff members involved in preparing each response.
 - (4) The costings were calculated using a standardised whole of government tool. Aside from time taken to prepare the original tool, no additional time was required to calculate the individual costings.
 - (5) No.
 - (6) Different amounts of time were required at each classification/level to provide each response.
-

**Education—gifted and talented program
(Question No 1273)**

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) How many schools currently offer specific gifted and talented classes and what are those schools.
- (2) For what age groups and in how many classes are these specific and talented classes offered.
- (3) How does the number of schools differ from the number of schools in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016 and (d) 2017.
- (4) How does the number of classes differ from those in (a) 2014, (b) 2015, (c) 2016 and (d) 2017.
- (5) If the number of schools and/or classes has reduced, what is the reason.
- (6) What pre and post graduate training is available to teachers teaching gifted and talented classes.
- (7) Is it a requirement for a teacher of gifted and talented classes to have additional or specific training in gifted and talented education.

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

- (1) The number of ACT public schools offering specific gifted and talented classes is not centrally collected by the Education Support Office. However, under the *Gifted and Talented Students* policy, all schools are responsible for ensuring the provision of developmentally appropriate educational strategies for gifted and talented students enrolled. This may include differentiation within the classroom, part or whole grade acceleration, specific programs within schools and/or carefully considered groupings of students with similar abilities.

- (2) This information is not centrally collected.
- (3) This information is not centrally collected.
- (4) This information is not centrally collected.
- (5) This information is not centrally collected.
- (6) From 2015 to 2018, the Education Directorate engaged Gateways Education to deliver professional learning workshops to build ACT public school teachers' skills in teaching gifted and talented students.

Initial Teacher Education programs in the ACT are accredited by the ACT Teacher Quality Institute. Upon graduation, a teacher has met the Graduate Standards of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers, which includes the ability to differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities and establish challenging learning goals. Some higher education training providers offer graduate qualifications in gifted education.

- (7) All ACT teachers are qualified to differentiate the curriculum to cater for the learning needs of every student in their classroom, including gifted and talented students.

Taxation—city centre marketing and improvements levy (Question No 1274)

Mr Wall asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) What is the expected revenue from the City Centre Improvement Levy (CCIL) for the 2017-18 financial year.
- (2) What proportion of the levy is raised from properties located in (a) City Centre, (b) Braddon and (c) Turner.
- (3) How many leases are classified as Area 1 in (a) City Centre, (b) Braddon and (c) Turner.
- (4) How many leases are classified as Area 2 in (a) City Centre, (b) Braddon and (c) Turner.
- (5) How many leases have overdue amounts owing for the CCIL.
- (6) What is the total value of the overdue amount identified in part (5).

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

- (1) The expected revenue from the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (CCMIL) in the 2017-18 financial year is \$1,980,000.

- (2) The percentage of CCMIL for the 2017-18 financial year has been raised as follows:
 - a. 84.61 percent in the City Centre
 - b. 15.39 percent in Braddon
 - c. There are no properties liable for the CCMIL in Turner.
 - (3) In the 2017-18 financial year the following leased properties are in Area 1:
 - a. 257 properties in Area 1 in the City Centre
 - b. 0 properties in Area 1 in Braddon
 - c. There are no properties liable for the CCMIL in Turner.
 - (4) In the 2017-18 financial year the following leased properties are in Area 2:
 - a. 101 properties in Area 2 in the City Centre
 - b. 245 properties in Area 2 in Braddon
 - c. There are no properties liable for the CCMIL in Turner.
 - (5) Currently there are 115 leases with overdue CCMIL charges.
 - (6) Currently there is an amount of \$131,104.85 outstanding for overdue CCMIL charges.
-

**Taxation—city centre marketing and improvements levy
(Question No 1275)**

Mr Wall asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Chief Minister*):

- (1) How are projects to be funded by the City Centre Improvement Levy (CCIL) identified.
- (2) What is the criteria for selecting projects to be funded.
- (3) Who is consulted in deciding whether a project receives funding.
- (4) What projects have been funded in the financial year 2017-18
- (5) Who has the funding for each project in 2017-18 been awarded to.
- (6) What is the amount of funding being provided to each project in 2017-18.
- (7) What portion of funds raised through the CCIL go to directly funding projects.
- (8) What is the City Renewal Authority's objective in allocating funding raised through the CCIL.

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

- (1) The City Renewal Authority has committed to provide continuity of service to levy payers and has allocated the majority of funding based on this commitment. The development of a performance and accountability framework in consultation with levy payers is currently in preparation and will inform the allocation of future funding.

- (2) Projects funded by the City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy (CCMIL) align with objectives outlined in schedule 2 of the CCMIL Program Funding Agreement. These objectives are:
- a. to achieve an attractive dynamic, vital, liveable City Centre where businesses and community prosper;
 - b. to achieve a clean, safe and attractive City Centre by complementing existing Territory services;
 - c. to encourage the private sector to maintain a high standard of public/private interface;
 - d. to administer Funds for a discrete program of works within the broader work of the Authority;
 - e. minimise disruption in transition from Canberra CBD Limited to the Authority; and
 - f. encourage engagement by Levy Payers and the community.
- (3) Projects are allocated based on a work programme that was endorsed by the CRA Board. These projects are checked by EPSDD to ensure they adhere to the objectives of the CCMIL Program Funding Agreement.
- (4) Projects identified in the 2017-18 Business Plan include:
- a. Introducing Better Performance and Accountability;
 - b. City Grants;
 - c. Contributing to a Safer Community;
 - d. Cleaning and Maintenance;
 - e. Partnerships and Events;
 - f. Communications and Engagement;
 - g. Vibrant Streets; and
 - h. Capital Works.
- (5) & (6) The amount of funding that has been acquitted and committed to each individual project is as follow;

	Funding acquitted & committed as of 1 May 2018 (ex gst)	Funding awarded to
Introducing Better Performance and Accountability	\$72,720.91	Acil Allen
City Grant	\$173,614	See Appendix A
Contributing to a Safer Community	\$26,200	Access Canberra
Cleaning and Maintenance	\$0	Tender documentation is currently being prepared
Partnerships and Events	\$141,857.50	Multicultural Festival \$20,000 Enlighten City Precinct \$121,857.50

Communications and Engagement	\$18,316.70	ED Digital \$780 Content Group \$17,536.70
Vibrant Streets	\$86,364	Tender process underway
Capital Works	\$400,000	Committed to Sydney Melbourne building waste enclosure project

- (7) The majority of funds collected through the CCMIL is allocated directly to projects. \$25,000 is retained to cover administration costs incurred by the ACT Revenue Office and EPSDD.
- (8) Projects funded through the CCMIL are designed to contribute to the objectives detailed in schedule 2 of the CCMIL Program Funding Agreement as well as providing continuity of service and outcomes to levy payers.

Appendix A

Applicant name	Project Title	Amount Received
byrd	light in dark places mural	\$5,000.00
Distaffik Collective	Treeology	\$5,000.00
GetAboutAble Pty Ltd	Accessible Canberra	\$5,000.00
Good Content	Good Content vacant space artist showcase	\$3,910.00
Miss Karina Bontes Forward	Poets for Breakfast	\$5,000.00
Ms Chenoeh Miller	Hurly Burley Winter Fair 2018	\$74,479.00
Planning Institute of Australia ACT Young Planners	ACT Young Planners Pop-up Parklet	\$5,000.00
Reload Bar and Games & Treehouse Bar	Loaded Laneway	\$19,773.00
Trove Canberra	World Wide Knit in Public Day.	\$2,500.00
University of Canberra	Evaluation and Community Engagement Suite of Research Tools for Activations in the City	\$19,172.00
Wellspring Environmental Arts & Design	Create-a-place x3	\$23,780.00
Wesley Music Foundation	One Sunday in the City	\$5,000.00

Trees—damage penalties (Question No 1277)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Is the Government able to negotiate compensation rather than issuing a fine when trees have been illegally removed or damaged; if so, (a) under what legislation or regulation is this done, (b) does this compensation have to be in the form of replacement trees, or can other forms of compensation such as landscaping or shared path upgrades be considered and (c) is community consultation on the form of compensation permitted.

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

There is no capacity under the *Tree Protection Act 2005* or the *Heritage Act 2004* to negotiate compensation rather than issuing a fine when trees are illegally removed or damaged. However, the requirement for a replacement tree or trees can be set as condition of approval.

Under the *Public Unleased Land Act 2013* the Director-General can direct an entity to repair or replace public assets such as trees under Division 2.4 S21 (1) (ii).

Taxation—rates (Question No 1278)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What was the median Average Unimproved Value for each of the last three financial years in the ACT's urban districts for (a) non-unit-titled residential properties, (b) unit-titled residential properties and (c) all residential properties.
- (2) What was the median rates charge for each of the last three financial years in the ACT's urban districts for (a) non-unit-titled residential properties, (b) unit-titled residential properties and (c) all residential properties.
- (3) For each of the last three financial years, what was the (a) total value of residential rates concessions and (b) value of residential rates concessions as a percentage of total residential rates revenue.

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

- (1) Median residential AUVs for last three financial years in the ACT's urban districts

District	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all
North Canberra	\$497,000	\$92,452	\$345,333	\$515,333	\$90,324	\$330,050	\$545,000	\$91,020	\$327,060
South Canberra	\$698,333	\$135,036	\$393,333	\$709,000	\$129,600	\$382,333	\$749,333	\$127,101	\$359,775
Woden	\$466,666	\$136,746	\$417,000	\$471,666	\$135,492	\$417,000	\$486,666	\$135,762	\$428,333
Weston	\$357,666	\$141,532	\$353,000	\$363,333	\$140,958	\$359,000	\$371,666	\$140,750	\$365,000
Belconnen	\$296,000	\$118,551	\$279,000	\$301,000	\$116,078	\$281,666	\$311,000	\$116,748	\$293,666
Tuggeranong	\$289,333	\$122,370	\$281,000	\$296,333	\$124,676	\$287,666	\$307,333	\$125,805	\$297,666
Gungahlin	\$250,333	\$106,926	\$234,000	\$257,000	\$97,680	\$238,000	\$266,666	\$88,383	\$248,000
Molonglo	\$357,000	-	\$357,000	\$360,000	\$37,400	\$334,333	\$376,333	\$42,480	\$284,666
All districts	\$316,333	\$118,660	\$283,333	\$321,000	\$115,116	\$287,000	\$330,666	\$113,704	\$295,000

Note: Non-unit titled properties include all houses and unit titled properties include units, apartments and townhouses.

Due to the low number of unit-titled properties in Molonglo in 2015-16, the median AUV is not provided to ensure privacy of tax payer information.

(2) Median residential rates charge for last three financial years in the ACT's urban districts

District	2015-16			2016-17			2017-18		
	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all	non-unit-titled	unit-titled	all
North Canberra	\$2,665	\$983	\$1,930	\$2,835	\$1,013	\$1,906	\$3,124	\$1,187	\$2,120
South Canberra	\$3,740	\$1,100	\$2,152	\$3,919	\$1,121	\$2,157	\$4,330	\$1,409	\$2,359
Woden	\$2,503	\$1,105	\$2,262	\$2,599	\$1,137	\$2,324	\$2,797	\$1,441	\$2,504
Weston	\$1,987	\$1,118	\$1,965	\$2,066	\$1,152	\$2,045	\$2,190	\$1,454	\$2,156
Belconnen	\$1,705	\$1,055	\$1,639	\$1,767	\$1,084	\$1,690	\$1,879	\$1,326	\$1,799
Tuggeranong	\$1,679	\$1,066	\$1,647	\$1,748	\$1,107	\$1,714	\$1,860	\$1,338	\$1,818
Gungahlin	\$1,528	\$1,023	\$1,465	\$1,594	\$1,033	\$1,520	\$1,686	\$1,131	\$1,625
Molonglo	\$1,984	-	\$1,984	\$2,050	\$868	\$1,927	\$2,214	\$913	\$1,760
All districts	\$1,796	\$1,055	\$1,656	\$1,863	\$1,081	\$1,711	\$1,980	\$1,292	\$1,818

Note: Non-unit titled properties include all houses and unit titled properties include units, apartments and townhouses.

Due to the low number of unit-titled properties in Molonglo in 2015-16, the median rates is not provided to ensure privacy of tax payer information.

(3) Rates concessions for last three financial years in the ACT

	2015-16 (\$'000)	2016-17 (\$'000)	2017-18 YTD (\$'000)
Total value of residential rates concessions	10,138	10,825	10,598
Value of residential rates concessions as a percentage of total residential rates revenue	4%	4%	N/A

Note: Total value of residential rates concession 2017-18 YTD is an estimated outcome as at 24 April 2018.

Around 10 per cent of ACT households benefit from the general rates rebate.

ACT Architects Board—complaint (Question No 1280)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Did the ACT Architects Board receive a complaint about an architect in 2015 in regard to 2 Fitzroy Street, Forrest; if so, (a) what was the nature of the complaint, (b) was the complaint investigated; if so, how, (c) was any compliance action taken as a result of the complaint and (d) how has the Architects Board communicated the outcomes of the complaint to the complainants
- (2) How many complaints has the ACT Architects Board received about an architect in regard to 2 Fitzroy Street, Forrest since 2013 and in what years were those complaints received.

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

- (1) Yes.
 - (a) The complaint raised allegations about noncompliance with planning and heritage laws.
 - (b) Under the Architects Act 2004 a complaint can be made when there is a belief formed that a ground for occupational discipline exists in relation to an architect. The allegations raised in the complaint do not relate to a ground for occupational discipline. There is no power for the Architects Board to investigate or take action in relation to the complaint.
 - (c) No. There was no ground for occupational discipline.
 - (d) There is no record available to indicate that a response was provided to the complainant.
 - (2) The Architects Board has only received the one complaint, in 2015.
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**Government—support for Common Ground
(Question No 1282)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What was the ACT Government's total contribution for the physical infrastructure of Common Ground building in Gungahlin, including financial, in-kind support and land.
- (2) How much operational funding does Common Ground Gungahlin receive, including funding or in-kind support to the (a) support provider and (b) tenancy manager.
- (3) Has the ACT Government developed any cost estimates for the construction and ongoing operational requirements for (a) expanding the existing Common Ground building in Gungahlin and (b) construction and operation of a Common Ground at a different location.

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

- (1) The total contribution from the ACT Government for the Common Ground building in Gungahlin, including financial, in-kind support and land was \$13m. This was funded by a capital injection of \$9.5m from the ACT Government and a contribution of approximately \$1.5m from Housing ACT. The land in Gungahlin was transferred from the (then) Economic Development Directorate in 2014 and was valued at \$2m at that time. The Commonwealth provided additional funds of \$4m.
- (2)
 - (a) In 2017-18 Northside Community Service receives \$307,931 (GST exclusive) to provide support services to all tenants at Common Ground Gungahlin.
 - (b) Argyle Community Housing (Argyle) is not directly funded by the ACT Government for services provided to Common Ground Gungahlin. Argyle collects all revenue related to Common Ground Gungahlin: rent, Commonwealth Rental Assistance (CRA) where applicable, and National Rental Affordability Scheme incentives. This revenue is retained in a bank account and used for all tenancy and

property outgoings, including Argyle's management fee. Argyle is also responsible for managing a sinking fund to maintain the property or to be used as authorised by Housing ACT.

(3)

(a) No.

(b) Yes, an initial costing for a second Common Ground was undertaken as part of ACT Labor's 2016 election commitment. The costing included a land (\$3.6m) and capital (\$12.1m) component and is indicative only. A feasibility study is being undertaken and, with detailed design and further funded studies, a full costing will be prepared.

Roads—Civic cycle loop (Question No 1283)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Is the Allara Street (south of Constitution Avenue) section of the Civic Cycle Loop considered completed; if not, when will it be completed.
- (2) How does the final design of the Allara Street section (south of Constitution Ave) differ from the original design.
- (3) What factors were relevant to any changes.
- (4) How was the \$6 million originally allocated for the cycle loop expended.
- (5) Can the Minister provide all available usage statistics for the Civic Cycle Loop for all years since its construction.
- (6) Can the Minister provide any before/after evaluation that assesses whether the cycle loop has been effective and/or encouraged additional cycling.
- (7) What additions or changes are proposed to the Civic Cycle Loop, or surrounding civic bike path network.
- (8) Can the Minister provide any available statistics for the Bunda Street Shareway, before and after its construction, showing any changes in (a) traffic volume and speeds, (b) pedestrian and cyclist volumes and (c) trade/patronage/visitation to businesses in the area.

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

- (1) The section of the proposed Civic Cycle Loop to the south of Constitution Avenue was deferred in 2015 due to the potential redundancy associated with the proposed changes to Parkes Way. This section will remain on hold until the resolution of the road network in this part of the city.
- (2) The section of the Civic Cycle Loop south of Constitution Avenue is similar in design to that to the north of the avenue with separated and dedicated cycle lanes.

- (3) Potential changes to the road network layout associated with the City to Lake Project may impact the final alignment of the southern section of the Civic Cycle Loop.
- (4) The \$6m investment on the Civic Cycle Loop was invested in the following way;
- Marcus Clarke street stage - \$1.5m;
 - Rudd Street stage (from Marcus Clarke Street to Bunda Street) - \$0.8m;
 - Bunda Street Shareway stage - \$2.4m; and
 - Allara Street stage - \$1.3m.
- (5) No. Attachment A is a record of the vehicle data collected on the Bunda Street section of the Civic Cycle Loop. Commentary on the pedestrian and cyclist activity on the Bunda Street section of the loop can also be found in Attachment B as part of the post completion report.
- (6) No post implementation report was completed for the entire Civic Cycle Loop. Please refer to Attachment B for a record of the post implementation evaluation review of the Bunda Street section only of the Civic Cycle Loop.
- (7) At this stage, there are no planned or proposed changes to the Civic Cycle Loop. Consideration is currently being given to connections to the Loop from the Lake Burley Griffin Path near Edinburgh Avenue.
- (8) a & b) Please refer to Attachment A and B for the data collected on the changes in traffic volumes and speeds as well as the changes in pedestrian and cyclist activity on Bunda Street Shareway pre and post completion.
- c) No data has been recorded either before or after in relation to trade, patronage or visitation to businesses on Bunda Street.

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

Schools—cybersafety (Question No 1294)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Given that 38 government primary schools and 9 995 students have participated in cybersafety webinar sessions guided by their classroom teachers since October 2014, how many government (a) high schools and high school students and (b) colleges and college students have participated in these webinar sessions since October 2014.

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

(a) and (b) The webinar sessions are specifically designed for students in Years 4, 5 and 6, therefore no high schools and high school students or colleges and college students have participated in these webinar sessions.

The Australian Curriculum establishes core ICT Capabilities for students. Early intervention in cybersafety skills is essential and the Curriculum outlines this as part of

the core ICT capabilities for Year 4, 5 and 6 students. The e-safety webinars offered by the Commonwealth e-Safety Commissioner are targeted at these age groups.

The Directorate's ongoing partnership with the Office of the Children's eSafety Commissioner ensures a range of best quality cybersafety classroom resources to support Digital Citizenship for secondary students, including classroom lesson plans and interactive content. The Directorate's "Keeping Safe Online" public webpage also provides information from the e-safety Commissioner for parents to support safe online behaviours at home. Secondary schools are aware of the other free cybersafety programs that are available, such as "ThinkUKnow" facilitated by the Australian Federal Police for students, teachers and parents and have been actively promoted through the high school community.

Government—demographic projections (Question No 1298)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What was the actual number of households in the ACT in the financial years (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09, (c) 2009-10, (d) 2010-11, (e) 2011-12, (f) 2012-13, (g) 2013-14, (h) 2014-15, (i) 2015-16, (j) 2016-17 and (k) 2017-18 to date.
- (2) What data is used to model the future projected number of households in the ACT.
- (3) Is modelling for population and household data conducted internally by the ACT Government; if not, (a) who undertakes or has undertaken population and household modelling during the last five financial years and (b) what was the value of the contract, (c) what was the contract name, (c) what was the contract number and (d) what was the period of the contract.
- (4) What is the expected number of households in the ACT for (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21.

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

- (1) The Government does not collect data on the number of households in the ACT.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) collects these data each Census night. See Table 1 below.

Table 1: Number of Households in the ACT

9 August 2016 – 142,659

9 August 2011 – 129,425

Source: *Census QuickStats, 2011 & 2016*

The ABS also estimates these data in *Household Income and Wealth, Australia* (ABS Cat. No. 6523.0) every two years. See Table 2 below.

Table 2: Number of Households in the ACT

2015-16 – 147,900

2013-14 – 144,600

2011-12 – 138,400

2009-10 – 131,900

2007-08 – 133,300

Source: *Household Income and Wealth, Australia (ABS Cat. No. 6523.0)*

The Government does collect the actual number of rateable dwellings for each of these financial years. However, these data are not directly comparable to the numbers above as the data sources and methods differ.

- (2) The Government does not model or project the number of households in the ACT. The ABS publishes projections of the number of households in *Household and Family Projections, Australia, 2011 to 2036 (ABS Cat. No. 3236.0)*. These projections are based on the 2011 Census and should be used with caution.
- (3) Population Projections published in January 2014 were produced internally, whereas the March 2017 published projections were produced externally.
- a. The Australian Bureau of Statistics modelled population numbers based on ACT Treasury parameters under two contracts.
 - b. The value of the contracts were (i) \$5,310 and (ii) \$10,790 totalling \$16,100.
 - c. (i) ACT Population Projections; Reference Period: 2014 (base) to 2034;
Format: Excel2003; Geographic Level: ACT by SA2; Licence: Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia.
(ii) Population Projections – ACT; Reference Period: 2015 (base) – 2040;
Format: Excel2003; Geographic Level: ACT SA2s; Licence: Creative Commons Attribution 2.5 Australia.
 - d. The contract numbers were CR-20151124-121926-rs and CR-20161011-132150-rs.
 - e. Both were one-off consultancies.

- (4) See the response to (2).

Land—block 6, Dickson (Question No 1301)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

What is the (a) date and (b) total value of each payment made by the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club under the sublease agreement for Block 6 Section 72 Dickson since the commencement of the contract to date in relation to (i) land tax, (ii) general rates, (iii) water and sewerage rates, (iv) electricity, (v) gas and (vi) water usage.

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

The ACT Revenue Office is unable to provide information on general rates and land tax paid by a particular taxpayer as it would breach the secrecy provisions of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*. This is standard practice for all tax payers.

Similarly, with regard to the utilities payments, that is a matter for the utilities company to decide on release of such information and any further queries should be directed to them.

**Taxation—utilities network facilities tax
(Question No 1303)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What was the total revenue received from the Utilities Network Facilities Tax in the (a) 2008-09, (b) 2009-10, (c) 2010-11, (d) 2011-12, (e) 2012-13, (f) 2013-14, (g) 2014-15, (h) 2015-16, (i) 2016-17 and (j) 2017-18 to date, financial years.
- (2) What is the projected total revenue to be received from the Utilities Network Facilities Tax in the (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20 and (d) 2020-21, financial years.

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

- (1) The total revenue received from the Utilities Network Facilities Tax (UNFT) from 2008-09 is publicly available from the respective Budget Reviews and Quarterly Consolidated Financial Reports at www.apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications.
 - (2) The estimated total UNFT revenue for the Budget estimates period is published each year in the ACT Government Budget and Budget Review. The latest estimates can be found on page 99 of the 2017-18 Budget Review, which is available online at www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget.
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**Taxation—stamp duty
(Question No 1304)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

What was the (a) average and (b) target wait time for an appeal made against a stamp duty deferment decision in the (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date, financial years.

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

Only one objection to a conveyance duty deferment decision has been processed in this timeframe. That objection was in 2017-18 and took 187 days to decide. The target timeframe for all objections is six months.

**Insurance—third party
(Question No 1305)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the (a) total number and (b) percentage of at-fault claimants under the current compulsory third party insurance scheme for each of the last three

financial years that have been assumed to have a whole person impairment of (i) less than five percent, (ii) between six and seven percent, (iii) eight percent, (iv) nine percent, (v) 10 percent and (vi) more than 10 percent.

- (2) How were the numbers and percentages in part (1) determined.
- (3) What is the breakdown of the (a) total number and (b) percentage of not at-fault claimants under the current compulsory third party insurance scheme for each of the last three financial years that have been assumed to have a whole person impairment of (i) less than five percent, (ii) between six and seven percent, (iii) eight percent, (iv) nine percent, (v) 10 percent and (vi) more than 10 percent.
- (4) How were the numbers and percentages in part (3) determined.

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

- (1) The ACT's current Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Scheme does not provide compensation for those at fault (or blameless) and injured in a motor vehicle accident; although most people can access reimbursement of up to \$5,000 for early medical expenses.

The injury assessment measure of Whole Person Impairment (WPI) is not used in the ACT's current CTP Scheme. Therefore the ACT does not capture or record this data.

The CTP scheme chosen by the citizens' jury, introduces the use of WPI as an injury assessment measure. The Ernst and Young (EY) *Estimated costs of alternative benefit designs for the ACT's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Scheme* report publicly available on Your Say on CTP (www.yoursay.act.gov.au/ctp) provides a range of WPI estimates for at fault and not at fault claimants under the chosen scheme.

The EY estimates have been developed by reference to multiple data sets from the ACT, NSW, Victoria and Queensland as detailed in pages 37 38 of the EY report. Chapter 3 of the EY Report (pages 37 52) details their approach and key assumptions used to estimate the cost per policy and average premiums for the model designs.

- (2) Please see answer to (1) above.
- (3) Please see answer to (1) above.
- (4) Please see answer to (1) above.

Insurance—third party (Question No 1306)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the compulsory third party (CTP) insurer profits margins for each financial year since 2014-15 to date.
- (2) What is the breakdown of how the insurer profit margins compare to claim costs for each financial year since 2014-15 to date.

- (3) Are the insurer profit margins included in the premium filings to the ACT CTP Regulator compared to the actual profit margins of insurers each financial year; if not, can the Treasurer advise why they are not compared, and what processes are in place to verify and monitor insurer profit margins; if so, what was the difference between insurer profit margins included in premium filings and actual profit margins during (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date.

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

- (1) The compulsory third party (CTP) insurer profit margins are included in the premium filings of each insurer, and in conjunction with claims and various other data, are commercial-in-confidence. This is because various data are proprietary in nature and owned by the relevant insurer.

In addition, given the CTP scheme is privately underwritten, with competition integral to the scheme, individual insurer profit margins and associated underlying data cannot be disclosed as this would contravene competitive neutrality arrangements:

- section 270 (5) of the *Road Transport (Third-Party Insurance) Act 2008* (CTP Act) prohibits the CTP Regulator from disclosing any data to the extent that it might affect an insurer's competitive position.

In this context, the profit margins for the four CTP insurers (AAMI, APIA, GIO and NRMA) are provided annually on a financial year basis in a band covering all insurers, consistent with the requirement to provide reporting about profit margins (section 46 of the CTP Act). The pertinent profit margin bands are:

- 2016-17 - range of 8% to 11%;
- 2015-16 - range of 8% to 12%; and
- 2014-15 - range of 7% to 12%.

- (2) As indicated in response to (1) above, consistent with the CTP Act (section 270 (5)), individual insurer profit margins and other data, such as claim costs, cannot be disclosed as it would affect an insurer's competitive position.
- (3) Each CTP premium filing lodged by an insurer is subject to extensive analysis by the CTP Scheme Actuary, who is required, amongst other things, to determine whether the premium 'fully funds' the scheme and 'is not excessive'.

Each premium filing is based on a range of forecast assumptions with regard to the underlying variables that include, for example, claims frequency; average claim cost; and economic assumptions such as superimposed inflation.

In determining whether the premium meets the requirements, due regard is given to the expected profit margin outlined by the insurer, in combination with the other underpinning data provided in the filing.

Following on from the Scheme Actuary's analysis, the CTP Regulator then determines whether or not to approve the premium filing.

An assessment of an insurer's actual profit margin requires a comparison of premiums earned in an accident year compared to the expenses related to that accident year.

CTP schemes are long-tailed insurance schemes and it can take a considerable number of years for all claims in an accident year to be finalised. The ACT does not currently undertake an evaluation of insurers' actual profit margins. This will be considered further in the implementation of the new CTP scheme.

**Insurance—third party
(Question No 1307)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the average unearned premium surplus expected after the commencement of the new scheme, including the (a) total cost and (b) cost per policy.
- (2) How will the ACT Government manage the unearned premium surplus arising from changes in the compulsory third party (CTP) scheme.
- (3) What is the breakdown of the expected additional costs of including at-fault motorists in the new CTP scheme by driver and vehicle type, including the (a) total cost and (b) cost per policy.
- (4) What changes will occur in how funds from the CTP Regulator Levy are expended after the implementation of the new CTP scheme.

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

- (1) The amount of any unearned premium surplus will depend on the actual premiums charged by insurers, the commencement date of the new scheme relative to the timing of when premium filings are undertaken and approved, and what registration renewal periods motorists select. During the implementation of the chosen scheme, the cost estimates for premiums for the chosen scheme will be further developed once the finer details are resolved.

The Ernst and Young (EY) *Estimated costs of alternative benefit designs for the ACT's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Scheme* report available on Your Say on CTP (www.yoursay.act.gov.au/ctp) provides information on the costing estimates for the jury's chosen scheme, with an estimate of what the unearned surplus may be on page 75. The EY report states that the unearned premium surplus if no adjustment is made "*may be about \$60 per policy or in excess of \$15m for all policies*" under the chosen scheme. Note that the EY report estimates use data as at 1 July 2017 and is based on an estimated reduction in passenger premiums of \$120.

- (2) As a principle, the government considers that insurers should not keep any unearned premiums as a result of the transition to the jury's chosen CTP scheme. The government will consider options to manage this as part of the implementation of the jury's chosen CTP scheme.

For example, in NSW a scheme has been established to allow policy holders to claim back the component of their premium outstanding after reforms took effect.

- (3) The Ernst and Young (EY) *Estimated costs of alternative benefit designs for the ACT's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Scheme* report provides costing estimates for the current CTP scheme and the jury's chosen scheme.

For the chosen scheme, page 57 of the EY report provides an estimate of the at-fault benefit component amount of the CTP premium – an estimated \$70 per policy. A further breakdown of the at-fault costs are at Appendix B of the EY report.

The EY report estimates are for the cost per policy for the passenger vehicle class (i.e. class 1). Passenger vehicles are the vast majority of vehicles covered under the ACT CTP scheme.

Under the current CTP scheme, the ACT CTP premiums are not calculated differently for different types of drivers within a vehicle class. This will not change under the jury's chosen scheme.

During the implementation of the chosen scheme, the cost estimates for premiums will be further refined once the finer details are resolved.

- (4) The CTP Regulator Levy is a separate levy payable with each CTP policy. It is collected by the Government as part of the registration process and passed on in full to the ACT CTP Regulator, which is a separate Territory authority. The levy funds the Regulator's operations.

The Ernst and Young (EY) *Estimated costs of alternative benefit designs for the ACT's Compulsory Third Party (CTP) Insurance Scheme* report included in the costing estimates for each model an amount of \$10 per annum per registration for the CTP Regulator Levy. The priorities set by the jury for an improved CTP scheme and the jury's chosen scheme expand the role of the CTP Regulator. The additional functions of the Regulator include an enhanced information role and some dispute resolution mechanism supports. The levy will also fund enhanced ICT requirements due to the introduction of defined benefits under the chosen scheme.

Government—contingent workforce scheme (Question No 1308)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Why did the ACT Government choose to extend access to the NSW Contingent Workforce Scheme.
- (2) Were there any differences in prequalification criteria between the ACT Government's previous arrangements, and the NSW Contingent Workforce Scheme; if so, what (a) were the differences and (b) is the current criteria.
- (3) What is the breakdown of the total cost for the ACT Government to access the NSW Contingent Workforce Scheme since its commencement to date.
- (4) Did any fees or costs increase for ACT Government suppliers accessing NSW Contingent Workforce Scheme; if so, can the Treasurer provide an explanation for the changes, and the value of the increased cost to suppliers.
- (5) In relation to the ACT Government's use of the NSW Contingent Workforce Scheme, can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of (a) what data is collected and stored by the ACT Government, (b) what data is collected and stored by the NSW Government, (c) how the data is stored, (d) what the data is used for and (e) who can access the data.

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

- (1) The Territory initiated a project to consolidate and capture labour hire recruitment into a Whole of Government arrangement. The discovery process revealed the existence of the NSW Contingent Labour Scheme and the apparent benefits from collaboration. The benefits anticipated and realised are:

Supplier benefits

- streamlined processes and prompt payment of invoices; and
- opening up of ACT and NSW Government markets, with new suppliers being able to register at any time through a self-service, online application process.

Territory benefits

- reduction in time and effort in managing the contingent worker processes;
- support from a centralised account management team and a single point of contact to manage the full talent acquisition process;
- access to specialist expertise in the engagement of all contingent workers leading to improved outcomes;
- a consistent environment to sign off timesheets and expenses;
- reduction in effort to process invoices (as the three-way matching process ensures the timesheet acts as a goods received note);
- real time access to data relating to their workers, pay rates etc. to allow informed strategic workforce management decisions; and
- cost savings due to consistent and often reduced supplier margins.

- (2) Prior to the commencement of the current arrangements utilising the NSW Scheme, Territory directorates utilised their own arrangements; i.e. the directorates had different arrangements in place.

- (3) There are no costs to the Territory in utilising the NSW Scheme.

- (4) No fees are payable by Suppliers to access Contractor Central.

(5)

- (a) The Territory maintains personal details of contingent workers, including their names, contact details, salaries, tenure, leave etc.
- (b) The NSW Government collects and stores the same data as maintained by the ACT Government.
- (c) Electronically in a secure cloud based environment.
- (d) The data is used for managing the Territory's current expenditure and budgets, as well as for planning purposes.
- (e) Approved officers of the ACT Government, NSW Procurement and the NSW Public Service Commission have access to all of the data.

**Government—contracting
(Question No 1309)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the (a) total value and (b) period of the contract, arrangement or partnership agreement with Comensura to implement Contractor Central.

- (2) Is the contract, arrangement or partnership agreement with Comensura to implement Contractor Central publicly available on an ACT Government website; if so, what date was it published and where; if not, can the Treasurer provide an explanation why not and a copy of the contract, arrangement or partnership agreement with Comensura to implement Contractor Central.

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

- (1)
- a) The total value of the Agreement with Comensura is \$2,475,000.00
 - b) The term of Comensura's Agreement is three years to 31 October 2019.
- (2) The Agreement with Comensura is available and was published on the Contracts Register on 20 April 2018. An administrative oversight caused delays in the publishing of this contract.

Taxation—utilities network facilities tax (Question No 1310)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the total average cost per household passed on by utilities providers due to Utilities Network Facilities tax by the utility areas (a) telecommunications, (b) water, (c) sewerage, (d) gas and (e) electricity, in the (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10, (iii) 2010-11, (iv) 2011-12, (v) 2012-13, (vi) 2013-14, (vii) 2014-15, (viii) 2015-16, (ix) 2016-17 and (x) 2017-18 to date, financial years.
- (2) What is the breakdown of the projected total average cost per household passed on by utilities providers due to Utilities Network Facilities tax by the utility areas (a) telecommunications, (b) water, (c) sewerage, (d) gas and (e) electricity, in the (i) 2017-18, (ii) 2018-19, (iii) 2019-20 and (iv) 2020-21, financial years.

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

- (1) It is not possible to provide a breakdown of the Utilities Network Facilities Tax (UNFT) by utility type as this would breach the secrecy provisions of the *Taxation Administration Act 1999*. The UNFT is levied on both residential and commercial properties, and the Government has no control over commercial decisions by utility providers as to whether to pass it on to customers.
- (2) See above.

Taxation—energy industry levy (Question No 1311)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

What is the total value of revenue received from the Energy Industry Levy in the (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09, (c) 2009-10, (d) 2010-11, (e) 2011-12, (f) 2012-13, (g) 2013-14, (h) 2014-15, (i) 2015-16, (j) 2016-17 and (k) 2017-18 to date, financial years.

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

The revenue received from the Energy Industry Levy (EIL) is outlined in the table below. These data are publicly available in ACT Government Budget Reviews.¹ The figure for 2017-18 represents the EIL revenue received to 31 December 2017, as reported in the December 2017 Quarterly Consolidated Financial Report for ACT Government.²

Question	Financial Year	Total EIL Revenue Received (\$ million)
(a)	2007-08	0.21
(b)	2008-09	2.04
(c)	2009-10	2.24
(d)	2010-11	2.68
(e)	2011-12	3.35
(f)	2012-13	2.21
(g)	2013-14	3.41
(h)	2014-15	1.74
(i)	2015-16	3.13
(j)	2016-17	2.06
(k)	2017-18 (To date)	3.59

¹ Budget Reviews are available at www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget.

² See page 16, Attachment B of the report, available at www.apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications.

ACTION bus service—patronage data (Question No 1313)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Can the Minister provide, for Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018, the total (a) number of trips broken down by (i) hour and (ii) fare type, (b) number of trips broken down by (i) peak times and (ii) off-peak times, (c) number of trips undertaken in the free transfer period broken down by (i) hour and (ii) fare type, (d) number of trips broken down by (i) MyWay and (ii) cash fares, (e) value of fares broken down by (i) My Way fares and (ii) cash fares, (f) value of fares broken down by (i) fare type, (ii) payment type and (iii) hour, (g) number of trips for each Transport Canberra route broken down by fare type, (h) number of trips for each Transport Canberra route broken down by (i) peak and (ii) off-peak trips and (i) value of fares for each Transport Canberra route broken down of fare type.

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

(a) Attachment A displays Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018, with the total number of trips broken down by (i) hour and (ii) fare type.

(b) The number of Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018 were (i) 36,453 trips during peak times and (ii) 49,556 trips during off-peak times.

(c) Attachment B displays Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018, with the number of trips undertaken in the free transfer period broken down by (i) hour and (ii) fare type.

(d) The table below displays number of Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018 broken down by (i) MyWay and (ii) cash fares:

Hour	MyWay	Paper Ticket/Cash
00	0	
05	39	9
06	1,547	88
07	8,459	494
08	12,255	932
09	4,622	526
10	2,942	406
11	2,824	436
12	3,078	451
13	3,073	528
14	3,758	539
15	12,354	1,246
16	7,674	769
17	7,873	589
18	3,913	362
19	1,736	172
20	1,025	138
21	773	81
22	212	22
23	47	3
Total	78,204	7,791

(e) The table below displays the value of Transport Canberra fares taken on 27 February 2018 broken down by (i) My Way fares and (ii) cash fares.

Hour	MyWay	Paper Ticket/ Cash
00	\$3.95	
05	\$3.14	\$33.70
06	\$1,513.74	\$290.00
07	\$8,855.71	\$1,259.90
08	\$21,037.52	\$2,103.70
09	\$8,570.78	\$1,015.80
10	\$2,904.46	\$759.70
11	\$2,483.78	\$798.60
12	\$2,836.09	\$758.70
13	\$2,570.21	\$714.50
14	\$2,970.17	\$743.80
15	\$9,544.20	\$1,524.80
16	\$9,222.71	\$1,057.70
17	\$14,815.28	\$872.40
18	\$8,153.76	\$514.20
19	\$2,535.40	\$272.65

Hour	MyWay	Paper Ticket/ Cash
20	\$1,215.30	\$156.60
21	\$927.04	\$120.10
22	\$309.24	\$43.70
23	\$83.41	\$2.40
Total	\$100,555.89	\$13,042.95

(f) Attachment C displays Transport Canberra fares taken on 27 February 2018 broken down by (i) fare type, (ii) payment type and (iii) hour.

(g) Attachment D displays Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018 with each Transport Canberra route broken down by fare type.

(h) Attachment E displays Transport Canberra trips taken on 27 February 2018 with each Transport Canberra route broken down by (i) peak and (ii) off-peak trips.

(i) Attachment F displays Transport Canberra fares taken on 27 February 2018 with each Transport Canberra route broken down of fare type.

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

Government—will bank service (Question No 1316)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 *(redirected to the Attorney-General)*:

Does the ACT Government currently have plans to implement a “Will Bank” service for storage of residents’ wills and enduring power of attorney documents, similar to that of Victoria’s; if so, can the Minister provide (a) an outline of what this service will consist of and (b) the implementation schedule for this service.

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

The ACT Government does not currently have plans to implement a Will Bank service for storage of residents’ will and power of attorney documents, similar to that of Victoria’s.

POWERS OF ATTORNEY

The registration of Powers of Attorney in the ACT is not compulsory unless the attorney proposes to deal with the principal’s (real) property. In the event that an attorney seeks to do so, they must register the Power of Attorney with Access Canberra. Registration of these Powers of Attorney will ensure that these documents are placed on a public register and available for general search. The same provisions apply to Enduring Powers of Attorney as for General Powers of Attorney.

WILLS

Currently, under S.32 of the *Wills Act 1968*, a person may deposit a will with the office of the Registrar of the Supreme Court. Upon doing so the Registrar maintains the will in safe custody until dealt with either by request of the executor to deliver it on death of the person or destroy it with the permission of a judge of the Court. S.33 of the Act requires the Registrar to maintain an index of wills deposited under S.32 and must allow a person to search that index.

The Will Bank established by the State Trustee (Victoria's equivalent of ACT's Public Trustee and Guardian (PTG) in the ACT) is similar to that offered by the ACT Supreme Court. A difference is that the State Trustee is a Government Business Enterprise, unlike PTG which is a partly self-funding independent Territory authority. The initiative taken by the State Trustee is a commercial one aimed as both a community service and as a business opportunity.

Energy—regulation (Question No 1317)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

Can the Minister provide the net regulatory cost associated with the regulation of energy utility providers for the (a) 2007-08, (b) 2008-09, (c) 2009-10, (d) 2010-11, (e) 2011-12, (f) 2012-13, (g) 2013-14, (h) 2014-15, (i) 2015-16, (j) 2016-17 and (k) 2017-18 to date, financial years.

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

Under the *Utilities Act 2000*, the Energy Industry Levy (EIL) Administrator determines each year the actual net regulatory costs for the previous financial year and the estimated net regulatory costs for the coming financial year. The EIL net regulatory costs determination is published each year as a notifiable instrument, available on the Legislation Register at www.legislation.act.gov.au.

The net regulatory costs associated with the regulation of energy utility providers are outlined in the table below.

Question	Financial Year	Actual Net Regulatory Costs (\$ millions)
(a)	2007-08	1.42
(b)	2008-09	1.71
(c)	2009-10	2.25
(d)	2010-11	2.55
(e)	2011-12	2.80
(f)	2012-13	2.54
(g)	2013-14	2.34
(h)	2014-15	2.26
(i)	2015-16	2.41
(j)	2016-17	2.63
(k)	2017-18	3.26 (estimated) ¹

¹ This is the estimated 2017-18 net regulatory cost. The EIL Administrator is required to make the determination for the 2017-18 actual net regulatory costs by 1 October 2018.

Questions without notice taken on notice

Tuggeranong—town centre upgrade

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 22 February 2018*):

- The furniture and trees were appropriate to the site, with consideration for durability and maintenance requirements and with reference to the outcomes of community consultations undertaken in 2015-16.
- The majority of community consultation participants were satisfied with the design of the upgrade which included the tree selection; there was strong community preference for timber furniture.
- The natural wood finish on the furniture is being revealed as the oil finish thins, however the furniture is structurally sound. The wood is robust hardwood and chosen to withstand weathering; further oiling may be required.
- The trees were selected for hardiness and reasonably fast growth; deciduous character to provide seasonal comfort; root systems that reduce risk of pavement and property uplift, trip hazards and ongoing need for pavement repairs; canopies that minimise need for pruning over building awnings.
- The trees were planted in certified soils and in accordance with tree best practice standards; they were regularly watered by the project contractors throughout the establishment period.
- The trees were replanted at the contractor's expense and remain the contractor's responsibility until established.

Land—Dickson purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*):

If the land referred to is Block 6, section 72, Dickson, the crown lease has no restrictions on rent charged for sub-leasing.

Land—Dickson purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*):

The commercial negotiations that resulted in the purchase of block 30 (ex block 20) section 34 Dickson by the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club, have been addressed through the Auditor General's report into this matter. The Government is currently reviewing this report and will provide its response in due course.

On 21 December 2012, I was advised via a brief from the Director, Sustainable Land Strategy of his decision on the preferred tenderer, following the formal tender process for the sale of block 20 section 34 Dickson.

Suburban Land Agency—rural subleases

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*):

No, the Suburban Land Agency has not developed policies regarding the four specific subleases. The subleases have been granted and are being managed according to their terms.

In keeping with the Government's commitment to ensuring that the new land arrangements provide transparency and promote accountability, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is leading work to develop guidance on subleasing within the context of broader land transactions.

This guidance is being developed with a portfolio approach to foster consistency while addressing the requirements of the Directorate, City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency.

The Chief Executive Officer of the Suburban Land Agency is responsible for the management of subleases already granted and is directly accountable to the Chair of the Board. I have communicated my expectations regarding accountability and transparency to the Chair of the Suburban Land Agency Board including through my statement of expectations.

The SLA have undertaken a detailed rolling program with Lessees and Licensees to ensure compliance with the land management requirements associated with these acquisitions. This includes administration, consulting and implementation of land management matters, bush fire management plans and grazing licenses. There are currently grazing licences that are in the early stages of renewal.

Waste—recycling

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Wednesday, 21 March 2018*):

The plastics accepted at the Hume Materials Recovery Facility are sold on to Australian recycling markets. Two examples of these are the Visy Re+ Recycling Plant at Smithfield in Sydney and Australian Plastic Recyclers in Narrabri. The Visy plant recycles PET bottles and HDPE bottles into food grade pellets to be re-made into bottles. Australian Plastic Recyclers provides recovered HDPE to manufacturers to create products such as eco-friendly decking and garden architecture.

Municipal services—signage

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

Transport Canberra and City Services, City Rangers are responsible for the regulation of movable signs in the ACT. City Rangers adopt an Engage, Educate and Enforce compliance model when regulating.

Movable signs located on public unleased land are regulated under the *Public Unleased Land (Movable Sign) Code of Practice 2013*. Where rangers identify a movable sign located on public unleased land that is non-compliant with the Code rangers engage with the owner of the sign and remind them of their responsibilities and obligations. Where non-compliance continues, or where re-offending is identified, enforcement action is taken.

Since 1 July 2017 City Rangers have received and responded to 54 complaints of non-compliant signs. Most of these complaints were in relation to movable signs. In July 2017, rangers responded to reports of four billboards erected on public unleased land in Gungahlin. After engaging with the business responsible for their erection, a warning was issued and the business removed all four billboards and reinstated the land to its original condition.

Land—Dickson purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Tuesday, 10 April 2018*):

According to a search of records by the directorate, the Tradies first expressed an interest in obtaining the car park site adjacent to their club, on 13 January 2010, by way of direct sale application.

The details relating to this matter are already on the public record and well canvassed specifically at paragraph 1.10 of the Auditor-General's Report *Tender for the Sale of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson*.

Domestic animal services—dogs

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Ms Lawder and Miss C Burch on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

On 19 March 2017, ACT Policing requested Domestic Animal Services (DAS) assistance at 41 Molesworth Street in Watson, to assist in the management of a dog while they executed a warrant on that location. DAS Rangers attended the address and secured a female dog and litter of eight puppies whilst police safely entered the premises and executed the warrant. The female dog and all puppies were released back to their keeper immediately after the police operation, as the puppies were under 12 weeks of age and there was no evidence that they were being bred for profit or commercial gain, nor any injuries or welfare concerns held for the dog or puppies. The dog was not treated by a veterinary surgeon.

Greyhound racing—draft code of practice

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

A draft *Code of Practice for Keeping and Breeding Racing Greyhounds* that was circulated for stakeholder feedback in April 2018, did propose a minimum race kennel

size of 4m². However, after receiving industry feedback on the draft Code, the current minimum race kennel size of 3m² will be retained in the final Code that will come into effect on 30 April 2018.

Greyhound racing—draft code of practice

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

Drafting of the Code of Practice commenced in January 2018. The first iteration drew on the draft mandatory Code of Practice which is under development in Victoria. The Victorian draft was subject to widespread stakeholder consultation and was considered to be an appropriate starting point for an ACT-specific Code.

The Animal Welfare Advisory Committee (AWAC) provided detailed feedback on the first iteration in early February 2018. RSPCA Australia, who have worked with governments across Australia on equivalent Codes of Practice, also provided detailed feedback on the draft.

The second version of the Code was provided to a number of key stakeholders including the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club (CGRC). The original intention was for consultation to commence on 23 March 2018 and cease on 6 April 2018, however due to an unanticipated delay in sending out the request for feedback, most stakeholders including the CGRC received the draft Code on Thursday 29 March 2018. A number of stakeholders requested and were granted an extension of time to respond until 13 April 2018.

I do regret that, in practice, the GCRC had only one week to respond and that this period included the Easter break. I can assure you that this timing was not intentional and that, in the event that the CGRC had requested an extension of time, this would have been granted as it was for other organisations. However, I am pleased that the CGRC were able to provide a comprehensive submission. Their submission has influenced the final Code of Practice which will come into effect on 30 April 2018.

ACTION bus service—pets

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

The Road Transport (Public Passenger Services) Regulation 2002 states that a person cannot take an animal on a bus without the driver's permission. It is then at the discretion of the driver if there are any concerns regarding an animal being transported. Section 62 of the regulation reads as follows:

62 Carriage of animals in buses

- (1) A person must not take an animal onto a bus without the driver's permission.

Maximum penalty: 5 penalty units.

(2) This section does not apply to—

(a) an animal accompanying a person with a disability that is trained to help the person alleviate the effect of the disability;

or

(b) an animal being trained to help alleviate the effect of a disability.

Note If a person is treated unfavourably because the person is accompanied by an animal trained to help the person alleviate the effect of a disability, the person is discriminated against (see *Discrimination Act 1991*, s 5AA).

The TCCS website also states within the Code of Conduct for Travel on Buses within the ACT that passengers must not bring animals onto the bus except in accordance with the Regulation and accredited operator's policy as outlined above.

In practice, the carriage of small domestic animals is generally permitted by drivers if secured in an appropriate animal carrier and considering the comfort of other passengers.

With respect to the Million Paws Walk, Transport Canberra does not propose to encourage the transport of domestic pets on buses for this event. The number of dogs involved, particularly where they are simultaneously enclosed on individual buses, may reasonably be expected to risk the amenity of other users.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lee on Thursday, 12 April 2018*):

An operational lockdown is where a decision has been made to secure all or some young people in their rooms for a period of time. While in their rooms, young people have access to reading and education material as well as television including movies.

As at 12 April 2018, 61 operational lockdowns have occurred at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in 2018.