



Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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Thursday, 7 June 2018

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Thursday, 7 June 2018

MADAM SPEAKER (Ms J Burch) took the chair at 10 am, made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians, and asked members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

Apprenticeships and traineeships

Ministerial statement

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (10.01): I rise today to provide an update on the government's commitment to increasing and supporting apprenticeships and traineeships in the ACT.

The government is focused on ensuring the ACT has an innovative, high performing and safe vocational education and training sector that supports all Canberrans to realise their potential. We are committed to increasing the skilling opportunities available to individuals, supporting our training providers, and delivering skills to the ACT economy to meet industry needs and support regional growth.

The Australian apprenticeships system, which includes apprenticeships and traineeships, provides the opportunity for people to be employed while they train, and develop their competence in the workplace as they learn from employers with industry expertise. This outstanding pathway allows people to gain the skills and knowledge needed to start, or restart, a career, all the while providing the workforce needs of industry.

When people think about apprentices, they tend to think of the traditional trades: plumbers, carpenters and electricians. While training people in these areas always remains a high priority, it is important to remember that Australian apprenticeships are available in hundreds of qualifications. This ranges from certificate II up to advanced diploma, in industries as diverse as health, community services, business, horticulture and ICT, as well as all of the traditional trades.

Since 2015, I am proud to say, the ACT has recorded the largest proportional increase in Australian apprenticeship commencements in Australia, with commencements 47 per cent higher in 2017 than in 2015. This has been against a backdrop of declining commencements across Australia and a transitioning economy that demands an increasingly skilled and agile labour force. Nationally, there has been a steady decline in apprenticeship commencements since 2012, when the commonwealth government withdrew a range of employer incentives for existing workers. This included a 49 per cent decline in commencements from 2012 to 2016.

There have been a number of factors behind the success of the ACT government in supporting apprenticeship and traineeship numbers. We have sought to understand the motivations and the barriers that influence people in taking the first steps and provide

the high quality advice and real outcomes that school students and their parents need to assist their understanding of what apprenticeships can offer.

We have also proactively targeted a number of key groups in our community to take up apprenticeships and traineeships, in particular more mature Canberrans looking to re-skill and change careers, and women in traditional trades. We have a framework in place to provide ongoing advice and support to both apprentices and their employers once the apprenticeship journey has commenced. We also provide considerable support to those registered training organisations who work with employers to deliver the training they need.

I will now outline some specific initiatives. The Australian apprenticeships user choice program provides subsidies to training organisations to train students employed as an Australian apprentice. Responding to the declining apprenticeship commencements, the ACT revised its approach to funding training, and significantly increased subsidies in areas of skills shortage.

This followed significant ACT government investment in the development of an outside modelling tool which informs the ACT skills needs list, ensuring the ACT continues to make well-informed decisions about where we direct VET funding.

The ACT skills needs list is constantly refined through good use of data analysis and industry consultation. The list identifies the VET qualifications more likely to improve an individual's employment outcomes by identifying which skills the territory needs to meet industry demand and get people into these jobs. It is by having this comprehensive understanding of the local labour market, specifically as it relates to apprenticeships and traineeships, that we can target our funding to encourage training in the right areas.

The ACT government is committed to ensuring that all vocational training in the ACT is of the highest quality. The ACT quality framework continues to underpin the delivery of government-subsidised training in the ACT and promote excellence and transparency. The quality framework is about making sure our registered training organisations are well placed to provide the quality training that meets trainee and employer needs.

Ongoing support throughout an individual's apprenticeship is also a vital contributor to success. Additional support funding is available to training organisations to provide any assistance that may be needed.

Our Skills Canberra field officers are a critical aspect of the support provided to apprentices in the ACT. They visit apprentices and employers in their workplaces and on their worksites to provide support throughout the training process. Establishing good practices early is crucial to ensuring safe and successful training, and how important it is for apprentices, and their employers, to know their rights and understand their obligations.

Getting through the early part of an apprenticeship is often the biggest challenge. So it is in these early stages of an apprenticeship that our field officers focus their visits.

Providing information, clarifying responsibilities under a national training contract, or supporting employers and their apprentices to work through simple misunderstandings can be the difference between an apprentice dropping out of their qualification—and potentially out of employment—or remaining in the job in training.

We are serious about encouraging people to follow through with their training, and the ACT is the only jurisdiction to provide a completion bonus for eligible students.

The youngest and potentially most vulnerable apprentices are those of school age. As a result the field officers prioritise visiting all Australian school-based apprentices within the first two months of their training contract being approved. Skills Canberra works closely with the Education Directorate and WorkSafe ACT to support our school-based apprentices and improve pathways for young people into vocational training and rewarding careers.

In addition to working directly with apprentices and employers, our field officers foster the collaborative and growing relationship between the ACT government and training providers, industry, schools, employment service providers and other stakeholders.

We understand assistance has to come in many forms, and we work closely with the Australian government to increase our capacity to support our apprentices and establish good habits. This means more mentoring programs and empowering apprentices to become role models in their industries.

The ACT is in the process of developing programs that emphasise the importance of wellbeing at work. This includes dealing with work stresses, starting tough conversations about mental health and making sure apprentices are aware that help will always be available.

CIT is the ACT's largest provider of training for apprenticeships and traineeships and has a wonderfully broad base of courses in community services, information technology, health, construction, child care, hospitality and tourism. Given the importance of CIT as the public provider of VET in the ACT, the government has provided extensive support. This has allowed CIT to undertake a comprehensive range of quality improvement activities to support the delivery of quality training. These activities aim to ensure CIT is delivering skilled workers of the highest quality, and that apprentices and trainees have access to the supports they need to complete their training.

One of the initiatives implemented at CIT, and since rolled out to a number of private RTOs, has been the use of "My Profiling". This mobile app streamlines assessment and reporting processes and allows apprentices, their employers and their training organisations to more easily track their ongoing progress. The ACT will continue to support CIT so that it remains the pre-eminent provider of high quality, cutting-edge training across the ACT and region.

In March this year I launched the women in trades grants program to help more Canberrans access training opportunities. The program will leverage the creativity of

the VET sector and industry to increase female participation in traditionally male-dominated trades.

I launched the program alongside Leilani McGurgan, a second-year electrical apprentice employed by ACT Property Group. Leilani had a range of employment before taking up a trade and realising it was the perfect environment for her to be challenged, and the perfect opportunity for her to inspire other women to have a go and take up a trade.

The women in trades grants program was the fulfilment of a promise by this government to try to boost the number of female tradespeople and ensure young women are not discouraged from following an interest in historically male-dominated trades. I look forward to making announcements about the outcomes of the grants program shortly.

The government will continue to work with the Australian government to identify opportunities to increase and support apprenticeships and traineeships in the ACT. We are working to make sure ACT dollars go further, to create more apprenticeship pathways and work experience opportunities for young people in ACT schools, more support for registered training organisations in areas of skills shortage, and new higher apprenticeships in priority areas.

We need to make VET available for students who have a passion and talent but are not sure where to apply them. We also need to make sure students are exposed to the possibilities that vocational training provides to embark on long and satisfying careers. The ACT has a role to play in this, and endeavours to increase the number of apprentices employed across our diverse workforce. ACT VET projects are an affirmation of our belief that the chance to upskill or re-skill, and find yourself in a stimulating professional environment, is one that should be afforded to all individuals, regardless of age or gender.

Our successes on the national stage in recent years, through the Australian training awards, are a testament to the success of the ACT ecosystem in providing improved apprenticeship outcomes through quality training and appropriate support. In the past week a number of our male and female apprentices competed on the national stage, with more than 10 Australian apprentices representing the ACT at the national WorldSkills competition in Sydney. I am again looking forward to the ACT training awards later in the year, which will be another opportunity to celebrate the wonderful successes and achievements of ACT apprentices, trainees, employers and training organisations.

The government will continue to support apprenticeships and traineeships as a key part of our high quality VET sector, delivering skilled workers to meet industry needs in the ACT, now and into the future.

In closing, I will table some highlights of facts and figures on apprentices and trainees in the ACT which further demonstrate some of the successes in this important area. I present the following papers:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 2—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2016-2017—Response to Recommendation 10—Apprenticeships and Traineeships—Ministerial statement, 7 June 2018.

Vocational Education and Training: ACT Apprenticeship and Traineeship—Highlights, dated 7 June 2018.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

ACT volunteering statement action plan 2018-2021

Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations) (10.12): I rise to talk about the importance of volunteering for the people of the ACT and the ACT government's recently released volunteering statement action plan 2018-21. National Volunteer Week was held from 21 to 27 May. It is an annual celebration to acknowledge our nation's volunteers. I was pleased to launch the action plan during National Volunteer Week, delivering on a commitment I made to the Assembly last May.

In the ACT more than one in three people volunteer. That is around 130,000 people. It is estimated that the value of volunteer contributions to our community each year is \$1.5 billion, but it is difficult, if not impossible, to measure the true value of volunteering. Volunteers make our city stronger, fairer, more inclusive and more sustainable. Every week, thousands of people give their time to help others, organise local sports and cultural activities, and protect and preserve our natural and built heritage.

This time last year I launched the ACT volunteering statement, updating the original 2011 statement. The statement presents an inclusive vision for volunteering in the ACT. The ACT volunteering statement sets out four high-level principles: that volunteers in the ACT are recognised, valuable, diverse and supported. This provides a platform for good practice in volunteer engagement, management and support. As a central point of reference for volunteering, it reflects a whole-of-government and community commitment to recognising and supporting volunteers.

Since the launch of the ACT volunteering statement, the government has been working to develop an action plan to realise its intentions. Extensive consultations with the community in 2016 and across government and the community in 2017-18 have contributed to the development of the ACT volunteering statement action plan 2018-21. The formal consultation for the action plan ran from 5 December 2017 to

18 February 2018 and was conducted in partnership with Volunteering and Contact ACT.

Consultation was facilitated through a paper which included eight proposed actions for discussion. An online survey received 174 responses. The eight actions in the consultation paper received 78 per cent approval from the respondents, and the two most popular actions identified in both the survey and quick poll were: to provide volunteer-involving organisations with access to resources to facilitate effective, safe and sustainable volunteer involvement; and to encourage collaboration to link people with meaningful volunteering opportunities. These actions have been captured in the action plan.

The Community Services Directorate is the lead agency for implementation of the action plan and will work with other ACT government directorates and other stakeholders to implement its actions. The actions provide opportunities for improved coordination and collaboration, including an ACT government volunteering webpage. The webpage will provide a central location that includes links to volunteering news and opportunities across directorates; some free resources, such as position descriptions and a volunteer agreement; and a link to Volunteering and Contact for more resources and support.

The outcomes in the action plan have corresponding milestones to help measure the effectiveness of the actions. As the action plan is implemented, baseline data will be gathered to assist in developing future outcome indicators. All directorates will be required to report annually on their progress in implementing actions, and their input will contribute to an annual ministerial statement.

The overall rate of volunteering in the ACT is about 37 per cent, which is high compared to most jurisdictions. People volunteer for a range of organisations, including education, sport and recreation, welfare and community, religious and emergency services organisations.

A number of vital services and programs across the ACT government rely on the tireless and skilled contribution of volunteers. ACT Health has over 440 volunteers who contribute to the delivery of a range of client services and support the patient journey through the healthcare system, including within the emergency department, intensive care unit, cancer services, paediatrics, speech pathology, and auxiliary services. Volunteers also provide wayfinding assistance across the hospital campus, participate in the prevent alcohol and risk-related trauma in youth program, and provide justice of the peace services.

Volunteers play an integral part in the delivery of environmental programs coordinated by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, including Waterwatch and the parks and conservation service ParkCare program. ParkCare facilitates community volunteer engagement in land management, wildlife programs and visitor services. ParkCare volunteers carry out a broad range of activities across our parks and reserves and contribute an average of 22,000 hours of volunteering each year.

The ACT Emergency Services Agency within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate provides emergency management services to the Canberra community. The agency includes volunteers from ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Rural Fire Service, mapping and planning support, ACT community fire units and ACT Fire Brigade Historic Society.

Volunteers are a vital component that enable the ACT Emergency Services Agency to meet its obligations to government and the community in protecting life, property and the environment in the ACT. Volunteers and the commitment they bring to the protection of the ACT community remain part of the core strength of the ACT Emergency Services Agency, and its volunteers enhance the safety of the community by providing front-line response to emergencies such as bushfires, storms and floods.

The Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate maintains a close relationship with volunteers, including volunteer dog walkers, who are an essential part of the domestic animal services, and Libraries ACT volunteers, who play an important role in enhancing and extending the services that libraries provide to the Canberra community.

Volunteers support students and a range of educational programs in Canberra's schools. For example, the volunteer playground engagement team contributed significantly to Macquarie Primary School's playground enhancement project, co-designing a brilliant outdoor learning space with students and staff. They dedicated over 120 volunteer hours and oversaw the construction of gardens, play spaces, planting forest, and a bush tucker garden. For their efforts, the team was recognised in the 2017 ACT public education awards.

The education sector involves huge numbers of parent volunteers who share their time and expertise to run school P&Cs and sporting teams. Parent volunteers are critical to the functioning of school ecosystems, helping to foster a culture of community within schools. Parent volunteers ensure carnivals, fetes and sporting events can take place in the Canberra region and that these events are accessible and fun.

Parent, family and community involvement in schools ensures that education is about more than just what takes place in the classroom. For example, volunteer Bev Crittall was recently awarded the 2018 friend of public education award at the ACT Australian Education Union public education awards. Bev was recognised, and not for the first time, for her outstanding work on behalf of the Garran school community, working tirelessly every day of the week as a volunteer in their canteen, helping to create a community atmosphere in many different ways.

Arts and culture are an integral part of the lives of individuals as well as the social and economic fabric of Canberra. The arts help to define our community's identity and give expression to community values. Canberra's arts and cultural sector has a strong community of volunteer workers. In 2016 17 per cent of ACT residents volunteered for the arts or helped artists or community groups with arts activities. There were more than 700 volunteers in artsACT funded organisations in 2016 such as the

Canberra Glassworks, Belconnen Arts Centre, Canberra Potters Society, QL2 Dance and Tuggeranong Arts Centre, and these volunteers contributed over 40,000 hours of their time.

The skilled capital initiative facilitated by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate provides subsidies to improve access to high quality training in areas where a skilled workforce is needed, including sectors with a high reliance on volunteer labour, such as the disability services and aged-care sectors. Skilled capital provides a good avenue for volunteers and volunteer supported organisations to access relevant subsidised training in the ACT.

EventsACT also relies on the contribution of numerous volunteers to support events such as the National Folk Festival. One of Canberra's largest public events, the National Multicultural Festival, depends on 4,500 community volunteers who take on the roles of stallholders, performers and showcase coordinators. In addition to these community volunteers, the Community Services Directorate has partnered with Volunteering and Contact ACT to coordinate a volunteering team for the festival. In 2018 more than 120 community members and over 60 staff from the Community Services Directorate volunteered their time to provide information to festival goers and liaise with area wardens and festival staff to ensure the safe and smooth conduct of the event.

The Community Services Directorate also supports and coordinates the Connect and Participate Expo which was held on 24 March 2018. The expo is a community event that since 2014 has been showcasing the range of opportunities available for Canberrans of all abilities and ages to join groups and build social connections around common interests.

Scores of community organisations, of course, depend on the hard work, commitment and compassion of their volunteers. An example of hard work is people like Allanah Marshall, who was recently named 2018 ACT young volunteer of the year. Allanah has contributed over 640 hours to the Canberra community in the past year alone, devoting her spare time to volunteering with St John Ambulance Australia, the CBRNightcrew, Camp Quality and the Calvary hospital in Bruce.

An example of commitment is people like Andrew Prowse, who was recognised as a profound influencer at the 2018 ACT volunteering awards. Andy has been a dedicated volunteer with Cystic Fibrosis ACT for five years, sharing his own story of living with cystic fibrosis to inspire others and raise awareness about the essential support services needed to change lives.

An example of compassion is people like Natalie Wright, Canberra's 2018 ACT volunteer of the year. Natalie is a prominent leader in the Canberra community and an influential role model for hundreds of Canberra school students through her volunteer work with the St Vincent de Paul Society as the Mini Vinnies coordinator, a social justice group for primary school children.

These individuals, just a few of those recognised at the 2018 ACT volunteering awards, exemplify the contributions that volunteers make to critical organisations

within our community. National Volunteer Week is an opportunity to celebrate volunteers, and the 2018 volunteering awards acknowledged the contributions of outstanding individual and team volunteers across our community.

The host of the awards, Volunteering and Contact ACT, is a vital partner working throughout the year to link people, government and non-government organisations. It fosters community networks and undertakes research, advocacy and public education programs. I look forward to continuing to work with Volunteering and Contact ACT as well as with other community organisations and volunteers themselves as we implement the ACT volunteering statement action plan 2018-21.

Finally, on behalf of the ACT government I again express my appreciation and that of the government to all those who volunteer or who use their skills to help others volunteer in a way that is meaningful and rewarding. I present the following papers:

ACT Volunteering Statement Action Plan 2018-2021—Ministerial statement,
7 June 2018.

ACT Volunteering Statement—Action Plan 2018-2021.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Animal Diseases Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.24): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Animal Diseases Amendment Bill 2018 to the Assembly. The bill makes a number of amendments to the Animal Diseases Act 2005. The purpose of this bill is to extend the use of the national livestock identification system, known as the NLIS, to owners of sheep, goats and pigs. At present it applies only to cattle owners. The bill makes it compulsory to identify these animals with a permanent identifier and to record their movements.

The bill also requires that movement information about cattle, sheep and goats be uploaded electronically to the NLIS database. It is not required to record the movement of pigs to the NLIS database, although this may change when the

New South Wales regulation is finalised so that there is consistency between the jurisdictions.

These measures are being introduced for the improvement of biosecurity in the ACT. Biosecurity is a high priority essential for animal disease control and ensuring food safety and market access for our primary producers. Our clean and green reputation is a major trading advantage; so an animal disease outbreak or chemical residue incident could cripple the industry and lead to the collapse of export markets.

The ability to effectively track stock is critical in an emergency animal disease response. This was most recently demonstrated in the 2017 bluetongue virus incident in Victoria where the property and identification codes and NLIS databases were instrumental in tracing and surveillance activities. They provided vital information that helped determine the extent of the problem and informed the response plan.

Being able to trace livestock movement is increasingly important to assure our trading partners about the safety of our food and the integrity of our animals. Modern and effective biosecurity legislation is required to ensure that ACT primary producers have continued access to interstate and overseas markets. The legislation also helps protect the industry, the broader community and the environment from potential disease outbreaks.

Before I go into the details of the bill, I will give some background information about the rural sector in the ACT, the limitations in our current legislation and what the NLIS is all about. Sheep and cattle grazing is the primary activity conducted on rural land in the ACT. We have about 48,000 sheep, 7,000 cattle and 1,500 horses. We have 195,000 chickens on four poultry farms and currently there are no feedlots, abattoirs or piggeries.

The ACT government is responsible for monitoring Canberra saleyards, with approximately 400 cattle passing through monthly. Currently there is limited legislation in the ACT mandating the recording of stock movements. There is an offence under section 47 of the Animal Diseases Act 2005 to move taggable stock that is not tagged. There is also a requirement in the Animal Diseases Regulation 2006 for cattle to be tagged with a national livestock identification device.

However, it is currently not mandatory in the ACT for sheep, goats and pigs to be fitted with an identification device. It is also not mandatory for these livestock owners to have a property identification code, or PIC. This means that a mob of sheep can be moved within the ACT from property to property without movements being recorded on the NLIS database. This creates difficulties in tracing the movements of the stock in the event of a disease outbreak.

The national livestock identification system is a database for Australia's permanent whole-of-life identification system. This system aims to ensure individual cattle, sheep, pigs and goats can be traced from birth to slaughter. The database is endorsed by major producers, feedlots, agents, saleyards and processor bodies. The database identifies animals, their physical location—by the property identification codes—and provides electronic access to information.

In the ACT only cattle are required to have a device fitted and their movements traceable through the database. As cattle move between properties with different identification codes, this is recorded on the database. Cattle can be traced on and off different properties, saleyards and abattoirs.

This is important. If, for example, chemical or antibiotic residues are detected in meat at an abattoir, the property where the affected stock were last held can be identified and investigations done on that property as to why the residue has occurred. Knowing all the properties on which the animals resided means that the problem can be more quickly addressed.

I would now like to provide some information about the property identification codes, or PICs, because they are an important component of an effective biosecurity system. Property information helps build a territory-wide biosecurity picture about agricultural use and livestock numbers. PICs are fundamental to the NLIS because they provide traceability to specific properties. With a PIC, property occupiers can obtain identification devices for their animals, identify their property for movement recording and enrol in industry quality assurance programs. PICs are currently not mandatory.

I will now go into a bit more detail about the bill itself. The bill affects a variety of livestock industry stakeholders, including primary producers, hobby producers and people who own livestock as pets, stock and station agents, livestock saleyards, and operators of stock events such as agricultural shows.

Division 4.2 of the bill requires a PIC to be held by people who keep cattle, sheep, goats, pigs, camels, alpacas, llamas, horses, mules, donkeys, more than 10 emus and ostriches, and more than 100 chickens. If a PIC is not obtained, an offence is committed, with a penalty of a maximum of 50 penalty units. Anyone operating an abattoir, saleyard and stock event must also obtain a PIC, with a maximum penalty of 50 units if they do not do so.

This new requirement to have a PIC reflects recent past experiences where the government's response to outbreaks of equine influenza and avian influenza was hampered by a lack of knowledge about the location of these animals. Given that camelids and deer are susceptible to foot-and-mouth disease, information on their location will help if we need to respond to this disease.

PICs will only be needed where people have more than 10 emus or ostriches or more than 100 small poultry. This means that recreational backyard keepers are not subject to the new requirements. The updated PIC requirements also provide consistency with New South Wales regulations.

The bill sets out requirements for the identification of cattle, sheep, goats and pigs. These stock, known as identifiable stock in the bill, will have to be properly identified by having a permanent identifier properly attached. The bill defines what is "properly identified" and "properly attached". Using counterfeit identifiers and altering and removing identifiers from stock are offences under the bill.

We use the term “permanent identifier” rather than the term “tag”, which many people will be familiar with. Livestock can be tagged for a number of reasons. We use the term “permanent identifier” to make the legislation perfectly clear that we are talking about the endless identifier and to keep our terminology consistent with New South Wales.

The bill makes it an offence to move identifiable stock that is not properly identified unless the movement is an exempt movement. For example, they can be moved in an emergency, such as a flood or a bushfire, as long as their owner gives the chief vet certain information within seven days.

The bill requires certain delivery information to be provided when identifiable stock is involved. Records of the delivery information must be kept for seven years by the stock owner. Buyers must be given the delivery information and keep it for seven years, or two years in the case of a stock and station agent.

Crucially, the bill requires the various people involved in moving cattle, sheep and goats to provide information, including certain transaction information, about the movement to the NLIS administrator by uploading it to the database. This is the final link in the chain of the database for recording the movements of identifiable stock.

As I said earlier, pigs are not yet included in the last step of the process as it is yet to be finalised and made consistent with New South Wales. Finally, the bill provides for the director-general to establish a register that contains information the director-general considers necessary, having regard to the purpose for which the register is maintained.

Maximum penalties in the Animal Diseases Act 2005 have increased. I would like to explain why. In recent times governments have been placing greater emphasis on managing biosecurity risks. Greater global trade is creating new opportunities for pests and diseases to enter the country. A warming climate is allowing the spread of pests and diseases into new areas and declining resources could limit our ability to prevent and respond to pest or disease outbreak.

Pests and diseases do not recognise judicial boundaries or fences and it is important that we have legislation that is compatible with our neighbours. The commonwealth and New South Wales have introduced biosecurity bills that include much tougher penalties for breaching the biosecurity duty. While this bill is not about biosecurity duty per se, the NLIS is the fundamental tool for managing an outbreak of an animal disease. Ensuring ACT farmers comply with the NLIS is fundamental to minimising biosecurity risks in the ACT.

At first glance, the offences seem minor. Tampering with identification devices, not properly identifying stock and not recording movements of stock may seem to be minor infringements but they can have far-reaching consequences, including the loss of export markets for an entire industry.

With this in mind, and taking into account the views of our neighbouring jurisdiction towards biosecurity, it was considered appropriate that penalties be set at a higher level. Under the Animal Diseases Act 2005, most penalties were a maximum of 10 penalties. The bill increases most penalties to 50 penalty units or \$7,500 for individuals and five times that for corporations.

The government is of the view that this increase is well justified given the far-reaching consequences of a breach. This bill will help the ACT to be better prepared for outbreaks of disease and protect the ACT as our agricultural industry expands. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Stock Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.37): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Stock Amendment Bill 2018 to the Assembly. The bill makes limited amendments to the Stock Act 2005 with the aim of updating the act. The bill provides the Director-General of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate with more flexible options for dealing with impounded stock and updates the provisions in the act relating to permits for moving stock on foot.

I would first of all like to provide some relevant information about the Stock Act. One of the aims of the Stock Act is to encourage property owners to ensure their livestock are contained securely on their properties. The risks posed by escape of trespassing livestock include collisions with motor vehicles and the potential for people to be seriously injured or even killed. There is a real risk in Canberra because of the many high-speed roads adjacent to livestock paddocks. Furthermore, the impact of straying livestock trespassing onto neighbouring properties can include the spread of disease, injury to livestock, inseminating stud livestock, consuming fodder and damaging crops.

To deal with straying or trespassing stock, the Stock Act has a number of provisions about the impounding of stock. Part 5 of the act permits the director-general and the occupier of the land to impound trespassing stock. The act requires the director-general to give notice of the impoundment of stock either to the owner, if identified, or publicly.

There are provisions about the release of impounded stock and fees payable to the territory to maintain and travel the impounded stock. If impounded stock are not released, the act presently provides that the impounded stock must, in the first instance, be disposed of by selling them at auction. Section 39 in part 5 of the act provides that the director-general must offer the stock for sale at auction if the stock is not released within 14 days of notice of the impounding being given.

It has become apparent that this requirement to sell at auction is not the best use of government resources and is not always the best outcome for the stock involved. The costs associated with administering the auction process when only a small number of animals are involved is not justified and there may be potential for animal welfare issues associated with keeping social animals in isolation from their normal mob-based social environment.

The requirement for the director-general to sell impounded stock by auction works well in situations involving large numbers of stock but is not as suitable when small numbers of animals or single animals are involved, and small numbers or single animals is the norm for Canberra. The bill therefore makes amendments to the Stock Act to enable the director-general to exercise some discretion when implementing solutions, in relation to impounding stock, that are more cost effective, pragmatic and avoid potential animal welfare issues associated with keeping social animals in isolation away from their normal mob-based environment.

The bill amends part 5, section 39 to provide sale of the stock as one of the options available to the director-general. The new section 39 permits the director-general to dispose of the stock by selling them at auction or other means of sale or by disposing of the stock, including destroying the stock, as the director-general considers appropriate. I would like to emphasise that the director-general can only destroy or dispose of the stock after the 14-day notice period of the impoundment has expired and it is not practicable or desirable to sell the stock because of cost, animal welfare or other reasons. I would also like to point out that the bill in no way affects the ability of a veterinary surgeon to humanely destroy an animal that is sick, diseased or injured, in accordance with section 86 of the Animal Welfare Act 1992.

I would now like to turn to the second set of amendments made by the bill. These relate to part 4 of the Stock Act, which is about travelling stock. Part 4 of the Stock Act has historically been about requiring anyone transporting stock to have a document from the government or the owner of the stock that provides ownership of the stock and point of origin of the stock. The permit system was also about tracing stock movements in case of a disease outbreak.

Since the Stock Act was made, there have been changes that affect the movement of livestock in the ACT. Much of the land that was previously rural has been repurposed for urban development, with a corresponding decrease in the number of farms and livestock. This, and better modes of vehicle transport, has resulted in the droving of stock by foot decreasing significantly. Also, the national livestock identification system, Australia's system for the identification and traceability of stock, has expanded and provides a better way of tracing stock movements.

This means that part 4 of the Stock Act is now only about ensuring the public's safety when the stock is being moved on foot in areas accessible to the public. The government needs to be able to review the proposed movement and assess any risk to the public of the proposed movement.

The bill amends part 4 of the Stock Act to clarify that owners of stock must obtain a permit to travel stock when it involves driving the stock on foot in public areas such as along roads. This could be long-distance travel by stock walking from one area to another, roadside grazing for short periods of time or routine movements between two or more properties owned or occupied by the same person.

The Stock Act is also amended by the bill to remove the right of an owner of stock to issue a permit to travel stock. This requirement was needed historically so that people droving stock along a road could prove the stock had not been stolen. This is no longer necessary because the Animal Diseases Act 2005 includes schemes for the identification of stock and it is not appropriate for an owner to issue a permit when the risk associated with the movement of the stock needs to be assessed by the government for public safety reasons.

In finishing, I would like to point out that the bill contains two strict liability offences. These offences are already in the Stock Act and are only amended by the bill for technical reasons to remove the reference to an owner issuing a permit. There has been no change to the maximum penalty of 50 penalty units.

This bill is another example of the government keeping a close eye on the territory's legislation and making sure it is as up-to-date as possible and works effectively, of course, to reduce red tape, allows the government to meet its obligations in a way that makes best use of resources, and continues to have animal welfare as a priority. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Prostitution Amendment Bill 2018

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (10.45): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Prostitution Amendment Bill 2018. This bill is the result of careful consideration, consultation and collaboration and makes a range of amendments to improve the operation of the Prostitution Act 1992.

In 2012 the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety completed its inquiry into the Prostitution Act, and the majority made 17 recommendations to improve the regulation of the sex work industry in the ACT. The government agreed to a number of those recommendations which formed the basis of discussion for the implementation working group established afterwards. Following extensive consultation, a number of legislative amendments have been developed to implement key recommendations of the standing committee.

The regulation of sex work is a controversial issue. Some believe that in order to best protect sex workers, the majority of whom are women, we need a robust legal framework to ensure that the sex work industry is safe. Others are of the view that in order to protect women and vulnerable individuals the sex work industry should be criminalised altogether. What both sides have in common is the desire to protect individuals in our community who are working as sex workers from issues such as trafficking, violence, exploitation and illness. Regardless of how we think it should be done, the desire to protect one another is an admirable one.

However, nobody has better knowledge and understanding about how their rights and safety should be protected than sex workers themselves. It is sex workers who will be most affected by any changes to the Prostitution Act, and therefore it is sex workers that we must listen to. The government have listened to key representatives of the sex worker advocacy groups and we have heard that, under the current legislative framework, sex workers have concerns about ongoing stigma, safety issues and discrimination.

The amendments proposed by this bill seek to address those issues and also to uphold the objects of the act by helping to promote the welfare and work health and safety of sex workers. Another very important goal of the bill is to better protect children from sexual exploitation.

The amendments in this bill will help to reduce stigma against sex workers by removing pejorative terminology. The Prostitution Act will be renamed the Sex Work Act 1992 and the terms “prostitute” and “prostitution” will be replaced with current terminology, “sex worker” and “sex work”. The word “prostitute”, which has a negatively moralistic dictionary definition, is derogatory and stigmatising and contributes to the discrimination against individuals in the sex industry. Changing the language to “sex work” and “sex worker” will shift the focus to the individual rights of those engaging in commercial sexual services.

The bill will also amend sections 12 and 13 of the act to remove the requirements for sole operators to register or provide annual notices to the Commissioner for Fair Trading. Sometimes laws, despite their best intentions, simply do not work in practice and, given the very low rate of compliance, the requirement for sole operators to register with Access Canberra has not been working. Instead of protecting sex workers as it is intended to do, the requirement for sole operators to register causes many sex workers to have serious concerns about their privacy and personal safety.

As failing to register is a criminal offence, these requirements have instead become an additional barrier to sex workers feeling safe and comfortable in accessing health and outreach services. Removing the registration requirements for sole operators will improve social inclusion for sex workers. These amendments will also uphold the government's commitment to reducing red tape and remove regulatory burdens on sole operators.

Another key amendment in the bill is the amendment to change the offence of causing a child to provide commercial sexual services under section 20 of the act to absolute liability offences, no matter the age of the child. Currently, section 20 distinguishes between children over and under the age of 12. The offence against children over the age of 12 is currently a strict liability offence, whereas the offence relating to children under 12 is an absolute liability offence. The current strict liability status of the offence relating to children aged 12 years and over means that a defendant charged under this section could use the "mistake of fact" defence under section 36 of the Criminal Code 2002 to claim that they had a reasonable but mistaken belief that the child in question was 18 years old or over. This defence is not available where absolute liability applies to the offence.

A further defence currently exists under section 22 of the act. This section provides that it is a defence to an offence under section 20 if it is established that the defendant took reasonable steps to ascertain the age of the child concerned and believed on reasonable grounds that the child was 18 years old or over. This defence currently applies in respect of children both under 12 years and children who are 12 years and over.

The bill will amend section 20 of the act so that absolute liability will apply to an offence under that section regardless of the age of the child or young person. This will mean that the mistake of fact defence under the Criminal Code will not be available to someone who allows an underage person to provide commercial sexual services, regardless of the age of the young person. However, the defence currently under section 22 of the act will continue to apply to both offences under section 20, as it does now.

The practical effect of this change is that a defendant charged with the offence of causing, permitting, offering or procuring a child aged 12 years or over to provide commercial sexual services will no longer be able to rely on mistake of fact but could still rely on the defence in section 22 of the act of taking reasonable steps and reasonably believing that the child was 18 or over. "Reasonable steps" would be determined by the court in the case of a prosecution but may include, for example, sighting a drivers licence or other proof of age document that identified the child in question to be over the age of 18.

Under our Human Rights Act 2004, every child has the right to protection without distinction or discrimination of any kind. By changing the offence relating to children aged 12 years and over to an absolute liability offence, children of all ages are better protected from sexual exploitation.

The bill also removes discriminatory provisions from the act by repealing sections 24 and 25. These sections make it an offence for a sex worker or a client to provide or receive commercial sexual services if they are infected with a sexually transmissible infection, or STI. These offences are discriminatory because they hold sex workers and clients infected with STIs to a higher public health standard than the general population who are simply required to take reasonable precaution not to transmit a notifiable infection under the Public Health Regulation 2000. This is despite the fact that sex workers represent a low-risk demographic for STI transmission due to a high rate of prophylactic use. That use is supported by the requirement under section 27 of the act to use prophylactics when providing certain kinds of commercial sexual services.

The bill will remove these discriminatory provisions and instead insert a cross-reference to the Public Health Regulation to make it clear that the standard of taking reasonable precautions that applies to the general community also applies equally to sex workers. This amendment means that sex workers and their clients who have STIs will be treated the same as other members of the community with STIs, by focusing the offence on the failure to take reasonable precautions to prevent the transmission of infection rather than on providing or receiving commercial sexual services when infected with a transmissible infection.

The bill also improves the work health and safety of sex workers by requiring operators of brothels and escort agencies to provide appropriate personal protective and safety equipment, including prophylactics, to sex workers free of charge. This amendment is drafted so that it mirrors the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 and makes it clear that sex workers have the same right to be safe at work as workers in other industries. The amendments include a list of examples of personal protective and safety equipment that is non-exhaustive in order to capture the wide variety of safety requirements that exist under a diverse range of sex work.

This bill also makes a number of minor and consequential amendments to ensure consistency across the statute book. The bill redrafts sections 12, 13 and 14 without changing the substance to ensure consistency with the Criminal Code and changes the term “authorised nurse practitioner” to “nurse practitioner” for consistency with the Legislation Act 2001.

The bill also makes amendments to a range of legislation to ensure that pejorative terminology is removed. Finally, the bill repeals the Prostitution Regulation 1993 and replaces it with a new Sex Work Regulation 2018, which is otherwise identical.

The government recognises that sex work is a valid occupational choice and that sex workers are entitled to the same protection of their health and safety, rights and freedom from discrimination as workers in any other profession. The government is committed to a progressive and socially responsible approach to the commercial sex industry. These amendments update the act by better balancing legalisation with effective regulation to protect the rights of sex workers, their clients and the broader community. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

Work Health and Safety 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) (10.57): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I am pleased to present the Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2018 to the Assembly. The purpose of this bill is to improve the safety culture in the ACT's construction industry by facilitating greater consultation on major construction projects.

“Safety culture” is a subset of the overall organisational or company culture. The safety culture of an organisation is the product of individual and group values, attitudes, perceptions, competencies, and patterns of behaviour. It determines the commitment to, and the style and proficiency of, an organisation's health and safety management. Organisations with a positive safety culture are characterised by communications founded on mutual trust, by shared perceptions of the importance of safety and by confidence in the efficacy of preventive measures.

The national work health and safety strategy acknowledges that work health and safety improvements are best achieved when health and safety are supported by the organisation's culture and embedded in its procedures and processes. The national work health and safety strategy identifies that a positive culture for health and safety can be achieved by: communities and their leaders driving improved work health and safety, organisational leaders fostering a culture of consultation and collaboration which actively improves work health and safety, and health and safety being given priority in work processes and decisions.

Last year the RMIT University Centre for Construction Work Health and Safety Research conducted an independent survey of the safety culture in the ACT construction industry. The research highlighted the importance of meaningful consultation with workers on health and safety matters but found that the quality and effectiveness of formal consultation mechanisms on construction sites in the territory was variable.

In making this finding RMIT suggested there were opportunities to review the way workers are engaged and the way they are able to raise concerns about work health and safety and provide meaningful input into the design of safe and healthy ways of working. This finding followed the 2012 *Getting home safely* report, which had similarly emphasised the importance of a consultative approach to project safety.

This bill is a signal to the construction industry that the way safety is being communicated between employers and their workers needs to be improved. Indeed the government views consultation and worker representation so highly that it is willing to make amendments to the law to facilitate improved communication. We know that collaboration and meaningful consultation between employers and workers play a critical role in improving safety outcomes. We also know they contribute to the safety culture, which is critical to ensuring our workers remain healthy and safe. Workers must be able to participate in the identification of safety problems and the development of solutions. There needs to be a joint effort by all parties in ensuring that workplaces are safe and people are protected.

The amendments made by the bill I present today will raise the bar in terms of the expected level of communication and consultation regarding workers' health and safety matters in the construction industry. These amendments will impose additional obligations on a person conducting a business or undertaking who is the principal contractor for a major construction project. The bill will mandate a new consultation step in the establishment of work groups, mandate the election and training of health and safety representatives and mandate the election and training of health and safety committees.

The government acknowledges that mandating training is a big step, but it is an important one. Ensuring training of health and safety representatives and committee members on major construction projects in the ACT will build lasting capability in work health and safety.

As noted, the amendments will only apply to major construction projects, which are defined as construction projects with a contract price of \$5 million or more, and do not apply to single residential dwelling construction projects.

The bill requires a principal contractor to consult with eligible unions when establishing work groups. Currently, the legislation only requires consultation with unions in forming a work group if requested by a worker. Work groups are an important means of establishing a pool of workers who are likely to have common safety concerns and issues from which a health and safety representative can be elected. The workers in the work group can then readily access a health and safety representative to discuss health and safety matters.

Health and safety representatives facilitate the flow of information about health and safety between workers and their employers. They also monitor safety actions taken by their employer, investigate workers' complaints and look into anything that might be a risk to the health and safety of the workers they represent. Trained health and safety representatives can also direct unsafe work to stop if they have a reasonable concern that carrying out the work would expose a worker to serious risk, and can issue provisional improvement notices.

This bill also makes it compulsory for the principal contractor for a major construction project to facilitate the conduct of an election of one or more health and safety representatives. The principal contractor must also ensure that health and safety

representatives attend relevant training. This will ensure that workers have a trained colleague on site to report and take action on their work health and safety concerns.

The bill will also make it compulsory for the principal contractor of a major construction project to establish a health and safety committee for the project and to train committee members via a relevant course. Health and safety committees bring together workers and management to assist in the development and review of health and safety policies and procedures. These committees are a useful forum for consultation on work and safety issues. They enable worker representatives and management to meet regularly and to work together to improve safety outcomes. They are particularly useful for consultation in workplaces where there are a number of different persons conducting a business or undertaking, which is often the case on large construction projects.

The bill will further require that at least half the health and safety committee members at worksites at which a major construction project is being carried out are workers carrying out work at the workplace. Mandating worker representation levels on health and safety committees, along with compulsory training of committee members, will ensure that engagement and collaboration between employers and workers result in meaningful consultation and improved safety outcomes.

In recognising that there may be some circumstances where the formation of work groups and the election of health and safety representatives and committees should not be required, the bill includes a provision to allow the regulator to exempt a principal contractor from complying with some of the obligations imposed by the amendments on application by the principal contractor.

A delayed commencement of 1 January 2019 for the bill has deliberately been chosen. This is to give the construction industry in the territory time to prepare and familiarise itself with the new obligations.

The amendments contained in this bill will enhance collaboration in the construction industry and, by doing so, improve safety outcomes for construction workers across the territory. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Senior Practitioner 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) (11.05): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I present the Senior Practitioner Bill 2018 to the Assembly. The bill creates a new role of senior practitioner as well as providing a formal framework for the overall reduction of restrictive practices in the ACT and for working to achieve the elimination of their use in individual circumstances where possible.

A restrictive practice is defined by the bill as a practice that is used to restrict the rights or freedom of movement of a person for the primary purpose of protecting the person or others from harm. It may include, for example, the use of a chemical substance to restrict or subdue a person's movement; limiting a person's ability to move freely, access their surroundings or engage in an activity; or the seclusion or sole confinement of a person in a room or other space from which free exit is prevented, explicitly or implicitly, or not facilitated.

This bill has been informed by extensive consultation with the ACT community. Consultations were undertaken through all phases between November 2016 and May this year. I take this opportunity to thank all of our community and sector stakeholders, including the ACT Human Rights Commission, for their generous participation in this process.

In various discussions with community members, there has been overwhelming support for the senior practitioner role. The community has welcomed the educative role of the senior practitioner, which will begin ahead of the bill, proposed to commence on 1 September 2018, and well ahead of the offences provisions, which are not proposed to commence until 1 July 2019. This staggered timing ensures that the senior practitioner will have time to engage, educate and work through implementation issues with those organisations and people affected by the legislation.

The senior practitioner will help to guide decisions and provide education to foster positive alternatives to restrictive practices which preserve a person's rights and freedoms. Key stakeholders have welcomed the senior practitioner providing greater clarity about when the use of restrictive practices should be authorised.

This bill will ensure that, in the circumstances that restrictive practices are required, people will have clear and expert advice and support. It will ensure that the practices will be part of a positive behaviour support plan and that they will be used for the shortest time possible—in short, working towards their elimination in any particular instance.

This bill will provide greater and much called for assurance for all providers who work with people who have challenging and complex behaviours. We know that restrictive practices are more likely to be used in response to the behaviours of some of the most vulnerable people in our community: people with disability, older people, people living with psychosocial disability and children and young people.

The bill enables greater protection from the unnecessary use of restrictive practices by establishing a formal protection and oversight mechanism for the ACT. It enshrines the principle that providers should only use restrictive practices in very limited

circumstances: as a last resort, in the least restrictive way and for the shortest possible period of time in the circumstances.

It is important to note that the bill is aimed at regulating the use of restrictive practices by service providers. It does not apply to families or informal carers for the person. Nor does it seek to regulate reasonable action to monitor and protect a child from harm: for example, holding a child's hand while crossing a road or putting a fence around a school or childcare centre. Such reasonable actions are specifically excluded from the definition of restrictive practices under the bill.

A key aspect of the senior practitioner's role is to work closely with the ACT community to provide education and improve awareness on the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices. The senior practitioner will produce and disseminate policies, standards and guidelines to promote best practice and will lead sector capacity building to minimise or eliminate the use of restrictive practices. These objectives will be supported by the collection and reporting of key data on the use of restrictive practices over time.

The bill has broad scope to give greater protection for those members of our community who may otherwise be subject to abuse or harm. The senior practitioner's powers will extend to: disability services, including psychosocial disabilities; schools and other education settings; and children and young people in out of home care.

The bill also makes specific exemptions for persons receiving care under the Mental Health Act 2015 to the extent that that act applies; patients in secure mental health facilities; and those in custodial or prison detention, including the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. This is due to existing oversight arrangements specific to those settings already providing legislative oversight and regulation.

Families and informal carers providing supports are also excluded under the bill. Other services such as health and hospitals are neither explicitly included nor excluded in the bill. Those services will not be subject to oversight by the senior practitioner when it is established.

However, the definition of provider may be expanded by regulation made under section 8(1)(a)(iv) of the bill. This would be done in close consultation with key sector and community stakeholders and allows for further rollout once the senior practitioner is established and operational.

Under the bill, a restrictive practice is only permissible if used in a way that is consistent with a positive behaviour support plan for the person. The positive behaviour support plan must be approved by a registered behaviour support panel and registered by the senior practitioner. The bill enables the senior practitioner to receive complaints about anything done by a provider in relation to a positive behaviour support plan that permits the use of a restrictive practice, or about the use of a restrictive practice by a provider. The senior practitioner will also have powers to conduct investigations, either in response to a complaint or on their own initiative, where restrictive practices are a concern. If, after an investigation, the senior practitioner is satisfied that the provider is using a restrictive practice that is

inconsistent with a registered positive behaviour support plan, the senior practitioner must give the provider a direction to stop the practice.

As noted previously, the bill includes offences, which are to take effect from 1 July 2019. This will coincide with the start of the NDIS quality and safeguarding framework in the ACT and will give providers time to get ready to meet their responsibilities under the bill. Under part 8 of the bill, it will be an offence for providers to use a restrictive practice on a person that is not permitted under a registered positive behaviour support plan. It will also be an offence for providers to fail to comply with any directions issued by the senior practitioner after investigating the use of a restrictive practice.

A priority for the senior practitioner will be to build strong working relationships with other key oversight agencies, with the aim of leveraging and enhancing existing safeguarding arrangements, and to best meet the needs of people who may be vulnerable to restrictive practices.

The Senior Practitioner Bill supports the ACT government's commitment to improving the lives of all people who are vulnerable and potentially subject to restrictive practices, as well as upholding their human rights. The bill ensures we meet our commitments under the NDIS quality and safeguarding framework and the national framework for reducing and eliminating the use of restrictive practices in the disability sector. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Proposed reference

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (11.12): I move:

That the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services inquire into and report on the delivery of high quality maternity services, including, but not limited to, the support of staff in a high-pressure environment, and any related matters.

This is an important issue for the Canberra community, and this motion is a simple one. It refers the matter to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services but does not set a time frame because the committee already has a body of work underway. It is the belief of the Liberal Party that issues in relation to maternity services are important and warrant more consideration by this Assembly. The best way to do that would be through a committee inquiry allowing members of the community the capacity to tell their stories about the provision of maternity services and how we might improve them.

There is wide recognition—and especially since the letter received by Minister Fitzharris on 16 April—that maternity services in the ACT are under pressure. As a result, I think it is time we allowed people to tell their stories and had an open

discussion about how we will best come to some solutions of general appeal across the community to ensure we continue to deliver high quality maternity services and to support the staff in their working environment.

On 16 April Minister Fitzharris received a letter from a group of health professionals at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. The letter raised a long list of concerns about conditions at the Centenary hospital, including long wait times and daily overbookings for procedures such as inductions and epidurals; no privacy for labouring or unwell women waiting for rooms and that there was a long line of women waiting for rooms and labouring in inappropriate circumstances; women and babies being discharged inappropriately early with feeding, pain and other issues unaddressed; staff being unable to provide adequate breastfeeding support and cuts to Midcall; bullying being rife and part of the ongoing culture at the Centenary hospital; problems with staffing in the maternity assessment unit; and the neonatal intensive care unit often at capacity and short-staffed.

When the minister received this letter she deployed her army of 29½ spin doctors—I know that number because I asked the question on notice—and a meeting with staff was organised for the following day. I have obtained a copy of the relevant documents relating to that meeting under the Freedom of Information Act. I have a copy of a track changes document of talking points. Some of the amended talking points include: “We accept there is room for improvement”; “Some of these issues are already on our radar”; and “We acknowledge that as senior executives we need to do better.”

Another example is notes of a communication and incident briefing meeting on 17 April. It states that a senior executive expressed her surprise and sadness that the writers of the letter felt they had to take this action and felt they had to voice their concerns regarding their employment anonymously. She said she was sad they did not speak to others before going to the media and had taken this approach.

The senior official asked the people in the meeting to put up their hands if they had felt bullied in their workplace. One staff member said it was inappropriate for the senior official to ask the question in such a way and that the staff would be scared to come forward about bullying in such a forum. That staff member was absolutely right. The very action of the senior staffer was in itself bullying, and the person should have been counselled. It was clearly inappropriate for a senior executive to ask staff in a meeting of 41 people to say whether they had been bullied.

We have a culture of bullying and a culture of fear across the entire health system, including the maternity services. There are serious concerns about the mental health of many staff who are under constant pressure, which can largely be attributed to bullying and harassment in the health system itself. Those of us who have been here long enough will remember the former minister, Katy Gallagher, speaking a few years ago about what was then the 10-year war in obstetrics, as she called it. There is a long history of bullying in maternity services.

Madam Assistant Speaker, I cannot tell you the number of times that members of the public have come to me and told me they are employed in the health department and

say, “I need to tell you about this or that or the other, but I can’t tell you this unless you can ensure my anonymity. Because if anyone knew I had told anyone about this, my life would not be worth living.” That is a fear of bullying. When the nurses and midwives in the women’s and children’s hospital speak out through an anonymous letter to say, “We are concerned about the safety of women and babies in our hospital,” they are talked down to by the minister for health and her battalion of spin doctors.

The minister has summarily batted away the claims of bullying and harassment, simply saying that there are clear and respectful pathways to deal with these matters. Asking for a show of hands is not respectful, and this has never been the case. Anyone venturing down the so-called clear and respectful pathways is vilified in such a brutal way as to destroy their career. This minister does nothing to support the people who venture down these perilous pathways.

On 8 May 2018 Minister Fitzharris claimed in this place that the letter had come from one midwife. There is no evidence of that. It is clear from the letter that it was written by more than one person. Indeed the documents indicate that the management at the hospital acknowledged it reflects widespread concerns of the staff. A significant number of people have backed the midwives at the Centenary hospital. Those people are the patients in the hospital.

On 26 April the *Canberra Times* reported some of the patient experiences at the Centenary hospital. One woman said she had given birth in a car because the Centenary hospital was full, and she was advised to wait until she had a proper labour before coming in because the ward was full. Another mother spent hours in the hospital before being discharged. Another mother cited in the *Canberra Times* made formal complaints and sought legal representation after the birth of her twins in the hospital. Her labour lasted over three days due to delays at the Centenary hospital. She had one baby naturally and the other baby was delivered by a caesarean section. In this day and age that should not happen.

I recently asked Canberrans to have their say about health services. It was a survey about health services generally, but probably 50 per cent of the submissions I received were about maternity services. It is the highest issue raised in the survey. To be fair and quite frank, many of the people who responded to the survey across the board, including in maternity, said they had nothing but good experiences at the hospital. But many people were unhappy and a considerable number of concerns were raised, and some of them are quite alarming.

Patients talked about bullying and harassment that they had seen and experienced. They often felt they were harassed to leave the hospital when they were unready to do so, that they were harassed to take particular courses of action when their gut indicated they should be taking another form of action. A number of people said quite patently that they would not go back to the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children if they had further children. This is alarming.

Other issues raised were flawed advice that did not take into account the particular circumstances of patients; a lack of support from staff and assistance with

breastfeeding; early discharge of patients home despite problems; one patient from Captains Flat and one from Goulburn being sent home even though they were in the early stages of labour and were high-risk pregnancies; patients feeling like staff were not listening to their concerns; and a lack of pain relief.

Something that has always been an issue for me as a health consumer is the quality and availability of food in the wards. It was reported to me through the survey that often after labour women go for long periods without being given any food because there is none available and there are no kitchen staff. One woman who is a vegetarian claimed she was unable to get appropriate food until she was given vouchers to cash in at the staff canteen. So she had to go off the ward to the canteen to obtain appropriate vegetarian meals.

It is clear from the midwives' letter and from the experiences of a significant number of patients—I am talking around 100 patients who have responded to my survey—that there are major problems with maternity services at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, and I am concerned about the pressure that this puts staff under. It is clear there is much we need to do in this area.

I have had complaints about the under-utilisation of the birth centre for its principal purposes, even though there is a waitlist for people who want to access the birth centre. The minister has admitted they are perplexed about the fact that there is such high demand for maternity services at the Centenary hospital while Calvary hospital is somewhat under-utilised. I also note that, while it is a private hospital, John James hospital is somewhat under-utilised as well.

We need to find a happy medium whereby we fully and appropriately utilise all the maternity facilities available to us in the ACT to ensure we have, as much as possible, safe, natural births for those people who wish it; safe interventions in birth for those people who need it; and people labouring in our hospitals in appropriate circumstances and with appropriate care in the post-natal period so we do not have high rates of readmission, which is one of the issues raised by the letter writers to the minister on 16 April as well as by respondents to my survey. A number of people reported readmission of their babies as a result of substantial weight loss after birth, and that is a matter of considerable concern to me. This should not be happening in a First World country in the 21st century.

It is clear we have problems in our maternity system, and they are not just problems of money; they are problems of how those resources are divided up, how we administer our maternity services and how we make sure the services are available as equitably as possible at the right level for the right person.

I have moved this motion today to refer this issue to the health and community services and ageing committee because the matter is becoming of considerable concern to women of the ACT in particular, as well as to their widespread families and to the staff in maternity services. It is time we had a proper airing and exploration of the issues.

Because I am a member of the committee, I know there is a considerable workload with two important inquiries currently underway. It would be up to the committee to find the space for this if the Assembly agrees to this reference. I believe it is sufficiently important to raise the issue in this place so that this Assembly can say that maternity services are important for women of the ACT, and that this matter should be dealt with in a way that gives consumers and providers of maternity services an opportunity to speak about their concerns and their suggestions for improvement.

We certainly need to do better than we currently are; therefore I commend the motion to the Assembly and hope the Assembly agrees with me that maternity services are sufficiently important to warrant a committee inquiry.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.28): I am a member of the HACS committee. The HACS committee is a perfectly functional committee, and I think it is appropriate that we as a committee make the decision as to what we do or do not work on. Clearly, there is some merit in Mrs Dunne's idea, and there may be other ideas with equal merit. Due to the lack of time I think it would be more appropriate to leave this discussion to the HACS committee to work it out for ourselves.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (11.28): I speak as an ordinary member of the Assembly and not as the chair of the HACS committee. I agree with Ms Le Couteur's sentiments—the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services currently has two inquiries underway. I think it is very sensible for the committee to be able to consider the proposed inquiry in the context of its current and future work plan and any future inquiries that also need to be conducted, not limited to annual reports coming up closer to the end of the year. We have taken that approach with other inquiries and we should also do that with this inquiry before a decision is made as to whether we will actually undertake the inquiry.

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

Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR PETTERSSON (Yerrabi) (11.30): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs relating to petition No 25-17, ACT safe and inclusive schools, as referred to the committee on 8 May 2018, pursuant to standing order 99A.

As signatories to petition No 25-17, ACT safe and inclusive schools, 1,483 residents of the ACT have sought to:

... draw to the attention of the Assembly that students present to all schools, government and non-government, with a range of personal characteristics, including diversity in gender identity and presentation, sexual orientation and intersex status.

As an inclusive community, Canberrans overwhelmingly support schools respecting, welcoming and celebrating diversity and encouraging children to be themselves.

When this does not occur, children can face bullying and discrimination that damages mental health, lowers academic achievement, lowers rates of school attendance and increases rates of self-harm and suicide.

... petitioners, therefore, request the Assembly to support the Government's efforts to ensure all children are safe and supported at any school, and support the ACT Safe and Inclusive Schools initiative being available to all ACT schools.

This committee has noted the petition.

The committee's response to petition No 21-17, relating to the safe schools program, was presented to the Assembly on 12 April 2018. In considering petition 21-17, the committee was provided with a briefing by Education Directorate officials on 3 April 2018, aimed at better understanding ACT government's safe and inclusive schools initiative and how it differed from the Safe Schools Coalition Australia program.

In light of that briefing, the committee will not be inquiring further into the matters raised in petition 25-17. The committee notes that the safe and inclusive schools ACT website provides a menu of supports offered to schools who choose to engage with the safe and inclusive schools initiative. All schools, government and non-government, have access to the materials.

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (11.32): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services relating to the inquiry into a proposed mammal emblem for the ACT. The committee received 29 submissions from the community, suggesting a range of animals for consideration as the territory's mammal emblem. The animals which gained prominence in submissions were the eastern bettong, the echidna, spotted tail quoll, southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby and the little forest bat.

In May 2018 the committee met with wildlife and conservation experts at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary and Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve to learn more about the mammals put forward. Committee members greatly appreciated the opportunity to see the significant conservation efforts being made at Mulligans Flat and Tidbinbilla to protect and reintroduce mammal species to the Canberra region.

The committee identified a list of factors to inform its consideration of candidates for a mammal emblem: connection to the ACT region, contribution to the local environment, vulnerable or endangered status of the animal and potential for publicity as the territory emblem to contribute to important conservation efforts underway or

planned. Based on these criteria, the committee decided that the two primary contenders for selection of a mammal emblem are the eastern bettong and the southern brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

The eastern bettong once lived across southern Australia but, due to human activity and the introduction of feral species, became extinct on the mainland in the 1920s. A population of bettongs from Tasmania was reintroduced to Canberra in 2012 and can be seen at Mulligans Flat Woodland Sanctuary. They have an important role in the ecosystem, turning over soil and promoting regeneration of vegetation.

The brush-tailed rock-wallaby has a long association with the ACT and important cultural connections with the local Indigenous population. Due to farming and the introduction of feral species, the wallaby is at risk of being extinct in the foreseeable future. In 1996 Tidbinbilla Nature Reserve began a conservation program to save the wallaby from extinction.

From a captive population of three wallabies, Tidbinbilla has now grown the population and in doing so pioneered breeding techniques now used by many conservation programs. The Tidbinbilla population is now around 30. This number is expected to grow once an expanded sanctuary is constructed in 2018. Tidbinbilla hopes to grow the population to over 100, which will ensure the survival of the brush-tailed rock-wallaby.

The committee will now open an online poll for a period of two weeks to enable the ACT community to further inform which animal would best represent the territory as our mammal emblem. The poll results, as well as other material, will inform the committee as it prepares a report on the inquiry.

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (11.35): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services relating to the inquiry into nature in our city. The committee has received requests for permission for individuals to make their submission after the closing date of 8 June 2018. The committee has decided to extend the closing date for all submissions to 29 June 2018.

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee) (11.35): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services. On 30 November 2017 the committee notified the Assembly that it had resolved to conduct an inquiry into the implementation, performance and governance of the national disability insurance scheme in the ACT. The committee conducted public hearings throughout May 2018 and heard testimony from the Shepherd Centre on Friday, 11 May.

The committee heard that the new referral pathway for children in the ACT identified with hearing loss at birth has become significantly longer with the introduction of the EACH pathway under the NDIS. The EACH pathway is designed only for early intervention with children under the age of six.

The committee heard that the EACH pathway can result in children not being referred to auditory specialists in time to commence therapy before the auditory cortex closes. The committee was told that, if treatment starts after six months of age, the child will have permanent delays in regard to speech. The committee was understandably concerned about the effect that such delays could have on children born in the ACT with hearing loss.

Since hearing from the Shepherd Centre the committee has heard conflicting reports about what the correct process is for referrals of this nature. As a result the committee has written to the federal assistant minister responsible for the NDIS, the CEO of the National Disability Insurance Agency, the chair of the federal joint committee on the NDIS, and the responsible ACT minister, Minister Stephen-Smith, highlighting this significant shortcoming in the current operation of the scheme.

The committee is making a statement today in an effort to encourage immediate action in relation to this crucial matter. The committee also takes this opportunity to thank all submitters to the inquiry and those that appeared before the public hearings. The committee plans on tabling its final report before the end of the year.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Leave of absence

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

That leave of absence be granted for all members for the period 8 June to 30 July 2018.

Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018

Debate resumed from 10 May 2018, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (11.38): I rise today to resume debate on the Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018. In doing so, I wish to speak from a very personal space and once again make clear my absolute commitment to the protection of children. I believe that my public record on this issue should be abundantly clear already. In March last year I raised concerns in this chamber that the government's Family and Personal Violence Legislation Amendment Bill did not adequately protect children because it forces the Magistrates Court to amend protection orders even in

cases that could theoretically involve coercion or distress—realities that a number of stakeholders who spoke with me insisted they had seen too much of.

These amendments were rejected by this government. Then, just one year ago, I moved a motion in this Assembly calling upon the ACT government to recognise the importance of providing for external review of important child protection decisions—a recommendation made in the 2004 Vardon report endorsed by Legal Aid ACT and raised again with this government in the 2016 Glanfield inquiry.

My motivation to do this was because I am thoroughly dedicated to the protection of children, and external review has been identified as an important safeguard when it comes to the safety of young people who have been removed from their birth parents. After all, 36 per cent of survivors who contacted the royal commission reported having been abused whilst in various forms of out of home care. This was the single largest group of respondents.

In March this year, I moved another motion specifically calling upon the ACT government to work with nationally recognised and accredited organisations in order to provide all first-time parents and other primary caregivers with evaluated information packets that address child sexual abuse, including how to recognise offender tactics, potentially risky situations and warning signs, as well as how to helpfully respond to suspected abuse and actual discovery of abuse. I fully expect this government to keep its commitment to this motion, as it was passed, and I look forward to an update on what is happening in this space.

By themselves, these actions should show my unwavering commitment to the protection of children and young people. To them I could add the concerns I have raised on numerous occasions, both in this chamber and in numerous hearings, about how some of our most vulnerable kids are treated in our youth detention centre, including experiencing and witnessing violence. I could also add the concerns I have raised about kids who spent too long in care, the quality of our residential care system, the lack of adequate foster carers and so forth.

If this is all somehow not clear enough, let me clarify here and now that I have zero tolerance for the abuse of children, sexual or otherwise. That means that I have zero tolerance for those who would in any way shelter or protect those who abuse children or who would allow such abuse to continue when they might be in a position to stop it. There are no exceptions. This means that I and the Canberra Liberals fully endorse the recommendations of the royal commission and, as the opposition, we will be supporting this bill today in its entirety, including the clauses that deal with religious confession.

At the same time I feel obligated to acknowledge that there are right-minded people who harbour concerns about aspects of this proposed legislation. In making this acknowledgement, I put those opposite on notice. On this issue, concern with how a legislative instrument has been drafted does not imply in any way a lesser commitment to the protection of children. Any attempt to make such a point will correctly be seen by those both inside and outside this place as a reprehensible and inexcusable political move.

As the Chief Minister himself has acknowledged, the issue of how exactly to deal with the existing provision for confessional privilege is a complex issue that “goes beyond questions of how best to protect children,” one that ideally needs “a nationally consistent approach”. For this reason the scrutiny committee itself raised a concern that part 11 of this bill should be delayed until the necessary policy development and consultation have been concluded.

The Chief Minister has provided assurances that this government will engage in this consultation and policy development within the time frame provided in the bill. I sincerely hope that this will be the outcome. It certainly needs to be the outcome. I understand that no-one on either side of this chamber wishes for the inclusion of religious bodies into the reportable conduct scheme to be delayed for any reason. In my personal opinion, it must not be delayed.

At the same time I call upon this government to do literally everything in its power to work with other jurisdictions, including the commonwealth, to find the absolutely best way forward over the next several months. Our kids deserve nothing but the best protection that we can provide to them. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.44): I rise today to speak in support of the bill presented by the Chief Minister. This amendment bill introduces an important expansion—indeed, a fundamental expansion—of the reportable conduct scheme to include religious organisations. I strongly called for this inclusion as soon as I became aware of the gap last year. As I stated in the Assembly last month, I am both pleased and relieved that the government is preparing to implement the expansion from 1 July this year. I again welcome the \$615,000 that has been allocated for this to happen.

It is important that all organisations and institutions working with children are child safe and child friendly, and that any misconduct in relation to children can be reported appropriately and swiftly addressed. I hope the additional funds will improve the scheme’s capacity to do so.

One of the primary concerns identified by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse was the lack of accountability and the staggering incidence of cover-ups of abuse of children and young people by organisations and institutions, often those whose very mandate was to protect and promote their wellbeing and welfare.

Any person who took note at all of the royal commission’s inquiry could not fail to note the disturbingly prevalent incidence of religious institutions, and the hierarchy within them, abusing their power over our most vulnerable citizens: children and young people. As I have said previously, abuse does not stem inherently from religion. Child abuse is ultimately an abuse of trust and power. Similarly, the inherent status of children and young people obligates us, as a community, as a society and as a parliament, to protect them.

As part of the royal commission’s investigations of some 7,000 survivors who described the types of institutions where they were abused, more than half—that is,

58.6 per cent—said that they were sexually abused in an institution managed by a religious organisation. While the original legislation would certainly cover those instances where the abuse was perpetrated by teachers and those in a school setting, people in religious ministries were equally implicated in the proceedings. It was a gross oversight not to include them in the first place. I commend the government for rectifying this gap.

I would like to address an aspect of the legislation that causes some concern in the community. There was an article about it in today's *Canberra Times*. This is the step towards the inclusion of religious confession. I commend the government for taking this step. The royal commission clearly states:

Laws concerning mandatory reporting to child protection authorities should not exempt persons in religious ministry from being required to report knowledge or suspicions formed, in whole or in part, on the basis of information disclosed in or in connection with a religious confession.

The royal commission goes further in recommending that representations be made to the Pope to amend canon law to exclude child sex abuse allegations from confessional privilege. I would like to say very clearly on the record that there is no room in our multi-faith and secular society for exempting the practices of one particular religious organisation from the obligation to report and respond to child sex abuse allegations. Preventing the ability to cover up such abuses of trust and power is not a matter of religious freedom, faith or beliefs. It is about protecting children.

On balance, the government has taken a measured approach in allowing a nine-month transitional period to do the work to address any legal or legislative uncertainty. As I have clearly said, I endorse the inclusion of religious institutions as a designated entity in the legislation. However, it is important to note that it does not, by itself, address some of the other gaps that currently exist. There is a lack of protection for vulnerable adults.

We already know that people with disabilities suffer sexual assault at disproportionately higher rates, as high as 90 per cent for some groups. As I called for last year, if the reportable conduct scheme cannot be extended to cover these groups, the government needs to examine what other robust protections for these vulnerable adults can be introduced.

Without clear and mandatory reporting, this group will remain reliant on good intentions. As we have clearly seen in the royal commission process, all too often this means they are unprotected. It would be a terrible tragedy to have to wait for the outcomes of another royal commission to prevent further harm for people with disabilities, who we know are at a higher risk of sexual assault than the wider population.

Promoting a child-safe and child-friendly city is about more than the obligation to report child abuse. It is about the ability to respond and provide support that is timely and appropriate when abuse does happen, to hopefully minimise the harm caused and prevent the terrible repercussions of trauma left unacknowledged and untreated.

These repercussions can often lead to self-medication with the abuse of alcohol and/or other drugs, mental health issues, family breakdown, isolation and other self-harming behaviours. Sadly, one of the ways that abuse is most often discovered is when victims are picked up in the child protection system or youth justice system with one or more of these issues.

A clear example of this problem is sexualised behaviours. Yet from the age of 11, young people can be charged with sexual offences, noting, of course, that fortunately this very rarely, if ever, happens in the ACT. Many boys, but not of course all boys, who have been exposed to domestic violence are often found to exhibit problem sexualised behaviour. For girls exhibiting these behaviours, it is more likely to indicate exposure to sexual assault.

The current system does not adequately understand or deal with these behaviours. Experts in this area, such as the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, have identified that carers and staff in the out of home care system and other first responders, such as the police, need to develop a deeper understanding of these issues to avoid further victimisation and longer term adverse outcomes for these vulnerable young people.

On this note, I was very pleased to see funding for the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre in the budget. I reiterate the importance of appropriate resourcing for the community sector to do their work effectively and to reach out to and respond to children and young people when they need support.

In conclusion, this amendment bill is an important step to bring the ACT's legislation into line with the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. Most importantly, it helps improve our ability to keep children and young people safe from harm in the ACT. The Greens are happy to support the bill.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (11.52): I welcome the opportunity to speak in support of the Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018. This bill responds to community concern about the safety of children in our organisations by expanding the scope of the reportable conduct scheme to include religious institutions. This expansion was much welcomed by religious organisations themselves, who last year advocated for the expansion

By way of introduction, as a person of Christian faith, I am very aware that I have an obligation to be mindful of my own potential biases. I have a responsibility to clearly separate those beliefs from my role as a minister of government and as an elected member of the Assembly. I am aware that I have to be very careful not to advocate for a public policy on the basis of the tenets of my own personal faith. So as I and this government consider this bill, we do so aware of religious practices and the balancing that is required under the Human Rights Act. But I am also aware that I cannot bring a particular bias in relation to any single expression of faith.

We can take heart from the encouraging words of Canberra's religious leaders as they signal their organisational aspirations to move to a position of social change that affords children and young people a much higher status.

Child abuse is unacceptable. It is shocking. All children have a fundamental right to be safe and to be protected in their community, and to have a say in the decisions that affect them. The ACT is a human rights jurisdiction, committed to protecting the rights of children and young people, including their right to special protection because of their vulnerability to exploitation and abuse.

I would like to acknowledge today the incredibly important work that the royal commission has done in raising to unprecedented levels community awareness of the vulnerability of children and the community's responsibility to children. After five years of emotionally exhausting and confronting public hearings, over 400 hearing days and 1,200 witness testimonies, the royal commission handed down 409 recommendations in its final report.

As we have heard, the ACT reportable conduct scheme is on track with the recommendations of the royal commission regarding nationally consistent legislative reportable conduct schemes. National consistency is important, as the safety and wellbeing of children is the responsibility of all levels of government. But governments cannot do this alone: keeping the children in our community safe is a shared responsibility, and one that cannot be done without the wider community.

There are a number of reforms which are common to all systems. They include: that the safety and wellbeing of children is a shared community responsibility; charters of rights for children and young people in care; children and families being empowered to participate in decision-making; and children's commissioner and/or children's guardian positions being created to advocate for children. That is just to name a few.

The ACT continues to participate in work to progress national standards for sectors other than out of home care, and work towards a potential national harmonisation of working with children check schemes, both of which are recommended by this royal commission.

We have already responded directly to the royal commission's recommendations on civil litigation. We passed amendments to remove limitation periods for civil actions on child sexual abuse in all contexts in May 2017. We also introduced legislation that responds to some of the royal commission's criminal justice recommendations by strengthening our criminal laws against ongoing sexual abuse rather than just individual sexual acts; by broadening grooming offences to criminalise any contact with a child that is intended to make a sexual offence more likely and extending grooming offences to the grooming of persons other than the child; and excluding good character from reducing a sentence for a child sex offender when it has been that good character that enabled them to gain access to the victim.

The royal commission makes it clear that there is more work to be done. In March this year I commenced public consultation that addresses the royal commission's

recommendations for criminal justice system legislative reform, inviting key stakeholders and the broader community to provide their views on those proposals.

As the Chief Minister stated in introducing this particular legislation, the difficult question of how to treat religious confession is complex, and it is currently part of a national conversation. The consideration of confession is an important one, and it is a discussion which must be had with community and with religious leaders.

Today's debate, and the anticipated passing of this legislation, which it is important to do in this time frame, does not foreclose engagement with the archbishop or any other members of the Catholic Church, or with other religious bodies. I will be meeting with Archbishop Prowse to hear his views on this legislation's treatment of religious confession as well as the broader implications of the royal commission recommendations. Those views will inform the government's work on reportable conduct between now and March next year.

The revelations aired in the royal commission's public hearing were shocking. Our community now expects religious organisations to prioritise children's safety. They are trusted and respected institutions, and they have a key role, along with all of us, in protecting children.

Recognising the ACT's leading role in reportable conduct as one of only three jurisdictions to have implemented the scheme, we also strongly support work that is occurring across jurisdictions to develop a nationally consistent approach to the question of how to treat religious confession. That is why we are actively engaged at a national level in addressing the issue of confessional privilege. That is why the provisions relating to the confessional will not commence at this stage. I will be heading from the chamber to the airport later today to fly to Perth for the next meeting of the Council of Attorneys-General. I look forward to speaking with other attorneys-general tomorrow about this and other national legal issues.

Reportable conduct is an important part of the government's response to the royal commission, but it is not the only part relevant to religious institutions. We will keep working with this community to ensure that our children are safe and that the lessons of the royal commission are implemented.

In summary, this bill, which expands the scope of the reportable conduct scheme to include religious institutions, builds on the sound legislative foundation that protects the rights of the children and reflects this government's, and this community's, commitment to keeping children safe. Now is the right time. I commend the bill to the Assembly

MR STEEL: (Murrumbidgee) (12.00): I welcome the opportunity to speak on the Ombudsman Amendment Bill 2018, which expands the reportable conduct scheme to include religious organisations, in line with recommendations from the royal commission into child abuse in institutions. As has previously been stated, the work of the royal commission has been incredibly important and well respected, and the community has our assurance that the ACT government is committed to learning from

the experiences of those survivors who came forward as well as acting upon the commission's final recommendations.

There is no higher priority for government than ensuring children's safety. It is at the heart of what we do. We recognise the rights of children and young people to grow in safe and stable environments and the responsibility of our community to contribute to their safety, protection and wellbeing. The reportable conduct scheme is an important part of the broader ACT safety net that protects children. It helps organisations to respond correctly and appropriately to allegations of employee misconduct involving children, through external, independent oversight of their practices and procedures.

The importance of keeping children and young people safe and protecting them from harm cannot be overstated. We know that when children experience sexual and other abuse, the exposure to toxic stress quite literally poisons the brain, with disruption of the development of brain architecture that lasts well into adulthood. It affects psychological and social functioning, self-esteem, mental health, personality, sleep, health risk behaviours including substance abuse, self-harm, and life expectancy.

We must focus on early intervention and prevention to support better outcomes for children, young people and the wider community. That is why reporting conduct that causes this harm is so important. We expect it of teachers. We expect it of health professionals. And today, with this bill, we expect it of religious bodies, including ministers of religion and religious leaders.

I note that the Catholic Church has raised some concerns with these changes, specifically the changes regarding the confessional. The ACT government has been reasonable on this matter, allowing for a nine-month lead-in time to March 2019. The argument of the Catholic Church, that it will be breaking the seal of sacrament surrounding the confessional booths if we go ahead with these changes, shows how out of touch the Catholic Church is with the community, with victims, and with their responsibility to ensure that they are a child-safe organisation, which, I remind Archbishop Prowse, starts at the very top of organisations. We cannot allow children to suffer from institutionalised sexual abuse, and we will not allow children to suffer because of the silence of the church or any religious body.

That is why our government will provide safeguards to protect every child through greater reporting. Today we take the side of children over the church. It is our obligation to do so, because the rights of the child are paramount. Our government's priority is protecting children, protecting vulnerable people. Our priority is not about upsetting the sensitivities of religious bodies that we know, through the royal commission, have a history of abuse of children in communities across Australia, and in my community at Marist College.

Archbishop Christopher Prowse wrote in the *Canberra Times* today:

... what sexual abuser would confess to a priest if they thought they would be reported?

I ask: what supposed pillar of moral authority thinks that they should be exempt from reporting on the most serious crimes against children?

Keeping children and young people safe and protecting them from harm is everyone's responsibility, including the church, including every religious body. Child protection is a core responsibility of every state and territory government. We will continue to work together with the community to support children and young people, building on significant previous work that the government has undertaken in child protection.

Our priorities are reflected in the ACT children and young people's commitment for 2015-25. The commitment is an important high-level strategic policy that sets the vision for a whole-of-community approach to promoting the rights of children and young people in the ACT. The ACT also has a strong system of oversight for children in out of home care, supported by a set of national standards, the Public Advocate, the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner, the official visitors scheme, the ACT Ombudsman, the Human Services Regulator and the Human Services Registrar.

In summary, the reportable conduct scheme aims to prevent, disrupt and respond to child abuse in organisations. This bill introduces changes that expand the scope of the scheme to include religious institutions acting on the recommendations of the royal commission and honouring the courage, the experiences and the trauma of the victims. I want to say to victims of institutional child sexual abuse that in this bill and those that follow enacting the recommendations of the royal commission, we have heard you. I commend this bill to the Assembly.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (12.05): It is clear that the bill before us is here because of the unconscionable actions of some within religious movements in our country. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse shone a light on the sickening actions and abuses of trust that have occurred, resulting in immense and immeasurable damage to many victims and their families.

As a student of Marist College Canberra for nine years of my education, I know that there was always an undertone of perhaps rumour and innuendo about some of the things that might happen if you were left alone with one of the brothers. However, it was, largely, absolutely unimaginable that these schoolyard urban legends or humour were built on fact. This continues to sicken me to my core.

It is fair to say that the social licence and the trust that religious orders have operated under have been violated and that there needs to be greater transparency in the conduct and operation of religious orders in Australia moving forward. The broadening of a reportable conduct scheme to some religious entities, in my opinion, is overdue. To that end I am supportive of this scheme. I do, however, feel I need to put some personal reservations and serious concerns that I hold on the record around the inclusion of religious confession as part of the scheme and the lack of genuine consultation that has occurred with the relevant religious orders as part of the preparation and introduction of this bill.

A wide range of citizens practise private confession, particularly amongst Christians. This includes western Catholics, eastern Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Mormons, Anglicans, Lutherans and Methodists. Common to all of these faiths is that the priest, minister or clergyman hearing the confession is forbidden to repeat what has been heard to anyone. Catholics and Orthodox Christians call this the seal of confession.

In my personal view, the breaking of this seal fundamentally changes sacramental practice and significantly impinges on an individual's freedom of association, freedom of expression and freedom of religion rights, which are conveyed both by the Constitution and by human rights legislation. The ease with which changes are made in terms of infringement of freedom raises the serious question of why we bother enshrining rights in legislation in the first place when they are repeatedly impinged on when it seems practically and politically expedient to do so.

It was made clear to the opposition during our briefing on this legislation that the government had not fully resolved how religious confession would be handled in the long term and that significant work was being undertaken at a COAG level amongst attorneys-general. This is in contrast to the government's response to the scrutiny committee which was circulated in previous days, which highlighted that the government's clear intent is to include and capture religious confession.

The briefing also highlighted disingenuous consultation, at best, with affected religious groups within the ACT. When the Catholic archbishop was approached, the recommendations of the royal commission were the basis of the discussion, in broad terms, with no specific mention of the inclusion of religious confession, which the government's legislation is seeking to do. This is backed up by the archbishop's editorial in today's *Canberra Times*.

It is my personal preference to see religious confession remain, as a minimum, as a privileged encounter and that the transitional exemption relating to religious confession remain in place until the full impact of this change can be understood, both within our religious communities and amongst our senior lawmakers. To this end my view differs from that of most of my colleagues. I am grateful to them for the latitude that has been extended to allow for my view to be expressed. This is a long-held freedom that the Liberal Party has had, where a member may feel strongly enough to voice their opinion contrary to party policy. For that, I am thankful.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (12.10): I want to speak in support of the reportable conduct scheme and its extension to religious organisations. This is important work. Child protection is a priority for governments and the communities we serve. There is no doubt that religious institutions need to reform their practices and their culture so that there is continuing focus on the safety of children, and churches as key institutions need to be part of that.

The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse has revealed horrendous cases of sexual abuse of children and we must take action to ensure that this does not happen again. As a Catholic, I have watched in horror the unfolding story of abuse and predation by people in positions of authority and power in the Catholic Church and elsewhere. Like my fellow members of the faith community, I have been appalled by the ham-fisted handling of these serious issues by the hierarchy. Whether through ignorance or a misguided attempt to limit damage, some church leaders have been spectacularly adept at making things worse. It now falls to the current generation of church leaders to rebuild the people, the trust, and overcome the reputational damage that has been caused.

I know that churches have been doing a lot of work to safeguard children, and the government needs to be talking to them about that work. I also know that the Catholic Archdiocese here in Canberra was perplexed that it was not included in the original reportable conduct scheme and has been working for some time for this day to come about.

But that having been said, we need to take a bit of a breath, from my point of view, and I, like Mr Wall, would like to acknowledge the latitude that has been granted to me by my party room to express a personal view in relation to the seal of the confessional. I do not believe that the government has been up-front enough in consulting the Catholic Church, the Catholic archbishop and other groups in the community for whom the seal of the confessional is of particular importance.

I understand that the government is keen to implement the recommendations of the royal commission with regard to confession but I do not believe this is the best way to do that. The royal commission recommended that territories have a consistent reportable conduct scheme based on the New South Wales approach. That is in recommendation 7.9. The New South Wales approach, recommended by the commission, does not currently include religious confession. New South Wales Premier Gladys Berejiklian said in April that the seal of the confessional should be assessed by the Council of Australian Governments. Ms Berejiklian said:

Our response to that recommendation is to take it through the COAG process, we believe that is the best way to deal with it ... They're complex issues that need to be balanced with what people believe to be religious freedoms.

I believe the government should have taken the same approach as New South Wales and taken this matter up through COAG before dealing with the issue of religious confession, as it has done in this bill.

It is important that we respect the values of communities. The Catholic Archdiocese of Canberra and Goulburn was instrumental in ensuring that the ACT government included religious institutions in its reportable conduct scheme. In the Catholic Church confession is sacred, sacramental and sacrosanct. And we need to stop and think twice before we pass legislation that requires Catholic priests to break the seal of the confessional. This is for two important reasons. Within the Catholic community, approximately 25 per cent of the Australian population, there is a clear understanding that a priest will never reveal what has been spoken about in the sacrament of confession. This would be to break the seal of the confession and he would incur automatic excommunication.

This is why so many priests have spoken out about this issue and why for instance Father Frank Brennan SJ has said that he would break the law rather than the seal of the confessional. It is important to understand that this is the clear understanding of both the one who comes to the sacrament of confession and the priest who hears the confession. In other words legislation would contravene the legitimate rights of the Catholic community.

The proposed legislation is also impractical and thus would have no effect. Because a priest is bound by a sacred oath never to reveal what has been spoken about in the sacrament of confession, he would never be able to defend himself should he be accused of not complying with the law. It would be his silence against the word of another. There would be no witnesses.

To this day many confessions that are heard in Catholic communities are anonymous—that is, the priest hears the confession without seeing the one confessing and does not know the identity of the person. It would be impossible for a priest to report any matter and thus comply with the law.

For these two reasons, a law which requires priests to break the seal of the confession would be unworkable and ineffective. And worse, the practical effect of that would be to reduce the trust of the faithful in the sacrament of confession. Priests, like other professionals, are bound to report child abuse when the matter is raised outside the confessional and this is the normal course of events, given the heightened awareness of child abuse in communities through educational initiatives.

For this reason, my belief is that the government should be engaging with the faith communities about how to best ensure reportable conduct in all avenues rather than concentrating on an aspect which will be, at best, almost impossible to implement and, worse, will undermine faith in the religious communities who hold so much store in a sacramental element of their faith which has a millennia of history behind it and hundreds of years of common law practice behind it.

I just want to reinforce my appreciation to my colleagues for allowing the latitude to speak on this personal issue in relation to this bill and to reinforce that I am wholly in support of the reportable conduct scheme, as shown by my vote in the past. And I am wholly in support of its extension to religious organisations.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Major Events) (12.17), in reply: I would like to thank members for their contributions and indeed for their support of this bill. I take the opportunity today to commend the religious organisations and other key stakeholders for contributing to the development of this bill.

Members would be aware that the ACT reportable conduct scheme started on 1 July 2017 after receiving unanimous support in this place. The scheme allows for scrutiny of the way employers respond to misconduct involving children and also ensures the ACT Ombudsman is aware of every allegation of certain types of employee misconduct involving children.

The government is committed to continuously improving and strengthening this scheme, which is why we committed to expanding the scope of the scheme to cover religious institutions. We recognised this need prior to the Royal Commission into the Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse handing down its final report.

I would remind members, of course, that the ACT was the first jurisdiction in Australia to enact a human rights act which provides an explicit statutory basis for respecting, protecting and promoting civil and political rights. The rights of children, including protecting and safeguarding children, are fundamental to the territory's human rights approach.

Again the ACT was the first jurisdiction to push at the COAG level for the national harmonisation of reportable conduct schemes. We did that some 18 months prior to the royal commission making its recommendations. We committed to responding to the royal commission six months after the final report in December 2017. And we are on track to provide a comprehensive response which I will release shortly.

Recommendation 7.9 of the final report recommended state and territory governments establish nationally consistent legislative schemes based on the approach adopted in New South Wales. These schemes would oblige heads of institutions to notify an oversight body of any reportable allegation, conduct or conviction involving any of the institutions' employees. As one of the three schemes in place across Australia, the ACT is on track with that recommendation.

Recommendation 7.10 goes to the functions, powers and responsibilities provided for by reportable conduct schemes, and the ACT is also on track with that recommendation.

I want to stress that the government's work on the royal commission's recommendations does not begin or end with this bill. Some recommendations have already been implemented, whilst the implementation of many others is underway. Some recommendations are consistent with the ACT government's existing ACT children and young people's commitment 2015-25, while some others clearly require further planning, further consultation and tailoring to be effective in the ACT context.

A few recommendations will take the ACT and other jurisdictions into areas that will require significant work and coordination to implement, in particular those that recommend governments amend laws concerning mandatory reporting to include people in the religious ministry and that those laws do not exempt persons in the religious ministry from being required to report information disclosed in the course of religious confession. Here the government notes the differences between reportable conduct and mandatory reporting by mandated reporters. This is also the case for people who are presently covered by the scheme.

Reportable conduct covers a broad range of conduct compared to abuse and neglect or the risk of abuse and neglect which must be reported to child and youth protection services. This means employers may become aware of an allegation or conviction that is reportable to the Ombudsman but is not conduct that would be reported to child and youth protection services.

The royal commission in its criminal justice report also made recommendations around introducing legislation to create a criminal offence of a failure to report,

targeted at child sexual abuse in an institutional context. It further recommended that the criminal offence of failure to report should apply in relation to knowledge gained or suspicions formed on the basis of information disclosed in or in connection with a religious confession.

It is important that we have a discussion with Canberrans to develop the most appropriate response and subsequent evaluation of its effectiveness, and the Attorney-General has already begun this in relation to our criminal laws through the your say website and the sexual assault reform program working group. This is even more important when dealing with complex problems and fundamental religious beliefs. The ACT is the first jurisdiction to open up the inclusion of religious confession in the scope of the scheme to rigorous public and professional debate.

There is, of course, much important work to be done before we can make a definitive decision regarding the treatment of religious confession in the reportable conduct scheme. That is why this bill excludes information disclosed in the course of religious confession until 31 March 2019, to give the public and key stakeholders time to inform this crucially important debate. As I have stated before, we need to have these local and national discussions. But the government was not prepared to delay expanding the scheme to religious organisations whilst this one issue is resolved.

As a government, we are strongly committed to protecting vulnerable Canberrans and to make the ACT the safest place to live, to work and to raise a family, and this commitment was demonstrated in this week's budget with the allocation of \$1.1 million over the next two years with a provision for future years to support and resource the ACT Ombudsman to undertake additional investigations and to further support the introduction of religious organisations into the scheme from 1 July 2018.

Furthermore, as part of the commonwealth redress scheme, the ACT government has allocated nearly \$14 million to support eligible survivors of abuse in government institutions through a redress payment, counselling and psychological care, and a direct personal response. This bill takes the next step in keeping our children protected, and I commend it to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Amendment Bill 2018

Debate resumed from 10 May 2018, on motion by **Ms Fitzharris**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (12.26): The opposition will support this bill. I thank the minister for arranging a briefing for me, which took place earlier this week. I also appreciate the quick response from the minister's office to questions I raised during the briefing.

In short, this bill extends the application of ACT Health's existing drugs and poisons information system, known as DAPIS. It is mandatory already for pharmacists to upload to DAPIS information about dispensed schedule 8 drugs. Schedule 8 drugs—so-called controlled medicines—are those that carry an increased risk of dependency, abuse, misuse or diversion; that is, supply to a third party.

This bill will enable an add-on to DAPIS, known as DORA, or the drugs and poisons information system online remote access. Ultimately, DORA will enable real-time monitoring of the prescribing and dispensing of schedule 8 drugs. Any properly authorised health practitioner will have access to this database.

Thus, a doctor authorised to prescribe schedule 8 drugs will be able to see a patient's record as to their use of schedule 8 drugs before writing a script. This, for example, will counter any practice of doctor-shopping. A pharmacy dispensing a schedule 8 drug will be able to see the patient's record, to monitor, for example, when the script was last filled, and whether a suitable time frame has elapsed between then and the present. The ultimate aim of this system is that it be used nationally.

This bill contemplates information sharing across jurisdictions. Right now, only Tasmania has a drug monitoring system in place, but Victoria and Western Australia are working on it. Hopefully, other jurisdictions will follow. Obviously, take-up in New South Wales will complement the ACT system. The objective is one of harm minimisation and prevention of misuse of schedule 8 drugs.

I note this bill implements the recommendations of the coroner, given in 2016, arising from the inquest into the death of Mr Paul Fennessy. Even though we have waited for more than eight years since his death in 2010 to introduce this system, I hope that this will bring comfort and closure to Mr Fennessy's family and that it will help reduce future incidents of prescription drug overdoses.

I hope this bill will also strengthen the effect of the now finally adopted national guidelines for medication-assisted treatment of opioid dependence, which the commonwealth released in 2014. There is some way to go before DORA is fully operational and links with other jurisdictions can be established. However, this bill is a very important step for the ACT and I applaud its introduction.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (12.29): Prescription pharmaceutical drugs are readily available in our community. They play an important role in preventing, treating and curing disease. At the same time we cannot ignore the harms that these substances can cause if they are misused, and particularly if they lead to dependence. The effects of this kind of non-medical use of pharmaceuticals are wide-ranging and include physical, mental and social harms. Often these harms can be equivalent to, or in fact worse than, those caused by the use of illicit substances.

Unfortunately, to date, our prescribing and dispensing systems have not been sophisticated enough to prevent this type of misuse. We have heard from some of the families in our community whose lives have been affected as a result. This is why this bill is so important. The Greens are pleased to support it today.

The bill before us provides a way forward to help improve the situation. The bill will establish a regulatory framework to allow authorised people to remotely access, use and disclose information on the ACT's monitored medicines database as a public health and clinical support tool. The establishment of a legislated prescription monitoring database is an important starting point, but it is not the whole solution. It is a practical step that the ACT can and should take, but we must acknowledge that to properly respond to this problem we require a national solution.

This is an issue that has been looked at through COAG processes for many years and the recommendations for a national scheme are clear. The national pharmaceutical drug misuse framework for action outlines the need for a multipronged approach to this issue.

Alongside the need for community and medical professional education, the framework calls for the implementation of a nationally based and jurisdictionally consistent electronic recording and reporting of controlled drugs system. This system would enable prescribers, dispensers and regulators to have real-time, online access to information concerning patients' access to prescription opioids and other schedule 8 medicines.

A national scheme is so important because this issue crosses borders, and requires a consistent and comprehensive approach. I understand that work on a national scheme is continuing, but these processes can be frustratingly slow and complex. That is why it is pleasing the ACT is not standing still in the meantime. While a local database may not provide a complete solution, it is an important start. The model proposed in this bill will enable the ACT to enter into arrangements with other jurisdictions to facilitate the sharing of database information and it will support cross-jurisdictional public health initiatives.

Establishing an ACT database is also in line with recommendations we have seen here in the territory. I acknowledge that Coroner Hunter recommended the implementation of a system for real-time monitoring of prescription medications, known as DORA, so that prescribers can prevent patients from inappropriately accessing harmful and substantial quantities of medicines.

This was a recommendation from the inquest into the death of Paul Fennessy. The Greens acknowledge the work that Paul's mother, Ann Finlay, has done as a tireless advocate for reform in this area. Cases like Paul Fennessy's are a tragic reminder of how much work we still have to do.

The Greens are acutely aware of the interaction between mental health issues and drug and alcohol misuse, including the non-medical use of prescription drugs. We know that people who use pharmaceuticals for non-medical purposes are more likely to

experience mental illness, chronic pain and high levels of psychosocial distress. Rates of pharmaceutical misuse are also higher in disadvantaged areas. This is another important aspect of this issue, and recognition that this important measure will help protect some of the more vulnerable members of our community.

While the ACT is being proactive on this issue, we are not the first jurisdiction. Tasmania is currently the only Australian jurisdiction to have implemented a real-time prescription monitoring framework, and the early results are encouraging. Since its implementation opioid-related deaths in Tasmania have reportedly decreased from 32 in 2007 to fewer than 20 in 2013-14. While of course this is only one measure of the benefits of a scheme like this, it does show that there can be significant positive impacts.

I also briefly note that the bill does include important protections for individual privacy, including an offence provision where the information is inappropriately shared. This is an important measure that balances the right to privacy with the obvious health and social benefits that can come from a prescription monitoring scheme.

The Greens wish to thank Minister Fitzharris for her work in developing this bill. We think it will be an important addition to the tools that we currently have to respond to the misuse of prescription drugs. The Greens also, of course, look forward to seeing our system becoming more sophisticated once a national scheme has been developed and implemented. We are pleased to support this bill. We hope that it helps to reduce harm from drug use in our community.

MS FITZHARRIS (Yerrabi—Minister for Health and Wellbeing, Minister for Transport and City Services and Minister for Higher Education, Training and Research) (12.34), in reply: As Minister for Health and Wellbeing, I am pleased that the Assembly is today debating this important bill, which amends 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.

Medicines are essential to help people manage the symptoms of their illness and, in many cases, enable them to participate in everyday life. However, their misuse and abuse in Australia has significant adverse health, social and economic consequences for patients and their families as well as the wider community.

The misuse of pharmaceuticals has risen dramatically in recent years, with recent data indicating nearly five per cent of people have misused a medicine in the last 12 months. Some higher risk medicines, known as controlled medicines, can cause serious harm if they are misused or abused. All states and territories place additional controls on the access and supply of controlled medicines to minimise their potential harm.

These medicines include substances such as morphine and oxycodone, which are important to control severe pain, and dexamphetamine. This legislation is designed to

assist our health professional workforce by further reducing the impacts of controlled medicine abuse and misuse, and protecting our community.

This bill will enable doctors and pharmacists to access and use information in ACT Health's existing drugs and poisons information system, otherwise known as DAPIS, to inform and support better patient care. DAPIS has been in use in the ACT since 2014 and stores information about controlled medicines, prescribing approvals and dispensing records. Pharmacists are mandated to report the supply to DAPIS at least weekly.

The coronial inquiry into the death of Mr Paul Fennessy recommended that a real-time monitoring system be implemented in the ACT. This bill establishes the legislative framework for such a system to be implemented. Early next year the first steps towards a real-time system will be available to clinicians to assist in their decision-making for patient care.

Under these amendments, health professionals will be able to access limited information about their patient in DAPIS. This DAPIS online remote access portal, known as DORA, will enable prescribers and dispensers to view the most up-to-date information about monitored medicines that have been supplied to their patients from any pharmacy within the ACT.

The ACT aims to mirror the success of Tasmania, having had DORA in place since 2011. The system there is voluntary but highly regarded by health professionals. In Tasmania the use of DORA has been linked to a reduction in opioid-related deaths, from 33 in 2007 to 15 in 2013.

Having access to this information will help health professionals to identify potential abuse and misuse of medicines that can place patients or the broader community at risk of harm, with the aim of reducing deaths to zero. This will enable health professionals to take early action to refer at-risk patients for appropriate treatment. It will also reduce the risk of harm to the broader community by preventing diversion of medicines following doctor-shopping activities.

At this stage the use of DORA by health practitioners will be voluntary. We have planned an extensive engagement and education campaign, based on advice from an existing stakeholder engagement group, to encourage uptake of the system by health professionals in general practice and pharmacies.

It is already mandatory for prescribers to seek approval to prescribe controlled medicines in certain circumstances and for pharmacies to report dispensing records to ACT Health each week. ACT Health will also be adding a new declaration to its approval application form, requiring prescribers to declare whether they have checked DORA prior to seeking approval to prescribe a controlled medicine for their patient.

I am aware that the Canberra community take their privacy and access to their health records seriously. In developing this bill, the privacy of patients being prescribed or supplied these monitored medicines has been very carefully considered. To help ensure patient privacy and integrity of the DORA system, additional protections have

been put in place to guard against unlawful or inappropriate access or use of information from the database.

These protections limit the use of DORA only to health practitioners that are involved in prescribing and supply of monitored medicines such as doctors, pharmacists and some nurse practitioners. Health professionals will be notified of their obligations and ACT Health staff will closely monitor the access and use of the database and take action against any person found to be using patient information unlawfully.

Any misuse of DORA may result in the ACT government taking action to initiate prosecution, limit a person's access to DORA or limit a health professional's authority to practise or deal with medicines.

Tasmania is currently the only jurisdiction to have an operational prescription monitoring scheme that health professionals may access, and the ACT plans to follow suit by March next year. ACT pharmacists are currently required to report controlled medicine supply information at least every seven days to ACT Health. This reporting frequency provides valuable and timely information for public health monitoring purposes.

However, I would like to improve the information supply further. To achieve this, a regulatory amendment will be prepared to mandate daily reporting by pharmacists. ACT Health will work closely with pharmacy stakeholders to progress this. Their involvement will be important to ensuring a practical and reasonable regulatory amendment is reached, to further improve the frequency and reliability of reporting. I thank in particular the Pharmacy Guild for working with the government on this.

The legislation will also allow the Minister for Health and Wellbeing to declare that information about the supply of other prescription medicines be reported to ACT Health. This option would be used where there is evidence that a medicine is causing harm to the community and where the collection of data could assist in preventing that harm. I am also committed to engage with stakeholders to consult on whether mandatory use of DORA by doctors and pharmacists could be implemented once a nationally compatible scheme is available.

This bill is a significant step forward in protecting the ACT community and supporting our health professionals to access DORA. But this is not the final step. I will continue to advocate for the commonwealth to lead the implementation of a national prescription monitoring scheme as the most effective way to minimise the economic, individual and community consequences of the abuse, misuse and diversion of medicines. The ACT is working towards adopting the national scheme when it is ready to be rolled out, and we look forward to significant progress on this throughout the year.

The bill is an important initiative to help protect our community from medicine misuse, abuse and diversion in line with best practice recommendations of state and territory coroners and the national drug strategy. Tasmania has already seen a reduction in deaths and I hope we can also see a positive change here in the ACT.

The bill will help protect the ACT community from public health harms by supporting its health professional workforce, ensuring patient privacy rights remain protected and, most importantly, protecting our community.

I would like to thank all members for supporting it. I also thank ACT Health staff. I particularly acknowledge the work and the patience of the coronial reform group represented in the chamber here today. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.41 to 2.30 pm.

Questions without notice

Budget—health funding

MR COE: I have a question for the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Minister, the combined figures for the Health Directorate and the ACT Local Hospital Network in the appropriation bill for 2018-19 compared to the appropriation act for 2017-18 show that the recurrent expenditure appropriations decrease by \$4.8 million. Minister, how will a decreased appropriation fund the expense initiatives for 2018-19?

MS FITZHARRIS: Overall, the investment in ACT Health has gone up this year. I do not have the papers in front of me. I will take the specific question on notice.

MR COE: Minister, in light of this decreased appropriation, where will additional funding be coming from?

MS FITZHARRIS: The ACT budget.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will a decreased appropriation provide growing health services for our growing city?

MS FITZHARRIS: The ACT health budget is growing.

Greyhound racing—transition package

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the minister for gambling and racing and relates to the greyhound transition scheme. Minister, what is the eligibility for people to be retrained or otherwise assisted under the scheme? How many have been assisted and how much money has been spent on this?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Le Couteur for the question. In relation to the second and third parts of the question, I will take those parts on notice. In terms of the eligibility for the scheme, certainly one of the key things is the ACT government has been very clear from day one that the rehoming of greyhounds is an absolute priority as part of the overall work that we have been doing in this area and, as part of the suite of services available to transition support, Woden Community Service has been providing that level of support.

It is important that the transition support is focused on people who have strong connections to the ACT. An ex-racing greyhound must have been owned by an ACT resident or must have been surrendered on or after 23 June. That was the date that the government confirmed its intention to end the industry.

The amount of support that is available for each ex-racing greyhound is assessed according to need but is capped at \$2,000 per hound unless there are exceptional circumstances. That ensures that the support that is funded by ACT taxpayers is focused here in the ACT.

We do note that there are some exceptional circumstances and we are encouraging people to continue to make contact with local community services who have the ability to assist people in the application process. One example of the exceptional circumstances would be where there is evidence of a significant proportion—and that may be recent racing of around 60 per cent or more—of the activity carried out at the Canberra Greyhound Racing Club.

There is also the capacity to apply for financial assistance that goes beyond the \$2,000 cap, again if there are exceptional circumstances, and that may relate to behavioural issues, dental problems or other ones of the dog itself.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, how many dogs have been rehomed under the scheme and how much money has been spent? I am asking that on the assumption that you have given me the full list of exceptional circumstances. If there are any more you would like to elaborate on, I would love to hear them.

MR RAMSAY: In relation to the detail of those two questions, I will take those on notice and provide those.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, noting transition is available for greyhounds, what transitional support is available for people seeking to exit the greyhound industry?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. Certainly, one of the things that we have done right from day one is encourage people who are affected by the end of the racing industry here in Canberra to make contact and to receive the transition support package that is available.

Again I encourage people to do that through Woden Community Service. It provides a range of support: training and reskilling opportunities, short-term financial support, business skills support, specialist advice, guiding and planning about future career

options, financial counselling and planning services, no-interest loans to meet individual needs, and microcredit loans. There is also counselling to provide emotional support for anyone involved and exiting the industry.

Noting that today is the last sitting day before the end of the period available for the applications, I encourage people to disregard what has been said by the members opposite, who have been steering people away from the transition support in disregard of what it is they may have been going through in life. I encourage people to make contact with Woden Community Service and to access the support that the government is providing.

Budget—employment

MS ORR: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, what does the 2018 budget show about performance and prospects for the ACT economy?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Orr for the question. The budget this week shows that the ACT economy is amongst the strongest in the nation. We have seen growth of 13.6 per cent over the past three years as we see a continued diversification of the territory's economic base. Our strong economic growth has seen more than 10,000 jobs created in the territory economy, and I am pleased to advise the Assembly that there are over 2,000 more businesses operating in Canberra today than three years ago. Our companies are doing more international business, with the ACT service exports rising by 22 per cent since 2015.

The 2018 budget forecasts continued strong growth in jobs and economic activity in the years ahead. It is really pleasing to see that our international education sector expanded by 24 per cent last year and that prospects for further growth are strong, with providers like UNSW Canberra exploring significant expansion.

As we see more international airlines flying to Canberra and our city being recognised internationally as one of *Lonely Planet's* top cities to visit, the outlook for our tourism sector is also very positive. We expect to see more jobs created in a range of knowledge-based industries. It is again very pleasing to see that the city's professional, scientific and technical services sector grew by almost 36 per cent last year, showing that Canberra's local innovation companies are also thriving. The budget shows that our economy is growing, and the future for Canberra is very bright.

MS ORR: Chief Minister, how is the ACT government investing in stronger public sector agencies and job creation through the 2018-19 budget?

MR BARR: This year's budget does deliver a significant expansion of public services for Canberrans, particularly in our hospitals and schools, public services associated with local government responsibilities to improve the look and feel of our suburbs, investments in emergency services and, importantly also, our community services providers.

As a result, the ACT government's own workforce is expected to grow by over 300 full-time equivalent staff in 2018-19. This will include significant recruitment in

health, in education and in the community services directorates, as well as within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development. We are also providing more resources to help take pressure off staff working in high demand areas of service delivery, including through Access Canberra and the working with vulnerable people scheme.

On this side of the chamber we understand that having a professional, skilled and secure workforce is critical to delivering high quality services in our community, which is why we are growing our investment in staff across the ACT public service.

MS CODY: Chief Minister, how will the 2018 budget back local businesses and private sector job creation?

MR BARR: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary. The 2018 budget invests very heavily in health, education, transport and housing infrastructure. This is infrastructure that a growing city will need in the years ahead. It means we are also continuing to support strong private sector job growth creation. The budget delivers more funding to progress the planning and approval of stage 2 of the light rail project, as well as the commencement of design on a series of enabling infrastructure works in and around the Woden town centre. We have also set aside almost \$600 million over the forward estimates—

Ms Orr: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Chief Minister, can you resume your seat. Ms Orr.

Ms Orr: Members opposite have been having discussions throughout the whole answer. While not very loud, it has made it very difficult to hear the Chief Minister.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you, Ms Orr. I remind members that I cannot stop you having private conversations, but can you keep it down so other people can hear.

MR BARR: As I was saying, we have set aside almost \$600 million over coming years to build new hospital infrastructure, including the SPIRE centre and an expanded Centenary Hospital for Women and Children. There is a brand-new primary school being built for Molonglo. There are additional places for students at four local schools in Gungahlin as well as the next phase of development of a new school to address Gungahlin's ongoing population growth.

The 2018 land release program sets out a plan to deliver 17,000 new dwelling sites across our city over the next four years, and this represents a clear pipeline of both infill and new suburban estate development. In combination, all of these initiatives generate further opportunities for local businesses and support the creation of more good, long-term, secure jobs as we continue to invest in Canberra's future.

Land—sales

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, CRS has applied to the ACT government to purchase block 11 section 8, a

strip of land adjacent to the old Shell refinery site on block 9 and the freight rail line at Fyshwick. Minister, has this block been valued, offered for sale or sold and, if so, at what price?

MR GENTLEMAN: I understand the process is in train at the moment—pardon the pun. Those matters have not been concluded at this stage but I am happy to get more details and come back to the chamber on it.

MS LEE: Minister, was the block offered for sale publicly? If not, why not? If so, when and by what method?

MR GENTLEMAN: My understanding is that the block was not offered publicly for sale. In relation to the directorate's work on the sale of that block, again I will take the details on notice and come back to the chamber.

MR PARTON: Minister, at this stage how many valuations have been undertaken, and when the process is finalised, will you be able to table that information in this place?

MR GENTLEMAN: Yes. I will obtain as much information as I can from the directorate, and I am happy to table it in the chamber.

Women—government support

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Women. Minister, the ACT women's plan and its first action plan provide two years worth of actions to deliver real change in our community on gender equality. Can you update the Assembly on some of the first-year achievements and how these actions are contributing to better outcomes for women and girls in the ACT?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cody for the question. Soon the government will be releasing a detailed report to let the community know what we have achieved in the first year of the women's plan. As members will know, these actions, which sit under the ACT women's plan, are focused on getting better health and wellbeing outcomes for women and girls in the ACT community. Importantly, these actions are the responsibility of the whole ACT government. The office for women and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women are working closely with directorates to ensure that they remain focused on delivering their actions.

I am glad to say that in the first year there has already been a great deal of action. We have held two great forums to engage with women, community organisations and business representatives. They provided an opportunity for leaders across government and the community to work together to identify the barriers and opportunities for future progress.

In sport, the government is actively promoting and encouraging more women to get involved through a range of actions. These include the HerCanberra active portal launched in October last year and the development of female-friendly infrastructure

guidelines to support the development of new facilities, and the modification of existing facilities, to be more accessible for female participants.

The women sport and recreation participation and leadership program was introduced this year. It provides \$100,000 each year for four years to provide assistance to eligible parties to support greater participation opportunities for women and girls, and for women to take on leadership roles in the sector.

There is also new investment in this year's budget specifically focused on delivering key actions in the women's plan to see stronger promotion and realisation of gender equality. The additional investment provides \$696,000 and will support and bolster the work of the office for women and the delivery of the women's action plan right across the ACT government.

MS CODY: Minister, how will this additional funding assist with driving gender equality in the ACT?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary. The additional funding will assist the ACT government to continue its strong focus on building an even more inclusive and equitable community that ensures all Canberrans have equal opportunities to participate actively in the things they want. We know our community wants desperately to see greater equality—in fact, more than any other jurisdiction in the country, when you consider the recent vote on marriage equality.

The additional funding will specifically assist with: support for the office for women to undertake more and better community engagement activities to promote gender equality; improving the evidence base relating to gender equality, noting that we are doing a great deal of research, story and data gathering right now as we progress to the full suite of actions under the women's plan while not losing sight of this evidence and ensuring it is widely accessible into the future; training to reduce and eliminate unconscious bias across government; promoting diversity on boards through the diversity register which was launched just last week—and I encourage members in this place to share it with their networks to get more people registered; and delivering a board traineeship program for women.

Importantly, it ensures that the office for women is better resourced and given greater ability to work across government with each and every government directorate to drive and deliver the commitments we have made around this issue. This investment will also assist the broader community, including businesses and community not-for-profit organisations, by providing additional tools to better address gender inequality in our spheres of influence.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what is the next step for the delivery of the remainder of the actions in the women's action plan?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. As I said we will be releasing in coming weeks more details around our delivery of actions already. You will be able to see what we have underway and what actions are coming up. The additional investment made through the 2018-19 budget will allow the office to get stuck into

this work and have an opportunity to drill down on delivering these actions more closely with all of the responsible directorates.

Included in the plan going forward are a range of actions around procurement, gender perceptions in schools, and how we can make transport and planning decisions more inclusive of women's views, to name just a few. Investigation of contemporary procurement practices is underway, as we look at how we can promote gender equity through procurement. Preliminary analysis has already begun about possible reform and the two-year action plan will see how we can progress this work.

Action is underway to look at gender perceptions in schools and how this may impact on the wellbeing of female students. This work is also underway with the establishment of the gender equity and education advisory committee as well as some preliminary research. This early work will be used to develop new, or adapt existing, policies, practices, training and resources to promote gender equity in schools.

Action to look at how we can improve processes for women's perspectives to be better incorporated into master plans, territory plan reviews and urban design processes is also underway. I look forward to hearing more about this. There are too many actions to list here today. But, as I mentioned, over coming weeks I will be releasing a more concise report outlining what is next for gender equality in the ACT.

ACT Health—workplace culture

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. I refer to notes from a staff meeting at the Canberra Hospital that was called to explain the staff restructure in the week following the announcement of the restructure. These notes state that staff raised questions about “significant dysfunction and poor culture” in the Health Directorate and asked whether a restructure would change things for the better. Minister, why is there significant dysfunction and a poor culture in the Health Directorate?

MS FITZHARRIS: I am not familiar with that particular note, but if that is something that has been expressed by a member of staff, I would refer all members to my previous statements around the significant decisions I have recommended and taken regarding the future of ACT Health and my significant and extensive statements talking about ongoing consultation, particularly with staff of ACT Health, as we look towards the separation of ACT Health into two new organisations, in both of which it is one of my key priorities, as it is of the leadership team at ACT Health, to make sure that there is a positive and healthy culture in ACT Health.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how will a restructure address the reported significant dysfunction and poor culture in the Health Directorate?

MS FITZHARRIS: I again refer Mrs Dunne to my extensive previous statements that there are clearly governance challenges in ACT Health and I am taking very significant actions to improve those. I refer you to my previous answers.

MR WALL: Minister, what responsibility do you take, as the minister responsible for the Health Directorate, for the significant dysfunction and the poor culture that is present?

MS FITZHARRIS: I refer members to my previous statements extensively made about the responsibility I am taking to make sure that ACT Health has a sustainable and successful future and consults and engages with its staff in particular over the coming months, looking forward to two new organisations later this year.

MADAM SPEAKER: A question without notice, Ms Cheyne.

MS CHEYNE: Thank you, Madam Speaker.

Ms Lawder: On a point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Sorry, Ms Lawder; I thought you were standing to ask a question.

Ms Lawder: I was, but I would like to point out that the standing orders allow for people who have difficulty standing. I must say I am quite slow standing at the moment, with my foot in a moon boot. I think it was a little unfair to be penalised for that.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not penalising you, Ms Lawder. Ms Cheyne has the call. We have limited time and I am trying to be fair, going across the chamber. Mrs Dunne had the last call. I am giving the call to this side.

Ms Lawder: I am not sure that this is fair when we have more people to ask questions.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Cheyne, you have the call.

Budget—infrastructure

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. How will the 2018-19 budget deliver more essential city services and local community infrastructure for our growing city?

MS FITZHARRIS: I thank Ms Cheyne very much for the question. Through this year's ACT budget we are delivering even more high quality city services and amenities in our established suburbs and in new or expanded neighbourhoods, including those with recent greenfield and brownfield residential development. For example, the annual mowing program will have increased capacity to manage accelerated grass growth, particularly following wet periods across our city. There will be more weed control, including hand weeding of suburban shrub beds, and chemical control of weeds in kerbs, gutters and around roadway barriers. This will improve the look of our city and will particularly focus on major entry roads to the ACT, including around Canberra airport. This work will also assist in preventing unnecessary damage to existing infrastructure.

In the last 15 years there has been a significant increase in the number of suburban lakes and ponds across Canberra. The budget allows for an increase in lake and pond cleaning to improve the health and amenity of our waterways and encourage more recreation around our lakes and ponds.

The budget also delivers on our election commitment to plant additional trees over the next four years in the urban environment and deliver an adopt-a-park program. The 1,330 additional tree plantings will improve Canberra's overall unique green canopy cover and help to cool our suburbs. The adopt-a-park program will provide small grants for local volunteer groups to achieve cleaner, greener local parks and open spaces.

A comprehensive program will also improve the cleanliness of bus shelters, continue the graffiti management program which assists in reducing illegal graffiti across Canberra and increase responsiveness to tree-related public inquiries.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will Canberrans have a say on how and where this local community infrastructure is allocated?

MS FITZHARRIS: We had a discussion yesterday, and I am pleased to also note that the better suburbs program will set the vision and priorities for improved city services over the next four years and beyond in the form of a community-authored better suburbs statement.

The first stage of consultation last year highlighted services and features most important to our community. The next stage of consultations is through "kitchen table conversations", which will be encouraged amongst families, friends, communities and neighbourhood stakeholder groups to gain a deeper understanding of community need. Hosting kits will be available to download or pick up in hard copy later on this month.

A representative citizens forum panel consisting of 40 community members and 25 senior representatives of community stakeholder groups, government and industry will identify and plan for the right mix of city services. Four thousand Canberrans have already received invitations to participate in the panel, and we look forward to those discussions getting underway later this year.

The feedback from both consultation activities, the initial survey last year and the kitchen table discussions, will be shared with the panel members at upcoming citizens forums in late July and August of this year.

I will also be asking the better suburbs citizens forum to directly allocate \$1.9 million set aside in this year's budget for playgrounds and local community improvement projects. This will be the first trial of real-life participatory budgeting. Work will start on those projects after the better suburbs statement is released in September of this year, with further improvements to be based on the community-identified vision and priorities for the next four years and beyond.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what percentage of the total number of street trees would an additional 1,330 trees be?

MS FITZHARRIS: I will take that question on notice.

ACT Health—proposed organisational changes

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Health. Had ACT Health already made a budget cabinet submission as part of the 2018-19 budget process when the Chief Minister decided to restructure ACT Health?

MS FITZHARRIS: The budget process starts, as members know, early in the year, including the Treasurer calling for submissions from community organisations. Yes, a number of submissions had been made by ACT Health into that process from late last year.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why didn't you wait for the 2019-20 budget to restructure ACT Health?

MS FITZHARRIS: Because I announced the decision in March.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, did any of the budget submissions from ACT Health include suggestions for new agencies within Health or splitting the agencies?

MS FITZHARRIS: Not to my direct knowledge. But a number of submissions did note—and in a number of my discussions, particularly with community stakeholder groups, and health representative organisations spoke to me at length—the overall stewardship of the ACT health system in addition to performance issues, particularly at the hospital. It was very clear to me that there were calls for improved stewardship of the ACT health system. That is exactly what the restructure of ACT Health will deliver.

Hospitals—bullying

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. On 15 April this year the media reported on bullying at Calvary Public Hospital. They cited cases of bullying in the emergency department, in the wards, security, administration and human resources. On 16 April the AMA called for an investigation into bullying. Minister, for how long have you known about bullying in the ACT public health sector and what have you done about it?

MS FITZHARRIS: Mr Hanson is running the line that I know he ran for many years regarding the ACT health workforce, whether that is in ACT Health or within Calvary. Certainly, with regard to the reporting in the *Canberra Times* and the AMA's calls for Calvary to investigate that issue, I also wrote to the CEO of the Little Company of Mary following that—

It being 3 pm, proceedings were interrupted pursuant to the order of the Assembly.

Appropriation Bill 2018-2019

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019]

Debate resumed from 5 June 2018, on motion by **Mr Barr**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (3.01): Canberra is a great city. The Canberra Liberals believe that the future of our city is bright. This is a city that we all love. This is a city that I am honoured to serve and it is a community that is strong.

Madam Speaker, I have said it before and I will say it again: nobody gets into politics to be in opposition. It is rubbish. It is like being in the cockpit of the plane, but you cannot touch the controls. We see the disappointment and lost opportunities of a government that has lost its way.

But from opposition there are limits to what we can do. We can raise issues, ask questions, expose scandals and present ideas. But we cannot enact them from this side of the chamber. At every stage we have fought for a better deal for taxpayers. We have fought for clarity in the planning system. We have fought for integrity in land deals, for empowerment in education, for lower taxes, for employment growth, for a focus on actual healthcare delivery, for genuine reconciliation, for suburban transport links and for community services providers.

From opposition, we have it tough but we have still got runs on the board. Nicole Lawder has continued the work of the late Steve Doszpot on dangerous dogs, while working collaboratively with Jeremy Hanson on the development of revenge porn legislation.

Andrew Wall has consistently advocated for small businesses and, in particular, for a better deal for procurement practices in government. Giulia Jones continues to advocate for the front line of our emergency services—the police, ambos, firefighters, SES and other personnel that put so much on the line for others. We should be returning that trust.

Twelve months ago, when the government was happy to see SHOUT go under, it was Elizabeth Lee who stood up and called this government to account. SHOUT now goes from strength to strength and Elizabeth has much to be proud of.

Elizabeth Kikkert has been instrumental in calling out this government's mismanagement of Bimberi, and she is the champion of so many local issues. James Milligan has been working closely with members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to address the significant hurdles they face and to ensure better outcomes for future generations.

The mismanagement of the health system has been exposed by Vicki Dune over the past year. We have seen Vicki consistently advocate for better and more effective

health services, rather than the government's current approach, which has been to throw money at the problem and hope it goes away.

The newest member of the Canberra Liberals team, Candice Burch, has shown herself to be a vocal and effective advocate for public transport. She is fighting for a government that delivers what taxpayers are actually paying for.

Mark Parton has tirelessly gone into bat for people who simply enjoy greyhound racing. The fact that Mark has had to fight so hard for them demonstrates just how far this Labor Party has drifted from its base. In the same week that the government banned greyhound racing, it encouraged young people to take illicit party pills. Jeremy Hanson has been resolute in his advocacy for the safety and wellbeing of young Canberrans.

Madam Speaker, we will keep standing up for Canberrans—Canberrans that are paying more and getting less. This government is bringing in record revenue. For the first time, this year's budget shows that revenue will reach \$7 billion. For all the talk of a surplus, the borrowings in the territory's operating statement will be \$224 million next year and a staggering \$680 million the following year.

That is why our net debt grows to \$2.9 billion in 2021. In fact, over the next four years, taxpayers will fork out \$1 billion in interest. If we were really in surplus, debt and interest payments would not be growing. In this budget, stamp duty brings in more per year than it did when the abolition was announced. In reality, house prices are increasing faster than stamp duty is decreasing.

For example, a house in Ashkanasy Crescent in Evatt was sold in 2012 with a stamp duty bill of \$15,342. That same house sold a few months ago with a stamp duty bill of \$16,385. So for that same house the actual stamp duty has increased. This story is replicated thousands of times across Canberra. In addition to the stamp duty, the rates for that house in Evatt have increased by \$1,000 per year. This government is gouging them when they buy and then penalising them for living in Canberra.

In 2012 Andrew Barr said that rates would not triple and stamp duty would be abolished. He was wrong on both counts. The Labor Party have betrayed Canberrans. They have let down our city. This Labor-Greens government cannot be trusted.

The personal cost of Labor's rates hike is just too high. For an average house in Palmerston, rates bills are now \$2,300; in Wanniasa, the bill is \$2,400; in Rivett, \$2,500; in Florey, \$2,400. This is extraordinary. When those opposite say, "It is not that much money," it demonstrates just how out of touch they are.

The fear that so many households get when they receive a \$600 quarterly bill should not be underestimated. For thousands of households in Canberra, to receive a \$600 bill is just too much. We need to stop these rates increases. Rates in Canberra must be capped. Be it residential or commercial, the rates increases are having a devastating impact.

Of course, this government is spending more than ever before. Despite the record revenue, the government cannot manage its expenses. They cannot stick to a budget and, above all, they do not respect the people that are actually paying the bills. Rather than support nurses, doctors, teachers and other public servants, this government makes it harder for them to do their jobs. And when the heat on ministers becomes too great, they hide behind public servants. These ministers are experts at sending out public servants for the bad news whilst stealing the limelight for the good news. They disrespect our public service.

A couple of years ago I spoke of Canberra becoming a two-paced society. This risk is real and must be addressed. We must not be a city that only caters for the wealthy. We must not be a city that prices families out of the market. Perhaps this government's most stark failure is in the area of Aboriginal policy. By almost every indicator, we are further from reconciliation today than we were 10 years ago. Despite making up less than two per cent of the ACT's population, Indigenous Canberrans make up over 20 per cent of the ACT prison population.

Fewer than three per cent of children in Canberra are Indigenous but they make up about a quarter of kids in the child protection system. Canberra's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students face a two-year NAPLAN gap behind their non-Indigenous peers. These shortcomings, and many others, are appalling.

This government is failing on Indigenous policy and so many other social policy areas. It is because this Labor Party has changed. The Labor Party used to represent the working poor. They do not anymore. This is a party that is crushing hopes. They are only interested in the elite. In contrast, I want to live in a city where those who grew up here can afford to stay here.

In 2011 a 425-square metre block of land in Casey would sell for \$210,000. After just six years of Andrew Barr, a 425-square metre block in Throsby was \$400,000, double the price. This gouging strategy serves two purposes for this greedy Labor government. Firstly, they get more revenue up-front and, secondly, they drive up the unimproved land values so that they can collect more in rates, year on year.

This sinister move prices people out of the Canberra market. People in Canberra are finding it tougher to live with this government's policy. Take a real example: Isabelle in Palmerston, who said:

To afford to buy my townhouse—I worked 3 jobs to save the deposit and study and I managed to get enough together. Now I struggle to afford to even eat properly and live in my own little place ... As the years have gone on, the costs have gone up and my salary is not high.

When they have morning tea at work I do not participate because I cannot afford to. I make up an excuse saying that I have several allergies ... Even with a second cleaning job, it is impossible to stay ahead.

I simply cannot pay my rates bill this time. And if I can't pay, I am charged interest.

I am tired and exhausted and others are tired, and I am not the only one in this situation.

This government is brutal. This policy of theirs is having a real impact. I will give another example, Shirley. Her words are:

The excessive increase to strata rates has impacted severely on my quality of life. I am existing on the war widow's pension at the advanced age of 91, and coming to Canberra in the 1930s I did not expect that at the end of my life, living in this city would be so difficult. Because of the increases I am forced to cut back on the other expenses such as heating, cooling and food.

This government has let down Shirley, Isabelle and thousands of others. This government is heartless, arrogant, irresponsible and quite possibly corrupt. At the same time that they sting war widows, single mothers and others, they give the CFMEU and the Tradies the use of a building at \$1 per year. That is after giving them more than top dollar to buy their building for \$3.9 million in a secret deal.

They also do not apply lease variation charges to their own developments with the Labor Club, but they do for everybody else. This government's priorities are wrong, they are dishonest and they are hurting the people they are meant to represent. This Labor Party is driving people out of this city.

The government is quick to legislate but slow to enforce. This means that the good guys comply while the bad guys get away with it. This is so clear in building quality. We have thousands of pages of the Territory Plan, a huge building code and a lengthy Planning and Development Act. The rules are there but they are not enforced. This means that the good builders get overwhelmed by complying with the regulations while the cowboys continue to ignore them.

The response of government has been to put in more rules and more regulations, but this has not fixed the problem. Does anybody think that after all these years of Labor and their ridiculous planning rules, planning and building quality is better today than it was 10 or 20 years ago?

Their onerous planning regime has failed. The problem is not those that comply with the rules; it is those who do not. Rather than throw more money at regulations, how about you properly enforce the ones you have got? If the regulations are not working, repeal them. We should only have rules and regulations on the books if they can be enforced and are enforced. If not, they should not be there.

I want to be part of a government that opens doors, a government that gives opportunity. Canberrans deserve better from their government. The Canberra Liberals will empower citizens. We will end Labor's sweetheart deals. We will have one set of rules for everyone. We will give certainty.

Canberrans are enterprising people. We always have been—whether it was Indigenous people surviving and thriving for thousands of years; European pioneers who made a go of it in dry summers and fierce winters; people who relocated here to

forge a new federal city; migrants who came here with skills, who came here with experience and culture; or kids that grew up here and simply know it as home. This is a city of hard work and well-earned recreation.

Canberra is the national capital. But we must always remember that is our local businesses, particularly small businesses, that serve the everyday needs of Canberrans and provide jobs and opportunities. Be it the contractor who delivers the parcel, the barrister making the coffee, the GP treating the patients, the person behind the bar, the cook preparing the meal, the person cleaning the room or the tradie who is building the home, we need to support the businesses that support us.

We believe that businesses are good for our community and we want to make it easier for people to follow their dream and take on the hard work and personal risk of creating something special for our community.

Madam Speaker, an ACT government should want our local businesses to grow and employ more people. That is why, fundamentally, I do not support payroll tax. I think the idea of placing a barrier on employment is wrong. We should not be making it harder to employ Canberrans. Instead, we should be the most attractive place in the country to create jobs.

We should be making Canberra more attractive by encouraging more businesses in the ACT rather than pushing them over the border. To be the best jurisdiction in the country starts with being the best jurisdiction in the region. We must win back the businesses that have moved over the border to New South Wales. We should actively campaign to attract these businesses in Queanbeyan back to the ACT.

This means rather than focusing on gouging home owners and burdening businesses, we need a government that looks at how we can make it a better place for investment. An obvious way to do this is by developing a strategy for the abolition of payroll tax. Yes, it will take time. But the light at the end of that tunnel is very bright. Whilst we may not have economies of scale in Canberra, we do have economies of distance and economies in decision-making. We are a combined council and state government with a single city in a fruitful region.

I want Canberra to be the business capital. I want our city to be the best place in the country to do business, to take risks, to make investments and to employ Canberrans. I want Canberra to be the benchmark of our nation when it comes to doing business. I want the number of private sector jobs in Canberra to grow and grow and grow.

Madam Speaker, the ACT government should be a low tax government. The ACT should be a low tax jurisdiction. Unfortunately, the opposite is true. It is so disappointing when you hear of businesses and families leaving the ACT because they cannot keep up with these taxes, fees, rates and charges. We should be attracting people to Canberra, not repelling them.

If this government is serious about removing dependency on the commonwealth, rather than taxing Canberrans more, let us build the base. Let us encourage business in Canberra. Let us start to abolish payroll tax.

Unlike those opposite, we believe that investment in our city is a good thing. We believe that when people from abroad want to invest in Australia, we should be encouraging them to invest in Canberra. This goes for property as it goes for other industries.

That is why the government's tax on foreign investment is wrong. We voted against it in opposition and we will repeal it in government. In fact, rather than making it hard to supply rental properties in Canberra, we should be doing the opposite. We should be making it easier to supply rental properties in Canberra.

Over the last 10 years the ACT government have received \$1.3 billion—that is \$1,300,000 million—more revenue than they expected in their budgets. Year on year, the ACT government have had record revenue windfalls that have simply been gobbled up by their inability to stick to their own budget.

Imagine if we had this \$1.3 billion invested in a future fund. Imagine if we were building up a fund to assist with economic downturns or major infrastructure needs, rather than squandering the gains as they have done. We need a government that takes only what it needs and makes wise investments for the future.

Madam Speaker, this government leave behind them a trail of people that are worse off from a policy mix that puts itself ahead of the public interest—be it house owners, unit owners, renters, the homeless, Aboriginals, small business people, drivers, nurses, doctors, police, paramedics and so many others.

All these people, all these cohorts, are being let down by this government because this is a government that takes them for granted. Whether it is financial policy, social support, public administration or employment, this government does not back Canberrans. They are more interested in propping up Labor and CFMEU property deal than actually backing the people that pay the bills.

Canberra should be a place where people can start a business with more confidence than anywhere else, where they can buy or rent a house that is actually affordable, where Aboriginal people are not falling behind. Ultimately, we want a government to focus on the core business of government and get out of the way of people wanting to live their own lives.

Canberra must be a place where people can achieve their aspirations rather than have to spend all day jumping through government hoops. Working towards the abolition of payroll tax, capping rates, planning for a future fund and removing the shackles of regulations should be priorities of the national capital.

Madam Speaker, in conclusion, the Canberra I want to see is a city where people can afford to live in the place that they love; a city where people can find jobs that suit them, their skills and their family; a city where local businesses are valued and supported; a city that is safe, where we have safety nets to help people get back on their feet; a city that prioritises service delivery, not regulations; a city that empowers

people to make their own choices; and a local government that does core business properly.

Madam Speaker, I want to make this a reality, and the Canberra Liberals will do just that.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (3.24): The Greens welcome this year's budget. From a Greens perspective, this budget takes another step towards making Canberra the most sustainable, fair and progressive place in Australia. Although the Greens are currently few in number, just two MLAs among the 25 members in this place, our goal is to punch above our weight: to work diligently; to consult and fight for progressive issues; and to speak for people, animals and the environment, which is sometimes neglected.

From the ACT Greens perspective, this is a milestone budget. This is the 10th budget since the Greens negotiated a solid and constructive power-sharing arrangement with the Labor Party here in the Assembly. This budget marks a decade of stronger, positive Greens influence in a wide range of the ACT government's functions. Over this time we have helped shape and enhance ACT budgets, policies and initiatives across the policy spectrum.

We are proud of progress towards developing the ACT into the most green and progressive jurisdiction in Australia. When we decided to sign up to this power-sharing arrangement, we committed to making the ACT green and progressive. We have put sustainability and fairness—especially for vulnerable people—first. The ACT Greens have pushed tirelessly for progressive policies, securing better outcomes by protesting against bad policies, putting big issues on the agenda, bringing the community's voices to the Assembly, and introducing legal reforms. Through three successive parliamentary agreements, we feel we have made significant progress.

This year's budget continues to advance Canberra as a fairer and more sustainable city, recognising key parliamentary agreement commitments like sustainable transport, mental health, our local environment and climate change. The Greens' support for the Labor government is contingent on the delivery of these policy achievements.

The last decade has seen big and important long-term policy shifts in the ACT. Slowly but surely, these shifts are shaping Canberra into a sustainable, more compassionate and prosperous city, in line with the Greens principle of the triple bottom line approach to policy: valuing the environmental, the social and the economic dimensions of policies. The Greens are proud of the direction Canberra is going in as a result of this work.

We will reach 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2020, showing Australia and the world how to lead in emissions reduction and renewable energy uptake. We have reached this point because climate change has been front and centre in ACT government policy since the Greens ensured that the fundamental work was done to set a strong legislated emissions reduction target in the 2008 parliamentary agreement with Labor a decade ago.

The first stage of our light rail system, running on 100 per cent renewable electricity, is scheduled to start later this year. The network will eventually service Canberrans right across the city. It is an ambitious transport project, helping shape the city into a sustainable and highly livable place as we grow through Canberra's second century. The protests of the ACT Liberals aside, it is already being widely lauded as a smart and forward-looking project for our growing city. Canberra is now making the lists of the world's most livable cities. And incidentally, almost all of the top 10 cities have light rail systems. Again, this light rail project emerged from the Greens campaigning over many years, with a long-term vision for improved public transport, including light rail, finally secured through our 2012 parliamentary agreement.

The budget funds further planning and design work for stage 2 of light rail, from Civic to Woden, and a range of overdue urban improvements around Woden, which the Greens are keen to see revitalise, with thoughtfully targeted planning and investments. This demonstrates that light rail is not just a transport project; it also facilitates a more sustainable city structure, with more compact development and improved active transport connections, reducing reliance on cars.

A decade ago, the Greens were the only party talking about active transport, now a major focus of this government. A graph showing the history of funding for walking and cycling tells a clear story, spiking noticeably for the years the Greens have had the balance of power. Without the influence of the Greens, without us making election commitments to build a light rail network, without the parliamentary agreement, and without a strong and effective partnership with the Labor Party, you could fairly surmise that the government's approach to sustainable transport, and a myriad of other issues, would be markedly different today.

Opponents of progressive policies, such as the Canberra Liberals, who fail to articulate the vision of a future for this city for themselves, invariably complain that these policies are economically unviable. Think for a moment about the four years of debate about stage 1 of light rail, during the last Assembly. The Liberals claimed that the sky would fall, that it would be an economic catastrophe, that light rail would send us broke, that it was unaffordable and that the economy would collapse. Here we are with the project almost completed, a budget projected to be in surplus for the next four years, and the ACT maintaining its AAA credit rating.

It has been a long road for the ACT government. When the global financial crisis hit, early in the Seventh Assembly, the Greens committed to supporting the plan taking the ACT into budget deficit to get us through the tough times ahead. This was indeed a challenging time, and, of course, some countries around the world have struggled to recover. But the Greens supported Labor governments, federally and here in the ACT, to invest in infrastructure and in our community to stimulate the economy rather than plummet into recession, with a plan to return to surplus in this Ninth Assembly. Furthermore, we tackled the additional substantial financial challenge of addressing the Mr Fluffy housing contamination in the last Assembly. We are pleased to now be climbing back onto the other side of the red line.

The Greens are committed to sustainability, and you must have that in your budget as well. This government, with Greens support, has achieved this while also keeping Canberra focused on sustainability and supporting vulnerable Canberrans. The ACT is showing that it is perfectly capable of pursuing bold policies like major investment in sustainable transport, renewable energy and climate change mitigation, whilst supporting the vulnerable people in our community and still having a strong economy and a balanced budget. Our renewable energy leadership and subsequent considerable industry investment show that these are, in fact, complementary.

In relation to our strong economy today, the Chief Minister has highlighted how well the ACT is doing, which is due to the growth of gross state product, of consumption and thus GST revenue, of construction, and importantly, of significant and higher than expected population growth.

The unforecast population growth has contributed to our economic growth and the budget performance. But the Greens understand that sound economic management should not rely simply on population growth. There are downsides. Higher consumption contributes to higher household debt—Australia has the second highest household debt in the world—and it is also increasing our environmental footprint.

While the ACT government is working hard on sustainability initiatives, it must also manage the increased levels of waste, water and energy use, car use, residential construction and so on. Reducing climate emissions with our ever-increasing population is a growing challenge for the ACT. As we shift towards 100 per cent renewable electricity, we are directly addressing one of our key impacts on climate and our footprint, but there is so much more to do.

The ACT is now forecast to hit a population of 500,000 people in the next decade. According to the ABS population clock, Australia currently has nearly 25 million people, and we are due to click over that 25 million mark sometime in June.

While our human population grows, the number of critically endangered animals is increasing. The IUCN lists 86 critically endangered species for Australia. And, sadly, we are part of the top seven of the world's countries that have contributed to 50 per cent of the world's biodiversity loss in the past decade. We know that the rate of population growth has created massive ecological issues for the megacities of the world. While population growth has brought about a positive outcome for our budget this year, globally and locally it is really time to focus on planning for a more sustainable future.

The Chief Minister has pointed out many other impacts on the ACT of this population growth: increasing school enrolments, increasing hospital presentations and, sadly, increasing inequity and its symptoms such as homelessness numbers. Meanwhile, Newstart, which many vulnerable people rely on, is simply not increasing. It has not increased for two decades.

Our economies cannot be reliant on infinite industrial growth driven by rapid population growth and high consumption. In fact, we believe that this is an

unsustainable recipe for disaster. While Canberra is growing and the economy is strong, we are in an opportune position to determine the kind of future we want for our city. The Greens are convinced that we can grow our city while maintaining the green spaces and trees that make us the bush capital, whilst also delivering housing and access to key services for all Canberrans.

The Greens look at budgets differently. We do not ask what the impact is on ourselves personally. We ask what the impact will be on sustainability; what sort of place we are leaving for future generations; and for fairness for the vulnerable people in the ACT.

I have spoken already about the critical importance of taking action on climate change and the many ways the ACT is already doing this. But I want to especially emphasise, in the context of this budget, the importance of ensuring that climate change initiatives do not impact negatively and disproportionately on the most vulnerable in our community.

The Greens are determined to take action on climate change; we are also determined to protect the most vulnerable in our community. These two policy imperatives go hand in hand; one should not, and need not, come at the expense of the other. Of course, if we do not act on climate change we will all suffer the repercussions: environmental, social and economic. It is the most vulnerable people in our community who will be hit the hardest.

In this context, I want to mention one particular climate initiative I am especially pleased to see funded this year. This budget makes a much-needed investment of \$5.7 million to extend the successful energy efficiency improvement scheme into ACT public housing. Over three years, this program will support significant energy efficiency upgrades, including to space heating in 2,200 public housing dwellings, helping reduce climate emissions as well as heating and cooling bills for some of Canberra's most vulnerable residents, saving on average about \$500 on their energy bills. I am very pleased to have worked with Minister Berry to deliver this proposal.

The Greens have also pushed for more sustainable housing to make our city more compact. Our current housing rules are producing housing that is unaffordable and environmentally unsustainable, so I am pleased to see \$775,000 for the housing choices review of planning rules and towards demonstration housing precincts. The precincts are a result of a motion by Ms Le Couteur last year, and will showcase affordable, high quality and environmentally sustainable housing.

Transport is also key to the Greens' agenda for a more sustainable city. We therefore welcome over \$21 million in additional expenditure in active travel upgrades, including in Woden, Tuggeranong and Belconnen town centres as well as investment in making suburbs more age friendly. This is substantial progress on the additional \$30 million active travel commitment in the agreement.

Canberra's urban trees are critical to ameliorating urban temperatures in summer and reducing the heat island effect. This budget includes some funding for more trees but we would like to see more serious investment in urban trees to ensure we continue to

address climate change impacts and maintain our feel as the bush capital. After many years of pestering, the Greens are extremely pleased to see a four-year program to fund invasive plant and animal management, as well as interim funding to support catchment groups while the federal government gets its act together.

The economy may be performing strongly, but that does not mean that the benefits are being shared equally. The Greens believe that the government needs to do more to close the growing inequity, including addressing housing affordability. Canberra is experiencing an ongoing housing affordability challenge and people moving to the ACT need housing that is affordable and available. Housing-related measures in this year's budget provide cause for both optimism and a place in need of further work.

The government's most welcome announcements are in regard to funding for additional front-line homelessness services and extending the operating hours of OneLink, recognised in the parliamentary agreement. Insufficient funding for these organisations was a key gap in the system that was identified in the lead-up to the last election and has been an ongoing concern.

We are especially pleased to see the strengthening of specialist homelessness and housing support services, including innovation funding to increase the supply of affordable rental housing for people escaping domestic violence, further funding for accommodation for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, services for older women at risk of homelessness, and specialist disability accommodation.

Thanks to the Greens we have now published targets for the number of public, community and affordable housing dwellings that will be built in greenfield and urban renewal sites. While welcome in terms of transparency, the targets for 2017-18 are disappointing. The budget papers tell us there will be a slight increase in this year's housing targets—up to 552 public, community and affordable dwellings. It is also pleasing to see that these targets will include housing in renewal areas, not just greenfields.

However, the amount of social housing has been going backwards as a proportion of our overall housing stock for two decades. Yesterday we debated a motion noting 4,000 new homes being added to our city annually. To simply maintain the current proportion of social housing, about 284 of these would need to be set aside for people on low incomes or with particular housing requirements. But we are not coming close to this. This budget simply does not adequately address the shortage of affordable housing.

It is clear that the incidence of homelessness is increasing in our city, a predictable problem that goes hand in hand with our population increase. The Greens know the increased financial and social impacts of not providing accommodation for rough sleepers, many of whom have high and complex needs.

We are very supportive of the Common Ground model. The first Common Ground was in the parliamentary agreement last Assembly. This budget funds design for work for Common Ground in Dickson, but at the rate this city is growing we are likely to require both the new Common Ground in Dickon and an expansion of the one in

Gungahlin. Given that the Gungahlin Common Ground site is surrounded by vacant land already owned by the ACT government, we believe it would be more cost effective to expand there first.

Housing is the single biggest expense for low and moderate income households and it is non-discretionary. When it comes to the provision of affordable rental housing, we are also going backwards. Some people are forced to really question how they fund their household budget. However, there is hope. We look forward to seeing the housing strategy, capturing many great ideas from last year's housing summit, being released later this year. We hope it includes innovative measures to truly increase the affordable housing options for people in rental stress. It will also need adequate funding to achieve what will no doubt be ambitious goals compared to the current status quo. We would do well to look at our New Zealand counterparts for examples of decisive action in this space.

For people at the other end of the housing spectrum, we are very supportive of the stamp duty exemptions for first home buyers, in conjunction with removing the first home owners grant, that have been included in this budget.

The ACT government's systems of concessions and rates deferments are also very important for fairness. The mid-year budget review increased the utilities concession available to many low income households. This budget includes further action on concessions and rates deferments. The Greens, along with most economists and business groups, have supported the ACT's tax reform program due to its economic benefits. However, we are also focused on fairness as well as economic efficiency.

This past year we have heard strong voices from unit owners concerned about tax reform. We are pleased that the general rates aged deferral scheme is being expanded to cover many more ratepayers. It was previously only available for older ratepayers whose home was one of the 20 per cent most expensive by land value. This was unfair for those with lower value properties and few, if any, unit owners would have qualified. Now, people over 65 living in units they own will also qualify. The Greens will continue to closely monitor the fairness of tax reform. And for the deferral expansion to be considered successful, the take-up will need to rise substantially from its current very low level.

On other concessions, free off-peak public transport for concession cardholders is an agreement item, and we are pleased to see a 12-month extension of this trial, which has been well received by low income Canberrans.

As the transition to the full NDIS draws closer, we are pleased to see the additional \$1.8 million for the integrated service response program. It is critical that the ACT can provide emergency funding where the first phase of the NDIS has shown up gaps and can provide advocacy for those who need to ensure the scheme delivers on its intentions. One of the main benefits of the scheme, the ability to tailor funding to individual needs, can only work if participants are supported to fully advocate for their needs. The expansion of the disability inclusion grants program extends opportunities for the wider community to back initiatives to shape our city to be accessible and inclusive for people with a disability.

We welcome funding to review the disturbing over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people involved with child and youth protection services, and measures such as family group conferencing for families at risk of ongoing involvement with the child protection system. As I have seen in my own justice portfolio, we must never overlook options for diversion from statutory intervention to avoid cycles of trauma and disadvantage that so often ensue.

We also acknowledge the government's ongoing commitment to addressing domestic and family violence and sexual assault and abuse with the rollout of the family safety hub and much-needed additional funding for front-line services like the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and DVCS.

The Greens are proud of a decade's work towards improved transparency and integrity, such as new FOI legislation, an integrity commission to start next year, and establishing officers of the Assembly. The ACT has been a leader in this country on progressive issues like hosting the country's first pill-testing trial in April this year; investing in substantial urban wetland projects; and improving animal welfare standards for domestic animals as well as hens and pigs.

This year's budget includes \$3 million to establish the ACT's new independent integrity commission. The Greens have supported this extensively, including at the last election and through the agreement. I believe we will have two sets of legislation to consider on this matter. And I look forward to us passing a model that can give the Canberra community full confidence in ACT government processes and agencies.

The Greens have long called for an investment in our healthcare system to keep people healthy, instead of just treating them when they are sick. The agreement reflects that investing in health is a priority for both Labor and the Greens, and we are pleased to see many key items funded this year.

I particularly note the \$34½ million investment to expand hospital in the home, the extensive funding to build a new health clinic for Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service, and a further \$2 million to continue work on a new nurse-led walk-in centre for Weston Creek. All these investments are about improving health services for people in the community and will help reduce pressure on the acute system. As a Green and as Minister for Mental Health, I am proud of the significant investment this budget makes in mental health services, particularly supported accommodation for people across the continuum of care, as well as support for young people.

As justice and corrections minister, I have been very focused on the parliamentary agreement goal of reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025. I cannot overemphasise the need for a suite of options for offenders, especially those that significantly reduce the likelihood of reoffending. This budget includes some important examples such as the \$6 million to continue the intensive corrections order scheme to keep some people out of full-time imprisonment, \$1 million to expand the high-density housing community safety program to prevent crime and address offending behaviour and establishing the Warrumbul court in the Children's Court, a circle sentencing court for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders. We have already seen such success with the Galambany adult circle sentencing court,

which is showing not only a reduction in reoffending but genuine value for money. This budget also funds necessary additional staff resources to support higher detainee numbers at the AMC and the replacement of the mobile duress system.

However, I hope that future budgets will have an even greater focus on justice reinvestment. Significant work is underway in this area and greater investment is needed to ensure that these programs result in reducing recidivism and also reducing offending in the first place. Initiatives that keep people out of jail will be better for everyone in our community, reducing costs and keeping the entire community safer.

Fundamental to the Greens' values of treating all people with respect and value, we welcome funding for the development of a disability justice strategy. We are keen to ensure that we do not treat people with a disability unfairly, whether they are victims of crime or offenders.

Overall, Greens supporters largely want to see a sustainable budget and a fair budget that looks after vulnerable Canberrans, and a progressive budget that trials innovations, that is prepared to take risks, and this budget takes firm steps towards all those. While we congratulate the government for our current ACT budget position, the Greens caution the need for ever-increasing growth for growth's sake. Instead, we urge the government to continue to support policies that facilitate growth in the sustainable industries of renewable energy, energy efficiency and recycling, and focus on a green and fair economy

The Greens are very supportive of this year's budget, but we do urge the government to make further serious investments in housing initiatives to address affordability and sustainability, as well as more action to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change—both while assessing the impacts of these policies on our most vulnerable people.

I look forward to continuing to work with Ms Le Couteur and my Labor colleagues over this Assembly and thank them for all their efforts towards making the ACT more sustainable, fair and progressive.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Reference to Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019

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

That the Appropriation Bill 2018-2019 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2018-2019 be referred to the Select Committee on Estimates 2018-2019.

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following papers:

Budget 2018-2019—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 20AB—Recommended appropriations—Copy of letters from the Speaker to the Treasurer—

Auditor-General, dated 26 February 2018.

Electoral Commissioner, dated 25 May 2018.

Mr Barr presented the following papers:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 30F(3)—2017-18 Capital Works Program—Progress report—Year-to-date 31 March 2018.

Territory-owned Corporations Act, pursuant to subsection 19(3)—Statement of Corporate Intent—Icon Water—Business Strategy 2018-19 to 2021-22.

Building regulatory reforms—update Paper and statement by minister

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (3.50): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Building Regulatory System—Reforms (Improving the ACT Building Regulatory System Review Status Report on actions with forward work plan), pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 21 March 2018.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR GENTLEMAN: I am pleased to table the response to the Assembly resolution on *Building regulatory system—Reforms (Improving the ACT Building Regulatory System Review Status Report on actions with a forward work plan)*. Further to the summary I provided to the Assembly in March, this report includes the status of each of the reforms and forward timing for the completion of remaining reforms. We are working to complete all of the reforms within the next two years, as anticipated under the budget allocation provided for the program in 2017-18.

As I mentioned in my previous update, some reforms that relate to security of payments were previously postponed after the Australian government announced its own review of security of payment systems across Australia. This includes some reforms on dispute resolution. On 21 May this year, the final report on the national security of payments review was released. It includes 86 recommendations, including detailed recommendations on a potential legislative model for adoption across all states and territories.

It also makes recommendations in relation to payment claims to residential owners from contractors, which are not currently included under the system. This has implications for dispute resolution systems for residential building work that need to be considered further. The ACT's legislation is based on the New South Wales law.

Any changes to that law affect the consistency of the systems between the two jurisdictions. Each jurisdiction is currently considering the report.

The timing for completing related reforms in the ACT program is dependent on any agreements for work at the national level or between jurisdictions. Because of this, the forward work plan does not include timing for the completion of 10 reforms that relate to security of payments and dispute resolution. However, I will update the plan with new timings for these reforms after I have had the chance to discuss the potential reforms with our colleagues in other jurisdictions and at the next building ministers' forum meeting.

While we are participating in a range of national work on building compliance, we are not proposing any further delay in implementing our reform program as a result of this work. As I noted previously, our immediate priorities are: new licence examinations for new class A, B and C builder licence applications; minimum documentation requirements for new building approval applications; codes of practice for builders and building certifiers; continuing work on the new auditing system for building approvals and building work; and training for building surveyors and other people in the building industry. Work in the 2018-19 year will complete another 15 of the reforms.

The government will publish updates on progress in delivering any outstanding actions every six months until the reform program is complete. We will also continue working with industry and community stakeholders to implement the remaining reforms from the improving the ACT building regulatory system review. I thank the Assembly for its support of these reforms.

Papers

Mr Gentleman presented the following papers:

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of Variation No 358 to the Territory Plan—Changes to Wright precinct map and code—Wright Section 29 Block 3—Restrictions on residential use, dated 29 May 2018, including associated documents.

Director of Public Prosecutions—strategic review Paper and statement by minister

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (3.54): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions—Strategic Review, prepared by the Nous Group, dated 9 August 2017.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR RAMSAY: I am pleased to table the Nous Group's strategic review of the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions. The review indicates that the DPP continues to provide a quality service to the ACT community, and it highlights the commitment and the professionalism of its staff in adapting to changing work environments. The government is committed to viewing the justice system holistically and working across the system to ensure that the ACT community has access to a timely, transparent and fair justice system.

Early last year I worked with the Director of Public Prosecutions to engage the Nous Group to undertake an independent review of the office. The purpose of the review was to assess its capacity to deliver services on behalf of the ACT government and broader community into the future. I will briefly outline the government's action in response to the Nous report's findings and recommendations. As the report recommends, that response was to quickly increase resources in the DPP and consider the long-term staffing needs of the office.

Over the past year, our funding decisions have shown a clear commitment to support the DPP to keep delivering strong, high quality services to the community. In February 2019, as part of the budget review, this government announced \$970,000 over two years to support the confiscation of criminal assets work. The need to support this special role was highlighted in the Nous review.

Another key feature of the Nous report is the recommendation that decisions about DPP funding take account of increases in resourcing for the courts and other areas of the justice system. In April 2018 the government announced it would appoint an eighth permanent magistrate. Recognising the need for both Legal Aid and the DPP to deal with the increase in court resources, the government provided \$987,000 over four years from 2018-19 for additional DPP staff to support the increased capacity of the Magistrates Court. Additional funding of \$1.3 million for Legal Aid ACT was also provided as part of the package.

The significant and long-term boost to baseline funding is now part of the 2018-19 budget. The government will provide an additional \$6.922 million over the next four years for additional prosecutorial and paralegal staff. This funding will be progressively provided with an additional six full-time equivalents from 2018-19, increasing by two additional staff each year until there are a total of 12 additional FTEs in 2021-22. This staffing increase will be supplemented by a one-off capital injection of \$350,000 for expanded accommodation, and I am confident that these new resources will deliver sustained improvements in the timeliness and effectiveness of the DPP's prosecution services well into the future.

Another important outcome of the Nous review was a set of recommendations for more efficient management of the DPP's budget resources. Nous consulting put forward that, for reasons of both independence and efficiency, a different model of budgeting should be in place.

The government's approach to date has been to use the administrative resources of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to offer economies of scale to smaller, independent agencies. Things like human resources and finance services are provided

by a centralised team in JACS to other agencies, including the Human Rights Commission and the Emergency Services Agency. The analysis by Nous consulting provides a basis for considering a different approach. The government is seriously considering this recommendation and will work with the public service and the DPP to ensure that our model of appropriation and funding is as efficient as possible.

The government looks forward to continuing to work with the DPP to support its functions and its operations, through legislation and in consideration of funding, to ensure that it remains a sustainable organisation continuing to provide quality services to the Canberra community.

Access Canberra—review of shopfront services

Paper and statement by minister

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for Regulatory Services, Minister for the Arts and Community Events and Minister for Veterans and Seniors) (3.59): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Access Canberra—Review of shopfront services, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of 1 November 2017.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR RAMSAY: I am very pleased to present to the Assembly the response to the resolution of the Assembly on the review of Access Canberra shopfront services, dated 1 November 2017. On that date the Assembly asked the government to undertake an analysis of the various shopfronts to: determine whether the range of services available at the locations provide appropriate choice and availability for all ACT residents and sufficient customer service; review the opening hours and operating procedures at the various shopfronts to determine how waiting times can be reduced; continue to consult with customers to better understand how to deliver improved accessibility, especially for those who work or rely on others to take them to the shopfront to undertake their business transactions; undertake a thorough review of the current range of payment methods to ensure they provide sufficient choice for all ACT residents; and report back to the Assembly by the first sitting in June 2018.

Access Canberra continues to provide a very high level of customer service through its service centres and shopfronts. In 2016-17 it welcomed more than 450,000 customers through its doors. It recorded more than 2.7 million visits to the Access Canberra website, with 1.7 million digital transactions occurring, and it received more than 720,000 phone calls through the contact centre.

The report demonstrates that satisfaction levels with Access Canberra's customer service channels remain extremely high. Customer satisfaction levels have continued to increase over the last three years. Opening hours between the seven Access Canberra service centre and shopfront locations vary, providing a range of options for accessing face-to-face services.

Gungahlin, Tuggeranong and Civic drivers licence services provide extended business hours. However the review found that only five per cent of customers attend outside of business hours. Based on the low proportion of customer attendances outside core business hours, the increasing availability and take-up of digital transactions and the continuing high rate of satisfaction expressed by customers, Access Canberra will not further adjust the operating hours of the service centres at this time. Access Canberra will continue to monitor the customer demand into the future.

For context, it is important to note that to effectively run the service centres out of hours we still need representatives from most other business areas to be on deck to ensure that customers can be served at those times. Thus, extending service centre business hours has a large impact on the working hours of a large part of the rest of the organisation.

Access Canberra prides itself on being an innovative organisation focused on continuous improvement. Feedback, engagement and consultation with the Canberra community continues to inform the design of its transactions and service environments to ensure that its services remain accessible and responsive.

This week the government announced funding as part of the budget to boost Access Canberra's ability to provide exceptional customer service. Part of this funding will go towards providing additional concierges at the service centres, as well as five additional staff on the phones in the contact centre, to continue to meet the needs of all Canberrans. These additional staff will assist in reducing wait times and increasing the already very high customer satisfaction levels.

The number of digital transactions has increased significantly, with approximately 64 per cent of transactions completed through that channel. However, it is important that people who struggle to transact digitally are not left behind. So in 2018-19 Access Canberra will undertake a project to determine its long-term service strategy, including how to provide services for people in the most appropriate and helpful way that will meet the future needs of a growing and changing city.

Finally, the report demonstrates the continued upwards trend of electronic payment methods over cash and cheque. Only two of Access Canberra's service centres have limited payment options to EFTPOS and credit card only. These cashless service centres have open layouts, and they encourage quality interactions between staff and clients. The remaining two service centres and three shopfront locations continue to have cash payments as an option. Many Access Canberra transactions can also be undertaken at Australia Post outlets, which also accept cash.

This is a resounding endorsement for the Assembly that Access Canberra is on the right track to meet the needs of the Canberra community today and into the future. I commend the review of Access Canberra shopfront services report to the Assembly.

Auditor-General's Report No 3 of 2018—government response Paper and statement by minister

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land

Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (4.04): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(1)—Auditor-General's Report No 3/2018—Tender for the sale of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson—Government response.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR GENTLEMAN: I am pleased to table the government response to the Auditor-General's performance audit report No 3 of 2018 entitled *Tender for the sale of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson*. The report considered specific historical land transactions undertaken by a unit formerly within the Economic Development Directorate and with the supporting services of the former Land Development Agency. The audit report made a number of findings about the achievement of sale objectives for the block and whether the outcome represented value for money.

The audit report concluded broadly that the Economic Development Directorate did not conduct the tender process for block 30 section 34 effectively. It did not achieve the sale objective of pursuing an open, contestable and transparent market process, and there are indications it did not achieve value for money from the sale.

It concluded that significant weaknesses in the Economic Development Directorate's management of the tender mean there is a high risk it has relinquished considerable financial value to the Canberra Tradesmen's Union Club Ltd, known as the Tradies. There is a high risk that the Economic Development Directorate sold block 30 section 34 to the Tradies in breach of the Planning and Development Act 2007.

The report concluded that systems need to be implemented to prevent this occurring in the future. Importantly, all staff involved in undertaking land transactions also need to have clarity regarding expected behaviours, through well-articulated values, particularly with respect to managing the integration of probity and commercial considerations.

The government have made significant improvements in the land transactions process as part of establishing the new land entities, and we are confident we are not in the same position as when these specific historical transactions occurred.

On 1 July 2017 the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017 commenced, which abolished the Land Development Agency and established the City Renewal Authority—the authority—and the Suburban Land Agency—the agency. Legislative instruments have been notified to support the work of the new land entities, including declaration of the city renewal precinct, the land acquisition directions, the housing target determination, the statement of expectations and statement of operational intent for the authority. The Minister for Housing and Suburban Development gave her approval for the Suburban Land Agency to exercise specific functions in accordance with the act.

Key elements of the governance framework for both entities include the annual statement of intent, establishing governing boards for the authority and agency, clear and direct accountability of the chair of each governing board to the responsible minister, a board-appointed and accountable chief executive officer, the use of written ministerial directions to the entities and the development of a service level agreement between the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and land entities to provide governance support.

A project portfolio governance committee has been established to provide advice on the development of key governance deliverables and dependencies. The committee is focusing on consolidating governance systems and frameworks, adapting project management governance, standardising records management and updating operational policy and procedures.

This committee has agreed to develop a land transactions policy to address the requirement for probity and good process across the directorate, authority and agency with regard to all types of land transactions, such as acquisitions, sales and transfers. Significant consultation has been undertaken on this policy across the portfolio.

A people and transition committee has been established to provide human resource support for the agency. The directorate and agency have conducted staff surveys to inform the development of an action plan which will outline measures to continue to support staff, reinforce organisational values and offer personal development initiatives. Employee induction training is focused on ethics, conflict of interest, integrity and corruption and fraud prevention and is offered to all staff. Training is available on goods and services procurement which includes probity considerations.

Particular initiatives in this area include the preparation of a corporate governance statement for the agency; a policy and standard operating procedure for conflict of interest in the purchase of land by portfolio staff; and the valuations policy, which reinforces the ethical behaviours expected of staff when seeking land valuations.

This government response builds on the work undertaken as part of establishing the new land entities and provides an opportunity to further test, check, enhance and refine the land transactions process and fill any gaps that have emerged. It is critical to public confidence and trust in the work of territory entities that operations are conducted properly and are open to scrutiny. Governance frameworks play a key role in ensuring that the community can be assured that territory entities operate in the public interest and to the highest standards of probity and accountability. The consistent implementation and effective adoption of these frameworks enables and promotes positive organisational culture and integrity.

The government welcomes the recommendations in the Auditor-General's report and the opportunity this provides for continuous improvement to probity and governance practices in land transactions and to reinforce an organisational culture that promotes integrity. The audit report made four recommendations relating to remedying deficiencies in the tender process, strengthening probity, strengthening governance and assurance, and reinforcing organisational values. The government agrees with

each of the four recommendations, and the government response outlines improved processes and procedures to address the recommendations.

Recommendation 1 states that, in order to remedy deficiencies in the tender process, the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate should brief me, as the minister administering the Planning and Development Act 2007, and the cabinet on the implications of the risk to legislative compliance identified by this report and advise on options for remedying the deficiencies in the tender process.

The directorate is seeking legal advice on legislative compliance issues identified in the report and will prepare a brief on the issues raised. Following receipt of this advice the directorate will develop and implement mechanisms to mitigate potential noncompliance as required.

Recommendations 2 and 3 relate to the strengthening of probity, governance and assurance in procurement processes. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, the City Renewal Authority and the Suburban Land Agency are reviewing, assessing and enhancing the processes, practices, training and culture related to probity and procurement as part of the continuous improvement cycle that underpins the new arrangements.

Recommendation 4 states that the agencies mentioned above should reinforce organisational values by clearly articulating their values and providing guidance to staff on how these are to be implemented, and by implementing procedures that reinforce and infuse the values throughout the organisation. The agencies are continuing to review, assess and enhance processes, practices and culture related to organisational values as part of the continuous improvement cycle that underpins the new arrangements.

The government thanks the Auditor-General for tabling this audit report and will continue to make improvements to land sales processes and procedures.

Gungahlin strategic assessment—audit Paper and statement by minister

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (4.13): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Gungahlin Strategic Assessment Independent Audit—Government response.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Urban Renewal) (4.13), by leave: I would like to speak on this report if I could. I thank Minister Rattenbury for tabling the report. As the minister responsible for the implementation of the Gungahlin strategic assessment, I am pleased to provide comment on the government's response to the first independent audit undertaken by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

The government's response to the audit highlights processes and progress since the audit was completed, including the delivery of five corrective actions, and makes further comments in relation to the recommendations handed down in the audit.

Of the 39 strategic assessment commitments the audit report identified, 19 were compliant, five had observations, 13 were noncompliant, two were undetermined and five were not applicable. The majority of the noncompliant commitments were deemed noncompliant only due to the time frames not being met, even though the commitments have been delivered.

Five corrective active requests were issues in relation to high risk items to ensure that strategic assessment commitments are met. These related to compliance and enforcement for cat containment; a review of the Taylor stage 1 construction and environment management plan; processes for reporting potential breaches of commitments; completion of the fire hazard management strategies; and the provision of educational material for future Throsby residents. I am pleased to advise that all corrective actions were completed as requested.

The audit report also made recommendations relating to improvements in the coordination and administration of the strategic assessment. These included recommendations to ensure time frames are met and to ensure accurate record keeping and publication of reports. The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is now overseeing the coordination of the strategic assessment and has been working with other agencies to develop and implement procedures to improve administration processes and deliver commitments on time.

Some of the key projects include implementing a procedure for the review and approval of construction and environmental management plans for greenfield projects in the strategic assessment area, ongoing work reviewing and updating the strategic assessment web page to ensure all research papers and reports are publicly available, and construction of a database to track critical dates and key decision points to ensure that we are on track to meet compliance targets.

In addition, a detailed review of administrative processes will be undertaken as part of the plan review report, which is currently being prepared. The plan review report is one of the ACT government's commitments under the strategic assessment.

The purpose of the plan review report is to look at how the Gungahlin strategic assessment is being implemented, to acknowledge what is working well, to identify lessons learned during the first five years of implementation, and to identify potential challenges for delivering the remaining commitments in the future. The plan review report is due to be finalised in July this year.

The audit report noted that there is a need to consider potential risk to conservation areas in achieving the ecological outcomes of the strategic assessment and to ensure that adaptive management is applied. This is being considered through the plan review report.

I acknowledge that the Gungahlin strategic assessment is a long-term project that will require ongoing coordination and support to ensure commitments are delivered in accordance with the plan. The ACT government has already undertaken a number of steps to implement the findings of the audit, delivering the required corrective actions and establishing new procedures and processes.

Further, actions to deliver the findings of the audit report will be published in the Gungahlin strategic assessment annual reports to ensure ongoing transparency. The government's response to the audit has been a valuable opportunity to provide leadership for the development and delivery of future strategic assessments throughout Australia.

Molonglo Valley strategic assessment—audit Paper and statement by minister

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Mental Health) (4.17): For the information of members, I present the following paper:

Molonglo Valley Strategic Assessment—Independent Audit, dated 4 April 2018.

I seek leave to make a statement.

Leave granted.

MR RATTENBURY: I am pleased to table the first independent compliance audit of the *Molonglo Valley Plan for the Protection of Matters of National Environmental Significance*, the NES plan, undertaken by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. The purpose of the audit is to independently verify progress against the strategic assessment commitments agreed between the ACT and commonwealth governments under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999. These commitments formed the conditions of approval for the Molonglo Valley development. Strategic assessment audits are intended to assist us to protect biodiversity in the development of our city.

The commitments relate to the development of suburbs in the Molonglo Valley and the protection of the five matters of national environmental significance in the area: the pink-tailed worm-lizard; white box, yellow box and Blakely's red gum grassy woodland and derived native grassland; the natural temperate grassland; the superb parrot; and the swift parrot.

The commitments are to be delivered over a 30-year period, with an independent audit every five years. In July 2017 I directed the commissioner to undertake this audit, pursuant to sections 12(1)(b) and 21(1)(a) of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993.

The audit was required by the commonwealth to be completed by 7 May 2018. The timeline was met by the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

I received a copy of this report on 4 May 2018. As the minister responsible for reports undertaken by the commissioner, I am tabling this report within the required six sitting days of receipt of the report. The audit was undertaken in accordance with the Commonwealth's *Independent Audit and Audit Report Guidelines 2015*, which establish strict requirements for compliance audits and the auditors.

The audit concluded that the compliance status of the 60 commitments is as follows—this is outlined on page 62 of the report—16 were compliant, 28 were compliant with an observation, 11 were noncompliant, four were undetermined and one was not applicable. Many of the noncompliant commitments were in relation to the late delivery of reports, especially management plans. The commissioner applied a risk rating to commitments to ensure that effort is placed on the most critical elements. Compliance regarding 13 commitments was assessed as high risk, including finalisation of the Kama nature reserve buffer.

Four corrective action requests were issued to the ACT government: firstly, provision of the final draft Molonglo River Reserve management plan to the minister; secondly, finalisation of the operational plan for patch P to ensure appropriate management is occurring; third, incorporation of actions and monitoring requirements into relevant land management agreements for the protection of the ecological condition of matters of national environmental significance within patches I, L and M; and, fourthly, finalisation of the operational plan for the pink-tailed worm-lizard conservation area in the Molonglo River Reserve.

Relevant agencies are required to undertake action to reduce or eliminate the risks associated with noncompliance of these actions. I am pleased to advise that agencies provided a timely response to the corrective action request due on 30 April 2018. The remaining three corrective action requests are due later this year.

This independent compliance audit was finalised in consultation with the ACT government and coordinated by the impact assessment team in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate. The commissioner provided 12 recommendations for government to consider in the ongoing implementation of the Molonglo Valley strategic assessment. These are outlined on page 126.

In summary, the range of projects being undertaken, including habitat restoration and threatened species translocation, is impressive. However, we need to remain constantly vigilant about protecting matters of national environmental significance. Implementation is still in the early stages. These first six years of monitoring are critical for establishing baselines for future management. There is a need to maintain our efforts for the next 24 years and beyond.

The government will respond to the audit findings. This will be led by Minister Gentleman, as these matters fall within his portfolio as Minister for Planning and Land Management. Madam Speaker, I commend the independent audit of the Molonglo Valley strategic assessment to the Assembly.

Papers

Ms Stephen-Smith presented the following paper:

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

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Reconciliation Week

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.21): Reconciliation Week was held from 27 May to 3 June this year, just last week, and it gave us the opportunity to reflect on our history and engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The theme of this year's Reconciliation Week was "Don't keep history a mystery: learn, share, grow." Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have lived in Australia for an estimated 40,000 years, which makes their culture one of the oldest surviving cultures in the world. This week gives us an opportunity to reflect on this and celebrate it.

While most Australians recognise the dark parts of our history, such as government policies that forced Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be removed from their homes and families, we also need to recognise that the trauma of that history has ongoing effects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people today. We need to work together to eliminate stigma and intergenerational trauma, and the struggle to do this continues. Through Reconciliation Week, we are given an opportunity to deepen our understanding of history and the impacts of intergenerational trauma. "Learn, share, grow": that is what we are called upon to learn about our history as a nation and as a community.

One of the really positive ways we can do this is to look at some remarkable individuals. One is Evonne Cawley, a Wiradjuri woman and, incidentally, a tennis star. She was ranked as the world's number one in 1971 and 1976. Out of this, she created a legacy called the Evonne Goolagong Foundation, which uses tennis as a platform for promoting education, health and wellbeing for future generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. The foundation aims to give children the opportunity to be the best they can be. The foundation has awarded students with scholarships and produced university scholars, tennis players, coaches and sports administrators, and provided employee placements for many of them.

She has also shared her story with all of us through her bestselling autobiography *Home! The Evonne Goolagong Story*. We should all have an opportunity to share her story. Her success has benefitted so many people, and it should be shared. Evonne has truly changed many young Australians' lives, and she will change and inspire many more.

This week I have taken the time to reflect on stories like Evonne's and others that demonstrate the positive contribution that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are every day making to our community. The quality of the relationship between

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and government bodies has a critical impact on the effectiveness of government policies and programs and the capacity of Indigenous people to achieve social equity and secure self-determination. We need to continue our efforts to put more resources into improving these relationships.

We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander members of the community are grossly over-represented in the ACT justice system, child protection system and homelessness sector. This is because of generations of prejudice and disadvantage. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people make up only about three per cent of our population, but they are a staggering 27.3 per cent of people incarcerated in Australia. For women the figure is 34.3 per cent and for juveniles it is an almost unbelievable 48 per cent.

I know that my colleague Mr Rattenbury is trying very hard to combat this through justice reinvestment in his role as Minister for Corrections. Yarrabi Bamirr, which is a Ngunnawal word for “walk tall”, is a family focused program to prevent recidivism, delivered in partnership with Winnunga Nimmityjah. As part of this program, social health team workers from Winnunga work together with families to co-design unique family plans to assist them to become self-managing, healthy and safe. They address goals across health, justice, education and employment. This is one example of the work underway to address this issue.

Overall, Reconciliation Week gives us the opportunity and, even more than that, the incentive, the reminder, to understand the adversity faced by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and, more joyfully, recognise the valuable contributions members of this community have made and will continue to make. On this note, as we say every morning, I pay my respects to their elders past and present.

Schools—visits

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (4.27): My colleagues may be sick of hearing about my school visits, but I rise to talk about two more. As you may be aware, Madam Speaker, my previous adjournment speeches have been about some of the great independent and Catholic schools that I have been able to visit. Today I have the great pleasure to talk about visits to two wonderful government schools in the ACT.

First, I want to talk about Palmerston District Primary School. The acting principal, Kate Flynn, and the director of school improvement for the north Gungahlin network spoke to me about the challenges and opportunities that the school has adapted to, in particular with the new suburb of Crace, which provided a healthy boost for enrolments and bred new life into the school. I would run out of time if I were to speak about all the great features I saw at the school, from the kindergarten teachers, who have really developed a passion for reading in students and families, to the gifted and talented program and their focus on mentoring graduate teachers. For those who still believe, or ever believed, that our teachers have a pretty easy life, with just a couple of hours in the classroom, short days and long holidays, let me say that the teachers I met at Palmerston and every other school I have visited demonstrate clearly how wrong that is.

Palmerston has a great focus on data collection to inform its teaching. They are passionate about every student reaching their full potential and track a child's progress from kindergarten right through to year 6, accumulating data on each student to share with other teachers on a regular basis. The staff set aside time to review data, which allows the staff to keep a close eye on the performance of the students and to tailor learning to their individual learning needs. For that school, external one-day-a-year testing like NAPLAN is another indicator of progress.

I also had the pleasure of visiting the Southern Cross Early Childhood School, where I was welcomed by the principal, Lyndal Reid, and the acting director of school improvement for the Belconnen network. Principal Reid took me on a walk around the terrific school grounds at Southern Cross and showed me some of the great work that they have been doing.

The school's focus on play-based learning and small class sizes has made it an ideal school for parents of children with a variety of needs. The school has invested in outdoor activity areas, such as the bike riding area painted to look like roads, with speed humps and street signs, so that kids can learn how to ride safely in a road-like environment—an area that is so well regarded in the local community that other schools come to also use it. And there is a balance challenge circuit to allow kids to engage in safe risk-taking and allow for self-assessment of risk. A particularly delightful structure in the previously unused outdoor play area is the school's treehouse. It is enormous. Madam Speaker, if you get a chance, I would suggest you go out there and have a look; it is like something out of *Robinson Crusoe*.

Madam Speaker, I really appreciated my visits to both Palmerston District Primary School and Southern Cross Early Childhood School. I thank the minister's office for facilitating these visits. After the school holidays and the estimates hearings are done, I hope to be able to visit a few more government schools.

All the visits I have had the pleasure to speak about in the chamber have been an extraordinarily eye-opening experience for me in my capacity as shadow minister for education. Undoubtedly, in every school that I have visited to date, whether it is an independent, a Catholic or a government school, I come away knowing exactly why the staff do what they do. The passion they have for education and their students is very clear, and the respect and admiration that their students and families show them leave me in no doubt as to the enormous potential of all our schools.

World Environment Day

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (4.31): This past Tuesday, 5 June, was World Environment Day. This annual event is a reminder for all of us to reflect on the natural environment that we live in, our place in it as humans and the impact that we have upon it. From the Greens perspective, I want to use this opportunity to acknowledge the incredible natural environment we are fortunate enough to live in and the need to live in harmony with it, to tread lightly, with respect and appreciation.

As we go about our busy everyday lives it is easy to forget that we are living in a sensitive and finally balanced natural ecosystem. All our actions, individually and collectively, inevitably affect it. Unfortunately, our actions are often detrimental to the natural environment. We pollute it, we use its resources and we disrupt its natural balance.

In the broader sense, the impact of humans on the earth's environment has not been positive, particularly since the industrial revolution some 250 years ago. Humankind has had a very rapid and damaging impact on the earth's environment. It is evidenced through all kinds of indicators, from the number of species that have become extinct, to the destruction of natural ecosystems, through to the measurable warming of the planet due to the increased release of greenhouse gases.

We all know about the impacts of human-induced global warming, and there is scientific and on the ground evidence of the dramatic and harmful impacts occurring now on the planet, in our environment and on us as humans. We must do all we can to rise to this challenge to both mitigate and adapt to climate change.

Here in the ACT we have an important role. Not only do we have one of the largest environmental footprints per capita but our per capita contributions to the climate are one of the most significant in the world. We are also one of the best positioned to respond to these challenges. We are one of the most privileged cities in one of the most privileged countries in the world, and we need to respond accordingly.

The Greens and the ACT government are proud that the ACT is at the forefront of climate action in this nation, but there is an enormous amount of work to do. I am pleased that we have set a nation-leading target of zero emissions by 2045. We are on track to achieve the first milestone towards this target, of a 40 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions from 1990 levels by 2020.

Community support for serious climate action is clear, with thousands of people giving some fantastic feedback during recent community consultations. They told us they want the government to take meaningful action on buildings, energy efficiency, green infrastructure and the uptake of electric vehicles.

As transport is expected to make up more than 60 per cent of the ACT's emissions by 2020, largely from the use of private vehicles, it is the next big sector to tackle when it comes to greenhouse gas emissions. Our recently released transition to zero emissions vehicles action plan will support community uptake of zero emission vehicles, including e-bikes, through a wide range of initiatives.

We are progressing ever closer to our goal of 100 per cent renewable electricity by 2020, and with the 28 wind turbines supported by this government at Sapphire Wind Farm starting to power the ACT last month we are a step closer. These turbines are producing enough clean energy to power 48,000 dwellings and have pushed us 12 per cent closer to our renewable electricity target.

As part of celebrating World Environment Day I was pleased to be able to attend the Conservation Council's annual World Environment Day dinner last Saturday, along with Ms Le Couteur. It was held at the Arboretum. I was also able to attend the ACT government's expo with bettongs in City Walk yesterday.

In the context of that, I was reminded of the very first World Environment Day event in Garema Place, which was organised by the ANU environment group, of which I was a member, way back in 1992. We organised it as young activists but, after a few years of the Wilderness Society and the Conservation Council organising it, the ACT government then started running it themselves. And I am pleased that it continues to this day as an annual event.

There is still much to do and more investment is needed. But on this World Environment Day we can be proud of the ACT's leadership in tackling climate change and supporting our community to live more sustainably and to reduce the impact on our planet.

I would like to conclude by thanking Jaimie Liebowitz, who is undertaking work experience in my office this week, for her assistance in putting those speaking notes together.

Australian Anglo-Indian Association ball

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (4.35): Unlike many other cities in Australia, Canberra enjoys four distinct seasons. Typically from the end of April onwards, the weather first cools down and then turns downright cold. This was definitely the case on the evening of 19 May, with the temperature dropping into the single digits by 6 o'clock that evening. In stark contrast to the bitter weather outside was the warm and happy atmosphere inside Queanbeyan's Bicentennial Hall, venue for the grand Anglo-Indian ball held in honour of the silver anniversary of the Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra.

I wish to express gratitude to the association for all that they do to serve the needs of their members in the ACT and the surrounding region and for the kind invitation to join them at this event, which was also attended by the party leader of the Canberra Liberals, Alistair Coe. I had a fantastic time. The dinner was a sumptuous, Indian-influenced buffet filled with exotic and warming delights. Music was provided by two Anglo-Indian bands, New Renditions and JJ Blue Frost. The music made it easy for many of the more than 200 guests who attended that night to dance the night away and provided the rest with a happy accompaniment to all the talking and laughter that filled the hall.

Many of Canberra's thriving community organisations have forged a strong connection with other community organisations and with peak bodies, and this is certainly true for the Australian Anglo-Indian Association of Canberra. Office holders of the Canberra Multicultural Community Forum and leaders from a number of other ethnic associations were also in attendance at this thoroughly enjoyable event.

I wish to express my thanks to Joe Bailey, the president of the association, and to all the other men and women who serve alongside him. I hope that the next 25 years will bring nothing but success to Canberra's Anglo-Indian community and to all those whom they support and serve.

Winnunga Nimmityjah—30th birthday

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (4.38): I rise today to praise the efforts of the team at Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service and to highlight some of their achievements. I was privileged to attend the 30th birthday of Winnunga on 12 May. It was a fantastic celebration and provided lots of good, old-fashioned fun entertainment, including a petting zoo, a giant rock-climbing wall, face painting, fairy floss, fresh food, pizza and, of course, delicious coffee.

There was also an amazing birthday cake, but most of all there was a warm and very positive community spirit. It was truly a celebration of all the forward steps taken and all the efforts put in by members of the Canberra Indigenous community. Since becoming the shadow minister for Indigenous affairs, I have learnt that this community has a big heart. They want to see their people do better and they are willing to put in the hard work to make it happen.

Winnunga is the perfect example of this story of the heart and the hard work that they do. Winnunga was established in 1988 by local Aboriginal people inspired by the national mobilisation of people around the opening of the new Parliament House and a visit by the Queen. The late Olive Brown, an inspirational figure, saw the need to set up a temporary medical service at the tent embassy site in Canberra. This paved the way to the beginnings of Winnunga.

In the beginning, Mrs Brown enlisted the support of a doctor, a registered nurse and a midwife. Soon after that, ACT Health offered Mrs Brown a room in the office behind the Griffin Centre to run a clinic two mornings a week and on Saturdays. Winnunga operated out of this office from 1988 to 1990, during which time the organisation was staffed mostly by volunteers. With just a little bit of funding, by 1991 Winnunga was able to grow and provide a full-time medical practice.

After the sad passing of Mrs Olive Brown in 1993, it was decided to form a health board. From there, the organisation has continued to grow and evolve, despite changing levels of government support, as well as the internal struggles typical of any community-run organisation. The journey from a small medical practice to what Winnunga is able to provide today has not been easy. Perhaps this is what made the 30th birthday celebrations all the more special. It was a recognition of where the community organisation has come from and what it achieves today.

Let us have a look at some of their service outcomes, because I think it is important to highlight the positive stories, to talk about the good work being done and to celebrate the everyday heroes out there doing the hard yards. Winnunga provides essential medical services to clients through GPs, nurses, midwives, dentists, dieticians and many more health professionals. They conduct a wide range of group programs for

Indigenous men, women, families, community elders, mums' groups, and children and young people.

There is also a strong emphasis on preventative health, with social programs around tobacco, healthy lifestyles, and drug and alcohol issues. Whilst it is important to acknowledge that there are still serious health problems facing our Indigenous community, it is vitally important to acknowledge the hard work, dedication and progress being made by front-line community organisations like Winnunga.

Well done, Winnunga, and congratulations. Well done for all the amazing work that they do in the community. Well done for leading the way in providing specialised and culturally appropriate health care for the Canberra Indigenous community. Congratulations on their 30th birthday. I look forward to celebrating many more milestones with them.

Dr John La Salle—tribute
Mr Steve Krikonis—tribute

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (4.42): It is with great sadness that I speak today to honour two extraordinary members of the Ginninderra community who died in May. Dr John La Salle was an entomologist and insect taxonomist. He made an extraordinary contribution to the science community over a long and distinguished career, particularly in his leadership in the collection and classification of data and in making that data available.

Importantly, Dr La Salle played a key role in establishing the Atlas of Living Australia and was later its director. The Atlas of Living Australia is a collaborative national project that aggregates biodiversity data and makes it accessible and usable online for anyone to use. Prior to that, Dr La Salle served as the Director of the Australian National Insect Collection for more than 10 years.

I first met John, as he was known to me, during the 2016 campaign, in the cold outside Jamison. I regularly held evening stalls and John became a feature of them because he would often pop into the plaza, I think on his way home from work. John would always—always—say hello. Sometimes we would have longer conversations; sometimes he would just say a friendly passing hello and sometimes I would be talking with someone else and he would just simply give me a wave.

Madam Speaker, I realise these are only small gestures, but especially in the depths of what could be a very cold and very lonely campaign, those gestures meant so much to me and they continued after the campaign. I think they speak deeply to his character. His contribution to science, not only in Canberra but also in Australia and internationally, was obviously extraordinary and will be missed. I extend my deep and sincere condolences to John's family, friends and colleagues.

Madam Speaker, Steve Krikonis was the man behind Steve's Melba Takeaway & Pizza. Steve came to Canberra in 1966 and had a varied career before settling on takeaway. Steve's takeaway shop has been a Belconnen fixture for 25 years and Steve a Belconnen icon. He was instrumental in saving the Melba shops.

Madam Speaker, the outpouring of love and sadness is testament to how widely Steve's loss is being felt. I draw on some Facebook comments today, which were extraordinary—there were hundreds and hundreds of them—because I want to put on the record permanently and publicly exactly what a contribution he made to our community.

One person said:

This is devastating news. They have owned that shop for my entire lifetime; both Angela, Steve's wife, and Steve were nothing short of beautiful.

Another said:

Steve and all of the staff there were an icon of my childhood and set the standard for takeaways that no one else has been able to live up to.

And another:

Steve always put a smile on my face and was good for a bit of banter. My family have been coming to Steve for years. Best pizza! Such a genuinely lovely guy. When I saw Steve last week, he was helping a guy get his pizza to his car.

Madam Speaker, these short statements underline Steve's character and his impact on our community. Again, I extend my deep and sincere condolences to his family and to his many, many friends and customers.

Finally, I want to draw the Assembly's attention to Miss Burch's actions yesterday. As members are aware, in May Miss Burch successfully brought a motion to this Assembly which asked the minister to report back to the Assembly on 23 August on the government's plans to extend bus services in the evenings, on Sundays and on public holidays. In responding to Miss Burch, the minister said:

... the new Transport Canberra bus network rapids will run to midnight Monday to Saturday, and we are looking to run them to 10.30 pm on Sunday nights.

However, yesterday Miss Burch published a Facebook post intimating that the budget had failed to include the provision of late night services on evenings and Sundays. I obviously found this very interesting, given Miss Burch had only asked for an update by August—not by the June budget date—and given that Minister Fitzharris has made it clear, including directly to Miss Burch, that these services will happen.

I commented on Miss Burch's post, pointing this out. However, she then removed my comments and blocked me from commenting further. I invite Miss Burch to reflect on the Canberra Liberals' own stated value of freedom of speech and that the code of conduct requires members to be honest at all times. She is not exempt from that.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 4.47 pm until Tuesday, 31 July 2018 at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Canberra Hospital—building works (Question No 884)

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

- (1) In relation to works undertaken on The Canberra Hospital (TCH) Building 19 Pharmacy Cold Room, what were the specific works undertaken under each invoice from Complete Constructions Aust Pty Ltd for (a) \$37 458.99, (b) \$35 728.81, (c) \$245 053.68 and (d) \$104 201.32, paid on 14 December 2017.
- (2) In relation to upgrade works undertaken on TCH, what were the specific works undertaken under the invoices from (a) Complete Constructions Aust Pty Ltd for \$58 665.18, paid on 12 December 2017, (b) The Trustee for Form 1 Fire Protection (Canberra) Unit Trust for \$26 510.00, paid on 5 December 2017 and (c) The Trustee for Form 1 Fire Protection (Canberra) Unit Trust for \$26 125.00, paid on 12 December 2017.
- (3) What remediation works were undertaken at the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children birthing suite by Shape Australia Pty Ltd under the invoice for \$43 408.52, paid on 14 December 2017.
- (4) In relation to the assessment by Shaw Building Group Pty Ltd of The Canberra Hospital aluminium composite panel façade (invoice for \$71 769.02, paid on 14 December 2017, (a) when was the assessment report handed to the Health Directorate, (b) what were the key findings in the report, (c) what were the key recommendations in the report, (d) will the Minister provide a copy of the report; if not, why not; (e) when did the Directorate formally advise the Minister for Health and Wellbeing that the report had been received, (f) what recommendations did the Directorate make to the Minister, (g) will the Minister provide a copy of the advice; if not, why not, (h) what response did the Minister give to the Directorate's recommendations, (i) when did the Minister make that response and (j) when did the Directorate activate the Minister's response.
- (5) What consultancy work was undertaken for the payments to (a) AECOM Australia Pty Ltd for \$44 352.00 on 14 November 2017, (b) Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd, for (i) \$280 121.78 on 2 November 2017, (ii) \$278 928.62 on 14 November 2017, (iii) \$52 525.00 on 2 November 2017 and (iv) \$120 835.00 on 23 November 2017, (c) Donald Cant Watts Corke Safm Pty Ltd for \$240 086.61 on 23 November 2017, (d) KPMG for (i) \$33 730.09 on 23 November 2017, (ii) \$53 507.83 on 23 November 2017, (iii) \$32 086.70 on 23 November 2017 and (iv) \$101 112.00 on 21 November 2017, (e) Protiviti Pty Ltd for \$25 819.27 on 23 November 2017, (f) Roster Right Pty Ltd for \$55 000.00 on 2 November 2017, (g) The Trustee for Deloitte Consulting Trust for (i) \$100 000.00 on 28 November 2017 and (ii) \$111 249.55 on 28 November 2017, (h) The Trustee for the Paxon Consulting Group Trust for (i) \$97,185.00 on 30 November 2017 and (ii) \$37 620.00 on 30 November 2017, (i) Cancer Institute NSW for \$41 046.85 on 21 December 2017, (j) Deloitte Tax Services Pty Ltd for \$40 700.00 on 12 December 2017 and (k) KPMG for \$29 333.70 on 12 December 2017.

- (6) Why was the invoice from ISOFT Australia Pty Ltd for \$55 197.03, received on 15 August 2017, not paid until 7 November 2017.

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

- (1) The four invoices are for works to:
- Construct a new cool room to provide additional cool room storage and ensure the pharmacy has redundancy; and
 - Upgrade the Building 10 Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning and Autoclave Steam.
- (2) a) Progress payment for bathroom upgrades in Building 1 at Canberra Hospital.
b) Five yearly hydrant inspections for Building 11 at Canberra Hospital.
c) Five yearly hydrant inspections for Building 1 at Canberra Hospital.
- (3) Rectification of plumbing issues in birthing suite wall cavities.
- (4) a) Shaw Building Group (SBG) were engaged to erect scaffolding to provide safe access to the substructure of the facade for the engineer to complete the development of the Statement of Requirements for the Aluminium Composite Panel replacement tender process. SBG did not provide an assessment report.
b) Not applicable.
c) Not applicable.
d) Not applicable.
e) Not applicable.
f) Not applicable.
g) Not applicable.
h) Not applicable.
i) Not applicable.
j) Not applicable.
- (5) Refer to the response at Question on Notice 888.
- (6) On 15 August 2017 ACT Health Supply received the invoice into their system and sent the invoice via Shared Services internal mail to Shared Services Accounts Payable. Shared Services Accounts Payable loaded the invoice into the Oracle FMIS on 3 November 2017, and the supplier paid on 7 November 2017. The process of sending hard copy paperwork has since been replaced by online processes.

**ACT Health—consultants
(Question No 888)**

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

- (1) In relation to the below consultancy entities, what (a) was the purpose of the consultancy represented by each payment, (b) was the total cost of each consultancy assignment and (c) is/ was the completion date of each consultancy assignment.

ACT Health – Consultancy Invoices over \$25,000 (Notifiable Invoices Register) – 2016 and 2017			
Payee	Invoices Register Description	Date Paid	Amount
AECOM Australia Pty Ltd Total	Consultants	14 Nov 17	\$ 44,352.00 \$ 44,352.00
Ajilon Pty Ltd	Consultants	7 Mar 17	\$ 28,658.12
Ajilon Pty Ltd	Consultants	4 Apr 17	\$ 32,966.21
Ajilon Pty Ltd	Consultants	5 Sep 17	\$ 26,334.00
Ajilon Pty Ltd Total	Consultants	3 Oct 17	\$ 25,529.35 \$ 113,487.68
Aurora Projects Pty Ltd	Consultant	28 Jan 16	\$ 68,079.61
Aurora Projects Pty Ltd	Consultants	19 May 16	\$ 58,081.99
Aurora Projects Pty Ltd	Consultants	16 Jun 16	\$ 67,650.00
Aurora Projects Pty Ltd Total	Consultants	21 Jul 16	\$ 34,446.50 \$ 228,258.10
Callida Consulting	Consultants	23 Jun 16	\$ 35,755.50
Callida Consulting	Consultancy	27 Oct 16	\$ 26,181.38
Callida Consulting Total	Consultants	14 Dec 17	\$ 34,386.00 \$ 96,322.88
Callida Resourcing Pty Ltd	Consultancy	6 Sep 16	\$ 30,038.25
Callida Resourcing Pty Ltd	Consultancy	8 Sep 16	\$ 28,677.00
Callida Resourcing Pty Ltd	Consultancy	15 Sep 16	\$ 30,360.00
Callida Resourcing Pty Ltd Total	Consultancy	15 Sep 16	\$ 29,535.00 \$ 118,610.25
Cancer Institute NSW Total	Consultants	21 Dec 17	\$ 41,046.85 \$ 41,046.85
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	14 Apr 16	\$ 50,576.25
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	19 Apr 16	\$ 47,290.63
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	16 Feb 17	\$ 34,959.38
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	27 Jun 17	\$ 31,350.00
Cogent Business Solutions Pty Ltd Total	Consultants	24 Oct 17	\$ 30,000.30 \$ 194,176.56
Deakin University Total	Consultants	21 Jun 16	\$ 55,880.00 \$ 55,880.00
Deloitte Access Economics	Consultants	18 May 17	\$ 59,113.12
Deloitte Access Economics Total	Consultants	19 Sep 17	\$ 93,069.68 \$ 152,182.80
Deloitte Tax Services Pty Ltd Total	Consultants	12 Dec 17	\$ 40,700.00 \$ 40,700.00
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu	Consultants	24 Oct 17	\$ 100,000.00
Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu Total	Consultants	31 Oct 17	\$ 150,389.80 \$ 250,389.80
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	30 Mar 17	\$ 148,665.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	3 Aug 17	\$ 486,642.13
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	10 Aug 17	\$ 44,333.33
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	5 Sep 17	\$ 75,426.68
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	5 Sep 17	\$ 60,600.80
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	3 Oct 17	\$ 296,039.96
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	12 Oct 17	\$ 349,486.63

ACT Health – Consultancy Invoices over \$25,000 (Notifiable Invoices Register) – 2016 and 2017			
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	2 Nov 17	\$ 280,121.78
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	14 Nov 17	\$ 278,928.62
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	2 Nov 17	\$ 52,525.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke (Health Advisory) Pty Ltd	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 120,835.00
Total			\$ 2,193,604.93
Donald Cant Watts Corke ACT Pty Ltd	Consultants	11 May 17	\$31,749.08
Total			\$ 31,749.08
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	23 Jun 16	\$ 89,544.40
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	24 Aug 16	\$ 56,808.40
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	27 Jul 17	\$ 73,700.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	27 Jul 17	\$ 325,720.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	29 Aug 17	\$ 188,207.80
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	29 Aug 17	\$ 75,691.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	10 Aug 17	\$ 27,731.00
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	12 Oct 17	\$ 269,927.50
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	26 Oct 17	\$ 288,216.50
Donald Cant Watts Corke SAFM Pty Ltd	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 240,086.61
Total			\$ 1,635,633.21
Egan Australasia Pty Limited	Consultants	29 Aug 17	\$ 49,610.00
Total			\$ 49,610.00
Ernst and Young	Consultants (Other)	3 Nov 16	\$ 110,500.01
Ernst and Young	Consultants (Other)	29 Nov 16	\$ 188,602.70
Ernst and Young	Consultants	2 Feb 17	\$ 119,309.78
Ernst and Young	Consultants	11 Apr 17	\$ 188,603.80
Ernst and Young	Consultants	29 Jun 17	\$ 205,218.20
Ernst and Young	Consultants	22 Aug 17	\$ 201,143.80
Total			\$ 1,013,378.29
HBA Consulting Pty Ltd	Consultants	24 Apr 17	\$29,782.50
Total			\$ 29,782.50
Health Policy Analysis Pty Ltd	Consultants	29 Nov 16	\$ 27,743.00
Total			\$ 27,743.00
Health-E Workforce Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultant	7 Jan 16	\$ 191,127.20
Health-E Workforce Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	9 Feb 17	\$ 64,550.00
Health-E Workforce Solutions Pty Ltd	Consultants	9 Feb 17	\$ 49,500.00
Total			\$ 305,177.20
Hospital and Health Services IP Ltd	Consultants	2 Feb 17	\$ 48,482.50
Hospital and Health Services IP Ltd	Consultants	2 Feb 17	\$ 48,482.50
Total			\$ 96,965.00
Hospital Intellectual Property ACT Limited	Consultants	2 Jun 16	\$ 46,227.50
Hospital Intellectual Property ACT Limited	Consultants	14 Jun 16	\$ 46,227.50
Total			\$ 92,455.00
Ian Male	Consultants (Contract)	2 Aug 16	\$ 27,720.00
Ian Male	Consultants (Contract)	16 Aug 16	\$ 27,720.00
Total			\$ 55,440.00
Kaizen Management Services	Consultants	2 Jun 16	\$ 25,200.00
Total			\$ 25,200.00
Kamareja Pty Ltd	Consultants	24 May 16	\$ 66,953.16
Kamareja Pty Ltd	Consultants	24 May 16	\$ 109,910.24
Kamareja Pty Ltd	Consultants	21 Jun 16	\$ 84,444.00
Kamareja Pty Ltd	Consultants	21 Jun 16	\$ 84,444.00

ACT Health – Consultancy Invoices over \$25,000 (Notifiable Invoices Register) – 2016 and 2017			
Kamareja Pty Ltd Total	Consultancy	27 Sep 16	\$ 112,592.00 \$ 458,343.40
KPMG	Consultants	6 Apr 17	\$ 43,560.00
KPMG	Consultants	4 May 17	\$ 31,500.00
KPMG	Consultants	17 Aug 17	\$ 61,380.00
KPMG	Consultants	17 Aug 17	\$ 31,680.00
KPMG	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 33,730.09
KPMG	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 53,507.83
KPMG	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 32,086.70
KPMG	Consultants	21 Nov 17	\$ 101,112.00
KPMG	Consultants	12 Dec 17	\$ 29,333.70
Total			\$ 417,890.32
Noetic Solutions Pty Limited	Consultants	22 Mar 16	\$ 27,401.00
Noetic Solutions Pty Limited	Consultants	31 May 16	\$ 49,500.00
Noetic Solutions Pty Limited	Consultants	28 Jun 16	\$ 92,400.00
Total			\$ 169,301.00
Oakton Services Pty Ltd Total	IT Consultants	31 May 16	\$ 28,050.00 \$ 28,050.00
Orion Health	IT Consultant	7 Jan 16	\$ 86,831.80
Orion Health	IT Consultant	7 Jan 16	\$ 108,239.60
Orion Health	Consultants	10 Mar 16	\$ 78,144.00
Total			\$ 273,215.40
Paxton Partners	Consultants	28 Jun 16	\$ 26,878.53
Paxton Partners	Consultants (Contract)	26 Aug 16	\$ 29,825.15
Paxton Partners	Consultancy	13 Oct 16	\$ 41,376.83
Paxton Partners	Consultants	13 Dec 16	\$ 40,614.20
Paxton Partners	Consultants	28 Feb 17	\$ 164,241.46
Paxton Partners	Consultants	8 Jun 17	\$ 54,359.80
Paxton Partners	Consultants	10 Oct 17	\$ 36,425.73
Total			\$ 393,721.70
Powerhealth Solutions Total	Consultants	11 Jul 17	\$ 43,475.30 \$ 43,475.30
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	8 Mar 16	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	12 Apr 16	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	17 May 16	\$ 304,890.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants (Other)	1 Nov 16	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants (Other)	22 Nov 16	\$ 56,404.89
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants (Other)	22 Nov 16	\$ 36,850.00
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants (Other)	22 Nov 16	\$ 109,757.92
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	14 Jun 16	\$ 38,828.25
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	30 Jun 16	\$ 304,890.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	30 Jun 16	\$ 304,890.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	13 Dec 16	\$ 151,154.35
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultancy	13 Sep 16	\$ 151,154.36
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	27 Jan 17	\$ 74,081.83
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	27 Jan 17	\$ 82,313.88
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	31 Jan 17	\$ 124,543.14
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	31 Jan 17	\$ 124,543.16
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	28 Feb 17	\$ 117,620.80
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	28 Feb 17	\$ 293,409.46
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	7 Mar 17	\$ 459,019.68
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	7 Mar 17	\$ 115,239.43
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	28 Mar 17	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	30 Mar 17	\$ 124,543.14
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	9 May 17	\$ 151,154.35

ACT Health – Consultancy Invoices over \$25,000 (Notifiable Invoices Register) – 2016 and 2017			
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	6 Jun 17	\$ 25,660.80
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	13 Jun 17	\$ 151,154.35
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	18 Jul 17	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	27 Jul 17	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	11 Apr 17	\$ 151,154.34
Pricewaterhousecooper – Australian Firm	Consultants	27 Apr 17	\$ 98,348.80
Total			\$ 4,458,533.99
Protiviti Pty Ltd	Consultancy	6 Sep 16	\$ 72,930.00
Protiviti Pty Ltd	Consultants	23 Nov 17	\$ 25,819.27
Total			\$ 98,749.27
Roster Right Pty Ltd	Consultants	2 Nov 17	\$ 55,000.00
Total			\$ 55,000.00
Taverner Research Company	Consultants	27 Jun 17	\$ 42,625.00
Taverner Research Company	Consultants	20 Jun 17	\$ 42,625.00
Total			\$ 85,250.00
The Advisory Board Company	Consultants	27 Jun 16	\$ 168,000.00
The Advisory Board Company	Consultants (Management)	17 Nov 16	\$ 32,000.00
The Advisory Board Company	Consultants (Management)	17 Nov 16	\$ 33,191.00
Total			\$ 233,191.00
The Trustee for Deloitte Consulting Trust	Consultants	31 Aug 17	\$ 45,000.00
The Trustee for Deloitte Consulting Trust	Consultants	26 Sep 17	\$ 41,650.00
The Trustee for Deloitte Consulting Trust	Consultants	28 Nov 17	\$ 100,000.00
The Trustee for Deloitte Consulting Trust	Consultants	14 Nov 17	\$ 111,249.55
Total			\$ 297,899.55
The Trustee for Debono Family Trust	Consultants	31 May 16	\$ 29,801.00
Total			\$ 29,801.00
The Trustee for the Paxon Consulting Group Trust	Consultants	29 Aug 17	\$ 48,400.00
The Trustee for the Paxon Consulting Group Trust	Consultants	22 Aug 17	\$ 47,300.00
The Trustee for the Paxon Consulting Group Trust	Consultants	30 Nov 17	\$ 97,185.00
The Trustee for the Paxon Consulting Group Trust	Consultants	30 Nov 17	\$ 37,620.00
Total			\$ 230,505.00
The Trustee for the Pricewaterhousecoopers Services Trust	Consultants (Other)	22 Nov 16	\$ 36,850.00
Total			\$ 36,850.00
Thinkplace Trust	Consultants	10 May 16	\$ 38,738.52
Total			\$ 38,738.52
Threesides Pty Ltd	Consultants	23 May 17	\$ 49,500.00
Total			\$ 49,500.00
Trish Bergin Consulting	Consultants	10 Mar 16	\$ 25,300.00
Total			\$ 25,300.00
Total all Consultancy payments 2016 and 2017			\$ 14,315,460.58

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

Attached.

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

**Canberra Hospital—bed occupancy rates
(Question No 1030)**

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

- (1) What was the average bed occupancy rate for each ward in The Canberra Hospital (a) during 2016-17 and (b) between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017.
- (2) What was the average bed occupancy rate for each ward in the Calvary Public Hospital (a) during 2016-17 and (d) between 1 July 2017 and 31 December 2017.

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

- (1)(a) Canberra Hospital operates many wards – both same-day and overnight. However, ward configuration adapts to meet changes in demand and clinical practice. It is not meaningful to report individual ward occupancy at Canberra Hospital as the hospital operates dynamically to meet complex demand as a whole. The ACT Health Annual Report 2016-17 shows that for Strategic Objective Seven that Canberra Hospital recorded a mean percentage of overnight hospital beds in use in 2016-17 of 94 per cent.
- (b) Canberra Hospital operates many wards – both same-day and overnight. However, ward configuration adapts to meet changes in demand and clinical practice. It is not meaningful to report individual ward occupancy at Canberra Hospital as the hospital operates dynamically to meet complex demand as a whole. The preliminary result for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 is 95 per cent.
- (2)(a) Calvary Public Hospital operates many wards – both same-day and overnight. However, ward configuration adapts to meet changes in demand and clinical practice. It is not meaningful to report individual ward occupancy at Calvary Public Hospital as the hospital operates dynamically to meet complex demand as a whole. The ACT Health Annual Report 2016-17 shows that for Strategic Objective Seven that Calvary Public Hospital recorded a mean percentage of overnight hospital beds in use in 2016-17 of 71 per cent.
- (b) Calvary Public Hospital operates many wards – both same-day and overnight. However, ward configuration adapts to meet changes in demand and clinical practice. It is not meaningful to report individual ward occupancy at Calvary Public Hospital as the hospital operates dynamically to meet complex demand as a whole. The preliminary result for the period 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2017 is 72 per cent.

**ACT Health—SPIRE project
(Question No 1036)**

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

- (1) When will construction of the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) Centre begin.

- (2) What is the projected budget for the SPIRE Centre project.
- (3) When will the SPIRE Centre open.
- (4) When was it originally planned to open.
- (5) What are the reasons for the delay.
- (6) When did the Health Directorate become aware of the delays.
- (7) When did the Directorate advise the Minister of the delays.

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

- (1) Construction of the Surgical Procedures, Interventional Radiology and Emergency (SPIRE) Centre is expected to begin in 2020.
- (2) The Government has estimated a total capital investment of \$500 million for the delivery of SPIRE.
- (3) ACT Health have undertaken detailed planning over the last year, and SPIRE is expected to be completed in 2023-24.
- (4) The ACT Government said in 2016 that SPIRE was planned to open in 2022-23. This was prior to any feasibility, planning and early design works being undertaken.
- (5) SPIRE is a major infrastructure project and as the feasibility and early planning has developed for the SPIRE project, so has the anticipated completion timeframe.
- (6) Consistent with contemporary practice for early project planning, timeframes for delivery are updated at key milestones. ACT Health's estimate for completion of SPIRE was internally updated to 2023-24 in April 2017 as a result of early planning.
- (7) ACT Health provided me with the draft expected timeframes for delivery of SPIRE. These timeframes were provided subject to development of a detailed business case in 2018.

**Government—commercial lessees
(Question No 1089)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) How many lease or sub-lease agreements has the ACT Government signed under which a peppercorn rent is payable to the Territory during (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 2017-18.
- (2) How many lease or sub-lease agreements with the ACT Government under which a peppercorn rent is payable to the Territory were active or in place during (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14, (d) 2014-15, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 2017-18.

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

- (1)
 - (a) 10
 - (b) 38
 - (c) 6
 - (d) 2
 - (e) 9
 - (f) 4
 - (2) The peppercorn agreements are held across various agencies. From 2011 through to 2018 the number of peppercorn lease arrangements in place has ranged from approximately 90 to 110. The current count for 2017-18 is 106.
-

**Government—commercial lessees
(Question No 1090)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Do Ministers need to approve peppercorn rent agreements entered into by the Territory; if so, can the Treasurer advise (a) which Minister is responsible, (b) the process, (c) how many times this occurred for each of the last five financial years and (d) whether there are any reporting requirements, and where this information is published; if not, why not.
- (2) What is the average length of a peppercorn rent agreement between the ACT Government and a third party where the rent is payable to the Territory.
- (3) Can the Treasurer outline the process and criteria used to determine whether a peppercorn rent should be payable to the Territory as opposed to a commercial rent rate, and include any policy documents related to peppercorn rates.
- (4) Can the Treasurer outline the process the ACT Government undertakes when collecting peppercorn rents and provide a breakdown of any associated costs.
- (5) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the average cost to enter into a peppercorn rent agreement where rent is payable to the Territory.
- (6) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the average cost to administer a peppercorn rent agreement where rent is payable to the Territory.

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

- (1) These decisions are made at Executive Level within each Directorate. Within ACTPG, such decisions are presented to the Minister for approval where required in accordance with the Community and Other Tenancies Policy.
 - (a) The Minister responsible varies as this depends on where property custodianship falls within each Directorate.
 - (b) Where Ministerial approval is required a Ministerial Brief is prepared.

- (c) Continuation of 16 Peppercorn lease arrangements for stand-alone community halls was approved by the Treasurer in February 2018.

Licences for arts facilities, however, are linked to Deeds of Grants for the arts organisation that manages the facility and do not require Minister approval. This funding enables the arts organisation to present arts programs for community access in those facilities as well as managing the facility.

- (d) Reporting on peppercorn arrangements is a Community Service Obligation and will be published in the annual report.

- (2) Five years is most common as this is consistent with the *Leases (Commercial and Retail) Act 2001*, as the Act provides a tenant with a minimum term of 5 years unless they opt out using a solicitors certificate. Most leases range between three and five years.
- (3) ACT Property Group's Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Accommodation Policy 2007 is used as a guide to determine eligibility for community accommodation.

In the Suburban Land Agency, the sub-lease is negotiated as part of the sale, including the term and fee, and approved by the relevant delegate as part of the overall sale process. Value for money considerations when entering into a sub-lease include when the land is required for future use, and options for management of the land in the interim. A peppercorn arrangement reflects that the sub-lessee is required to manage the land to a standard required by the Territory, and meet all costs associated with the land management including all rates and charges.

- (4) The ACT Government does not collect peppercorn rents. This is a financial decision because the costs for collection (generally five cents per annum) makes the process economically unviable.
- (5) There is no rent or fee payable to enter into a peppercorn lease.
- (6) To prepare, negotiate and execute a community licence agreement, this can vary quite significantly and this mostly depends on the individual tenant, property and circumstances.

Government—commercial lessees (Question No 1091)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 23 March 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a consolidated list of the names of businesses or organisations whose peppercorn rent agreements with the ACT Government are currently active or in place.
- (2) For each business or organisation identified in part (1), can the Treasurer provide the length of each peppercorn agreement with the ACT Government.
- (3) For each current peppercorn rent agreement where rent is payable to the Territory, can the Treasurer advise why a peppercorn rent was applied rather than a commercial rent.

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

- (1) The ACT Government currently manages 106 peppercorn leases, the majority of which are managed by ACT Property Group. The particulars of each lease holder vary, however we do have a number that fall under section 418(2)(b) of the Planning and Development Act 2007 (PD Act) which provides that it is an offence for an information holder to divulge protected information about a person and is reckless about whether the information is protected information about someone else. A number of other leases are considered not to be commercial in confidence, however we would need to consult with each lease holder prior to release.
- (2) On average the government enters into 5 year lease agreements. This term is consistent with the Leases (Commercial and retail) Act 2001 which these tenancies fall under.
- (3) Support for community organisations by way of Government subsidies such as peppercorn rent is an important contribution to reducing costs for the Community Sector. Lowering the costs for community organisations enables Government to deliver more community services for the available investment, as the costs for community services are lower.

Negotiations for the purchase of properties by the former Land Development Agency in some instance included consideration for the existing owners to remain on site for several years for a nominal rent. A nominal rent was agreed on the basis of all costs for the upkeep and management of the property being borne by the lessee.

For Arts facilities managed on behalf of the ACT Government a peppercorn licence is used to achieve the outcomes of the ACT Arts Policy and the ACT Government's vision of a vibrant and liveable city. Commercial arrangements for arts facilities would make the tenancy economically unviable.

For Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) peppercorn rent was applied rather than a commercial rent because CIT is a foundation member of the Canberra Innovation Network (CBRIN) and is working with CBRIN to connect trades and maker professions into the innovation and entrepreneurship eco-system in Canberra.

Crime—antisocial behaviour (Question No 1264)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) How many arrests for anti-social behaviour were made in the West Belconnen area in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (2) What was the nature of that anti-social behaviour for each year listed in part (1).
- (3) How many infringement notices for anti-social behaviour were issued in the West Belconnen area in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.

- (4) What was the nature of that anti-social behaviour for each year listed in part (3).
- (5) How many warnings for anti-social behaviour were given in the West Belconnen area in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (6) What was the nature of that anti-social behaviour for each year listed in part (5).
- (7) How many infringement notices were issued to drivers for speeding along the western end of Ginninderra Drive in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (8) What was the average speed recorded for each year listed in part (7).
- (9) How many warnings were given to drivers for speeding along the western end of Ginninderra Drive in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (10) What was the average speed recorded for each year listed in part (9).
- (11) On how many occasions were mobile speed cameras deployed along the western end of Ginninderra Drive in (a) 2012-13, (b) 2013-14, (c) 2014-15, (d) 2015-16, (e) 2016-17 and (f) 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (12) What was the average speed recorded for each year listed in part (11).
- (13) What action has the Government taken to reduce (a) anti-social behaviour in West Belconnen and (b) motor vehicle speeding along the western end of Ginninderra Drive, given the answers to parts (1) to (12).

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

Crime statistics and data for individual suburbs in the Belconnen patrol zone are accessible from the ACT Policing Online News website (<https://policenews.act.gov.au>)

- (1) to (6) Information relating to arrests and other offences are available on the ACT Policing website, including breakdowns by suburb and geographical area.
- (7) & (8) ACT Policing is unable to provide requested data specifically for the western end of Ginninderra Drive. Traffic infringement notices issued in specific suburbs are accessible from the ACT Policing Online News website.
- (9) to (12) ACT Policing is unable to provide requested data specifically for the western end of Ginninderra Drive.
- (13a) The ACT Government is committed to reducing rates of anti-social criminal offending behaviour throughout the ACT. ACT Policing is intelligence-informed and delivers quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of its capabilities in response to changing demands.

The Government has been proactive in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020*. This strategy puts into action the Government's commitment to reducing crime through safe places, secure property and crime wise people.

- (13b) The ACT Government *ACT Road Safety Strategy* provides a framework for addressing road safety throughout the ACT. ACT Policing works in partnership with other ACT Government agencies to support implementation of this strategy. In June 2017 I issued a Ministerial Direction outlining that the ACT Government expected ACT Policing to focus on combating dangerous and anti-social driving as a key strategic priority. ACT Policing advises that they undertake specific traffic targeting patrols along Ginninderra Drive as resources allow. These patrols are in addition to the regular patrols that are conducted in Belconnen.
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Hospitals—alert system (Question No 1265)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) In relation to the answer, dated 14 March 2018, given to the question without notice taken on notice on 14 February 2018 about hospital capacity, (a) what alert system is used at Calvary Public Hospital for bed management and patient flow, (b) to what extent is that system used in public hospitals in other jurisdictions, (c) what are the code levels used in that system, (d) what are the trigger points for each level and (e) on how many days was a “Code Yellow” activated at Calvary Public Hospital for each month from 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018.
- (2) To what extent is the Alert Level scale currently used at The Canberra Hospital (TCH) used at public hospitals in other jurisdictions.
- (3) Why did TCH change its bed management and patient flow alert system from the colour code system to the Alert Level scale.

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

- (1)(a) The Daily Operational Planning (DOP) meeting at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce uses the ‘traffic light’ system to assess bed management and patient flow. The current status of the hospital, known demand, and anticipated demand, are assessed along with other factors including discharge of patients and staffing.
- (b) Most acute care hospitals use a Daily Operational Planning meeting or equivalent forum to assess the current and expected operations of the service.
- (c) If required, the DOP meeting will be reconvened as required during a day, to monitor patient flow with the traffic light system describing the situation on each occasion. The DOP may activate the Demand Escalation Plan which, at a higher level, may activate the Hospital Emergency Plan which includes the Code Yellow response (compliant to AS 4083-2010: Planning for Emergencies – Health Care Facilities).
- (d) There is no set trigger point. The situation is assessed using data including, but not limited to, admitted patients, patients waiting for admission, patients being treated or waiting in the Emergency Department, staffing levels and staffing mix, planned discharge of patients and delayed discharges, and activity and flow status in other

public hospitals. Patient safety and the normal operations of the hospital are the criteria used to determine if a Code Yellow is activated.

- (e) From 1 July 2017 to 31 March 2018, Calvary declared a Code Yellow on 13 occasions.
- (2) ACT Health is unable to comment on the extent the alert level scale is used at other jurisdictional public hospitals. Canberra Hospital looked at the escalation processes used at John Hunter Hospital (Newcastle), ST Vincent's Hospital (Sydney) and Manuka Hospital (New Zealand) when developing the current escalation policy.
- (3) Canberra Hospital and Health Services (CHHS) introduced the Capacity Escalation Procedure to assist with bed management and patient flow throughout the hospital. It is an operational tool used to initiate business processes in response to peaks in demand.

The colour code alert system that is used at CHHS is a standardised national system used to alert staff to emergencies happening at or external to CHHS.

Bed Management and patient flow processes are not considered emergencies.

Bed management and patient flow is everyday business for any hospital to function. Canberra Hospital has therefore separated the two systems as to easily identify the appropriate reactions to a capacity alert being called or a hospital emergency.

Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre—review (Question No 1266)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) In relation to the answer to part (3) of question on notice No. 882, and given the (a) public interest in the future of the Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre (BHRC) and (b) Government's consideration of the Supported Accommodation – Market Testing and Options Analysis Study (the Study), why did the Minister not mention the status of the Government's review of the future of the BHRC in his ministerial statement of 31 October 2017;
- (2) Will the Minister provide a copy of the Study; if not, why not.

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

- (1) As outlined in the response to question No. 882, the Government was still considering the analysis of the Supported Accommodation – Market Testing and Options Analysis study at the time of the ministerial statement on 31 October 2017.
- (2) The Supported Accommodation – Market Testing and Options Analysis study is being used to inform 2018-19 Budget considerations. While a copy will not be provided at present, the Government will consider the appropriateness of releasing the study in the future.
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**Government—notifiable invoices
(Question No 1267)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) In relation to the Register of Notifiable Invoices for February 2018, is the project to replace the main switchboard in building 2 at The Canberra Hospital running on time and on budget.
- (2) If the project referred to in part (1) is not running on time and on budget, (a) why not, (b) what was the original completion date, (c) what is the new completion date, (d) what was the original budget and (e) what is the revised budget.
- (3) Did it take from 14 December 2017 to 15 February 2018 to pay the invoice from American Express International Inc; if so, why.
- (4) Did it take from 17 October 2017 to 27 February 2018 to pay the invoice for \$90 443.75 from Oakton Contracting and Recruitment Pty Ltd; if so, why.
- (5) Did it take from 4 December 2017 to 13 February 2018 to pay the invoice from Customer Feedback Systems Australasia Pty Ltd; if so, why.
- (6) Did it take from 7 November 2017 to 15 February 2018 to pay the invoice from Asthma Australia Ltd; if so, why.
- (7) What is the difference between payments described as “Service Funding Agreement” and “Service Purchase Payment”.
- (8) If there is no difference between payments described as “Service Funding Agreement” and “Service Purchase Payment”, why is there a difference in descriptions.
- (9) In relation to the payment of \$125 102 for membership of Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, what benefits accrue to (a) ACT Health and (b) consumers of the ACT health system.

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

- (1) The Building 2 and 12 Electrical Main Switchboard (EMSB) Replacement project program has been amended to reflect inclusion of necessary variations, as summarised in answer 2a below. These projects are being progressed under a single contract. These changes have delayed completion of the project.
- (2) (a) Following a fire incident on 5 April 2017 in the Building 2 electrical main switchboard room, new scope requirements were identified and investigation, design and implementation of these works were undertaken as follows:
 - Restitution of existing Building 2 EMSB functionality following fire incident.
 - Implementation of quick changeover business continuity switchboards for Building 2, Building 10 and Building 12.
 - Full investigation of the Building 2 and 12 existing electrical distribution system’s redundancy provisions, resulting in scope variation to establish enhanced electrical system redundancy in conjunction with the replacement of the EMSBs.

Additionally the EMSB project has been expanded to address building compliance requirements identified during the detailed EMSB design phase as follows:

- ActewAGL's switchboard standards and switchboard supply/manufacturing arrangements.
- Replacement of all Building 2 EMSB submain cables to provide a fully compliant electrical solution. The original scope included the installation of approximately 5.5km of new cables and the removal of approximately 4.1km of existing cables. The revised scope includes the installation of approximately 73.0km of new cables and the removal of approximately 31.4km of existing cables.

The impact of the above changes has resulted in an extended program of works for the Building 2 and Building 12 EMSB replacement project such that continuity of clinical operations and patient safety is safeguarded throughout this necessary expanded program of works.

- (b) The original target project completion date for the EMSB replacement project to replace the existing EMSBs in Building 2 and Building 12 was March 2019
 - (c) The current forecast completion date for the Building 2 EMSB revised scope of works is anticipated to be June 2019. The anticipated project completion date is subject to clinical operational constraints, as part of complicated refurbishment works in a live 24/7 hospital environment, where patient, staff and visitor safety are always the highest priority.
 - (d) The contract value for the EMSB works is \$9,818,294. The total budget for the UMAHA program works, inclusive of the Building 2 and Building 12 EMBS works is \$95.328 million as per the 2016/17 Appropriation Bill.
 - (e) The additional scope of work for the Building 2 and Building 12 EMSB projects will be managed within the current UMAHA 2016/2017 Budget Appropriation, the specific cost details of this project is commercial in confidence.
- (3) Yes. The delay in payment was due to an error relating to the data entry at Shared Services using November 2017 as the invoice date instead of October 2017 for the October 2017 statement from American Express International. This resulted in confusion once the actual November 2017 statement was received by Shared Services because the October invoice was paid against the November date and the system recognised it as paid. System controls within the Financial Management Information System (FMIS), Oracle EBS, prevented the November 2017 statement being entered and paid twice and resulted in the November 2017 statement not being initially processed. Once the error was detected, it was rectified and the November statement was processed in February 2018. Targeted training is being conducted to prevent further re-occurrences of this nature.
 - (4) Yes. The delay in the payment of this invoice was originally due to the invoice not being able to be matched and processed for payment as there were incorrect details on a purchase order (PO) within ACT Health's purchase order system, PICS. System controls within the newly introduced Accounts Payable Invoice Automation Solution do not allow the payment of invoices where the key information on an invoice is not able to be matched as per the details within the PO.
 - (5) Yes. This was due to an administration error within ACT Health. The delay was identified and actioned.

- (6) The payment request for the invoice for Asthma Australia was signed by the financial delegate on 2 November 2017. As per normal practice, the invoice was posted to Shared Services Finance the same day or shortly thereafter. Policy and Stakeholder Relations is unable to explain why the payment was not made as soon as it was received by Shared Services Finance.
- (7) Service Purchase Payment is the account code description for a variety of service payment types including those payments for Service Funding Agreements.
- (8) This is an administrative error, the payment descriptions should have been more specific such as Service Funding Agreement.
- (9) (a) The Australian Commission on Safety and Health Care (Commission) was established to provide a national strategic framework and associated work program to facilitate safety and quality improvements across the health service. The payment is the ACT contribution to fund the Commission to develop and perform the work plan.
- (b) The consumers benefit from the improvements made through the Commission's work program.

Mental health—adult mental health unit staffing (Question No 1268)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) In relation to the answer, dated 4 March 2018, given to the question without notice taken on notice on 15 February 2018 about bed occupancy in the adult mental health unit, how many staff are currently engaged to service the 40 beds in the unit.
- (2) Why are occupancy levels measured on 37 beds.
- (3) Will additional staff be engaged in 2018-19, when occupancy levels are measured on 40 beds; if so, (a) how many and (b) at what cost; if not, (a) why not, (b) what staff management practices will change to ensure all patients are adequately serviced, (c) where will patients be accommodated when capacity exceeds 40 beds and (d) will mental health staff service them.

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

- (1) The Adult Mental Health Unit's (AMHU) staffing profile is based on 37 funded beds. The staffing profile is:
 - 68 FTE nursing staff, which includes Clinical Nurse Consultants (CNC), Registered Nurses (RN), Enrolled Nurses (EN), Assistants in Nursing (AIN) and Clinical Nurse Educators (CNE and CDN);
 - 11 FTE Medical staff which includes Consultant Psychiatrists, Psychiatry Registrars; and
 - 12 FTE Allied Health staff which includes Psychologists, Social Workers, Occupational Therapists and an Arts Therapist.
- (2) Occupancy levels are measured on the number of funded beds, which is currently 37. Casual, agency and relief staff are employed when additional beds need to be utilised.

- (3) The AMHU roster is based on 37 funded beds and the Nursing Hours per Patient Day (NHPPD) formula for planning nursing/midwifery staffing levels to be provided per patient/occupied bed over a 24-hour period is utilised.
 - (a) When the occupancy of the AMHU exceeds 37 beds, the safe staffing profile is increased using the NHPPD formula. AMHU are recruiting an additional three Registered Nursing level 1 positions to assist with the level of occupancy.
 - (b) The cost in 2018-19 for the three new staff will be \$ 334,257.

**Art not apart festival—rave party
(Question No 1269)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for the Arts and Community Events, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) In providing funding to the Art Not Apart festival, was the Government aware whether the organisers had planned the Tech Yes rave party held during the night of 17-18 March.
- (2) Was any of that funding applied for staging Tech Yes; if so, (a) how much government funding was applied for staging Tech Yes and (b) what information did the Government have or seek about the Tech Yes program or purpose.
- (3) Did the Government provide any services-in-kind to assist with staging Tech Yes; if so, what (a) services-in-kind were provided and (b) was the value of those services.
- (4) With what ACT Government regulatory requirements was the Art Not Apart festival required to comply.
- (5) Did the festival comply with those regulatory requirements referred to in part (4); if not, what did the Government do in response.
- (6) What other requirements, including but not limited to insurance and funding acquittals, did the Government's funding agreement with the Art Not Apart festival impose.
- (7) Did the festival comply with those requirements referred to in part (6); if not, what did the Government do in response.
- (8) In relation to complaints about noise at the Tech Yes event (a) how many complaints did Access Canberra receive, (b) over what time period were those complaints received, (c) in what way did Access Canberra and any other relevant government agencies respond to those complaints, (d) when were those responses actioned, (e) what was the outcome and (f) what feedback has been given to complainants.
- (9) What discussion has the Government had with the Art Not Apart organisers about the (a) appropriateness of the Tech Yes event and (b) the behaviour of patrons.
- (10) To what extent did the Government consider the Tech Yes event to be a part of the Art Not Apart festival program.

- (11) To what extent did the public consider the Tech Yes event to be a part of the Art Not Apart Festival.
- (12) Did the Art Not Apart festival organisers promote the Tech Yes event as part of the Art Not Apart festival.
- (13) To what extent has the Tech Yes event impacted on the Government's overall attitude to, or support for, future Art Not Apart festivals.

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

- (1) Yes, the Government was aware that the organisers had planned the Tech Yes event.
- (2) (a) (b) None of the Government's funding for Art, Not Apart was used to stage the Tech Yes event. The organiser for Art, Not Apart explicitly excluded Tech Yes from the budget for the funding for Art, Not Apart. Tech Yes was funded by tickets sales, as indicated on its website. The Government was aware of the Tech Yes program as it was promoted on its website and it did not seek further information on the event as it was staged on private land in Fyshwick and was not part of the festival footprint funded by the Government.
- (3) (a) (b) No.
- (4) The Art Not Apart festival required a temporary road closure and temporary traffic management as per the *Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Act 1999*, a liquor permit as per the *Liquor Act 2010*, and inspection and interim registration of an anaerobic digester under the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016*. In addition to these regulatory approvals, the event is also required to adhere to the noise standards of the *Environment Protection Act 1997*. In support of these approvals, Access Canberra also received copies of the festival's risk management plan, certificate of currency for public liability insurance and a comprehensive site map for the New Acton precinct. As the event was held on private leased land, no land use application was required.

Regarding the Tech Yes event, no regulatory approvals were required.

- (5) Access Canberra is not aware of any instances of non-compliance at the Art, Not Apart festival footprint funded by the Government.

Regarding the Tech Yes event, please refer to Q8 below.

- (6) The Government's funding agreement for the Art, Not Apart festival has a number of conditions including a priority to engage ACT artists, paying appropriate fees to artists and arts workers, obtaining all necessary approvals for the festival through Access Canberra, and procedures to be followed should the festival not be staged due to external factors including weather.
- (7) While the organiser has yet to acquit the funding for the festival, the Government is not aware of any non-compliance with the funding agreement.
- (8) (a) Access Canberra received 11 complaints about the Tech Yes event.
(b) Three complaints were received during the event; at 21.34hrs (17 March 2018), 01.15hrs and 05.00hrs (18 March 2018).

Eight complaints were received after the event; seven between 06.23hrs to 11.49hrs (18 March 2018) and one at 09.13hrs (19 March 2018).

- (c) Following the 01.15hrs complaint an Environment Protection Officer (EPO) attended the source of the noise and investigated the complaint. The EPO worked with event organisers to have the noise levels lowered to ensure compliance with the Noise Zone Standards. The EPO then proceeded to drive around the area and adjoining properties to ensure the noise complied with the noise standards. Following the 05.00hrs complaint, the EPO notified event organisers and requested the noise levels be reduced further.
- (d) The EPO attended the site on 18 March 2018 between the hours of 01.50hrs and 03.09hrs. EPO sent a notification to event organisers at 05.00hrs requesting the noise be reduced further.
- (e) As a result of complaints received by Access Canberra during the event, the EPO worked with event organisers to have the noise levels lowered and ensure compliance with the Noise Zone Standards during the event. The EPO proceeded to drive around the site and adjoining properties to ensure the noise levels complied with the Noise Zone Standards and was not the dominant noise.
- (f) The EPO responded to complaints by phone during the event at the time the complaints were received. Access Canberra advised complainants after the event that the EPO attended the site during the event to bring the noise into compliance.
- (9) (a) (b) The Government clarified with Art, Not Apart organisers that the Tech Yes event was not part of the Government's funding agreement for the festival. In the lead up to the Tech Yes event, Access Canberra advised the event organisers that although no regulatory approvals were required to hold the event, noise standards remained in place.
- (10) The Government understood the Tech Yes event was part of the Art, Not Apart festival program.
- (11) The Government is not able to speculate on the public perception of the Tech Yes event.
- (12) The Tech Yes event was included in the 2018 Art, Not Apart program which was publicly available on its website.
- (13) The Government has a three-year funding agreement to 2019 with the organiser to stage the Art, Not Apart festival at the New Acton precinct. This will remain in place while all conditions and reporting requirements of the funding agreement are met.

**ACT Health—data review
(Question No 1270)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Has the ACT Health system-wide data review been completed.

- (2) Was the review completed on time; if not, why not.
- (3) What was the budget for the system-wide data review.
- (4) What was the total actual cost of the review.
- (5) What are the reasons for any difference between the figures provided in parts (3) and (4).
- (6) In relation to consultancies associated with the system-wide data review and for each relevant financial year, how much did the Health Directorate spend on those consultancies.
- (7) When will the Minister table in the Assembly the report and recommendations arising from the review.
- (8) When will the Minister table in the Assembly the Government's response to the report and recommendations.
- (9) When will the Government publish its outstanding quarterly performance reports.
- (10) What impact will the proposed restructure of the Health Directorate have on the (a) accuracy and (b) timeliness, of future quarterly performance reports.
- (11) Will the 2018-19 ACT budget contain detailed proposals for both directorates under the restructured arrangements for ACT Health.
- (12) Will officials and ministers from both directorates appear before the estimates committee.
- (13) How will the annual reporting for ACT Health be managed and structured in 2018-19, given the proposed restructure.
- (14) What actions will the Minister take to ensure consistency with previous years of data reported in (a) the 2018-19 Budget, (b) the 2018-19 annual reports and (c) other data reporting requirements.

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

- (1) Yes, the System-wide Data Review has been completed.
- (2) Yes, the System-wide Data Review was completed on time.
- (3) There was no specific budget allocated to the Review. Staff and required works have been funded from within existing budget.
- (4) The cost of the review is still being finalised.
- (5) Not applicable.
- (6) 2016-17 financial year consultancy costs were \$72,952.46 (including GST). The 2017-18 financial year costs have not been finalised.

- (7) The report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the coming months.
- (8) The Government response to the report will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in the coming months.
- (9) ACT Health will provide quarterly updates on the performance of the health system commencing in 2018-19 financial year.
- (10) (a) and (b). The scope, sequence, and timelines of future reporting, including the quarterly reports will be addressed through the ACT Health System-wide Data Review. The proposed restructure will not impact the ACT Health System-wide Data Review.
- (11) Due to the timing of the commencement of the two separate organisations, it is not anticipated that the 2018-19 Budget will contain detailed proposals about the organisational changes in 1 October 2018.
- (12) Both Ministers and relevant ACT Health officials will be present during the Select Committee on Estimates hearings held between 15 June to 29 June 2018.
- (13) The 2018-19 Annual reporting process format and structure will be considered once the two separate organisations have been established.
- (14) (a) (a), (b) and (c) ACT Health will consistently apply data standards and specifications to ensure data is fit for purpose and meets reporting requirements. The way information is reported in the future will be in line with relevant statutory requirements and directions.

Mental health—acute care capacity (Question No 1271)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Further to the answer, dated 19 March 2018, given to the question without notice taken on notice on 20 February 2018 about mental health bed numbers as reported at Table 13A.13 in the Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services, why has the number of beds per 100 000 people provided in acute hospitals with psychiatric units or wards in the ACT not kept pace with population growth since 2006-07.

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

- (1) The Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services provides reporting up to 2015-16, and does not include inpatient facilities made available post this timeframe. There are two additional mental health inpatient units available, totalling 16 beds. These units include Dhulwa Mental Health Unit which has ten beds and the Mental Health Short Stay Unit which has six beds. These additional beds will be reported in the subsequent Productivity Commission's Report on Government Services.

**Recycling—demolition material
(Question No 1276)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) In relation to the demolition of ACT Government assets, particularly Northbourne Flats, where the construction materials have heritage or other value, and noting that the bricks used in the construction of Northbourne Flats are Old Canberra Bricks from the Yarralumla Brickworks, how will the bricks be reused or recycled.
- (2) What other materials from the demolition will be reused or recycled.
- (3) What proportion of materials from demolition of the Northbourne Flats will be reused or recycled.
- (4) Will any of the materials from the demolition of Macarthur House be reused or recycled.
- (5) How is the value of reusable or recyclable materials assessed before demolition.
- (6) What is the value of the bricks in (a) Northbourne Flats and (b) Macarthur House.
- (7) Does the ACT Government have regular contractors that undertake demolition works regularly for government buildings.
- (8) What criteria are used to assess which demolition companies to engage.
- (9) Does the ACT Government give consideration to what extent the demolition company reuses or recycles materials in engaging those companies.
- (10) What is the ACT Government's policy on recycling materials from demolished buildings.

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

- (1) A Request for Tender for the demolition of the Northbourne Flats was released on 1 May 2018 (**RFT 52106.11**) with the physical demolition of the Northbourne Flats expected to commence in July/August 2018. Bricks from the demolition of ACT Government buildings are sent to resource recovery facilities where they are either crushed and used as construction materials or cleaned and resold as used bricks. What happens to the bricks will depend on the commercial decisions of the recycler.
- (2) All building material from the demolition are recycled unless it is contaminated or a non-recyclable material. The Development Application for the demolition of Northbourne Flats contains a Waste & Recycling Management Plan form that estimates the quantities of waste and recyclable materials for Northbourne Flats. Example of non-recyclable material include old carpet, insulation, chipboard, glass and hazardous wastes such as asbestos pipe lagging.
- (3) It is expected that over 90% of the demolitions material from Northbourne Flats will be recycled or reused.

- (4) It is expected that over 90% of demolition material from Macarthur House will be recycled or reused.
- (5) The value of reusable or recyclable materials is assessed by the demolition contractor as part of their tender submission.
- (6) The value of the bricks is determined by the resource recycling facility, i.e. whether it's profitable to sort and clean the bricks for resale.
- (7) In the case of Asset Recycling Initiative demolition projects, these have all been advertised as individual projects by "Open Tender".
- (8) Demolition contractors are engaged through an "Open Tender" procurement process that requires contractors to be prequalified. For prequalification, contractors are required to demonstrate financial capacity and technical capacity, including experience with Business Management Systems such as Quality, WHS and Environment Management systems.

In addition, tenderers are assessed against the evaluation criteria in the tender documents including past performance, technical and management skills, understanding of the specification/contract, WHS, financial and Local Industry Participation.

- (9) Yes, one of the criterion that tenderers are assessed against is demolition methodology and materials recycling.
- (10) The ACT Government's policy on recycling materials from demolished buildings is in line with the ACT Waste Management Strategy, 2011–2025.

Housing—land title searches (Question No 1279)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Why is the online portal for land titles documents restricted to professional subscribers.
- (2) Why is the payment facility for the register by a monthly account rather than on-demand.
- (3) Has any consideration been given to making the public register searchable online to the public for a nominal fee.

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

- (1) The current technology is not available to be accessed externally to ACT Government and is hosted on a legacy platform. To access the current system, users outside the Government network require a citrix token to be authenticated for access. These tokens were provided to professional subscribers for a subscription fee.

Access Canberra will soon release a new Land Titles System which will provide access to both professional subscribers and the general public. The new service, the ACT Land Information System (ACTLIS), is planned to be released before the end of May 2018.

ACTLIS will provide professional subscribers with increased features and web based access to perform searches. The general public will be able to pay for searches by debit or credit card. Access to ACTLIS will be via the Access Canberra website using standard web browsers from a personal computer, tablet or mobile phone.

- (2) Professional subscribers in ACTLIS will continue to have a monthly account with Access Canberra, but can also generate interim accounts, or pay per transaction if they wish. The professional subscribers can also access the general public portal to generate a search and pay for this activity at the point of sale by a debit or credit card.
- (3) Yes, ACTLIS will be the gateway to the public register for the public and searches will be able to be paid for by debit or credit card.

Canberra Theatre Centre—courtyard studio usage (Question No 1281)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for the Arts and Community Events*):

- (1) What are the relative occupancy/hiring rates of the different venues in the Canberra Theatre Centre.
- (2) How many requests for discounted hiring fees for the Courtyard Studio are made each year.
- (3) How many discount requests are approved.
- (4) Has any consideration been given to offer use of the Courtyard Studio and bar for free or at a discounted rate to local performers and organisations; if so, what was the rationale and decision.
- (5) What would be the budget implications of providing the Courtyard Studio for free to local performers and organisations.
- (6) Are there any limitations on local performers and organisations running the bar in the Courtyard Studio on their own license and for their own profit.
- (7) Has any consideration been given to allowing local performers and organisations to run the bar in the Courtyard Studio for their own profit.

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

- (1) Occupancy rates of the three main venues in the Canberra Theatre Centre are as follows, expressed in days usage:

	CANBERRA THEATRE	PLAYHOUSE	COURTYARD STUDIO
2015-16	171	158	205
2016-17	178	208	188
2017-18 (estimated)	183	206	204

Venue hire rental charges for the different venues of the Canberra Theatre Centre are as follows:

Venue Rental Charges (valid from 1 January 2018 hires – GST included)	Canberra Theatre (1239 seats)	The Playhouse (614 seats)	Courtyard Studio (92 seats)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Single performance days 	\$4,400 per single performance day or 10% Net Box Office per performance *	\$2,640 per single performance day or 10% Net Box Office Performance *	\$242
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Additional performances on same day (Matinees) 	\$2,200 per performance or 10% Net Box Office per Performance *	\$1,320 per performance or 10% Net Box Office per Performance *	No charge
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Flat weekly rental (up to 7 days) 	\$30,800 or 10% Net Box Office per performance *	\$18,480 or 10% Net Box Office per Performance *	\$1452
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-performance days 	\$2,860	\$1,848	\$242
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-ticketed event 	POA	POA	\$242

* whichever is higher. Net Box Office is determined as Return to Promoter on the final sales report issued by Canberra Ticketing

- (2) Negotiations for the hiring of the Courtyard Studio occur via a variety of means, including phone and face-to-face conversations. It is therefore not possible to quantify the number of “requests” for discounted hiring fees. However, the Canberra Theatre Centre offers sponsorship support for local artists to use the Courtyard Studio – please see further details on this below.
- (3) The rate charged for the Courtyard Studio (\$242 a day) is already set at a low level in order to facilitate use by local performers and organisations, and so discounted rates are not provided as such. The Canberra Theatre Centre instead provides a range of sponsorship support for local artists to use the Courtyard Studio, in order to curate a program of performing arts and contemporary music in this space. 16 requests for this type of sponsorship have been approved to date for 2017-18, amounting in value to \$74,887.
- (4) Please see above for the sponsorship support already provided to local performers and organisations. In addition, those hiring the Courtyard Studio are already allowed to operate the bar free of charge.

- (5) Income of \$28,281 has been received in the 2017-18 year to date for rental of the Courtyard Studio. If the Courtyard Studio were provided free of charge, then this amount would not be available to partially offset the \$74,887 of sponsorship that has been provided in the 2017-18 year to date, to support local artists using the Courtyard Studio.
- (6) The only limitation is the need for the local performer or organisation to meet the conditions required for a liquor licence.
- (7) Yes, as noted above, this approach is already in place.

Building and construction—penalties (Question No 1284)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

In relation to demerit points issued during the 2016-17 financial year under *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* and other building and construction legislation, (a) which licensees and entities received demerit points, (b) how many demerit points did each receive and (c) for what breaches/offences were the demerit points issued.

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

1.
 - (a) The details of which licensees and entities received demerit points cannot be disclosed. Section 102 of the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004 (COLA) states that the Construction Occupations Registrar must ensure that information in the demerit points register is kept securely and may be disclosed only in accordance with COLA or another law in force in the ACT. The only power of disclosure about a licensee's demerit points is by application by the licensee themselves.
 - (b) As above.
 - (c) Demerit points are issued for a variety of breaches with the grounds for issuing demerit points appearing in Schedule 2 of the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Regulation 2004. The tables below identify for each relevant occupation the item number and description of the ground for occupational discipline where demerit points have been applied to licensees in the 2016/2017 financial year.

Builder

2.1.29	carrying out building work when not in commencement notice or supervised by notice builder
2.1.31	failure to give written notice to certifier about reaching inspection stage or obtain written permission before proceeding
2.1.17	carrying out or supervising building work without replacing or repairing damaged sign within 2 days or prescribed period
2.1.25	failure to comply with building height requirements of approved plan by more than 300mm
43(4)	Any other breach where a demerit ground is not identified

Building Surveyor (Certifier)

2.2.4	issuing improper building approval—building work would contravene law because of external design or siting
2.2.3	failure to mark, attach or annotate building approval required detail on approved plan
2.2.2	failure to issue required building approval, or issue of unauthorised building approval
2.2.9	failure to notify registrar of known contravention of building approval or development approval
43(4)	Any other breach where a demerit ground is not identified

Electrician

2.4.1	inadequate or no protection against direct contact with live parts
2.4.4	inadequate or no protection against fire spread
2.4.12	creation of switchboard in noncompliant location
2.4.13	creation of switchboard with protective device defect
2.4.14	creation of switchboard with isolating device defect
2.4.15	creation of switchboard with connective device defect
2.4.16	creation of switchboard with connection defect or fixing of wiring or switchgear defect
2.4.17	creation of switchboard with labelling identification defect or labelling electrical equipment defect
2.4.19	creation of wiring system with conductor size defect
2.4.20	creation of wiring system with cable core identification defect
2.4.21	creation of wiring system with inadequate or no support or fixing
2.4.22	creation of wiring system with connection or enclosure defect
2.4.25	failure to protect wiring system against external influence
2.4.26	creation of electrical equipment with defect in isolation or switching device for protection against injury from mechanical movement device or motor
2.4.28	creation of electrical equipment switching device noncompliant for particular electrical equipment
2.4.30	creation of electrical equipment noncompliant with Australian Standard
2.4.34	creation of defective earth electrode
2.4.35	creation of defective earthing conductor
2.4.41	creation of earthing system that failed earth continuity and resistance test under AS 3017
2.4.42	creation of wiring or installation that failed insulation resistance test under AS 3017
2.4.43	creation of wiring or installation that failed polarity test under AS 3017
2.4.46	creation of wiring or installation that failed RCD test under AS 3017
2.4.47	failure to test installation or give required test report
2.4.48	failure to comply with direction to make installation or work safe

Building Assessor

2.8.5	failure to comply with applicable code of practice
43(4)	Any other breach where a demerit ground is not identified
55 1(b)	the licensee, knowingly or recklessly, gave someone information in relation to a construction service provided, or to be provided, by the licensee that was false or misleading in a material particular;

**Land—block 27, Lyneham
(Question No 1285)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the purpose clause of the lease that Brindabella Christian College holds over part of Block 27, Section 41, Lyneham.
- (2) Does this lease permit the use of the land for a car park for school parking; if so, (a) under which clause of the lease, and what is the wording of that clause and (b) how is this lease consistent with the Territory Plan, under which this land is zoned PRZ1 Urban Open Space.

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

- (1) The sublease granted to the Brindabella Christian Education Limited by TCCS on 1 May 2009 is over part of Block 23 Section 41 Lyneham and is for the purpose of outdoor sports facility and ancillary thereto car parking.
- (2) The sublease permits the use of the land for the purpose of an ancillary car park to an outdoor sports facility.
 - (a) Item 9 of the sublease sets out the use of the premises as “outdoor sports facility and ancillary thereto car parking.
 - (b) The PRZ1 under the Territory Plan permits outdoor recreation facility as a permitted use.

**Roads—intersection upgrades site plan
(Question No 1286)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Given that the Ginninderra Drive-Tillyard Drive and Tillyard Drive-Lhotsky Street Intersection Upgrades preliminary site plan report prepared for Transport Canberra and City Services is copyrighted by the report authors (Calibre Consulting Pty Ltd) and includes a “commercial in confidence” clause restricting disclosure, is it standard practice that Government-commissioned reports include such a clause; if not, why did this report include copyright and a “commercial in confidence” clause.

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

Transport Canberra and City Services can confirm that it is not standard practice for Government-commissioned reports to include “commercial in confidence” clause restricting disclosure.

Calibre Consulting Pty Ltd have confirmed that this clause was included in the report in error and have confirmed that the report can be disclosed as intended.

**Disability services—CALD support
(Question No 1287)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth*):

- (1) What supports and services in the disability service sector are in place to assist people of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds who are also in an NDIS environment.
- (2) What improvements to build support and service capability are currently being considered for future implementation.
- (3) What supports and services in the disability service sector are in place to assist people of CALD backgrounds in transitioning to the NDIS.
- (4) How is strong engagement with family and support networks promoted for CALD people transitioning to the NDIS.

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

- (1) The ACT has fully transitioned all eligible participants to the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS), and the National Disability Insurance Agency (NDIA) is now responsible for the provision of funding and specialist disability support for people with disability in the ACT. The Scheme continues to accept access requests from people who previously may not have received supports or have recently acquired a disability.

The NDIA is responsible for assisting people to transition to the NDIS and has partnered with two organisations to deliver Local Area Coordination and Early Childhood Early Intervention services in the ACT.

Feros Care is the NDIS Local Area Coordination (LAC) partner in the ACT. Feros Care focus on participant capacity building, including plan development, plan implementation and plan review.

EACH provides Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) services in the ACT to support the implementation of the NDIS. ECEI services deliver outcomes for children and their families through best-practice and family-centred approaches.

People of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can also receive assistance from ACT based advocacy organisations such as Advocacy for Inclusion and ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS). Advocacy organisations help people understand the NDIS and what it has to offer. They can also participate in meetings with the NDIA and help participants who are not happy with the support they are receiving from the NDIS.

The ACT Government, through the 2016-17 Participation (Multicultural) Grants round, provided \$2,091 to People with Disabilities ACT to facilitate community engagement with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

- (2) The NDIA is currently working to develop tailored pathways for particular cohorts of NDIS participants, including people from a culturally and linguistically diverse background. The tailored pathway will ensure the NDIA has better engagement with participants from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds at the start of their interaction with the NDIA, during the planning process and throughout plan implementation.

The NDIA has developed an easy English version of the changes taking place to the NDIS pathway experience.

The ACT Government continues to advocate to the NDIA the importance of establishing improved participant pathways as soon as possible.

- (3) The NDIA is responsible for assisting people to transition to the NDIS. One of the ways this is done is through Local Area Coordination. Feros Care provides Local Area Coordination in the ACT and links people to the NDIS; links people to information and support in the community; and works with the local community to make sure it is more welcoming and inclusive for people with disability.

EACH provides Early Childhood Early Intervention (ECEI) services in the ACT to support the implementation of the NDIS. ECEI services deliver outcomes for children and their families through best-practice and family-centred approaches.

People of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds can also receive assistance from ACT based advocacy organisations such as Advocacy for Inclusion and ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service (ADACAS). Advocacy organisations help people understand the NDIS and what it has to offer. They can also participate in meetings with the NDIA and help participants who are not happy with the support they are receiving from the NDIS.

The NDIA has translated information about the NDIS into ten languages other than English and advise that if participants need help contacting the NDIS, they should call the Translating and Interpreting Service.

- (4) The overall goal of the NDIS is to enable people with disability to live an ordinary life. The NDIA promotes strong engagement with family and support networks through Information, Linkages and Capacity Building, or ILC which is all about making sure people with disability are connected into their communities. ILC does not provide funding to individuals, but provides grants to organisations to carry out activities in the community which are available to both people with disability and their families.

Health—CALD support (Question No 1288)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What tailored engagement strategies currently exist for patients in the health system from diverse backgrounds and their carers and families.

- (2) Is there a dedicated patient experience survey for patients in the health system of culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds; if so, what is the nature of the survey; if not, will the feasibility of such a survey be investigated.

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

- (1) Section 6.5 of the strategic document *Towards Culturally Appropriate and Inclusive Services – A Coordinating Framework for ACT Health (2014-18)* proposes a number of actions to support the participation of people from CALD backgrounds in service planning and improvement, and in providing feedback.

Under the Framework:

- a Multicultural Reference Group has been established which meets every second month (the meetings provide an opportunity for information exchange, feedback and input between ACT Health and CALD organisations/service providers);
- ACT Health funds a CALD liaison position within the Health Care Consumers' Association of the ACT;
- a plain English guide *Using Health Services in the ACT* has had three reprints and has been widely distributed through local CALD communities, CALD organisations and ACT Health services (the guide is currently under review for a new edition by the end of 2018); a short summary of the guide, outlining essential health services, is available in ten languages; and
- the engagement of CALD communities in targeted or general community consultation processes is done in accordance with the ACT Government's *Engaging Canberrans – A guide to community engagement*.

In addition, the Gungahlin Community Health Centre CALD Access Project (the Project) successfully engaged with local CALD communities, particularly new arrivals, to explore their understandings of the health system and provide them with copies of *Using Health Services in the ACT*. A number of tours of the Community Health Centre were organised to familiarise the target group with the facility. Training was also provided to the staff in cultural awareness and working with interpreters to ensure that the facility was responsive.

An evaluation is currently being undertaken with a view to exploring the feasibility of establishing similar programs in all Community Health Centres. ACT Health presented on the Project at the 2017 biennial conference of the Federation of Ethnic Communities' Councils of Australia.

- (2) A discharged inpatient survey is undertaken with previous patients at Canberra Hospital which includes people from CALD backgrounds.

Environment—CALD information (Question No 1289)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

How is information targeted within the ACT to help promote greater understanding and participation by the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community in energy and water issues.

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

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is very focussed on ensuring the information provided is accessible to all Canberrans, including those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds. For Canberrans requiring specific translating services, they are able to access the Telephone Interpreter Service.

In addition, for the past four years, the Actsmart team has had a stall each day of the Multicultural Festival in Canberra, which is one of the most successful public events that Actsmart attends. This event allows the Division of Climate Change and Sustainability to discuss energy and water issues with a broad range of the Canberra community, including people with a CALD background. The conversations range from discussing how to save energy and water in the home through to community engagement on climate change and energy policies.

The Actsmart Household team has links with both Government and non-Government community groups that support the CALD community such as the Community Services Directorate and the Migrant and Refugee Settlement Service (MARSS). Through these networks, workshop presentations on energy efficiency have been made to CALD groups such as the Italian Seniors Group, Spanish Friendship Group and the Chinese Friendship Group.

Last month as Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, I also presented to the Canberra Multicultural Forum on climate and energy issues and participated in a Q & A session.

Further, translated handouts are provided from the Australian Government website <http://www.yourenergysavings.gov.au/translations>. Translators are engaged during these workshops, if required. These translators consist of members of the friendship groups that are fluent in both languages. These networks also ensure low income members of the CALD community are identified and assisted.

ACT Health—CALD training (Question No 1290)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) In relation to accredited interpretation services for culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) clients, how many times did ACT Health staff book an accredited on-site (face-to-face) interpreter during (a) 2016–17, (b) 2015–16, (c) 2014–15, (d) 2013–14 and (e) 2012–13.
- (2) How many times did ACT Health staff book an accredited telephone interpreter during (a) 2016–17, (b) 2015–16, (c) 2014–15, (d) 2013–14 and (e) 2012–13.
- (3) What resources are available to ACT Health staff to assist them in developing cultural competence as they interact with clients with CALD backgrounds.
- (4) What specific training in cultural competence and working with clients from CALD backgrounds is provided to ACT Health staff.

- (5) Is this training referred to in part (4) mandatory; if so, how often does it occur and what percentage of staff have completed it; if not, what incentives exist to encourage participation.
- (6) What resources (including but not limited to human resources) do ACT Health staff have immediately to-hand to assist them whenever they identify or face potential cultural barriers with clients.
- (7) If ACT Health staff have access to written materials, how many different cultures are represented by these materials.
- (8) Does ACT Health maintain a database of employees from CALD backgrounds; if so, are these employees ever made available to assist with obstacles or miscommunication caused by lack of cultural understanding with a client in other areas of ACT Health.

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

- (1)
 - (a) 1,997
 - (b) 1,945
 - (c) 1,883
 - (d) 1,638
 - (e) 964
- (2)
 - (a) 3,364
 - (b) 2,460
 - (c) 2,751
 - (d) 2,341
 - (e) 1,494
- (3) ACT Health staff have access to a multicultural resources on the intranet. These resources include:
 - ACT Demographics
 - Community Cultural Profiles, including migration history, communication issues, cultural health beliefs and practices (currently ten communities)
 - Language Services
 - Using and working with interpreters
 - Downloadable information for consumers
 - Accessing interpreter services (currently 23 languages)
 - An Interpreter Card, identifying the person as needing interpreter services (currently 48 languages).
 - Resources in languages other than English: links to reputable sources of translated materials.
 - Cultural Competence, including the importance of awareness to differing cultural values and beliefs in relation to health and illness, and the responsibilities of the individual and the health care provider.
 - Health Literacy, addressing the way in which language barriers can impact on the capacity of individuals to obtain, process and understand basic health information and services needed to make appropriate health decisions.
 - Multicultural Calendar listing days of cultural and religious significance.

- (4) The Staff Development Unit offers the following training to all staff (both face-to-face and e-learning) co-ordinated through the web-based interface Capability:
- Cultural Competence (recently rebranded as Diversity Training)
 - Working with Interpreters

In addition, cultural competence is included as a component of the Clinical Support and Supervision Essentials (Preceptorship) Program.

- (5) The training outlined at (4) above is not currently categorised within the Essential Education Policy and Guideline as “mandatory”, but as “highly recommended” for staff to attend. The Staff Development Unit is currently planning a review of the Essential Education policy to reflect new requirements of the National Safety and Quality Health Service Standards.

	Frequency	Participant Numbers (2015 – to date)	% of all ACT Health staff (clinical and non-clinical, based on 2016/17 headcount of 7,403)
<i>Cultural Competence</i>			
E-learning	ongoing	1,185	16.0%
Face-to-face	alternate months	329	4.4%
Preceptorship Program	alternate months	409	5.5%
<i>Working with Interpreters</i>			
E-learning	ongoing	122	1.7%
Face-to face	3 per year (provided by Companion House)	75	1.0%

- (6) To access immediate assistance when identifying or facing potential cultural barriers with clients, staff may access the multicultural resources on the intranet, in particular the community cultural profiles (see (3) above). Whilst the policy *Language Services (Interpreters, Multilingual Staff and Translated Materials)* mandates the use of accredited interpreters in clinical settings, culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) staff may be used in emergencies (when no accredited interpreter is available) or to facilitate everyday communication that does not present a clinical risk. Staff may seek the advice of CALD and other appropriate staff to assist with understanding cultural barriers.
- (7) The multicultural section of the intranet contains links to reputable websites providing downloadable health information in different languages. These include government websites such as: Health Translations Victoria; Multicultural Communications Service (NSW Health); Queensland Health Multicultural Information; Mental Health in Multicultural Australia; and a range of condition-specific agencies, such as Cancer Australia. Nationally produced information in other languages is available to a range of services, including the BreastScreen and Cervical Cancer Screening programs. In terms of the number of cultures represented by these materials, Health Translations Victoria alone currently hosts materials in 109 languages.
- (8) ACT Health maintains diversity information about staff from CALD backgrounds (and also for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff and staff with disabilities) on a data base as part of the workforce profile. The information is collected by Shared Services as part of the recruitment for statistical purposes only. It is used for reporting

purposes and for the development of equity and diversity programs. All reporting is in the form of aggregate tables from which individuals cannot be identified. The information is used in accordance with the provisions of the *Privacy Act 1988 (Cwth)* and is held as Staff in Confidence. See response to question 6 above.

Government agencies—cultural capability (Question No 1291 and 1293)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Do government agencies have any mandatory minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers; if not, why not; if so, (a) which government agencies report on such indicators and what indicators are reported, (b) how are relevant staff made aware and trained in both the minimum mandatory indicators for culturally diverse customers as well as the importance of collecting this information and (c) how often are these data indicators aggregated and published, where are they published, and are they available for public viewing.

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

(1) Please refer to the table at [Attachment A](#).

Directorate Responses to Questions on Notice 1291 & 1293 from Mrs Kikkert – 13 April 2018

Community Services Directorate

(1)	The Community Services Directorate (CSD) has developed and implemented a Common Dataset that provides the directorate with instruction on how to collect data about service users. The Common Dataset provides guidance on the mandatory collection of data on the cultural and linguistic diversity of our clients, and is currently being implemented across the Directorate.
(a)	<p>All CSD data collection areas are in the process of implementing the Common Dataset. Relevant data items include <i>country of birth, main language spoken at home and proficiency in English</i>. Main language spoken at home is selected from drop down options that reflect the top fourteen languages, other than English spoken in Canberra. This is derived from CSD's client management systems and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) census data. Where the Common Dataset is yet to be implemented, such as in Housing ACT, this information is collected through the <i>Registration to Apply for Social Housing Assistance in the ACT</i> process.</p> <p>In addition, the Common Dataset includes extended items that are service specific data collection indicators. These include; whether or not a translator is required, the ancestry, ethnicity or cultural background, the year of arrival in Australia, the residency status and the visa category of the client. Both core and extended data items are aligned with data collection standards from the ABS, Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the Specialist Homelessness Information Provision (SHIP) standards.</p>
(b)	<p>CSD recognises the importance of collecting data to develop a greater understanding of our clients and to drive service improvements with a person-centred approach. In tandem with the Common Dataset, the Common Dataset Working Group was established to support staff collecting mandatory data. The Group brings together key stakeholders with expertise in data collection and service delivery from across CSD and provides advice to staff to support the accurate collection of Dataset items.</p> <p>In addition, data quality processes are undertaken throughout the year, which requires that managers and staff address issues related to the quality of information collected.</p>

(c)	<p>The data indicators featured in the Common Dataset are not widely published. Their purpose is to provide directorate staff with the information they need to ensure our clients get the best possible outcomes through service provision that have been tailored to meet their needs. The information also provides an evidence base to guide broader service improvements in the ACT.</p> <p>Some additional data is published annually in the Housing and Homelessness Report on Government Services. In previous years, this reporting has included indicators on people of non-English speaking backgrounds. The AIHW make available reports, data tables and data cubes, which allow the public to explore service use by culturally diverse people for housing and homelessness services, with breakdowns by state and territory. This data is updated annually.</p>
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Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – Access Canberra

(1)	<p>Access Canberra has not adopted minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers, as it is a service provider for all Canberrans and collection of this information is not possible across the breadth of services provided.</p> <p>However, efforts have been (and continue to be) made to improve service delivery to these customers. Specifically:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Access Canberra employs a culturally and linguistically diverse workforce; – Access Canberra staff attend training on the Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) Framework which assists them in understanding cultural diversity and delivering quality services to the ACT community; – Promotes the Telephone Interpreter Service (TIS) phone number 131 450 on its website; – Improving the knowledgebase for Contact Centre staff about services available across the ACT Government to support culturally diverse customers; and – Engaging with advocacy groups about how services can be improved.
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Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate – Treasury

(1)	<p>No. Treasury does not have any mandatory minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers. It undertakes business under the headings of Community, Government and Commercial, according to safety and business continuity priorities. It does not classify its customers into culturally and/or linguistically diverse categories but seeks to treat everyone on an equal basis.</p>
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Education Directorate

(1)	<p>Education Directorate (EDU) does not have any mandatory minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers, however EDU collects data about students' cultural background to enable effective engagement with the school community.</p> <p>Data about students' cultural background, including information on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander origin, country of birth, first language spoken at home and whether students speak a second language, is collected during the enrolment process.</p> <p>The data received through the enrolment process is also stored in the current school business system, MAZE. Each school has access to this data for enrolled students at their school only, for the purpose of communications and engagement.</p>
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ACT Health

(1) (a)	<p>ACT Health reports on the "Proportion of clients attending a 'Well Women's Check' within the Women's Health Service that are from culturally and linguistically diverse communities" (Accountability Indicator 1.5e). In addition, ACT Health is required to provide a wide range of patient level data to the AIHW under the National Health Information Agreement. These mandatory data submissions include information such as country of birth for patients who interact with ACT Health across admitted, non-admitted and emergency department services. The AIHW uses the data provided to inform a wide range of National Health reports such as the <i>Australian Hospital Statistics</i> reports.</p>
(b)	<p>All ACT Health staff are made aware and trained in both the minimum mandatory indicators for culturally diverse clients and the importance of collecting this information. This is essential education for all staff. All staff receive information on essential education at Orientation when commencing at ACT Health. It is a requirement in their Learning Management System 'Capabilities' profiles and all staff including Executives have their training record for essential education reported on the Performance Information Portal. Every staff member in ACT Health can see this portal and see if they are not compliant.</p>

(c)	<p>Results against Accountability Indicator 1.5e are tabled in the Legislative Assembly bi-annually by ACT Health and as such are publicly available.</p> <p>The AIHW publishes a wide range of reports throughout the year. All of these are publicly available on the AIHW web site (https://www.aihw.gov.au/reports-statistics/downloadable-resources).</p>
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Justice and Community Safety Directorate

(1)	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) does not have mandatory minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers due to the diversity and complexity of its portfolios and clients. However, a number of business units within the Directorate have reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers specific to the services they provide. They include:																	
(a)	<table><tr><th>Business Unit</th><th>Reporting Indicators</th></tr><tr><td>Justice and Community Safety Directorate</td><td>JACS provides workforce indicators for reporting purposes. Indicators include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, People with Disability, Women, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.</td></tr><tr><td>ACT Corrective Services</td><td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status Country of birth</td></tr><tr><td>Restorative Justice Unit</td><td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status</td></tr><tr><td>Victims of Crime Commissioner</td><td>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status Culturally and Linguistically Diverse status Reporting for six monthly criminal justice statistical profile and reporting in the Annual Report and ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-18</td></tr><tr><td>Public Advocate and Children & Young People Commissioner</td><td>For clients who have a file on FileMaker Pro database, there is a box for Indigenous Status, Cultural Status and Country of Birth however, a person's cultural identity cannot be captured in the 'general enquiry' record.</td></tr><tr><td>Discrimination, Health, Disability and Community Services Commissioner</td><td>The Commission endeavours to collect data on the Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander status of people contacting for information or to make complaints, but this information is self-reported. The complaint form also requests this information.</td></tr><tr><td>Public Trustee and Guardian</td><td>Public Trustee and Guardian are working towards reporting Indigenous indicators in respect to all clients as part of its new Client Relationship Management system</td></tr></table>	Business Unit	Reporting Indicators	Justice and Community Safety Directorate	JACS provides workforce indicators for reporting purposes. Indicators include: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status, People with Disability, Women, and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse backgrounds.	ACT Corrective Services	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status Country of birth	Restorative Justice Unit	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status	Victims of Crime Commissioner	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander status Culturally and Linguistically Diverse status Reporting for six monthly criminal justice statistical profile and reporting in the Annual Report and ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-18	Public Advocate and Children & Young People Commissioner	For clients who have a file on FileMaker Pro database, there is a box for Indigenous Status, Cultural Status and Country of Birth however, a person's cultural identity cannot be captured in the 'general enquiry' record.	Discrimination, Health, Disability and Community Services Commissioner	The Commission endeavours to collect data on the Aboriginal and or Torres Strait Islander status of people contacting for information or to make complaints, but this information is self-reported. The complaint form also requests this information.	Public Trustee and Guardian	Public Trustee and Guardian are working towards reporting Indigenous indicators in respect to all clients as part of its new Client Relationship Management system	
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(b)	<p>To enhance staff awareness and appreciation of their culturally diverse workforce and customers, JACS supports staff participation in a range of cultural diversity awareness training programs. They include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Awareness training, where operational staff from ACT Corrective Services are required to attend this training as part of the Induction program;• RED training, which is mandatory for all staff;• “Engaging with Different Cultures” program offered by the ACT Government Workforce Learning and Development; and• “Customer Service Skills”. <p>In addition, the Directorate continues with its implementation of the JACS Inclusion Statement 2016-2019 which sets the foundation on which the Directorate will progress its efforts to build an inclusive workplace culture.</p> <p>To enhance understanding of cultural diversity, JACS supports staff participation and/or involvement in multicultural activities including Harmony Day celebrations and the National Multicultural Festival. JACS also provides work experience opportunities for migrants under the ACT Government Work Experience and Support Program.</p>																	
(c)	<table><tr><td>JACS</td><td>JACS Annual Report, ACT Public Service State of the Service Report and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Hearings</td></tr><tr><td>Public Trustee and Guardian</td><td>Public Trustee and Guardian Annual Report – Annually</td></tr></table>	JACS	JACS Annual Report, ACT Public Service State of the Service Report and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Hearings	Public Trustee and Guardian	Public Trustee and Guardian Annual Report – Annually													
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	ACT Corrective Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australian Bureau of Statistics publication 'Prisoners in Australia' - Annually • Report on Government Services – Annually • Justice and Community Safety Annual Report - Annually
	Restorative Justice Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Justice and Community Safety Annual Report – Annually • Report on Government Services – Annually • ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile – Half yearly on the Justice and Community Safety website. <p>All of these reports are available publicly.</p>
	Discrimination, Health, Disability and Community Services Commissioner	ACT Human Rights Commission Annual Report – Annually
	Victims of Crime Commissioner	ACT Human Rights Commission Annual Report – Annually
	Public Advocate and Children & Young People Commissioner	ACT Human Rights Commission Annual Report – Annually

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

(1)	<p>The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has not adopted any minimum reporting indicators for culturally diverse customers, as it is a service provider for all Canberrans and collection of this information is not required across the breadth of services provided.</p> <p>EPSDD is committed to a socially inclusive community for all Canberrans and every effort is made to improve services delivery to our customers. This includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • employing a culturally diverse workforce that is reflective of our diverse community; • staff adhering to the Respect, Equity and Diversity (RED) Framework and receiving training as required to assist with understanding diversity and the delivery of quality services; • customer service officers being appropriately trained to deal with culturally diverse communities at EPSDD service centres; • interpreter services promoted on the EPSDD website; and • community consultation on a range of matters, which frequently includes organisations and individuals representing culturally diverse stakeholders.
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Government agencies—cultural capability (Question No 1292)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Social Inclusion, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Are there any groups of training providers in the ACT that work to better support the cultural capability of local organisations; if not, why not; if so, what (a) are the names of the groups and (b) is the nature of the support that they provide.
- (2) What training opportunities in cultural awareness and working with interpreters are available for government agencies and other relevant staff to ensure cultural capability.
- (3) What policies and frameworks are currently in place to improve access to funded services by the culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) community in the ACT.

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

- (1) There are a number of groups that support the cultural capability of organisations, these include:
 - (a) Companion House, Interaction Consulting Group and Special Broadcasting Service (SBS).
 - (b) Companion House delivers 'Working with Families of Refugees' and 'Fundamentals of Working Cross Culturally'

Interaction Consulting Group delivers – Engaging with Different Cultures

SBS offers a Cultural Competence Program e-Learning package.
- (2) Community Services Directorate (CSD) staff are able to enrol in the Companion House, Interaction Consulting Group and SBS Cultural Competence Programs e-Learning package to build their cultural awareness. CSD may also engage specific trainers to meet business requirements. The Translating and Interpreting Service is available for interpreting services on a case by case basis. It is ACT Government policy to use professional interpreters when speaking with people who have difficulty communicating in English.
- (3) The ACT Multicultural Framework 2015 – 2020 (Framework) details actions and outcomes to improve access to ACT Government services by the culturally and linguistically diverse community in the ACT. Annually, each ACT Directorate contributes to reporting on delivery of the ACT Multicultural Framework in the form of a Ministerial Statement I table in the Assembly. The most recent Ministerial Statement was tabled in September 2017 and indicated work is ongoing.

ACTION bus service—coverage service routes (Question No 1295)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a geographical breakdown of all Coverage Service bus routes.
- (2) How many passengers use Coverage Service bus routes (a) as a single journey and (b) in conjunction with a transfer to or from another service.

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

- (1) The geographical breakdown of all Coverage Service bus routes is available on the Transport Canberra website at: <https://www.transport.act.gov.au/routes-and-timetables/timetables/routes-by-suburb>. The table below identifies all routes identified as a coverage services.

Route Number
1
10
11
12
14
15
16
160
161
162
163
164
17
171
18
19
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
30
31
39
4
40
43
44
45
51
52
54
55
56
57
58
59
60
61
62
63
64
65
66
67
7
71
8

Route Number
80
81
83
88
9

- (2) I have been advised by my directorate 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—call centre (Question No 1296)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) Where is the call centre for Access Canberra enquiries located.
- (2) What is the average delay experienced by callers to Access Canberra.
- (3) Further to part (1), what is the size of the call centre
- (4) Further to part (2), how many full-time equivalents are employed as call centre operators.
- (5) What is the staffing pattern of those employed in the Access Canberra call centre.

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

- (1) The Access Canberra Contact Centre is located at Level 6 Transact House, 470 Northbourne Avenue, Dickson ACT 2602. The Contact Centre operates from 7am – 8pm Monday to Friday, 8am – 5pm Saturdays and 9am – 5pm Sundays and public holidays. Outside of these hours Access Canberra calls are answered by OneContact, who have offices in Sydney and Wellington (NZ).
- (2) Please see response to QON 1109.
- (3) The Access Canberra Contact Centre is housed in an area of approximately 550 square metres.
- (4) 41 full-time equivalents are employed as Contact Centre Operators.
- (5) Staff work on a 7 day rotating roster.

ACTION bus service—school services (Question No 1297)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Which, if any, morning school bus services are scheduled to arrive at a school after the commencement of its school day.
- (2) Which, if any, morning school bus services are scheduled to arrive at a school five minutes or less before the commencement of its school day.
- (3) Which, if any, afternoon school bus services are scheduled to depart a school before the end of its school day.
- (4) Which, if any, afternoon school bus services are scheduled to depart a school (a) 10 to 20 minutes, (b) 20 to 30 minutes, (c) 30 to 40 minutes and (d) more than 40 minutes, after the end of its school day.
- (5) Which, if any, of the schools that are served by a morning school bus service are not served by an afternoon school bus service.
- (6) Which, if any, of the schools that are served by an afternoon school bus service are not served by a morning school bus service.

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

- (1) There are no school routes scheduled to arrive at school after the commencement of its school day.
- (2) There are 37 occurrences where a school service is scheduled to arrive 5 minutes before the commencement of its school day. There are no occurrences where services are scheduled to arrive less than 5 minutes before the start of the school day.
- (3) There are no occurrences where school bus services are scheduled to depart before the end of the school day.
- (4) The following table shows the time range of school services departing schools in the afternoon:

Time range	Count of schools*
a) 10-20 minutes after school finish	224
b) 21-30 minutes after school finish	92
c) 31-40 minutes after school finish	8
d) Greater than 40 minutes after school finish	3

*Note: There are 151 dedicated afternoon school services. The higher total in the table above is due to routes serving multiple schools.

- (5) There is one school (Turner Primary School) that is served by a morning school service and not by an afternoon service. This school is approximately 350 metres from bus stops on Macpherson Street that is serviced by routes 1 and 3.
- (6) There are 23 schools serviced by an afternoon school bus service that are not served by a morning school bus service. All 23 schools in the table below are within a walking distance of less than 500 metres of normal route services

School Name	Normal Route Services
Belconnen High	17
Campbell Primary	9
Caroline Chisholm	65,66
Charles Conder	19/319
Curtin primary	2
Evatt Primary	12
Fadden Primary	67
Florey Primary	16/316
Hawker Primary	17
Holy Trinity	2
Latham Primary	16/316
Macquarie Primary	40
Mount Rogers	15/315, 45
North Side Infants	9
Palmerston District Primary	54/254, 56
St Benedicts	4,6
St Matthews Primary	14/314
St Thomas Aquinas	45,313
St Thomas More	9
St Vincents	40
Theodore Primary	71/171
Wanniassa Primary	61/161
Weetangera	17

**Government—centre of data excellence
(Question No 1299)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Which Minister will be responsible for the Centre of Data Excellence.
- (2) When will the Centre of Data Excellence commence work.
- (3) Why has the Centre of Data Excellence been created.
- (4) What is the breakdown of the budget for the Centre of Data Excellence.
- (5) What is the breakdown of the total number of staff that will be attached to the Centre of Data Excellence by (a) headcount, (b) full-time equivalent, (c) temporary or permanent staff, (d) ACT Public Service classification and (e) job title or role.
- (6) Can the Chief Minister identify each business process the Centre of Data Excellence will seek to improve or automate, and data analytics projects the Centre will undertake, and advise (a) the timeframe or deadline for the work, (b) what work needs to be completed, (c) the budget for the work and (d) whether third party consultation will be required.
- (7) What data will the Centre of Data Excellence have control of or coordinate.

- (8) Will the Centre of Data Excellence be given access to any data containing personal information of ACT residents; if so, can the Chief Minister advise (a) what data they will be given access to, (b) what access they will be given, (c) the directorate or entity which will facilitate the access and (d) the risk management strategies in place.
- (9) How will the Centre of Data Excellence interact with DataACT.

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

- (1) The Chief Minister will be the Minister responsible for the Centre of Data Excellence.
- (2) Work has already commenced to establish the Centre.
- (3) The Centre of Data Excellence has been created to work across government to safely and securely leverage its data in a privacy-preserving way, for the benefit of the community. This will contribute to:
- evidence-based policy decisions across a wide range of services that government provides, ensuring services are delivered when and where needed;
 - automation of some manual processes; and
 - an increase in easily accessible open data to the public.
- (4) The breakdown of the budget for the Centre of Data Excellence can be found in the ACT Government 2017/18 Budget Review.
- (5) The Centre of Data Excellence has been funded for a staff of eleven (11). Recruitment is currently underway for a number of positions. The breakdown of positions is as follows:

Job Title	ACT Public Service Classification	Temporary or Permanent
Director	SES 1.3	Permanent
Digital Delivery Manager	SOG B	Permanent
Senior Data Engineer (2 positions)	SOG C / ASO 6	Permanent
Business Intelligence Developer	SOG C / ASO 6	Permanent
Senior Data Manager	SOG C	Temporary (initially 18 months)
Senior Policy Officer	SOG C	Temporary (initially 18 months)
Business Analyst	SOG C	Permanent
Data Analyst	ASO 5 / ASO 6	Permanent
Data Engineer	ASO 5 / ASO 6	Permanent
Systems Administration/Librarian	ASO 5 / ASO 6	Permanent

- (6) The Centre of Data Excellence will provide a Whole of Government service to encourage and develop data management best practise across all directorates. Support will be available to all business units within the ACT Government, from improving and automating processes to more complex data analytics projects.
- a) As the Centre is in the early stages of development individual projects have not yet been identified. Timeframes and deadlines will be determined once a program of work is finalised.

- b) The work to be completed will be determined by the details of each individual project, and tailored to requirements set out by the relevant directorate(s). The Centre will facilitate and provide guidance as required.
 - c) Please see answer to Question 4.
 - d) The need for third party consultation will be determined on a case-by-case basis as the forward work plan is finalised.
- (7) Each directorate will be provided with access to their own secure tenancy within a technology platform and will have complete control over what data goes onto the platform, who can access it and the conditions under which it would be shared. The Centre will provide management of the technology platform and support for analytics. It will not have access to the data in each tenancy unless authorised by the directorate.
- (8) The Centre of Data Excellence will manage the secure, privacy-centred technology platform but each individual directorate will have total control and ownership over the data that is stored. Some of the data stored by directorates may contain personally identifiable information.
- a) Centre staff will only be given access to data where explicit approval of the directorate that owns the data has been given.
 - b) Access to data will be determined by the nature of the project being undertaken. The directorate determines what level of access is appropriate.
 - c) Each directorate has total control and ownership of their own data and fully controls who has access.
 - d) Along with developing the technology platform to securely store data, the Centre will work with all directorates to develop a comprehensive and contemporary governance framework for the management of data. This framework will include the policies, guidelines, standards and operating procedures required by a modern, data rich organisation. This will include appropriate risk management strategies.
- (9) DataACT will continue to be the ACT Government's open data portal. The Centre will encourage directorates storing data within the secure technology platform to look at all opportunities for publishing appropriate open, desensitised or anonymised data to dataACT.

Our Canberra newsletter—publication data (Question No 1300)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

Can the Chief Minister provide, since the commencement of the Our Canberra newsletter to date, per month for each region (a) the total print run of each edition, (b) the number of electronic copies circulated, (c) the cost of printing the newsletters, (d) the contract details relating to the printing of the newsletters, including (i) contract number and title, (ii) value and period of contract and (iii) name of the contractor, (e) the cost of distributing the newsletter, (f) the contract details relating to the distribution of the newsletters, including (i) contract number and title, (ii) value and period of contract and (iii) name of the contractor, (g) whether there were any additional attachments to the newsletter; if so, the nature of those attachments, and the cost, (h) whether the newsletters were printed in the ACT and (i) whether the newsletter included a message from the Chief Minister.

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

- (a) For distribution numbers/print totals across all five regions each month see Attachment A.
- (b) The electronic newsletter is an ACT-wide single edition. For the number of electronic newsletters circulated see Attachment A.
- (c) For total printing costs by month see Attachment C.
- (d) (i) The 'Request for Quote (RFQ) name' and 'print job number' each month is outlined in Attachment D.
(ii) For every edition an RFQ is issued. The value/total of each job is outlined in Attachment C.
(iii) The name of the print production supplier each month is outlined in Attachment D.
- (e) Distribution costs for each region by month are outlined in Attachment B.
- (f) (i) Service Agreement details with the distribution supplier Australia Post are outlined in Attachment D. There is no contract number and title.
(ii) The Service Agreement with Australia Post is for 12 months at a time. The ACT Government has access to 'not-for-profit entity' discounted distribution rates with Australia Post, under its Service Agreement.
(iii) The distribution supplier is Australia Post.
- (g) The combined January/February 2016 edition of the Our Canberra newsletter had a magnet attached to the cover to promote recycling. The magnet was part of the 'get re-psyched about recycling' campaign, which was fully funded by the recycling industry.
Design, production and print of the magnets was \$41,994. The cost to affix one magnet to every newsletter was an additional \$14,652. Distribution costs were not affected.
- (h) (i) All editions of the newsletter to-date have been printed in Canberra by local print supplier Union Offset. Every edition of the newsletter has also included a short message from the Chief Minister on the cover.

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

Our Canberra newsletter—publication data (Question No 1302)

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Can the Chief Minister outline each stage of the approval process for content printed in the Our Canberra newsletter and the average length of time for each stage.
- (2) Has any independent reviewer removed, requested changes, restricted, or otherwise altered or edited content of an Our Canberra newsletter since its commencement to date; if so, can the Chief Minister outline the (a) edition of Our Canberra, (b) nature of the content altered or removed, and the directorate which submitted the content, (c) reason the content was altered or removed and (d) final outcome or compromise.

- (3) Why was the distribution of the Our Canberra newsletter suspended during the caretaker period for the 2016 election.
- (4) Were any communication and engagement strategies, promotions, or publications suspended during the caretaker period for the 2016 election in addition to Our Canberra; if not, why not; if so, can the Chief Minister provide (a) which communication and engagement strategies or publications were suspended and (b) why they were suspended.

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

- (1) The final print newsletter is approved by the Chief Minister and then the Independent Reviewer of Campaign Advertising, before going to print. This process usually takes approximately four days to complete.
- (2) The Independent Reviewer of Campaign Advertising reviews the newsletter in accordance with the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009*. The review is included in the half-yearly reports

(a) Edition	(b) (c) Reviewer advice	(d) Outcome
March 2016	Minor grammar and wording amendments.	Suggested amendments made.
March 2016	Noted that a source should be used to substantiate the financial impact claim of light rail to the city's economy.	Sentence changed to 'The project is expected to bring public and private investment to Canberra, deliver opportunities for new businesses and support more jobs'.
June 2016	In the University of Canberra Hospital story, add 'University of Canberra Act' to the last sentence. and Attribute UC and/or CIC Australia.	'Act' added and sentence amended to 'A new agreement between the University of Canberra and Canberra-based developers CIC Australia will transform the campus into a world leader in sustainable residential development and urban design'.
June 2016	Remove a statement about the Woden interchange being 'one of several projects across the city'.	Sentence removed.
July 2016	Amend text to indicate light rail cost is indicative/an estimate.	Wording amended to 'The ACT Government estimates the cost for light rail will be approximately \$710 million'

(a) Edition	(b) (c) Reviewer advice	(d) Outcome
August 2016	Questioned the basis for the claim related to Gonski funding.	Wording amended to 'A key principle behind Gonski is that schools are funded on the basis of students' needs. In Canberra there's been an increase in funding for schools'.
March 2017	Minor typo amendments.	Suggested amendments made.
June 2017	Minor typo and spelling out of an acronym.	Suggested amendments made.
November 2017	Typos and minor text change suggestions.	Suggested amendments made.
December 2017	Minor text change in Chief Minister's message relating to the yes vote result of the same sex marriage plebiscite.	Text amended to include 'proportional to population'. Amended to; 'And we had the highest yes vote proportional to population at 74.1 per cent of any jurisdiction.
Jan/Feb 2018	Minor text amendment to Central edition under – 'In this issue' on the cover page.	Amendment made.

- (3) The newsletter was suspended in accordance with *'Section 18 of the Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009, Guideline 6: Advertising campaigns in pre-election period' of the Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Guidelines 2010 and 'Guidance on Caretaker Conventions: December 2015'*.

The newsletter was suspended earlier than required by the Act on advice from the Independent Reviewer of Campaign Advertising.

- (4) Advertising campaigns were suspended during caretaker period consistent with the above Guidelines and Act. Two campaigns proceeded during the period – a Throsby land release campaign and a Climate Change campaign. Both campaigns were considered to be routine advertising carried out by the agencies in relation to their operational activities which is permissible under the Guidelines and Act. Both campaigns were reviewed by the Independent Reviewer of Campaign Advertising.

The Our Canberra electronic edition was issued in September 2016. This edition included only existing, factual and publically available material. There was no Chief Minister introduction or approval.

- (a) A letterbox drop and radio advertising relating to Light Rail stage 2 was suspended in the lead up to caretaker.
- (b) These activities were suspended given the timing may have fallen into the caretaker period. This action was in accordance with Section 18 of the *Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act 2009*.

**Government—contractors
(Question No 1312)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

What is the breakdown of the total number of contractors engaged using the Contractor Central system since its commencement to date, and include (a) the period the contractor was engaged, (b) the directorate that engaged the contractor, (c) the name of the contractor, (d) the nature of the work, (e) the total value of the work, (f) the contract name, (g) the contract number and (h) whether the contractor was paid directly by the ACT Government or whether payment was made through another party and if another party (i) the name of the third party, (ii) why the third party facilitated the payment and (iii) whether there were additional fees or costs associated with the payment and the value of those costs.

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

- (1) Total number of contractors engaged using the Contractor Central system since its commencement is 787.
 - a. Refer to the attached spreadsheet;
 - b. Refer to the attached spreadsheet;
 - c. Confidential;
 - d. Refer to the attached spreadsheet;
 - e. Refer to the attached spreadsheet;
 - f. Contingent Workforce Managed Service (Whole of Government Standing Offer Agreement)
 - g. SCM007; and
 - h. Payment is made to the Master Service Provider (MSP) and the MSP in turn makes payment to the contractor agencies.
 - i. Comensura
 - ii. Comensura, as the MSP, facilitate the payment of contractors in line with the provisions of the Arrangement.
 - iii. Fees are paid to Comensura within the total contracted arrangement as MSP. The total contract value is \$2,475,000 over three years.

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

**ACTION bus service—performance data
(Question No 1314)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide, for Transport Canberra services on 27 February 2018, the total number of late timing points for each route broken down by, (a) 16:00 plus minutes early, (b) 13:00 – 15:59 minutes early, (c) 10:00 – 12:59 minutes early, (d) 7:00 – 9:59 minutes early, (e) 4:01 – 6:59 minutes early, (f) 0:01 – 4:00 minutes early, (g) 0:00 – 4:00 minutes or on time, (h) 4:01 – 6:59 minutes late, (i) 7:00 – 9:59 minutes late, (j) 10:00 – 12:59 minutes late, (k) 13:00 – 15:59 minutes late and (l) 16:00 plus minutes late.

- (2) Can the Minister provide, for Transport Canberra services on 27 February 2018, the total percentage of services which were (a) early, (b) on time and (c) late.

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

- (1) The table below displays the periods of early, on time and late running recorded as a variance from the scheduled timetable:

Timing Record Variance from schedule	27-Feb-2018
13+ early	14
10-12:59 early	17
7-9:59 early	40
4-6:59 early	230
1:01-3:59 early	1,408
On-Time	16,663
4:01-6:59 late	3,817
7-9:59 late	1,192
10-12:59 late	412
13-15:59 late	111
16+ late	94

Please note that the Transport Canberra business intelligence tool does not record timing points at 16 plus minutes early or 13:00 – 15:59 minutes early intervals but instead records at a single 13 plus minutes early interval. Reporting on variances is not currently available and would require the creation of a custom report.

- (2) The total percentage of services on Transport Canberra services on 27 February 2018 were (a) early was 7.1%, (b) on time was 69.4% and (c) late was 23.4%.

**Land—block 30, Dickson
(Question No 1315)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 13 April 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) Was the acquisition of Block 30 (formerly Block 20) Section 34 Dickson subject to the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*; if so, what acquisition processes were followed under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*; if not, (a) why was it not subject to the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*, (b) what exception did it fall under in section 18 of the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994* and (c) what other Territory legislation, including specific sections, authorised and governed the sale.
- (2) Was the acquisition of Block 24 Section 65 City subject to the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*; if so, what acquisition processes were followed under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*; if not, (a) why was it not subject to the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*, (b) what exception did it fall under in section 18 of the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994* and (c) what other Territory legislation, including specific sections, authorised and governed the sale.

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

- (1) The transaction in connection with Block 30 Section 34 Dickson was not a compulsory acquisition of land and as such the Lands Acquisition Act 1994 does not apply. The transaction instead involved the sale of the land through a “market based transaction” including a request for tender process. The legislation and authorisation that governed the terms of the purchase of this land is discussed at length in the relevant ACT Auditor-General Report.
- (2) The acquisition of Block 24 Section 65 in the City was effected by a direct negotiation with the land owner through a “market based transaction”.

Acquiring this land under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994* was not considered the most appropriate method. The legislation and authorisation that governed the terms of the purchase of this land is discussed at length in the relevant ACT Auditor-General Report.

In connection with acquisitions of land generally, the acquisition of land by the ACT Government may be achieved through:

- direct negotiation with a land owner through a ‘market - based’ transaction by private treaty, auction etc consistent with relevant legislation such as the *Land Titles Act 1925*, *Civil Law (Property) Act 2006*, *Civil Law (Sale of Residential Property) Act 2003* and the *Planning and Development Act 2007* ;
- acquisition by agreement under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*; or
- compulsory acquisition under the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*.

Energy—household usage (Question No 1318)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the average household energy usage 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.
- (2) What is the average projected household energy usage for the (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21 financial years.

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

1. The Australian Energy Market Commission, via the 2017 Residential Electricity Price Trends Review, defines the ‘representative ACT household’ as a two-person household, with no mains gas, no pool and on the regulated standing retail offer.

The representative consumer is determined using a representative annual consumption level calculated from benchmark values published by the Australian Energy Regulator in the Electricity Bill Benchmarking report.

The average household electricity consumption figures presented in the table below are specific to the ‘representative ACT household’.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average household electricity usage (kWh)</i>
2007-08	8420
2008-09	8420
2009-10	8420
2010-11	8420
2011-12	8420
2012-13	8420
2013-14	7180 ¹
2014-15	7312
2015-16	7312
2016-17	7312
2017-18	7151

Note 1 – Following the commencement of the National Energy Customer Framework in 2012-13, the ACT adopted the use of representative household electricity consumption figures published by the Australian Energy Regulator. Prior to 2012-13, average household electricity consumption statistics were drawn from figures published by the ACT Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission.

2. As outlined in the table below.

<i>Year</i>	<i>Projected average household electricity usage (kWh)</i>
2018/19	7151
2019/20	7151
2020/21	7151

Energy—feed-in tariff cost (Question No 1319)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the breakdown of the total large-scale feed-in tariff costs for each generator currently receiving or which has received a feed-in tariff entitlement as per question on notice No 984 for the (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date, financial years.
- (2) What is the breakdown of the projected total large-scale feed-in tariff costs for each generator that is currently or will be receiving a feed-in tariff entitlement as per question on notice No 984 in the (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20 and (d) 2020-21 financial years.

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

1. The large-scale feed-in tariff prices paid to each generator currently receiving feed-in tariff support payments are listed below. They are not adjusted for inflation and remain constant, in nominal terms, in each financial year.

Under the contract-for-difference design of the ACT's large-scale feed-in tariff payments, each generator is paid the wholesale price of electricity at the time of generation by the National Electricity Market while the difference between its feed-in tariff price and the wholesale price of electricity is paid to them by Evoenergy. Past and projected future annual feed-in tariff payments to each generator are detailed in the answer to questions 1321 and 1323.

<i>Generator</i>	<i>Feed-in tariff price (\$/MWh)</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
Royalla solar farm	\$186.00	20.0
Williamsdale Solar Park (large feed-in tariff part)	\$186.00	7.0
Maoneng Solar Park (Mugga Lane)	\$178.00	13.0
Ararat wind farm	\$87.00	80.5
Coonooer Bridge wind farm	\$81.50	19.4
Hornsedale Wind Farm Pty Ltd Stage 1	\$92.00	100
Sapphire Wind Farm	\$89.10	100.0

2. The following wind farms will not have commenced feed-in tariff supported generation by the end of the 2017-18 financial year: Hornsdale Wind Farm stage 2, Hornsdale Wind Farm stage 3 and Crookwell 2 Wind Farm. The table below lists the feed-in tariff prices that will be paid to these generators. As in the response to part 1, the large-scale feed-in tariff prices paid to each generator are not adjusted for inflation and remain constant, in nominal terms, in each financial year.

<i>Generator</i>	<i>Feed-in tariff price (\$/MWh)</i>	<i>Capacity (MW)</i>
Hornsedale 2 Wind Farm	\$77.00	100.0
Hornsedale 3 Wind Farm	\$78.00	109.0
Crookwell 2 Wind Farm	\$90.40	91.0

Energy—consumption (Question No 1320)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

How much of the electricity generated from the generators that currently hold feed-in tariff entitlements as per question on notice No 984 has been consumed in the ACT in the (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date, financial years.

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

All of the solar and wind farms supported by ACT large-scale feed-in tariff payments generate into the National Electricity Market (NEM) of which the ACT grid is part. While none of the feed-in tariff supported wind farms generate directly into the ACT distribution network, their generation displaces non-renewable electricity drawn by the ACT grid from the New South Wales grid.

The NEM is an interconnected network with electricity flowing continuously around it with any non-renewable electricity drawn by the ACT grid from NSW being fully offset, by 2020-21 (the 100% renewable electricity target year), by renewable electricity generated into the NEM by feed-in tariff supported generators located elsewhere in it.

The generation from the ACT's feed-in tariff supported solar farms is fed directly into the ACT grid. Their output in each financial year is listed below.

<i>Solar farm</i>	<i>2014-15 generation (MWh)</i>	<i>2015-16 generation (MWh)</i>	<i>2016-17 generation (MWh)</i>	<i>2017-18 generation to Dec 31 (MWh)</i>
Royalla Solar Farm	33,397	38,399	37,033	20,380
Maoneng Solar Park	0	0	15,397	13,728
Williamsdale Solar Farm	0	0	4,692	7,584

Energy—generation capacity (Question No 1321)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the generation capacity of each of the generators that (a) currently hold or (b) will hold feed-in tariff entitlements.
- (2) What was the (a) total electricity generation for each of the generators that currently hold feed-in tariff entitlements and (b) total paid for the electricity generated by generators that currently hold feed-in tariff entitlements, as per question on notice No 984, in the (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date, financial years.
- (3) What was the total ACT electricity consumption during 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 Rattenbury: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The capacities of the generators that have commenced feed-in tariff supported generation are given in answer 1319 part (1); the capacities of the generators that have yet to commence feed-in tariff supported generation are given in answer 1319 part (2).
- (2) Table, below, shows generation by generators that have commenced feed-in tariff supported generation.

<i>Generator</i>	<i>2013-14 (MWh)</i>	<i>2014-15 (MWh)</i>	<i>2015-16 (MWh)</i>	<i>2016-17 (MWh)</i>	<i>2017-18 to 31 Dec (MWh)</i>
Royalla Solar Farm	0	33,397	38,399	37,033	20,380
Maoneng Solar Park	0	0	0	15,397	13,728
Williamsdale Solar Farm	0	0	0	4,692	7,584
Ararat Wind Farm	0	0	0	20,303	111,873
Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm	0	0	19,024	77,202	41,432
Hornsedale 1 Wind Farm	0	0	0	114,653	191,936

Table, below, shows feed-in tariff payments to generators that have commenced feed-in tariff supported generation. A negative number equals a net payment by the generator, throughout the financial year, to Evoenergy. These payments exclude the wholesale electricity market income earned by each generator from the National Electricity Market (for an explanation of how the ACT's feed-in tariff payments are structured, see answer to question 1319 part (1)).

<i>Generator</i>	<i>2013-14 (\$)</i>	<i>2014-15 (\$)</i>	<i>2015-16 (\$)</i>	<i>2016-17 (\$)</i>	<i>2017-18 to 31 Dec (\$)</i>
Royalla Solar Farm	0	\$5,015,580	\$5,215,499	\$3,531,317	\$1,965,191
Maoneng Solar Park	0	0	0	\$1,055,211	\$1,214,104
Williamsdale Solar Farm	0	0	0	\$288,887	\$731,348
Ararat Wind Farm	0	0	0	-\$328,894	\$242,147
Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm	0	0	\$591,931	\$1,690,627	-\$253,286
Hornsedale 1 Wind Farm	0	0	0	-\$38,464	\$2,920,733

- (3) The ACT's renewable electricity target is based on electricity supply into the Territory (which equals electricity demand plus distribution losses). ACT electricity demand and electricity supply data is below. Electricity demand/supply data is provided to the ACT Government on an annual basis only and no data for 2017-18 is yet available.

<i>Financial year</i>	<i>ACT electricity demand (GWh)</i>	<i>ACT electricity supply (GWh)</i>
2007-08	2,831	2,968
2008-09	2,879	3,011
2009-10	2,909	3,039
2010-11	2,931	2,968
2011-12	2,880	3,015
2012-13	2,875	3,011
2013-14	2,830	2,963
2014-15	2,857	2,988
2015-16	2,876	3,008
2016-17	2,915	3,052

Energy—household consumption (Question No 1322)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 984, Table 1 that provides a breakdown of Household cost per week, how many households are these figures based on for each financial year in Table 1.
- (2) Further to Table 1 in question on notice No 984, what is modelled make up or people per household for each financial year.
- (3) How are the make up and total number of households calculated for energy policy considerations and projections, and what is this data based on

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

1. The number of households assumed for feed-in tariff pass-through cost purposes is based on a forecast by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS), catalogue 3236 (Table 1.23, Series II), with the prediction of the future number of ACT households in the table below.

Year	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21
Number of households	156,743	159,775	162,795	165,763	168,924

2. The total number of households forecast by the ABS is made up of family households, group households and lone person households. The background on household assumptions made by the Australian Bureau of Statistics in catalogue 3236 can be found at:
<http://www.abs.gov.au/AUSSTATS/abs@.nsf/Lookup/3236.0Explanatory%20Notes12006%20to%202031?OpenDocument>
3. The total number of ACT households for energy policy considerations and projections is based on the forecasts made by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (see answer to part (1)), further information about the ABS's catalogue 3236 forecast is available on the link provided in the answer to part (2).

Energy—feed-in tariff cost (Question No 1323)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

- (1) What is the total Feed-In Tariff cost paid in (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17 and (d) 2017-18 to date to the generators of (i) Royalla Solar Farm, (ii) Maoneng Solar Park, (iii) Williamsdale Solar Park, (iv) Ararat wind farm, (v) Coonooer Bridge wind farm, (vi) Hornsdale 1 wind farm, (vii) Hornsdale 2 wind farm, (viii) Sapphire 1 wind farm, (ix) Hornsdale 3 wind farm and (x) Crookwell 2 wind farm.
- (2) What is the projected total Feed-In Tariff cost paid in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20 and (d) 2020-21 to the generators of (i) Royalla Solar Farm, (ii) Maoneng Solar Park, (iii) Williamsdale Solar Park, (iv) Ararat wind farm, (v) Coonooer Bridge wind farm, (vi) Hornsdale 1 wind farm, (vii) Hornsdale 2 wind farm, (viii) Sapphire 1 wind farm, (ix) Hornsdale 3 wind farm and (x) Crookwell 2 wind farm.

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

1. Total feed-in tariff costs paid to Royalla Solar Farm, Maoneng Solar Park, Williamsdale Solar Farm, Ararat Wind Farm, Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm and Hornsdale 1 Wind Farm in the financial years requested are given in the answer to question no. 1321 part (2), the other generators are yet to commence feed-in tariff supported generation (Sapphire Wind Farm commenced feed-in tariff supported generation in May 2018).
2. Projected feed-in tariff payments of the wind and solar farms supported by ACT feed-in tariffs are below. 2017-18 payments are for the second half of that financial year (from 1 January), 2017-18 feed-in tariff payments to 31 December 2017 are listed in the answer to question 2321 part (2).

A negative number equals a projected net payment by the generator, throughout the financial year, to Evoenergy.

Note that the total of all the payments each year does not equal the amount passed through to electricity consumers because the total is adjusted for over or under recoveries by Evoenergy in previous years. Total feed-in tariff costs passed through to electricity consumers in each financial year are given in Table 1 in the answer to question 984.

Generator	2017-18 From 1 Jan \$	2018-19 \$	2019-20 \$	2020-21 \$
Royalla Solar Farm	\$1,234,839	\$3,676,847	\$4,253,151	\$4,447,829
Maoneng Solar Park	\$645,576	\$2,002,229	\$2,344,612	\$2,460,270
Williamsdale Solar Farm	\$490,191	\$1,456,086	\$1,683,060	\$1,759,733
Ararat Wind Farm	-\$484,528	\$5,138,875	\$9,167,022	\$10,464,093
Coonooer Bridge Wind Farm	-\$26,278	\$913,167	\$2,209,550	\$2,626,989
Hornsedale 1 Wind Farm	\$4,894,334	\$16,535,425	\$20,389,171	\$21,682,411
Sapphire Wind Farm	-\$648,106	\$4,510,244	\$9,413,020	\$11,216,808
Hornsedale 2 Wind Farm	\$0	\$6,272,792	\$13,824,529	\$15,085,824
Crookwell 2 Wind Farm	\$0	\$3,591,235	\$8,463,314	\$10,041,620
Hornsedale 3 Wind Farm	\$0	\$0	\$11,114,171	\$15,878,378

Energy—wholesale electricity purchase (Question No 1324)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, upon notice, on 13 April 2018:

What is the total (a) amount of wholesale electricity purchased (in GW) and (b) cost of wholesale electricity in the ACT in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14, (v) 2014-15, (vi) 2015-16, (vii) 2016-17 and (viii) 2017-18 to date.

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

ACT wholesale purchases of electricity equal total electricity supplied to the ACT grid (as per data supplied for question 1321) less local rooftop solar. Wholesale purchase information is given below. No data for 2017-18 is available at present. Rooftop solar generation data excludes rooftop generation consumed behind-the-meter which is not exported to the ACT grid.

Financial year	ACT electricity supply (GWh)	ACT in-front-of-meter rooftop generation (GWh)	Net ACT electricity wholesale purchases (GWh)
2010-11	2,968	10	2,958
2011-12	3,015	26	2,989
2012-13	3,011	42	2,971
2013-14	2,963	55	2,908
2014-15	2,988	90	2,898
2015-16	3,008	103	2,905
2016-17	3,052	130	2,922

Because the ACT is integrated into the NSW National Electricity Market region, the cost of wholesale electricity in ACT is the same as the cost of wholesale electricity in NSW. The data provided is the average price over the financial year. The average price for each day and month can also be downloaded from the AEMO website:
<http://www.aemo.com.au/Electricity/National-Electricity-Market-NEM/Data-dashboard#aggregated-data>

<i>Year</i>	<i>Average wholesale price in NSW (\$/MWh)</i>
2010-11	\$36.74
2011-12	\$29.67
2012-13	\$55.10
2013-14	\$52.26
2014-15	\$35.17
2015-16	\$51.60
2016-17	\$81.22
2017-18 to date	\$81.17

Light rail—tree planting (Question No 1326)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 11 May 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) Does the Government have a master plan for planting trees along the Gungahlin-Civic light rail route.
- (2) Has the Government considered the impact of moving trees from sheltered nurseries to open space along Northbourne Avenue/Flemington Road.
- (3) What plans does the Government have to prevent disruption to traffic and nearby residents during the tree planting.
- (4) Why is tree planting occurring at the same time as construction.
- (5) How is Transport Canberra ensuring the new trees are protected from nearby construction workers, machines and any construction activity like concrete pours.
- (6) How are the holes for the trees along the route being dug.
- (7) Has the Government sought expert advice on ways to ensure that trees are not affected by either transportation or their planting on site.
- (8) How have the trees been transported to the light rail construction site(s).
- (9) What soil preparation has the Government done.
- (10) How much money has the Government (a) allocated and (b) spent for tree removal before construction started and for ongoing tree planting.

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

- (1) Yes, Canberra Metro Construction will complete the landscaping (including tree planting) successively as areas become available. Tree planting has commenced in the

north of the alignment along Flemington Road where the first block became available. Over the coming months the northern blocks will be completed before progressing to the south. This is aligned with the construction schedule to finish areas from north to south.

- (2) Yes, all of the trees that have been grown for the project have been acclimatised to Canberra temperatures at Yarralumla Nursery. When the areas have been prepared the trees are planted in specially excavated pits, staked to provide support, watered regularly to quickly establish strong roots and monitored.
- (3) A safe working area is required during the landscape planting and this will involve periodic lane closures adjacent to the construction. However the timing and duration of these disruptions will be managed for minimal disruption.
- (4) To allow a continuous flow to the overall construction process there is a requirement for lighter construction activities to overlap with planting. The strategy is that planting will only occur once all of the heavy construction (concrete pouring, major earthworks etc.) activities have been completed. Additionally, light construction activities will occur outside of and not within the landscaped areas and consequently they will not impact upon one another.
- (5) All of the heavy construction activity, including pouring concrete and earthworks are completed prior to the landscaping work. This means that there would be no interaction between heavy machinery with the newly planted landscape areas.
- (6) The trees pits are initially dug during the earthworks preparation of the area with an excavator. The tree pits are then backfilled with specially prepared soils and root irrigation tubes, before the area is levelled out and lightly compacted. Prior to the tree being planted a smaller auger hole is drilled, in the centre of the underlying larger pit, where the trees is placed. This process ensures that the trees are held firmly and upright within the lightly compacted prepared soils. This will enable the tree roots to grow out into the available soil and beyond - quickly establishing the tree within its new environment.
- (7) The Light Rail project has engaged industry specialists and used best practice methods to develop the landscape design and construction processes. The landscaping contractors work closely with the nursery regarding transportation and planting of the trees. This ensures that each of the trees receives the maximum care between the nursery and their final planting location.
- (8) The trees are transported from Yarralumla Nursery to the site using trucks. Careful placement and support and strapping of the trees within the truck by the experienced landscape contractor ensures that all of the trees are transported without damage.
- (9) All of the soils used within the Light Rail landscape and tree pits have been specially designed and prepared. There are a number of soil types that have been developed to meet specific requirements depending upon their intended use and location. Leading soil technology consultants were engaged to specify the different soil types being used. Each of the soil types are currently being prepared onsite by the landscape contractor who uses a combination of site recovered clean materials and imported materials to meet the specified soil type design.
- (10) The costs of removing trees prior to construction was incorporated into the general cost for the alignment site preparation and it is not possible to provide an estimate.

Similarly the costs of the new landscape is incorporated into the cost of constructing all aspects of the project

Education—early childhood (Question No 1328)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to approved early childhood services in the ACT, can the Minister provide the name, location and the percentage of early childhood education offered in comparison with other services, in each categories of (a) private for profit, (b) private not for profit, community managed, (c) private not for profit – other organisations, (d) ACT Government managed, (e) ACT Government schools, (f) independent schools, (g) Catholic schools and (h) any other category not included.
- (2) For each of the categories referred to in part (1) what are the enrolment numbers in each centre.
- (3) For each of the categories referred to in part (1), and for each centre, what are their licensed capacities.

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

- (1) As at 15 May 2018, there were 247 early childhood services in the ACT excluding Family Day Care and School Age Care. The names and location of these services can be found at **Attachment 1**.

The percentage of early childhood services based on management type is as follows:-

- a. Private for profit = 23.07%
- b. Private Not For Profit Community Managed = 26.3%
- c. Private not for profit Other = 8.5%
- d. ACT Government Managed = 0%
- e. ACT Government Schools = 31.9%
- f. Independent Schools = 6.4%
- g. Catholic Schools = 3.2%
- h. Other = .4%

Enrolment numbers for all of the categories referred to in part (1) are not held by the ACT Government.

- (2) Enrolment numbers for all of the categories referred to in part (1) are not held by the ACT Government.
- (3) The number of approved places for individual services can be found at **Attachment 1**.

The total number of approved places for each management type is as follows:-

- a. Private for profit = 5,289
- b. Private Not For Profit Community Managed = 4,298
- c. Private not for profit Other = 1,681
- d. ACT Government Managed = 0
- e. ACT Government Schools = 3,759

- f. Independent Schools = 1,193
- g. Catholic Schools = 522
- h. Other = 48

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

Schools—teacher numbers (Question No 1329)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many teachers are employed in ACT government schools on a (a) full time, (b) part time (c), casual and (d) set contract, basis.
- (2) In relation to the categories in part (1), how many are (a) first year teachers, (b) teachers with less than five years teaching experience, (c) teachers with five-10 years' teaching experience and (d) teachers with more than 10 years' teaching experience.
- (3) How many teachers have resigned (a) within the first year of teaching and (b) within the first five years of teaching, in each of the calendar years 2015-2017 inclusive.

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

- (1) (a) 1,987
(b) 631
(c) 303
(d) 598
 - (2) (a) 382
(b) 979
(c) 885
(d) 1,273
 - (3) (a) Two teachers in 2015; one teacher in 2016 and no teachers in 2017.
(b) 35 teachers in 2015; 25 teachers in 2016 and 25 teachers in 2017.
-

Schools—safe and inclusive schools initiative (Question No 1330)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) What groups and/or individuals were involved in creating the Safe and Inclusive Schools (SAIS) initiative in the ACT.
- (2) What groups and/or individuals were consulted on the development of the SAIS initiative and what was the consultation process.

- (3) What was the nature of the advice provided by the groups and/or individuals regarding the SAIS initiative.
- (4) Is bullying defined or addressed within the SAIS initiative or in any linked resource material; if so, what is it and in what way; if not, why not.
- (5) Is bullying of ethnic groups and religious minorities addressed in the SAIS Initiative; if so, how is it addressed.

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

- (1) The Safe and Inclusive Schools (SAIS) Initiative has been developed by Sexual Health and Family Planning in partnership with the Education Directorate. Input was sought from the Initiative's Reference Group that is comprised of a range of education, parent, health/community and professional organisations, representing a broad membership including:
 - a. Australian Education Union (ACT Branch)
 - b. ACT Council of Parents' & Citizens' Association
 - c. Association of Parents & Friends of ACT Schools (APFACTS)
 - d. Youth Coalition of the ACT
 - e. Headspace Canberra
 - f. AIDS Action Council
 - g. Belconnen Community Services
 - h. Northside Community Services
 - i. A Gender Agenda
 - j. ACT Education Directorate - Public School Principal representative
 - k. ACT Education Directorate Support Office staff
 - l. Transformative Solutions (Project Consultant)
- (2) Members of the Reference Group were consulted throughout the design phase of the Initiative. Consultation also included:
 - Discussions with school principals from public and independent schools.
 - Ongoing liaison with the Association for Independent Schools of the ACT and the Catholic Education Office throughout the design phase of the initiative to ensure alignment with relevant wellbeing frameworks utilised by these sectors.
 - Consultations and feedback regarding the experiences of school and educational programs within the ACT in responding to issues of sexual orientation, gender identity and intersex status.
- (3) A summary of input provided by stakeholders included a range of recommendations:
 - The approach that schools should not have to "sign up" or become members of the Initiative was strongly supported;
 - Schools should determine engagement with the program and choose to request support if and when needed;
 - A capacity building approach was considered effective to support schools to develop knowledge, skills and confidence;
 - The Initiative should reflect the reality that school communities are diverse places and that the welfare and mental health of vulnerable students is a priority for parents; and

- Expert support for supporting individual student needs would be highly valued.
- (4) The Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative was developed in the broader context of the legislative and ethical responsibilities schools have to ensure they are safe and inclusive environments for all students. The Initiative works with schools to create learning environments where young people feel comfortable and safe to be who they are without fear of negative consequences.

The Initiative and its resources complement and reference anti-discrimination and anti-bullying programs, policies and frameworks such as the Education Directorate's *Safe and Supportive Schools Policy 2016* and the *National Safe Schools Framework*. These frameworks clearly define bullying, harassment and discrimination and articulate schools' obligations to actively build cultures where prejudice, discrimination, harassment or violence is unacceptable.

The Safe and Inclusive Schools Initiative is one resource available to schools to support them to build positive and respectful learning environments and support student wellbeing. When a school nurtures a culture where young people feel connected, respected and safe, bullying and violence is less likely to occur.

- (5) The bullying of ethnic groups and religious minorities is not specifically addressed within the SAIS Initiative. The initiative and its resources complement and reference anti-discrimination and anti-bullying programs, policies and frameworks such as the Education Directorate's *Safe and Supportive Schools Policy 2016* and the *National Safe Schools Framework*. Schools utilise a number of anti-racism education programs and resources that support students to appreciate cultural and religious diversity and develop the knowledge and skills needed to safely counter racism, prejudice and discrimination.

Waste—strategy (Question No 1331)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) What are the criteria for selecting a composting site for the collection of food organics and garden organics (FOGO).
- (2) Have any estimates of costing been done on the establishing cost and annual maintenance costs of the site.
- (3) Is the Government intending on purchasing compost from these sites for use in ACT parks and gardens; if so, what is the estimated cost of this exercise.
- (4) Will the same green bins that were recently rolled out in select suburbs be used for FOGO collection, if the Government pursues FOGO collection.
- (5) How would FOGO collection impact the longer-term Territory wide rollout of green bins.
- (6) What are the criteria for picking a site for a processed engineered fuel facility.

- (7) What consultation will be undertaken with local residents during siting study considerations.
- (8) Will the Waste Feasibility Study recommendations hit the Government's 90 percent recovery target; if not, what other strategies does the Government plan to undertake to deliver on this target or is the Government intending on reducing the target.

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

- (1) The specific criteria for selecting a suitable site for a FOGO processing facility will be determined in 2018-19 as part of a study to identify options for suitable sites.
- (2) As the site, infrastructure, technology and project delivery method have not been determined it is not possible to provide financial information on a specific solution.
- (3) The future use of and markets for products created by a FOGO processing facility have not been determined.
- (4) While no decision of service delivery models have been made, the 240 litre mobile garbage bins being provided for garden waste would also be suitable for use as a FOGO bin. The specification of this bin is commonly used as a FOGO bin by local governments in Australia.
- (5) The Waste Feasibility Study (WFS) proposes the opt-in garden waste service be replaced by a universal (i.e. non-opt-in) FOGO collection service for ACT households. The WFS Roadmap seeks to remove organic waste from the landfill including both household and non-household food waste. The WFS Roadmap proposes an ACT-wide food waste avoidance education program prior to commencement of FOGO.
- (6) The specific criteria for a processed engineered fuel (PEF) production plant has not been determined. The WFS proposes the ACT develop a waste-to-energy policy prior to commencing feasibility work on an ACT PEF plant.
- (7) The stakeholder consultation associated with selection of a PEF site has not yet been determined.
- (8) The WFS Roadmap provides an approach to achieve 87% landfill diversion. It seeks to achieve this without the need for large-scale thermal treatment of inert waste in the ACT. The Roadmap provides a way of achieving up to 80% diversion through waste avoidance and recycling, with the additional 7% of landfill diversion achieved through the processing residual (non-recyclable) waste into PEF.

Schools—libraries (Question No 1332)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to government primary schools, how many (a) have a separate dedicated library, (b) have a staff member with the title teacher librarian, (c) with a library do not have a dedicated teacher librarian and (d) do not have a separate delegated library space.

- (2) In relation to government (a) high schools and (b) colleges, how many (i) have a separate dedicated library, (b) have a staff member with the title teacher librarian, (c) with a library do not have a teacher librarian and (d) do not have a separate library space.

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

- (1) Of the 50 ACT public primary schools and six early childhood schools:
 - a) Every school has a separate, dedicated library.
 - b) Thirteen primary schools and one early childhood school employ a full time teacher librarian. One primary school employs a part-time teacher librarian. A further nine primary schools and one early childhood school employ a classroom teacher or an executive staff member in their library. Twenty-three primary schools and two early childhood schools employ an administrative staff member to manage the library. One primary school library is staffed by a volunteer.
 - c) Three primary schools and two early childhood schools do not employ a staff member in the library.
 - d) Every school has a separate, dedicated library space.
- (2) Of the 31 remaining schools:
 - a) Every school has a separate, dedicated library.
 - b) Nine colleges, three high schools and seven P-10 schools employ a full time teacher librarian. A further four high schools and one P-10 school employ a classroom teacher or executive staff member in their library. Two high schools and three specialist schools employ an administrative staff member to manage the library.
 - c) One high school and one specialist school do not employ a staff member in the library.
 - d) Every school has a separate, dedicated library space.

Schools—librarians (Question No 1334)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many full time equivalent teacher librarians are employed in ACT government schools.
- (2) What is the salary range for the category referred to in part (1) and does it attract an additional loading.
- (3) What qualifications are required for these positions.
- (4) What professional development is available for teachers wanting to upgrade their qualifications to the teacher librarian category.

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

- (1) There are approximately 33.5 full time equivalent teacher librarians employed in ACT public schools.

- (2) Teacher librarians are part of the teacher classification in the *ACT Public Sector Education and Training Directorate (Teaching Staff) Enterprise Agreement 2014-2018*.

As of 1 April 2018 Classroom Teacher salaries range between \$64,411 and \$101,821 dependant on a Classroom Teacher's salary increment. Teacher librarian positions do not attract an additional loading.

- (3) Teacher librarians hold a range of specialised qualifications including Graduate Diploma of Applied Science (Library and Information Management), Graduate Diploma of Education (Teacher Librarianship), Master of Applied Science (Library and Information Management), Master of Applied Science (Teacher Librarianship), Master of Education (Teacher Librarianship) and Master of Information Services (Teacher Librarian). Teacher librarians also meet the general qualification standard for professional registration through the Teacher Quality Institute. Staff working in libraries are not required to be teacher librarians.
- (4) Should a teacher wish to attain additional qualifications they could do so through a number of avenues:
- Teacher Scholarships Program - supports teachers to undertake further study, training and/or research that will lead to improved student learning outcomes.
 - ACT Government Studies Assistance Program – support for additional or new qualifications.

Education—vocational (Question No 1335)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to vocational programs in ACT colleges, how many industries are involved in the approved vocational education and training programs that qualify under training packages.
- (2) How many students undertake vocational education and training programs that qualify under training packages endorsed by specific industry areas and in what schools are they delivered.

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

- (1) There are 12 industry training packages included in the approved vocational education and training (VET) programs delivered by the four ACT school based Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) that are grouped by school network area (South/Weston; North/Gungahlin; Tuggeranong and Belconnen). The training packages available are as follows:
- i. Agriculture, Horticulture and Conservation and Land Management
 - ii. Automotive Retail, Service and Repair
 - iii. Business Services Training Package
 - iv. Community Services
 - v. Construction, Plumbing and Services
 - vi. Creative Arts and Culture
 - vii. Furnishing (Carpentry)

- viii. Information and Communications
- ix. Manufacturing and Engineering
- x. Sport, Fitness and Recreation
- xi. Textiles, Clothing and Footwear
- xii. Tourism, Travel and Hospitality

- (2) All ACT colleges deliver vocational qualifications, ranging from Certificate I to III. Student enrolment in VET courses is managed by each school through the ACT Certification System (ACS) which is operated by the Board of Senior Secondary Studies (BSSS). In 2017 there were 2,464 year 11 and 12 college students in ACT public schools who enrolled in a VET course in any of the 12 industry training packages listed above. As of May 2018, there were 2,086 year 11 and 12 students enrolled in a vocational education and training course.

Schools—libraries (Question No 1336)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many libraries in government primary schools are used as a home classroom on more than one day a week and what schools are they.
- (2) How many libraries in government high schools are used as a classroom on more than one day a week and what schools are they.
- (3) Do any schools use their library space for purposes other than normal library activities; if so, (a) what schools are they and (b) what is the other purpose they are used for.

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

- (1) None of the libraries in ACT public schools are used solely as a home classroom space, however at Mawson Primary School, Curtin Primary School and Bonython Primary School the library is situated in a large space that also includes a permanent classroom.
- (2) The school library is a space used to support learning and often teachers will take classes to the library in both scheduled and unscheduled visits. This allows these classes to access library resources for use in a range of subject areas. Additionally, the library often provides an alternative learning space that is more suited to a specific lesson than the regular classroom. All schools in the system would use their libraries as learning environments from time to time across the school week.
- (3) In ACT public schools, the library is a key part of the school community. In addition to providing access to a wide range of books and resources to students and valuable student development in information literacy, the school library provides:
 - A quiet space for students during break times
 - A hub for eLearning, technology and cyber-safety activities
 - A space for students to access games, puzzles and computers
 - Access to resources for teachers to use in their classroom

- A space for students to present work to their peers
- A space for meetings and professional development
- A space for meditation and prayer
- A place for families to connect more closely with the school
- A meeting space for community groups
- A showcase space for the school at open nights and community events.

Additionally, three ACT public colleges (Erindale, Lake Tuggeranong and Gungahlin) incorporate a joint-use library that is highly valued by the school and local community.

Government—men's sheds (Question No 1337)

Ms Lawder asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many men's shed organisations are currently on peppercorn rent arrangements.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide a list outlining all of the facilities (including land) that are currently being leased out on a peppercorn arrangement to men's sheds.
- (3) What is the value of these rent arrangements (per individual facility).
- (4) Does the ACT Property Group have guidelines, policies or instructions for how to handle or apply peppercorn rent applications from men's sheds; if so, (a) what are these instructions, (b) when was the last time they were reviewed and (c) can the Treasurer provide a copy of the guidelines, policies and instructions.

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

- (1) The Territory has no peppercorn agreements with men's sheds.
- (2) Nil. However, there is a total of three men's sheds that operate via an under-lease at three Territory owned sites in Kaleen, Dickson and Greenway. These arrangements are directly between the Territory's head tenant and the men's sheds.
- (3) Not applicable.
- (4) Yes.
 - (a) ACT Property Group's Community and Other Tenancies, Application and Accommodation Policy 2007 is used as a guide to determine eligibility for community accommodation.
 - (b) The 2007 policy is current and was reviewed and updated in April 2008.
 - (c) The policy can be downloaded at

apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1157332/Community-and-Other-Tenancies-Application-and-Allocation-Policy.pdf

**Land—block 23, city
(Question No 1338)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) What date was City Block 23 Section 19 first identified by the City Renewal Authority (CRA), or previously by another Government entity, for land release.
- (2) Has the ACT Government previously received or considered any internal or external expressions of interests, or proposals regarding the sale or development of City Block 23 Section 19; if so, can the Chief Minister provide the (a) date the ACT Government received the expression of interest or proposal, (b) nature of the expression of interest, sale or development proposal and (c) entity, internal or external, who expressed interest or made the proposal.
- (3) What is the estimated value of City Block 23 Section 19.
- (4) Will the works currently being undertaken on City Block 23 Section 19 affect the value stated in part (3); if so, can the Chief Minister outline how they will affect the value, and provide an estimated value after they are completed; if not, why not.
- (5) How many public car parking spaces will the new owner or developer be required to provide if City Block 23 Section 19 is sold or released by the CRA.

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

- (1) Block 23 Section 19 City was Included on the 2008-09 to 2012-13 Indicative Land Release Program – scheduled for release in 2008-09. The site was released for auction on 21 June 2010 and did not sell.
- (2) No.
- (3) There has been no recent valuation undertaken on this site, therefore no accurate value can be provided.
- (4) A planning study will identify the opportunity for the sales release and development of part block 23 Section 19. It will be this opportunity that can then be used to establish a value for the saleable portion of Block 23 Section 19 City.
- (5) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will need to determine the number of replacement parks required when a development application is lodged for Block 23 Section 19 City by the new owner or developer for redevelopment of the site.

**Land—title system modernisation program
(Question No 1339)**

Mr Coe asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 11 May 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) Can the Chief Minister provide an update on the Land Title System Modernisation Program, including the (a) initiatives and expected outcomes of the program, and

whether they have been met, (b) timeframe for implementation, (c) expected total cost of the program, (d) total value spent to date on the program and (e) entities involved in the program, including third party service providers and stakeholder groups.

- (2) If third parties have been engaged to assist with the Land Title System Modernisation Program, can the Chief Minister provide (a) the name of the entity, (b) the value of the contract, (c) services provided, (d) procurement method, (e) period of contract, (f) contract name and (g) contract numbers.

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

- (1) Initiatives and expected outcomes of the program, and whether they have been met:

- (a) The Land Titles Modernisation Project mandate is to deliver a new online Land Titles Register providing access to the Public, Industry Subscriber and to ACT Govt. users, including the following items which have been delivered:
- (i) Replace the existing Tarquin system with the new ACT Land Information System (ACTLIS) and deliver new ICT infrastructure, ensuring supportability.
 - (ii) Allow online purchases and account payments by credit card.
 - (iii) Provide a better user experience accessible from normal web browsers on all computers, tablets and mobile phones.
 - (iv) Deliver searches by the use of street addressing and other property and title details.
 - (v) Modernise business processes so there is less reliance on data entry and manual monthly account generation.
 - (vi) Deliver benefits to industry by way of more efficient user and account management facilities.
 - (vii) Deliver reporting functions to the ACT Revenue Office and the Australian Taxation Office.

the following deliverables which are now under development:

- (viii) Deliver a Title Watch Service whereby the public and industry will receive an alert on a Title should there be a dealing lodged with the Land Titles Office.
 - (ix) Rationalise the 85 Land Titles Dealings currently managed by the Land Titles Office and migrate those from Tarquin to ACTLIS.
- (b) The Land Titles Modernisation Project is currently scheduled for completion in April 2019. ACTLIS Release 1 was delivered in early May and the project is now 40% complete. System development work for Release 2 – Dealing Lodgements has now commenced and is scheduled for completion by April 2019.
- (c) In the 2015-16 a budget \$1,790,000 was announced as capital funding for the land titles project.
- (d) As at 30 April 2018, \$992,000 has been spent.
- (e) Entities involved in the program, including third party service providers and stakeholder groups are:

Third party Service Providers:

- (i) Relation Data System Pty Limited - Contractor & Software Developer
- (ii) Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited - Source code supplier
- (iii) Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd - Escrow agent
- (iv) Westpac Bank – Credit Card Payment Services

Stakeholder Groups:

- (v) Access Canberra – Land Titles Office – Business System Owner
- (vi) CMTEDD – Shared Services ICT – Provider of ICT Infrastructure
- (vii) ACT Revenue Office – Receiver of Transaction Report for Stamp Duty
- (viii) Access Canberra – Receiver and reconciliation of payments
- (ix) Australian Taxation Office – Receiver of Foreign Land Ownership Report
- (x) ACT Law Society – Property Law Committee – Representing industry users
- (xi) ACT Public Users – For searches
- (xii) Buyers & Sellers of Land – For submission of forms
- (xiii) ACT Government Users – For delivery of services and statutory obligations
- (xiv) Subscribers – Including conveyancers, lodgement agents, surveyors and any other business requiring regular access to Land Title information.

(2)

(a) the name of the entity

- (i) Relation Data System Pty Limited
- (ii) Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited
- (iii) Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd

(b) the value of the contract

- (i) Relation Data System Pty Limited:
Contract Value - \$1,056,000 (GST Inclusive)
- (ii) Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited:
Contract Value - \$55,000p.a. (GST Inclusive)
- (iii) Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd:
Contract Value \$2,500 p.a. (Plus GST)

(c) services provided

- (i) Relation Data System Pty Limited:
Tarquin upgrade, system software development, system setup and technical integration into SSICT infrastructure, warranty, support and maintenance services.
- (ii) Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited:
Supply of undeveloped source code.
- (iii) Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd:
Escrow services for source code safe storage.

(d) procurement method

A Single Select Procurement Process was used to engage the main contractor Relational Data Systems. Fuji Xerox Document Management was engaged as it is the only supplier of the source code. Software Escrow & Copyright Agents was selected as panel contractor with the ACT.

(e) period of contract

- (i) Relation Data Systems Pty Limited – From 23 March 2017 until the services are successful delivered.
- (ii) Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited - 15 Years (March 2032) termination by giving three months notice.

(iii) Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd – Ongoing – termination by giving three months notice.

(f) - (g) contract name and contract numbers

a. Relation Data Systems Pty Limited

– Upgrade and Support of Tarquin Land Titles System

Contract No. Proc-034

b. Fuji Xerox Document Management Pty Limited

– Software Licensing Agreement

Contract No. 25388.21

c. Software Escrow & Copyright Agents Pty Ltd

– Escrow Agreement.

Contract No. Not Registered - Low value.

Taxation—utilities (Question No 1343)

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total average cost per household passed on by utilities providers due to the Utilities Network Facilities Tax in the financial years of (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.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide the breakdown of the projected total cost per household passed on by providers due to the Utilities Network Facilities Tax in the financial years (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19, (c) 2019-20 and (d) 2020-21.

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

- (1) The Utilities Network Facilities Tax (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 answer 1.

Public housing—complaints (Question No 1357)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide the number of complaints made in relation to public housing tenants by the regions of (a) Belconnen, (b) Gungahlin, (c) Inner North, (d) Inner South, (e) Woden/Weston Creek and (f) Tuggeranong in the financial years of (i) 2013-14, (ii) 2014-15, (iii) 2015-16, (iv) 2016-17 and (v) 2017-18 to date.

- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of complaints made in relation to public housing tenants by suburb, in the financial years of (a) 2013-14, (b) 2014-15, (c) 2015-16, (d) 2016-17 and (e) 2017-18 to date.

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

(1)

Region	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (to date)
Belconnen	331	377	397	345	258
Gungahlin	81	111	118	103	74
Inner North	344	299	355	246	210
Inner South	111	124	117	134	118
Woden/Weston Creek	179	229	213	203	138
Tuggeranong	302	308	312	305	206

(2)

Suburb	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (to date)
AINSLIE	44	33	60	51	37
AMAROO	3	5	6	6	8
ARANDA	2	6	3	7	4
BANKS	14	11	12	8	9
BELCONNEN	54	43	59	55	38
BONNER	3	2	10	5	2
BONYTHON	22	25	20	33	11
BRADDON	73	64	63	40	20
BRUCE		1	2		2
CALWELL	20	12	6	13	8
CAMPBELL	1	11	2	2	
CASEY		2	12	9	5
CHAPMAN		1			2
CHARNWOOD	13	21	25	11	10
CHIFLEY	1	3	11	5	10
CHISHOLM	10	17	8	31	10
CITY		2			
CONDER	19	19	18	16	10
COOK	8	9	5	6	3
COOMBS				4	13
CURTIN	14	16	22	16	8
DEAKIN	6	8	9	6	9
DENMAN PROSPECT					3
DICKSON	6		2	6	5
DOWNER	7	8	17	13	14
DUFFY	6	11	17	8	3
DUNLOP	18	16	28	20	14
EVATT	13	9	10	9	4
FARRER	9	5	1	3	5
FISHER	22	8	12	12	5
FLOREY	40	31	18	28	21
FLYNN	2	8	7	10	9
FORDE	6	6	5	3	1
FRANKLIN	18	19	3	8	2
FRASER	5	1	18	22	17
GARRAN	17	14	12	10	7
GILMORE	15	13	13	27	2
GIRALANG	1	2	2	4	7
GORDON	22	24	18	18	21

Suburb	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18 (to date)
GOWRIE	17	10	9	26	2
GREENWAY	10	6	9	6	7
GRIFFITH	39	36	41	39	27
GUNGAHLIN	8	5	6	4	4
HACKETT	20	16	18	4	9
HAWKER	16	26	16	12	22
HIGGINS	10	18	18	11	2
HOLDER	3	1	6	4	2
HOLT	26	48	17	20	16
HUGHES	8	8	3	7	6
ISAACS		7	1		2
ISABELLA PLAINS	17	15	13	9	8
JACKA			1		
KALEEN	9	17	16	9	7
KAMBAH	49	57	77	62	66
KINGSTON	6	14	11	9	14
LATHAM	15	9	18	14	8
LYNEHAM	44	44	32	32	24
LYONS	25	22	17	13	14
MACARTHUR	3				
MACGREGOR	8	5	6	4	8
MACQUARIE	9	22	26	29	19
MAWSON	4	7	7	10	8
MCKELLAR	12	16	8	9	2
MELBA	31	22	28	18	12
MONASH	2	13	9	6	3
MONCRIEFF				2	12
NARRABUNDAH	38	60	48	61	51
NGUNNAWAL	20	35	36	26	25
NICHOLLS	9	7	20	7	7
OAKS ESTATE	5	8	5	16	7
O'CONNOR	37	25	34	27	33
OXLEY	5	3	10	2	4
PAGE	3	12	16	9	5
PALMERSTON	14	30	19	33	8
PEARCE	8	10	6	10	2
PHILLIP	15	21	20	31	27
RED HILL	1	1	4	4	7
REID	35	19	54	43	36
RICHARDSON	13	21	26	8	12
RIVETT	21	30	25	15	18
SCULLIN	12	23	41	23	16
SPENCE	24	12	9	15	12
STIRLING	1	5	7	6	2
THEODORE	16	17	24	13	10
TORRENS	5	5	2	4	3
TURNER	51	38	35	15	21
URIARRA VILLAGE	2	2	1	1	2
WANNIASSA	48	45	40	27	23
WARAMANGA	11	30	22	24	5
WATSON	26	39	38	13	11
WEETANGERA			1		
WESTON	9	25	22	25	9
WRIGHT					2
YARRALUMLA	21	5	4	15	10

**Transport—electric cars
(Question No 1361)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Regulatory Services*):

- (1) How many electric vehicles have registered or renewed registration in the ACT during 2017-18 to date.
- (2) How many times has the 20 percent discount on electric vehicles registration been applied each financial year since the commencement of the discount to date.
- (3) What is the total value of the discounts applied to electric vehicle registrations as part of the 20 percent discount program during 2017-18 financial year to date.
- (4) What is the total projected value of discounts that will be applied to electric vehicle registrations as part of the 20 percent discount program in the (a) 2018-19, (b) 2019-20 and (c) 2020-21 financial years.

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

- (1) As at 16 May 2018, there are 292 electric vehicles registered in the ACT.
- (2)
 - 2006/7 - 1
 - 2007/8 - 8
 - 2008/9 - 5
 - 2009/10 - 7
 - 2010/11 - 11
 - 2011/12 - 13
 - 2012/13 - 19
 - 2013/14 - 30
 - 2014/15 - 48
 - 2015/16 - 71
 - 2016/17 - 134
 - 2017/18 (as at 16 May 2018) - 280
- (3) \$24,203.56 (as at 16 May 2018).
- (4) The value of discounts applied to electric vehicles is relatively low and does not materially impact on forward estimates. Therefore they are not separately forecast. Motor vehicle registration fees are forecast in aggregate – taking into account fee indexation and estimated growth in registrations annually.

**ACT Ambulance Service—crews
(Question No 1363)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many emergency ambulance shifts in the past 30 days have fallen below minimum crewing levels.
- (2) How many emergency ambulance shifts in the past 30 days required overtime hours worked by ambulance officers and how many overtime hours were worked during this time.

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

- (1) The ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) currently aims to have 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift and provides for two additional demand crews each 24 hour period. These crews assist in the management of peak periods of community demand. Crewing levels are currently being reviewed by ACTAS.

For the period 11 April 2018 to 10 May 2018, there were 14 shifts where fewer than 10 emergency ambulances were available at some point during a shift. There are two shifts per day (day shift / night shift), which totals 60 shifts for the 30 day period.

As stated previously, there are occasions when ACTAS accepts operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews. For example, if it is known that there are not enough staff rostered to crew 10 emergency ambulances in the middle of a day, every effort has been made to back fill the rostered shifts.

This same effort to back fill rostered shifts might not be applied for night shifts during the middle of a working week. In these instances ACTAS accepts operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews in the knowledge that the high standard of care for the community is maintained.

- (2) For the period 11 April 2018 to 10 May 2018, there were 30 shifts that required overtime to maintain crewing levels. There were also four demand shifts that required overtime to maintain crewing levels. There was a total of 637.5 hours of overtime during this period.

As announced by the ACT Government in December 2017, an additional 23 paramedics would be recruited to further assist ACTAS in maintaining crewing levels and reducing hours of overtime.

Eight new emergency staff completed their induction training, and commenced on the ACTAS roster from 7 May 2018. A further 15 new emergency staff will be recruited in the 2018-19 financial year.

Rural fire services—funding (Question No 1364)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) What was the initial budget for the 2017 renovations to the Rural Fire Service (RFS) Molonglo Station and, to date, how much money has been spent.
- (2) Under what budget item were these funds appropriated.

- (3) On what date was the partial Certificate of Occupancy received and when is the complete Certificate of Occupancy expected to be received.
- (4) What is the expected budget for current and upcoming works undertaken to meet Certificate of Occupancy requirements and what do these works entail.
- (5) How have these works impacted RFS personnel and the use of their tankers.

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

- (1) The initial budget for the renovations was \$1,152,000 (GST exclusive). The amount spent as at 30 April 2018 was \$1,152,000.
- (2) The funded sources were:
 - i. \$602,000 allocated under the Commonwealth Grant - National Disaster Resilience Program, and
 - ii. The ESA contributed \$550,000 from its own funds and/or in-kind contribution
- (3) The partial Certificate of Occupancy was issued on 22 December 2017. The complete Certificate of Occupancy is expected to be received in July 2018.
- (4) The expected budget for current and upcoming works to meet the Certificate of Occupancy requirements is approximately \$83,000. The current and upcoming works relate to the installation of a fire hydrant which is necessary after the works increased the floor size of the facility. Once the fire hydrant is installed, a full Certificate of Occupancy can be issued.
- (5) The community can be assured that at no time during the renovations has the capability of the Molonglo Brigade been compromised, and I thank the volunteer members for their patience while the works were undertaken.

During the upgrade, two heavy tankers, two medium tankers, and one command vehicle were housed at West Belconnen ACT Fire & Rescue Station, as agreed with ACT Fire & Rescue. The tankers were accessible to the ACTRFS members throughout the upgrade project.

Having access to the tankers 24/7 allowed the ACTRFS to maintain its response capability and also allowed the brigade to continue with their regular training schedule. The co location of the services also provided an opportunity for ACT Rural Fire Service and ACT Fire & Rescue crews at West Belconnen to train together, and further strengthen their working relationships.

ACT Ambulance Service—fees (Question No 1365)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

In relation to the ACT Ambulance Service, what was the rationale for the ACT Government's restructure of the ambulance fee model in 2006-07 from a flat rate + \$/km model to a flat rate model.

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

The restructure of the ambulance fee model in 2006-07 was based on advice from the Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission, who conducted a review on the way in which the ACT Ambulance Service recovered the costs of providing its services.

**ACT Ambulance Service—fees
(Question No 1366)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

What is the breakdown of 2016-17 revenue raised from ACT emergency ambulance fees for (a) emergency medical treatment and transport and (b) emergency medical treatment without transport, (d) non-emergency medical treatment and transport, (e) an ambulance stretcher vehicle or operational ambulance vehicle staffed by an ambulance crew is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function, (f) an operational ambulance vehicle staffed by a single ambulance paramedic or intensive care ambulance paramedic is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function, (g) an operational ambulance vehicle staffed by an ambulance supervisor is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function, (h) a non-emergency ambulance service that includes ambulance transport of patients not requiring emergency care by the patient transport service is provided to a person and (i) aero-medical fees in relation to medical retrievals on the provision of the Snowy Hydro Southcare Helicopter Service.

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

The breakdown for 2016-17 ACT emergency ambulance fees revenue is as follows:

- (a) emergency medical treatment and transport – \$5.079m.
- (b) emergency medical treatment without transport – \$1.008m.
- (c) non-emergency medical treatment and transport – \$0.034m.
- (d) an ambulance stretcher vehicle or operational ambulance vehicle staffed by an ambulance crew is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function – \$0.134m.
- (e) an operational ambulance vehicle staffed by a single ambulance paramedic or intensive care ambulance paramedic is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function – \$0.002m.
- (f) an operational ambulance vehicle staffed by an ambulance supervisor is made available at the request of a person or organisation conducting a sporting event or other public function – \$0.015m.
- (g) a non-emergency ambulance service that includes ambulance transport of patients not requiring emergency care by the patient transport service is provided to a person – \$0.335m.

(h) aero-medical fees in relation to medical retrievals – nil.

**ACT Ambulance Service—response times
(Question No 1367)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

What was the average trip length of an emergency ambulance transporting a patient in 2016-17.

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

This information is not held, nor is it required to be held, by the ACT Ambulance Service.

**ACT Ambulance Service—fees
(Question No 1368)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to the ACT Ambulance Service, what payment plans are available to people struggling to pay their ambulance fee.
- (2) What is the process undertaken by Shared Services Ambulance Finance when they are contacted by people struggling to pay their ambulance fee.

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

- (1) If an ACT Ambulance Service customer is unable to pay an outstanding invoice they may be able to enter a payment plan that allows further time to pay through an instalment arrangement. Payments under an instalment arrangement are set at regular intervals, which are dependent on the particular circumstances of the customer. If a payment plan falls into arrears, it may be cancelled and further action considered.
- (2) Ambulance customers are expected to repay the debt owed in the shortest timeframe possible, given their particular circumstances.

In the event that a customer contacts Shared Services Finance (either verbally by telephone, electronically via email or in writing) and provides advice that they are 'struggling to pay their ambulance fee', a review will be undertaken to consider the options available for the customer. This includes identification of whether the customer is covered under a specific exemption category or waiver provision, which results in subsequent escalation to the ACT Ambulance Service to consider. Depending on their particular circumstances, a customer struggling to pay an ambulance fee may also be made aware of alternative assistance options such as financial counsellors.

**ACT Ambulance Service—volunteers
(Question No 1369)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

What capacity does the ACT Ambulance Services have to accommodate and make use of volunteers.

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

An innovative program, initiated in 2017, provides structured ACT State Emergency Service (ACTSES) support to assist the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) at multi casualty incidents. Selected ACTSES volunteers have undertaken training provided by ACTAS educators. Update training will be conducted regularly to ensure currency and familiarity.

In the event of a significant multi-casualty incident, the trained ACTSES ambulance support volunteers can be activated by the ACTAS Duty Officer.

**ACT Ambulance Service—private ambulances
(Question No 1370)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many private ambulances currently operate in the ACT.
- (2) How is their fee structure regulated.

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

- (1) There are no private ambulances currently operating in the ACT.

In accordance with section 62 of the *Emergencies Act 2004*, the Minister may approve, in writing, an outside provider to deliver ambulance services. As at 14 May 2018, there are six private ambulance service providers approved to operate in the ACT.

- (2) The approved ambulance service providers are private businesses. Their fee structures are their responsibility.

**ACT Ambulance Service—recruitment
(Question No 1371)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) What positions are available to paramedic graduates in the ACT Ambulance Service.

- (2) How many of these positions are available in each year.
- (3) If not positions are available to paramedic graduates, what is the rationale for this.

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

- (1) Paramedic graduates are able to apply for any positions within the ACT Ambulance Service.
- (2) This depends on the number of new and vacated positions that become available each year.
- (3) Not applicable.

ACT Ambulance Service—fees (Question No 1372)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many of the 52 084 ACT Ambulance Service responses in 2016-17 (a) incurred a full fee to the user, (b) were covered by private health insurance, (c) were NSW, NT, VIC, SA or TAS residents whose fee was covered by their membership of their State or Territory's ambulance service, (d) had the fee waived due to exemption criteria of (i) were school students at school, (ii) were pensioners or concession card holders, (iii) were residents injured in a motor vehicle accident entitled to free ambulance services as a part of their compulsory third party insurance, (iv) was deemed to be the act of a good samaritan and (v) other exceptional circumstances.
- (2) How many applications, in 2016-17, seeking exemption from ambulance fees on the grounds of financial hardship were (a) lodged and (b) approved.
- (3) How many ambulance fees in 2016-17 are deemed to be either unpaid or overdue.

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

- (1) Of the total number of potentially billable ambulance service responses received by ACT Shared Services in the 2016-17 financial year:
 - (a) 17 per cent incurred a full fee to the user.
 - (b) 15 per cent were covered by private health insurance.
 - (c) This figure is not recorded in this manner as it is counted within the figure for private health insurance.
 - (d) (i) 1 per cent were school students at school and were exempt.
(ii) 44 per cent were pensioners or concession card holders.
(iii) 2 per cent were residents injured in a motor vehicle accident entitled to free ambulance services as a part of their compulsory third party insurance.
 - (iv) No applications were received or cases identified as receiving ambulance services due to injuries sustained while performing an act of good samaritans in the 2016 17 financial year.

- (v) 17 applications for waiver due to exceptional circumstances were approved by the Chief Officer of the ACT Ambulance Service in the 2016-17 financial year.

The remaining 21 per cent is made up of additional billable categories which are not charged to the user. This includes inter-hospital transfers, or transfers by the Health Patient transfer vehicle, and other non-billable categories such as interstate concession card holders covered under reciprocal arrangements or attendance to deceased persons.

- (2) (a) 17 applications were received in the 2016-17 financial year, seeking exemption from ambulance fees on the grounds of financial hardship.
- (b) All 17 waiver applications were approved by the Chief Officer of the ACT Ambulance Service. These all related to financial duress or a combination of financial duress and exceptional personal circumstances.
- (3) 23 per cent of ambulance fees from the 2016-17 financial year are deemed to be unpaid or overdue.

Ambulance customers are expected to repay the debt owed in the shortest timeframe possible, given their particular circumstances. See response to Question on Notice number 1368.

ACT Ambulance Service—fees (Question No 1373)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Do ACT residents currently have the option of becoming “members” of the ACT Ambulance Service by directly paying a subscription fee in lieu of paying a one-off ambulance fee or having private health insurance.
- (2) Has this option previously existed in the ACT.
- (3) How does this compare with other States.

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

- (1) ACT residents do not currently have the option of becoming “members” of the ACT Ambulance Service.
- (2) This option has previously existed in the ACT. It was managed in conjunction with a private insurance provider, however, it was not financially viable for either the ACT Ambulance Service or the private insurance provider, and it was ceased around 2006.
- (3) The South Australian Ambulance Service, Ambulance Service Victoria, St John Ambulance Service Northern Territory and some St John Ambulance Service Western Australia country sub-centres operate their own benefit funds. The Ambulance Service of New South Wales, the ACT Ambulance Service and St John Western Australia (excluding some country area sub centres) do not operate their own benefit funds.

Queensland Ambulance Service and Ambulance Tasmania provide free ambulance services to permanent residents through levys or government funding.

ACT Policing—recruitment (Question No 1374)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

In relation to all new ACT Policing sworn officer recruits in 2016-17 (a) in which Australian Federal Police salary bands did these recruits enter and (b) how many entered in each band.

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

- (a) ACT Policing had 18 new police recruits commence in the 2016-17 financial year. New police recruits typically enter sworn roles at an AFP Band 2.4 level.
- (b) Due to their contemporary and transferrable organisational experience and knowledge, new police recruits previously employed as an AFP Protective Service Officer or as a professional employee qualify for salary maintenance conditions. Salary maintenance results in an initial higher band level pay point. The pay point is then frozen until the employee's substantive classification reaches that salary.
- (c) Of the 18 new police recruits in 2016-17, 12 were existing AFP employees who were previously unsworn/professional.

Salary Maintenance Band Level	Annual Salary	Total Recruits
2.4	\$58,518	6
3.2	\$63,351	5
3.3	\$65,827	2
4.3	\$76,872	2
4.5	\$83,554	3
Grand Total		18

ACT Fire & Rescue—equipment (Question No 1375)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to ACT Fire and Rescue, what progress has been made in giving effect to the ACT Government's commitment to fund an aerial pumper appliance.
- (2) Has the ACT Government ordered the chassis, or other physical component of the aerial pumper appliance.
- (3) What is the expected date of delivery for the aerial pumper appliance.

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

The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government.

The Canberra community will receive updates on the progress of acquiring the new aerial pumper appliance through future ACT Budget papers and any associated announcements.

ACT Policing—overtime (Question No 1377)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many hours of overtime were worked by (a) sworn police officers and (b) professional staff at ACT Policing in 2016-17.
- (2) What is the hourly overtime cost, broken down into Australian Federal Police Bands 1-8.

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

- (1) (a) In 2016-17, Sworn ACT Police Officers worked 33,410 hours of overtime;
(b) In 2016-17, Professional Staff at ACT Policing worked 3,962 hours of overtime.
- (2) The table below shows the hourly overtime costs broken down into AFP Bands 1 – 8.

Band	OT Rate
1.1	\$ 45.21
1.2	\$ 46.81
1.3	\$ 48.51
1.4	\$ 50.22
2.1	\$ 50.22
2.2	\$ 52.16
2.3	\$ 54.06
2.4	\$ 56.09
2.5	\$ 58.35
3.1	\$ 58.35
3.2	\$ 60.72
3.3	\$ 63.09
3.4	\$ 65.61
3.5	\$ 68.12
4.1	\$ 68.12
4.2	\$ 70.90
4.3	\$ 73.68
4.4	\$ 76.75
4.5	\$ 80.08
5.1	\$ 80.08
5.2	\$ 83.42

Band	OT Rate
5.3	\$ 86.76
6.1	\$ 86.76
6.2	\$ 91.24
6.3	\$ 95.72
7.1	\$ 95.72
7.2	\$ 99.12
7.3	\$ 102.52
8.1	\$ 102.52
8.2	\$ 107.06
8.3	\$ 111.59

Government—freedom of information requests (Question No 1379)

Mr Coe asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Can the Attorney-General provide, for each type of open access information identified in section 23 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*, (a) the number of documents published under each category, (b) the date the first document was published in each category, (c) the date the most recent document was published in each category and (d) where each category of documents is published.
- (2) If documents related to open access information categories identified in section 23 of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* have not yet been published (a) why have the documents not been published and (b) when will the documents be published.
- (3) For each open access information category identified in section 23 of the Freedom of Information Act 2016 that has not had new documents published during the past 30 calendar days, (a) why have no new documents published been published and (b) when are new documents expected to be published.

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

- 1(a) Many documents in the categories required to be published under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* are routinely published on a variety of ACT Government websites. To assist interested parties to identify documents required to be published under the Act, the ACT Government established the Open Access Information website <<https://www.act.gov.au/open-access>> which provides links to Open Access Information published by ACT Government agencies. While the Open Access Information website provides a strong indication of the number of Open Access Information documents that have been published in compliance with the Act, additional ACT Government documents published in other locations may also meet the requirements of the Act. For example, certain categories of policies, procedures and standing orders are published on the ACT Legislation Register.

The number of documents in each category identified in section 23 linked to the Open Access Information website is as follows:

s23(1) open access information of an agency

(a) Functional information: 34

This information may be categorised as either Functional Information or Organisational Charts on the Open Access Information website

(b) Documents tabled in the Legislative Assembly: 47

This category of documents is primarily published on the Legislative Assembly website: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-the-assembly/tailed_papers and may also be categorised as Annual Reports or Policy Documents on the Open Access Information website

(c) Policy documents: 3,554

(d) Budgetary papers: 0

These documents are published on the ACT Budget website: <https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget>

(e) Information about grants: 20

(f) Disclosure logs: 7

(g) Statement of boards and committees: 10

(h) Reports of boards: 0

(i) Ministerial briefs more than 5 years old: 0 – not applicable

(j) Agency publication undertakings: 0 – not applicable

(k) Information declared by the Ombudsman to be open access information: 0 – not applicable

(l) Information prescribed by regulation: 0 – not applicable

s23(1) open access information of a Minister

(a)(i) Minister's disclosure log: 0

All applications lodged with Ministers' offices have been redirected to Directorates and are published on the appropriate Directorate disclosure log

(a)(ii) Ministerial travel and hospitality expenses: 0

(a)(iii) Ministers' diaries: 7

(a)(iv) Information declared by the Ombudsman to be open access information: 0 – not applicable

(a)(v) Information prescribed by regulation: 0 – not applicable

(b) Summary of Cabinet decisions: 0

Summaries of cabinet decisions are published on the Open Government website: https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/cabinet-decisions

1(b) Many documents in the categories required to be published under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* were already routinely published on ACT Government websites before the commencement of the Act on 1 January 2018. It is not feasible to identify the earliest relevant publication date across all ACT Government websites by category.

1(c) Documents in the categories required to be published under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* continue to be routinely published on ACT Government websites. It is not feasible to identify the most recent relevant publication date across all ACT Government websites by category.

The most recent linking of documents to the Open Access Information website was on 22 May 2018.

1(d) See part (a) above

2(a) The Act does not impose particular timeframes for publication of Open Access Information. Agencies are building document publication under the Freedom of Information Act into their business as usual processes and will from time to time publish relevant documents on their websites as appropriate.

CMTEDD has been developing mechanisms to allow agencies to link those published documents to the Open Access Information website, and this mechanism is expected be available to agencies in the week commencing 18 June.

2(b) It is expected that agencies will continue publication of required documents on their respective websites as well as using the new linking mechanism to the Open Access Information website after 18 June 2018.

Information about Ministerial travel and hospitality expenses will be published on the Open Access Information web page quarterly, by the end of the following quarter. Relevant information for Quarter 1 2018 will be published by the end of June 2018.

3(a) Agencies continue to publish new and/or revised documents on their respective websites to meet the objectives of section 23 of the Act. However, not all documents required under the Act are created or require amendment on a regular basis. For example, statements of functional information (s23(1)(a)), information about grants (s23(1)(e)) and lists of boards, committees and other advisory bodies (s23(1)(g)), do not require frequent updates and there may be considerable time before an update is published because no change has occurred.

3(b) Agencies continue to publish new and/or revised documents on their respective websites to meet the objectives of section 23 of the Act. Pending the development of the publishing mechanism referred to in Part 2 above, CMTEDD continues to coordinate the linking of batched documents to the Open Access Information website on behalf of agencies.

Government—vehicle fleet (Question No 1380)

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of vehicles registered in the ACT by vehicle type during (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) Can the Minister provide the total number of electric vehicles registered 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.

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

- (1)
 - (a) – (k) Please refer to the attached spreadsheet for number of vehicles registered as at 30 June each year by vehicle type.

- (2)
 - (a) 50
 - (b) 56
 - (c) 59
 - (d) 70
 - (e) 79
 - (f) 95
 - (g) 140
 - (h) 175
 - (i) 232
 - (j) 256
 - (k) 292 (as at 16 May 2018)

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

**Light rail—business link program
(Question No 1447)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) Can the Minister provide the attendance figures for any Light Rail Business Link workshops or sessions held to date.
- (2) How many businesses have engaged with the one-on-one marketing coaching available through the Light Rail Business Link program.
- (3) How many promotional videos have been filmed and released as part of the Light Rail Business Link program.
- (4) If the Light Rail Business Link program is about proactive communication, why has there not been a newsletter or an update published since December 2017.
- (5) Can the Minister provide specific performance measures that were set for this program as part of the partnership with the Canberra Business Chamber.
- (6) How much funding was the Light Rail Business Link program awarded by the Government and what reporting is required from the Canberra Business Chamber.

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

- (1) The Light Rail Business Link (LRBL) Program has delivered six quarterly forums with 530 people in attendance. In addition 225 people have participated in workshops and round tables. The Program also makes regular briefings and educational presentations to individuals, Centre Managers, Business Reference groups and other public forums.
- (2) 31 businesses have engaged in one-on-one marketing coaching, provided through the Canberra Business Chamber as of 30 April 2018. This includes access to discrete individual support and the one to one coaching component of marketing workshops.

- (3) A total of 19 videos have been filmed by LRBL Program with 10 released to date. The outstanding videos are with the businesses for final sign-off or edits have been requested by the business due to emerging issues such as a profiled staff member has left the business.
- (4) The Light Rail Business Link Newsletter was published in February and April 2018.
- (5) The LRBL program is set performance measures based on achievement of specific activities with timelines across four key areas of:
- Capacity Building:
- engage CBC membership, and outreach as required, to ensure broad engagement across the relevant sectors of the business community; and
 - coordinate information and referral provision to the business community to build awareness of services and support available to maximise business benefit from the project.
- Light Rail Corridor Focused Business Engagement:
- host and provide facilities for the quarterly Business Reference Groups (BRGs);
 - via the BRGs and broader CBC networks, provide regular updates to businesses along the construction corridor to inform them of progress, likely impacts, emerging opportunities and business support; and
 - work with TCCS and Canberra Metro to identify opportunities and /or mitigate adverse impact on businesses and implement activity accordingly.
- New Opportunities/New Business Models;
- coordinate two business forums and other engagement opportunities to identify ideas and opportunities relating to TCCS objectives;
 - identify key ideas and opportunities from the forums and support industry partners and forum participants to implement through this partnership;
 - work with appropriate partners from business and the Territory to support street/precinct activation projects (considering facades, way finding, shops fronts, lighting) promotion of the offer available in the area and encouragement for visitors to increase spend; and
 - continue to assess best practice in activities world-wide and apply findings as appropriate.
- Marketing and communications activities:
- generation of 2 positive project stories per month from businesses; and
 - completed “key person interviews” from a target list of persons using questions to be developed with TCCS.
- (6) ACT Government funding for the LRBL program has been \$500,000 per annum for 2015-16 and 2016-17 and \$299,750 in 2017-18.
- Reporting requirements for the LRBL program are:
- fortnightly Progress Reporting with Manager Stakeholder and Community Engagement, Transport Canberra Light Rail (TCLR); alternated with fortnightly meeting with Canberra Metro and TCLR Communications Team to report, plan and co-ordinate business support activities;
 - monthly Meeting with TCC Chief Operations Officer to monitor progress and prioritise LRBL activities to achieve the work plan; and

- six monthly milestone report.
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Sport—Australian Walking Festival (Question No 1449)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 11 May 2018 (*redirected to the Minister for Health and Wellbeing*):

- (1) In relation to the Australian Walking Festival, can the Minister confirm that the International Marching League (IML) will no longer received funding from the ACT post 2020.
- (2) Are there any options for additional funding to be provided to ensure the only IML event held in Australia remains in Canberra.

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

- (1) In 2015, ACT Health provided Canberra Two Day Walk Incorporated with a grant of \$10,650 through the ACT Health Promotion Grants Program to support aspects of the 2016 Canberra Walking Festival. This was a time limited grant for the period 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2016 only.

Canberra Two Day Walk Incorporated can consider applying for funding through publically available ACT Government funding opportunities.

- (2) The ACT Government Grants Portal www.grants.act.gov.au provides links to a range of available grant programs. Another option is to submit a funding submission through the budget consultation process www.budgetconsultation.act.gov.au
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Housing—equitable access (Question No 1453)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to cultural capability in service delivery for housing in the ACT, what measures are undertaken to engage with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) individuals and communities to improve understanding of the full range of housing and homelessness services available.
- (2) Is there any user experience testing when developing new online tenancy services or a satisfaction survey for clients and community organisations to assist with such engagement strategies.
- (3) What is the process for developing relevant information resources for housing and homelessness services to be culturally appropriate, and what information resources are available for the CALD community.
- (4) Is there any tenancy training available to support more successful tenancy outcomes for people from CALD backgrounds.

- (5) Is there any tenancy training, where appropriate, that have a particular focus on addressing the causes of housing vulnerability for people from CALD backgrounds.
- (6) Are there any specific requirements for culturally capable service delivery and practices in future funding agreements for housing services.
- (7) How is equitable access for people from CALD backgrounds to affordable and secure housing options through available services and programs ensured.
- (8) What support is provided for tenants to access culturally appropriate services and programs.

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

- (1) The particular needs of people with culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds are recognised by Housing ACT. CALD groups were part of the community consultations undertaken in 2017 for the ACT Government's Towards a new Housing Strategy discussion paper. To assist CALD clients, Housing ACT fact sheets are available in a range of languages. Social Housing applicants and tenants have access to the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS) if required. TIS can provide telephone translating services to people who don't speak English and to organisations that need to speak with their non-English speaking clients.
- (2) An annual survey of social housing tenants measures their satisfaction across a broad range of topics relevant to their housing and the service they receive. This survey is delivered by mail and electronically (i.e. can be completed online using a mobile phone). To maximise the reach and ensure the representativeness of the sample, the questionnaires are translated and made available in eight commonly spoken languages, which can be either accessed on line or by requesting a mail survey in the language of choice.
- (3) In terms of resource development, the sector uses its collective voice and decision – making body, the Joint Pathways Group, to develop appropriate support and better outcomes for people from CALD backgrounds who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. As an initial point of contact, OneLink, the central intake service for homelessness services, provides service users with direct access to telephone interpreter services, through the Translating and Interpreting Service, if required. Information about this service is available on the OneLink website at <https://www.onelink.org.au/contact-us>
- (4) Housing ACT Tenancy staff are provided with training on working with diverse clients. For example, the Certificate IV in Social Housing and Homelessness, completed by many staff, includes a unit on "Working with Diverse People". "Working with Refugee Families" is another course provided by the Community Services Directorate to help assist staff in supporting CALD households.
- (5) See question (4)
- (6) Housing ACT current Service Funding Agreements with the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector require services to report on "initiatives that improve engagement with CALD service users to contribute to improved housing outcomes". Organisations must also use quality improvement practices, and undertake cultural

awareness training with staff, to provide services in a linguistically and culturally appropriate way. Future Service Funding Agreements will continue to incorporate these requirements.

- (7) Like many jurisdictions, the ACT takes steps to target public housing resources to members of the Canberra community, by imposing eligibility requirements that require applicants to be living in Australia permanently and have lived in Canberra for at least 6 months. We do however, recognise that many marginalised groups across the Canberra community, including people from CALD backgrounds, are facing serious challenges to safe and secure housing and need help sooner. The public housing program includes hardship provisions that allows the Commissioner for Social Housing to apply discretion to waive this requirement for anyone who is experiencing severe hardship necessitating access to public housing.

In 2015 this government declared Canberra a Refugee Welcome Zone. This declaration reflects our long-held position of support for refugees – a position that has been reflected by our exemption of persons who are in Australia seeking temporary protection from permanent residence eligibility criteria since 2007.

- (8) As a social landlord, Housing ACT work tirelessly to support the more than 10,600 ACT households currently living in public housing. In 2015, the Commissioner for Social Housing introduced a *Modernising Tenancies Framework* that promotes targeted, differentiated and outcomes-focussed service delivery for all of our tenants regardless of their cultural background.

This framework recognises that Housing ACT has responsibilities that go beyond standard tenancy management and extends to the social welfare of tenants, residents and community. Similarly it recognises that public housing is made up of a variety of people with differing strengths and support needs. Housing ACT work with each of their tenants to provide as much (or as little) support as they need to maintain their tenancy and achieve desired social outcomes. This involves linking tenants with culturally appropriate community services who are able to provide ongoing and more intensive supports than Housing ACT can otherwise provide.

ACTION bus service—routes (Question No 1455)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) When will the Pink Rapid Bus Service (via Kippax Fair) be introduced this year.
- (2) Will the Pink Rapid bus route also stop at Hawker shops and Jamison Centre; if not, why not.
- (3) When will results of the Stage 2 of the consultation be announced.

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

- (1) All new Rapid services will be launched as part of the new bus network which is currently under development. The second stage of community consultation on the new bus network will commence shortly. The exact date of the new network's implementation will be finalised after the second stage of consultation.

- (2) Details of individual routes and frequencies will be released as part of the second stage of community consultation.
 - (3) The results of Stage 2 will be released following the completed consultation.
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**Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing
(Question No 1456)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to the recruitment drive for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre in the ACT, (a) how many recruitment rounds for staff have been undertaken since November 2016, (b) when did they occur, (c) how many applicants were received for each recruitment round, (d) how many applicants were successful for a position at Bimberi for each recruitment round and (e) how many staff left their positions after being trained.
- (2) What staff positions have been recruited for since November 2016.
- (3) What staff positions are currently vacant and awaiting recruitment.
- (4) What types of employees are sought for each staff position ie full time, part time, casual etc.
- (5) What is the criteria in order for an applicant to be successful in being recruited.
- (6) What qualifications are sought in applicants.
- (7) How many staff are currently employed at Bimberi.
- (8) What is the nature of the seven week induction period that all successful applicants undergo before commencing work.
- (9) Do successful applicants work directly with or otherwise come into contact with detainees at Bimberi during their training period.
- (10) Is there full time payment for undertaking the seven week induction; if not, do successful applicants receive payment for the seven week induction and what is the payment amount.
- (11) What other training is provided to staff outside of the seven week induction period.
- (12) Who provides and carries out the seven week induction.
- (13) What are the qualifications of the staff that carry out the seven week induction.
- (14) How are the staff trained and supported in carrying out the seven week induction for successful applicants.

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

- (1) a. There have been five recruitment rounds for Youth Worker positions held since November 2016. A number of other recruitment processes have occurred for other positions within the Centre – refer to question 2.
- b. Youth Worker recruitment rounds concluded in February 2017, June 2017, September 2017, March 2018 and May 2018.
- c. and d.

	Applications	Successful applicants
February 2017	83	6
June 2017	75	10
September 2017	57	7
March 2018	108	12
May 2018	150	12

- e. From November 2016 – May 2018 six staff have left after being trained.
- (2) The following positions have been recruited to since November 2016:
- a. Youth Worker positions (see question one)
 - b. Team Leader (permanent)
 - c. Unit Manager (permanent withdrawn, internal EOI)
 - d. Part-time cook (permanent)
 - e. Director (executive contract)
 - f. Operations Manager (ACTPS EOI)
 - g. Programs and Services Manager (CYPS EOI)
 - h. Sport and Recreation Officer (internal EOI)
 - i. Facilities Manager (permanent).
- (3) Four ASO6 Unit Managers, two ASO5 Team Leaders and an ASO5 Facilities Manager are currently temporarily filled. Recruitment will progress to permanently appoint to these positions. In addition, advertisement for a part-time cook position has recently closed to temporarily backfill for maternity leave.
- (4) All of the nominally vacant positions at Bimberi are full time positions. The cook position that was recently advertised is a part-time (0.63) position.
- (5) Operational staff are required to undertake a recruitment process that includes a written application addressing the selection criteria, psychometric assessment, health and fitness assessment, interview and reference checks.
- Recruitment to other positions at Bimberi include written application addressing the selection criteria, psychometric assessment, interview and reference checks.
- (6) Minimum qualifications for positions at Bimberi are as follows:

Position	Minimum Qualifications
Director	Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) general registration, first aid, relevant tertiary qualifications
Deputy Senior Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, tertiary qualifications in management, welfare, social science or behavioural science, experience in a Youth Justice management environment
Operations Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, tertiary qualifications in management, welfare, social science or behavioural science, experience in a Youth Justice management environment
Programs and Services Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, tertiary qualifications in management, welfare, social science or behavioural science, experience in a Youth Justice management environment
Business Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence
Unit Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, Certificate IV in Youth Work, behavioural science or equivalent
Family Engagement Officer	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identified position, WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, relevant tertiary qualifications, minimum two years relevant experience
Facilities Manager	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, trade qualification desirable
Sport and Recreation Officer	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, relevant qualification in sport and recreation or relevant field, completion or partial completion of Certificate III or IV in Youth Work or behavioural sciences, relevant experience in the coordination and facilitation of sporting and recreational activities
Team Leaders	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, Certificate IV in Youth Work or behavioural sciences
Business Support Officer	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence
Administrative Officer	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence
Facilities Officer	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence, relevant trade qualification desirable
Youth Worker	WWVP general registration, first aid, drivers licence
Cook	WWVP general registration, first aid, Certificate III or IV in Commercial Cookery
Cook (part-time)	WWVP general registration, first aid, Certificate III or IV in Commercial Cookery

- (7) Bimberi has 71 full-time equivalent funded positions. This includes youth workers, team leaders, unit managers, administration staff, facilities staff, cooks and management. In the casual pool, there are currently 14 youth workers available to undertake shifts.
- (8) Operational staff are required to participate in the seven week induction prior to commencement. Other staff undertake a site induction, are briefed on the Emergency Operating Procedures and are involved in on the job learning specific to their role.

The Bimberi induction program includes; policies and procedures, trauma informed practice, cultural awareness, emergency operating procedures, responding to critical situations, human rights and incorporates face to face, practical and e-learning components.

- (9) Yes. The Induction period includes a series of observation shifts where new staff observe current staff throughout the day as they fulfil their duties in order to assist new staff understand the practical application of skills and information they learn in training.

- (10) Yes, there is full time payment for undertaking the seven week induction.

- (11) Staff are also offered the opportunity to complete a Certificate IV in Youth Work. This collaboration between Bimberi and CIT enables new and existing staff to acquire tertiary skills and knowledge in the areas of youth justice and youth work. This flexible learning method allows staff to combine theory and on the job training to progress towards a nationally recognised qualification.

Refresher training is provided to staff to ensure fundamental skills are maintained. Refresher Training includes Emergency Operating Procedures, Fire Safety Training, First Aid/CPR and Responding to Critical Situations among other programs.

Operational and non-operational staff are able to access a suite of relevant training available across the Community Services Directorate and the ACT Public Service. Staff are also able to access the study assistance provisions of the ACT Public Service Enterprise Agreement to undertake further study.

- (12) The Community Services Directorate (CSD) arranges the induction training program. Facilitators range from expert contracted providers, for example ACT Health, ACT Human Rights Commission, the Official Visitors for Children and Young People, Australian Childhood Foundation and CIT; to CSD internal Workforce Development section; and Bimberi managers. Each facilitator has expertise in the content they deliver.

- (13) Facilitators have a variety of qualifications, experience and / or specialised knowledge relevant to the course content they deliver.

- (14) Bimberi managers who deliver course content are experienced managers and have expert knowledge about the course content they deliver. For example, the Operations Manager and Security Unit Manager deliver the sessions on the safety and security policy and procedures and emergency operating plans. The Unit Manager responsible for the Admissions Unit delivers the session on the admissions policy and procedure.

As part of a continual improvement process, CSD partners with other organisations to support staff delivering training. For example, CSD has partnered with the NSW Juvenile Justice Department to enable Bimberi staff to engage in ‘train the trainer’ programs delivered in Sydney in order to continuously improve the delivery of training in Responding to Critical Situations.

Support and mentoring has been provided to all staff delivering training by senior managers and the CSD Workforce Development section.

Light rail—disabled access
(Question No 1458)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) How many seats will be designated for use by elderly, pregnant or disabled passengers in light rail carriages.
- (2) For how long will light rail carriages stop at each stop.

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

- (1) Of the 66 seats on each Light Rail Vehicle (LRV), there are 12 clearly marked priority seats for people with a disability, seniors and pregnant persons. These seats are all immediately adjacent to doors to allow easy access. There are also two dedicated wheelchair areas on each LRV.
- (2) The exact time each LRV will have doors enabled to open at each Stop is dependent upon a variety of factors, but principally the number of passengers boarding and alighting and the time it takes them to do so. It is the driver’s responsibility to ensure all passengers have safely boarded and alighted before operating the door close function. It is expected that the dwell time at each Stop will be in the order of 20 to 30 seconds.

Roads—Ashley Drive
(Question No 1489)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 11 May 2018:

- (1) In relation to Ashley Drive duplication ActewAGL pipes, what was the cost of the relocating of the (a) ActewAGL/Gemena gas lines, (b) Icon Water main and (c) ActewAGL High Voltage line.
- (2) Were these costs (a) known prior to the duplication and (b) borne into the original budget for the duplication.
- (3) What was the original budgeted cost for the Ashley Drive duplication.

(4) What has been the final cost of the duplication.

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

- (1) The cost of relocating the ActewAGL pipes were as follows:
 - (a) Gas relocation - \$0.950 million;
 - (b) Water main relocation - \$0.770 million; and
 - (c) ActewAGL High Voltage line relocation - \$0.198 million.
- (2) (a) Estimated Costs for the relocation of these utility assets were known prior to the commencement of construction. (b) The costs associated with the relocation of these utility assets was included in the original project budget and formed part of the construction contract.
- (3) The original budget for the Ashely Drive Duplication Stage 2 was \$ 24.7 million and Stage 3 \$3.5 million.
- (4) The final construction cost for the Ashley Drive Duplication Stage 2 and Stage 3 will be within this project budget. As the project is still active the exact final project costs is yet to be determined.

Note: The above figures are current as of 15 May 2018.

Questions without notice taken on notice

Health—cancer patients

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Kikkert on Thursday, 22 March 2018*):

1. The Government understands that cancer patients do incur out-of-pocket expenses however, an actual figure is unable to be provided due to the variable treatment pathways and treatment choices made by each individual patient.
2. In the 2017 Breast Cancer Network Australia publication “The Financial Impact of Breast Cancer” these key areas of cost were identified: travel for treatment, supportive medications, counselling, accommodation, diagnostic imaging and radiation treatment.

There is a requirement for cancer patients in the public and private systems to make a co-payment for chemotherapy and other supportive medications in the ACT. Most medications are on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS) with a usual script fee.

In the ACT, patients may choose to access the private health system for their care. This can be of significant cost to the patient. This can occur from time of diagnosis to post treatment care.

ACT Health initiatives and funding provide support to reduce costs for cancer patients through the following activities:

- a. Free cancer counselling service for any patient or their family member with a diagnosis of breast cancer;
- b. Heads Up and the Cancer Council Wig Service provide lower cost wigs for patients;
- c. Rise Above - Capital Region Cancer Relief (previously the Cancer Support Group) provides financial assistance to cancer patients in the ACT and Queanbeyan region. It currently assists over 900 cancer patients and spends over \$600,000 per year to assist with the financial burdens of cancer care;
- d. Patients have access to cancer nurse specialists who coordinate care, complete timely referrals and assist in the practical issues of reducing the financial burden of this disease; and
- e. ACT Health provides low cost accommodation at Canberra Hospital and Duffy House to patients from the surrounding region who are required to travel to the ACT for cancer treatment.
- f. The ACT Interstate Patient Travel Assistance Scheme (IPTAS) provides financial assistance towards costs associated with travel and commercial accommodation actually incurred. ACT IPTAS is available to permanent residents of the ACT where the access to inpatient or outpatient medical treatment and/or specialist treatment is not available in the ACT.

ACT Health—proposed organisational changes

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a question by Mrs Kikkert on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

1. The proposal to restructure ACT Health was discussed and developed over a number of months and involved a number of phone and in-person conversations between myself and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing. Noting the informal nature of some of these discussions I am unable to provide a specific date for when the matter was first discussed with me.

ACT Health—proposed organisational changes

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

1. I was advised that the former Director-General of ACT Health had decided to seek other opportunities following the Government's decision to move to the new structure.

The issue of executive leadership was one of a number of issues discussed between myself and the Minister for Health and Wellbeing as part of the broader considerations relating to the restructure of ACT Health.

Land—Dickson purchase

Mr Barr (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 11 April 2018*):

1. I have been advised that the current lease expires on 18 June 2018. I have been further advised that EPSDD has contacted the existing tenants to discuss transition arrangements.

Hospitals—waiting times

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Tuesday, 8 May 2018*):

This figure is not available as not all patients waiting for an initial appointment with a specialist are subsequently added to the ACT public elective surgery waiting list.

As at 30 April 2018 there were 1,085 patients aged less than 18 years who were waiting 365 days or more for an initial appointment to see a specialist. Of the 1,085 patients, 28 per cent of these were not ACT residents.

Emergency services—communications

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Wednesday, 9 May 2018*):

The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) maintains a number of public information strategies to keep our community informed. These include, but are not limited to, Memorandums of Understanding with media outlets (television and radio) for transmission of public information, posts to social media outlets including Twitter and Facebook, and publication of messages on websites. The ESA also maintains an Emergency Alert capability which can be used to broadcast warning messages directly to mobile telephones and land lines in any area of the ACT.

Roads—Ashley Drive

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Parton on Wednesday, 9 May 2018*):

Transport Canberra and City Services deliver on average over 100 capital works projects annually, with the vast majority of these delivered well inside their completion dates. As with all large portfolios of work, there will always be projects that due to unplanned or unexpected delays fall behind their programmed completion dates. The most notable projects currently behind their original completion dates include the Weston Creek Dog Park, which was delayed during the early planning and site identification process. These works are partially complete with new fencing and landscaping due to be finalise din mid-2018.

Also currently behind its original schedule is the Pantoworra Street Extension project which formed part of the Aikman Drive Duplication program. This short road extension work has had to be coordinated with the UC Public Hospital construction works, including the new multi storey carpark being built by UC, and will be sufficiently completed to support the hospital opening in mid-2018.

It is also important to understand why there has been a delay in starting the final stage of the Horse Park Drive duplication works between Well Station Drive and the Federal Highway. This delay was required to allow the environmental approvals process for managing the acid sulphate soils at this location to be reviewed and supported by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).

Canberra Hospital—accreditation

Ms Fitzharris (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Wednesday, 9 May 2018*):

Loss of accreditation would likely have an adverse effect on the hospital's status as a teaching hospital. In the event this occurred, we would consult with our academic and training partners to determine a way forward. However, it is important to stress the significant and detailed work being undertaken to ensure that the hospital is fully compliant with the standards in anticipation of the Advanced Completion survey in July 2018.