



Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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Thursday, 15 August 2019

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Thursday, 15 August 2019

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.

Asbestos-related works

Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.01): I am pleased to present the annual statement on asbestos-related works undertaken across Canberra to ensure the safety of residents, workers and those within the broader community. Activities undertaken during the last financial year have seen several agencies across the ACT government actively manage known asbestos risks for both friable and non-friable asbestos. This is a whole-of-government, whole-of-community effort, and I provide today a comprehensive update on the many activities undertaken in the last 12 months.

Since its establishment in June 2014 the asbestos response task force has made significant progress to realise the ACT government's goal of eradicating loose-fill asbestos insulation from Canberra suburbs. With 973 of the 1,023 affected properties demolished as at 30 June 2019 and remediated blocks continuing to be sold to former home owners and the general public, there is now an emergence of new homes appearing on remediated blocks, helping to reinvigorate neighbourhoods throughout the affected areas. This work has seen a one-government approach, led by the asbestos response task force, to collaborative planning and problem solving, diligent monitoring and assessment, the introduction of innovative processes and ongoing community engagement.

I am very pleased to report that there were only 50 affected properties remaining as at the end of June 2019, the bulk of which have settlement dates up to June 2020 or whose owners have chosen to manage their Mr Fluffy property privately. This number continues to decrease. It is expected that more home owners will implement eradication options, both through the loose-fill asbestos insulation eradication scheme and privately, best suited to their individual circumstances leading up to June 2020.

The task force is supporting pathways to achieve the end goal of a Canberra community free of Mr Fluffy by working with home owners through the provision of information and connection to industry and community agencies, enabling them to explore pathways to eradication; and working through the challenges associated with complex properties within the scheme.

Once remediated, the sites are then sold, with a first right of refusal offered to the original home owners. Forty-seven have been sold in this manner. Over 850 remediated blocks have been sold in total, many of which have now seen new houses built and families move into new homes in established suburbs.

It has been said many times before, and I will say it again here today: the Mr Fluffy story has never been just about bricks and mortar. It is about the people and their families, their fears and anger, their relief and hope for the future. The key to the task force's success in delivering a program of this magnitude has been maintaining a strong focus throughout on the people, providing compassionate support, clear guidance and meaningful assistance. The community consultation program around the Mr Fluffy legacy project is looking at ways of permanently acknowledging the impacts of Mr Fluffy on those affected and the wider Canberra community.

The ACT government's regulatory response, led by WorkSafe ACT, has also been strong. WorkSafe ACT undertook 226 Mr Fluffy-related inspections for removal and demolitions from 1 July 2018 to 31 May 2019. This included regulatory compliance for two private demolitions. For the reporting period 2018-19, 2,550 notifications have been received for asbestos removal works in the ACT for both friable and non-friable asbestos. Twenty-five of these related to the eradication scheme.

Asbestos contamination reports for affected properties which remain occupied are being monitored to ensure compliance with requirements under the Dangerous Substances Act 2004. There are currently 39 properties on the affected residential premises register that are subject to these requirements. The Work Safety Commissioner has written to occupiers, reminding them of their obligations for the safety of residents and visitors alike, and also penalties for non-compliance.

Beyond the Mr Fluffy scheme, WorkSafe ACT continues to work with contractors on the national broadband network rollout to ensure safe and efficient removal of asbestos from communication pits to minimise the impact on the schedule of works under agreements with the regulator. There is also continued work, with WorkSafe engaging with contractors in the rollout of new electricity meter boards as they are installed in residential and commercial premises under the power of choice program.

In relation to the ongoing work at Ainslie shops, the environmental cleaning from units 1 to 7, as reported last year, is now complete and WorkSafe ACT continues to engage with the owners of the buildings who are required to complete annual updated asbestos management plans. This additional control measure ensures there is no risk to users of the Ainslie shops.

There has also been comprehensive work undertaken by the Education Directorate. There are 69 public schools, including Jervis Bay school, with confirmed presence of asbestos-containing materials. Each of these schools has a hazardous materials survey and management plan, including an asbestos register. A floor plan showing the known areas where asbestos-containing materials are located is also displayed in the front entry area of all the schools. These documents, prepared by an independent licensed asbestos assessor, inform the school community, visitors and tradespeople of the location of asbestos-containing materials in the school.

An audit of asbestos management in ACT public schools was undertaken between November 2017 and March 2018, with the final report distributed on 4 September 2018. Although in use for some years, the current method of asbestos tracking and

management is currently under examination to modernise processes and reporting. An electronic application is being investigated by key staff and will consider school requirements and legislative obligations.

The Education Directorate spent approximately \$1.4 million during the 2018-19 financial year, undertaking 372 hazardous materials testing and removal projects. ACT Property Group attended 64 education sites to remove and remediate asbestos-related materials such as non-friable sheeting, floor tile glue and window mastic.

The largest single site was the removal and remediation of garden beds at the Harrison school, following the discovery of non-friable asbestos. As members would recall, in August 2018 asbestos-containing material was identified at Harrison school in recycled building materials used as ground cover in the primary school garden beds. WorkSafe ACT was notified and tests confirmed positive results for very small amounts of non-friable asbestos. This meant that, if left undisturbed, it presented no hazard to staff or students.

However, to eliminate the chance of material being disturbed, construction fences were erected around all garden beds. A licensed asbestos removalist was engaged during the September school holidays and a clearance certificate was issued. Plans for the garden bed rehabilitation were subsequently completed, and landscape reinstatement works commenced in June this year.

In addition to this work, WorkSafe investigated the source of the material to determine whether any other locations have similar material. This work has not identified any other contaminated sites from landscaping materials delivered around the same time.

During the renovations of Narrabundah College, aged buildings containing friable asbestos were demolished. Alternative temporary accommodation was arranged, with students and staff occupying the buildings on day 1 of term 3, 2018. The demolition of the three affected buildings was completed prior to the start of the 2019 school year.

Asbestos removal works have been carried out at several other ACT government facilities, including at Ainslie Arts Centre, Gorman House Arts Centre, the terrace building at Exhibition Park in Canberra, EPIC, the Dickson library, Birrigai and Yarralumla Nursery.

Further, as part of site investigation works at the Canberra Technology Park in Watson, the extent of existing asbestos in the buildings became clear. The current tenants of the site are aware of this, and the site continues to be safely managed under an ongoing asbestos management plan. As part of announcing its decision on the future use of the site in April 2019, the government committed to demolish and remediate buildings on site prior to sale of the land, noting that the site investigations had highlighted the need for this to occur.

Housing ACT is an active and engaged property manager, with safety for residents and contractors at the core of its business. As such, Housing ACT undertakes

asbestos-related activities through the total facilities management contract with Programmed Facility Management. In 2018-19, to 31 May 2019, there were asbestos-related activities undertaken at 19 public housing properties across the ACT, generally during a bathroom or other wet area upgrade. Activities included testing, removal and disposal as well as air monitoring.

Housing ACT's asset delivery team routinely undertakes asbestos testing, removal and disposal activities through licensed subcontractors as part of the standard process for preparing existing properties for demolition. As at 4 June 2019, 18 properties were demolished as part of the 2018-19 program that included testing and/or removal of bonded asbestos.

Keeping our staff and community well trained and alert is key to continuing to lift the awareness of the risks of asbestos. To that end, the registered training organisation arm of the Emergency Services Agency, ESA, continues to deliver and award the nationally accredited course in asbestos awareness. This course is delivered under the strict guidance of the Construction Industry Training Council and the ACT Work Safety Commissioner. In the past 12 months approximately 140 people have been trained by ESA. These are predominately ESA members, which include the volunteer services of the Rural Fire Service, the State Emergency Service and the community fire unit.

From 1 July 2019 ACT workers who are likely to encounter materials containing asbestos are now required to complete training on how to handle asbestos safely. This course is in addition to the mandated course in asbestos awareness that came into effect in the ACT on 30 June 2014. Anecdotal evidence in respect of tradespeople accurately identifying and taking appropriate steps in the management of asbestos has shown that these mandated training courses are helping to make Canberra a safer place to work.

Madam Speaker, as you can see from the works outlined, materials containing asbestos are present right across our city. This calls for awareness, active management and appropriate removal. This has seen the production of a large amount of contaminated waste. For the 2018-19 financial year, until May 2019, ACT NoWaste disposed of 36,725 tonnes of soil contaminated with non-friable asbestos contaminated materials—this soil originated from earthworks projects undertaken across the ACT; 6,487 tonnes of asbestos-impacted demolition material from the Mr Fluffy program at the West Belconnen Resource Management Centre, including houses, schools and commercial buildings; 6,358 tonnes from commercial sites; and 4,117 tonnes received from 1 April 2019 from 439 deliveries of asbestos-impacted demolition material from 12 houses, including two trial houses from the Mr Fluffy program at the Mugga Lane Resource Management Centre landfill.

It is fair to say that a great deal of asbestos-related work has been undertaken in the territory over the last financial year and I commend all agencies involved in working to protect our residents and workers from the risks posed by asbestos. I present the following paper:

Asbestos related works across Canberra—Ministerial annual statement—
Ministerial statement, 15 August 2019.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2019

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.14): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I am pleased to present the Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2019, which makes amendments to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011.

This government is committed to continually improving the health and safety of Canberra's workers. That is why, in May 2018, we announced an independent review of the ACT's work health and safety compliance infrastructure. The review was conducted by Claire Noone of the Nous Group, an expert in the field of work health and safety compliance. Her mandate was to evaluate the appropriateness and effectiveness of our work health and safety compliance and enforcement infrastructure and strategies.

The review was finalised in August 2018, and its final report included 27 recommendations about how we could act to make WorkSafe ACT a more effective work health and safety regulator.

As the Assembly may recall, last October I presented the final report of the review and indicated the government's in-principle support for all recommendations. One of the review's findings was that there is an opportunity to improve the regulator's governance model by making legislative changes to the Work Health and Safety Act 2011. This bill will make those legislative changes.

Making use of the OECD best practice principles for regulatory policy, the review considered two features to be critical in the governance design of WorkSafe. These were role clarity and independence. A number of governance structure models were identified, and ultimately the review concluded that a single accountability governance model would best achieve role clarity and independence for the territory's work health and safety regulator.

Specifically, recommendation 21 of the review states that the regulator should be established as an independent entity under the Work Health and Safety Act, using a single accountability governance model, with a statutory office holder who holds the regulatory power and is responsible for all regulatory decisions. This bill will establish just that, a single accountability governance model that will support an effective regulator in the ACT.

This bill focuses on a number of key design principles in implementing the governance model—namely, independence, transparency, accountability and scrutiny. The bill achieves this by establishing WorkSafe ACT with the formal title of Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner. This office establishes the separate and independent entity of the regulator for the Work Health and Safety Act. Further, the bill would vest the regulator's functions in a single statutory position of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner, or WHS commissioner.

The role of the WHS commissioner is a new role. It is a position that will play a critical role in managing the office and exercising the functions of the regulator. The regulator, under the work health and safety legislation, not only enforces compliance with the obligations and duties applied to the private sector but also imposes obligations on the ACT government as an employer. For this reason it is important that the regulator be independent in exercising its regulatory functions.

In support of the independence of the office and the WHS commissioner, the WHS commissioner and staff of the office will be independent officers in carrying out the regulatory functions under the work health and safety legislation. The WHS commissioner will be appointed by the executive as a non-public servant. The WHS commissioner will need to regularly disclose any conflicts of interest they may have. The WHS commissioner will be able to appoint staff for the office.

While the bill removes the current statutory role of the Work Safety Commissioner, this is responsive to issues raised in the review that the two currently separate roles of Work Safety Commissioner and regulator have contributed to a lack of clarity and some confusion. To ensure that the important education and awareness-raising functions in relation to work health and safety issues are maintained under the new governance framework, these functions have been vested in the office for which the WHS commissioner is responsible.

In establishing an independent entity as the regulator for work health and safety, it is also critical to ensure that there are appropriate mechanisms in place for the effective transparency, accountability and scrutiny of the activities of the regulator.

These mechanisms have been designed in the bill to support the transparency and accountability of the office through increased reporting requirements as a result of being a separate entity, including the preparation of an annual report; clarity as to advisory functions of the new Work Health and Safety Council that is responsible for advising the government on matters relating to the work health and safety legislation, including the activities of the regulator and stakeholder confidence in the regulator; a requirement for the government's expectations as to the priority activities and

expectations for the regulator to be communicated to the WHS commissioner annually by the minister; a requirement to make a statement of operational intent that responds to the minister's statement of expectations and supports the strategic plan for the office; increased focus on the strategic activities of the office by requiring a four-year strategic plan for the office; and a requirement to make a compliance and enforcement policy to increase transparency about the way in which the office carries out its compliance and enforcement activities, including its aims, approach, tools and guidance material.

Transparency and accountability around the funding and resources of the office will be facilitated by the declaration of the office as a separate reporting entity for the purposes of the Financial Management Act 1996. This will mean that the office will produce separate financial statements and budget information which will allow stakeholders to better scrutinise the funding and resources applied to the activities undertaken by the office.

To further facilitate the accountability and scrutiny of the office, a number of the documents I have already outlined will be required to be notifiable instruments and tabled in the Legislative Assembly. These include the compliance and enforcement policy, the strategic plan and the government's statement of expectations. This provides a critical step for members of the Legislative Assembly and the community to see and make comment on the activities of the regulator.

Technical amendments are also being made under this bill to align schedule 2 of the Work Health and Safety Act with the rest of the act by replacing the term "work safety" with "work health and safety".

While the bill represents a significant step in ensuring the best practice regulation of work health and safety, there is also ongoing work to implement the remaining recommendations of the report. An implementation project team has been established to make sure the operational structure of the regulator will support the new governance model.

I would also like to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank all those who provided input into the development of the bill, as well as the independent review that prompted this bill. Stakeholder consultation is the cornerstone of developing contemporary work health and safety laws that better protect our workers and better communicate to employers how that is best achieved.

This bill creates a governance structure for the regulator that will deliver a clear, independent and well-informed strategic approach to the activities of the office, with appropriate oversight and accountability. It will establish the foundations for the office to become a contemporary regulatory entity that is innovative, flexible, respected and trusted.

Ultimately, this bill will lay the foundations to ensure that our regulator is best set up to continue to support the safety of workers now and into the future, a key focus of our progressive ACT Labor government. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Health Amendment Bill 2019

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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.22): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Madam Speaker, nurse practitioners are a highly valued component of the ACT health workforce. A nurse practitioner is a registered nurse experienced in their clinical specialty, educated at master's level and endorsed by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia to provide patient care in an advanced and extended clinical role.

Nurse practitioners emerged as a health profession in the 1990s. The ACT introduced the Health Regulation 2004 to provide the necessary regulatory and policy governance structure. Subsequently the national registrations and accreditation scheme was introduced, in 2010. This scheme, through the auspices of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Australia, implemented robust regulatory arrangements for all registered health professionals, including nurse practitioners.

The ACT government commissioned the first independent review of governance arrangements for nurse practitioners in the ACT in 2017. The report *Nurse practitioners in the Australian Capital Territory in 2017: a review: practical and contemporary governance arrangements for the quality and safety of care for the community* highlighted the value of nurse-led models of health care. It also identified the need for reform of existing nurse practitioner governance in the ACT. Specifically, it noted that the existing governance and policy infrastructure duplicated other regulatory responsibilities and increased the financial and administrative burden for consumers, employer organisations and individual nurse practitioners.

A key recommendation of the report was to repeal Health Regulation 2004. This occurred during 2018. We are now at the next step to formalise the clinical governance arrangements of nurse practitioners; that is, to include the term “nurse practitioner” in part 5 of the Health Act 1993.

This amendment, proposed by the Health Amendment Bill 2019, will allow the scope of clinical practice of nurse practitioners in the ACT to be reviewed and credentialed for clinical privileges by a scope of clinical practice committee. This amendment aligns the ACT government with the clinical governance standard of 2017 of the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care, and the national safety and quality health service standards guide for hospitals. The proposal will reduce regulatory and administrative duplication in relation to the governance of nurse

practitioners in the ACT. Removing this legislative burden may assist employers, public and private, to create more nurse practitioner positions.

The amendments to the Health Act 1993, as recommended, are technically feasible. There is also a minor technical amendment that updates Sex Work Act 1992 section 2, note 1, as a consequence of changes to the Health Act 1993 relating to nurse practitioners. The note had previously referred to a definition of “authorised nurse practitioners” in the Health Act 1993. However, that definition was omitted in 2017.

Consultation on the changes has been extensive. The proposed changes have been accepted by all stakeholders. On the basis of the above, I commend this bill to the Assembly.

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

Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (10.26): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present this bill, which will extend the territory’s market-based energy efficiency improvement scheme, known as EEIS, until the end of 2030. The EEIS will therefore continue to encourage the efficient use of energy; reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with energy use; reduce household and business energy use and costs; and, in particular, assist low income households struggling with rising electricity bills.

Madam Speaker, this scheme is a win-win initiative which delivers strongly on government priorities. It wins by reducing greenhouse gas emissions from the territory and helps achieve the ACT’s climate change strategy and emission reduction targets. It wins in building a better city by ensuring that households and businesses improve efficiency and reduce their energy bills. The EEIS priority household target is a win for social inclusion, since it ensures that low income households benefit from energy efficiency improvements and associated health and wellbeing co-benefits. And the EEIS overall is a win for the ACT climate change adaptation strategy, because it delivers activities to help improve thermal comfort, health and wellbeing in both summer and winter, when the ACT experiences extreme heat and cold.

Many studies show that energy efficiency improvements are critical to achieving an economically efficient transition to zero carbon energy systems. A recent report by the

Energy Efficiency Council of Australia describes energy efficiency as “the world’s first fuel”, being just as critical as renewable generation options. The report emphasises that, as well as lowering energy bills and reducing greenhouse gas emissions, energy efficiency improves health and productivity and delivers jobs and economic growth.

This bill is needed because it provides leadership where other Australian initiatives are lacking. The Energy Efficiency Council report notes that, of the world’s 25 largest energy consuming countries, Australia ranks as the worst developed country for energy efficiency policy and performance. Similarly, the International Energy Agency found that from 2000 to 2016 Australia was the fifth worst of 28 countries for improving energy efficiency.

The bill is needed because studies have shown that a range of market failures continue to inhibit the uptake of economically energy efficient activities across Australia, including in the ACT, despite a range of effective programs that are providing rebates, loans, subsidies, minimum standards, energy ratings and education and awareness. These market failures include poor access to capital, particularly for low income households which cannot afford to purchase energy saving equipment up front; potential behavioural failures which occur when people do not understand the best energy saving options available to them; limited understanding of the benefits of energy efficiency; and split incentive problems where the interests of landlords, who have the responsibility for investing in energy system upgrades, do not align with those of tenants who pay the energy bills.

This bill is needed because the energy efficiency improvement scheme is one of the most cost-effective policy interventions delivering energy efficiency outcomes. As was confirmed by the Energy Efficiency Council, this scheme and similar schemes in New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia are among Australia’s most effective mechanisms for driving large-scale investments in energy efficiency.

This bill extends a proven policy option. An independent review of the EEIS conducted in 2018 confirmed that the scheme has effectively delivered large-scale investments in energy efficiency for the ACT since 2013, when it was introduced. About 74,000 households and businesses have received energy savings. The scheme has achieved lifetime emission reductions of over 500,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent greenhouse gas emissions, which is a greater impact than taking 160,000 cars off Canberra roads for a year.

The energy savings from the EEIS are significant. Small and medium businesses are estimated to save \$154 million and households are expected to save more than \$210 million over the lifetime of products installed. Average weekly savings are \$5.80 for participating households and \$100 for participating businesses. Importantly, from a social equity standpoint, more than 19,000 low income households are expected to save \$50 million off their energy bills over the lifetime of the energy saving items installed under the scheme to date.

Madam Speaker, in summarising the economic impacts of this bill, I want to emphasise that the energy efficiency improvement scheme does not have a cost for

reducing carbon emissions. Instead, it delivers a net economic benefit to the ACT economy. From 2013 until 2018, that benefit was equal to \$191 per tonne of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions abated. The lowest cost energy savings options have already been delivered across the territory, but savings are still expected to be more than \$50 per tonne between 2021 and 2030. Climate change solutions do not come much cheaper than this.

The bill will also fulfil the energy efficiency promise of delivering jobs and economic growth, since the scheme has been developing the local employment market for energy efficiency initiatives. The ACT government has delivered 93 training sessions to over 550 installers since 2013, and most have gone on to deliver energy efficient upgrades in houses and businesses.

The review also showed that the EEIS has delivered genuine savings that are additional to improvements that would have been made if the scheme were not in place. Surveys conducted annually with participants in the scheme show that 61 per cent were either unlikely or very unlikely to have undertaken the energy saving activities without the scheme, while 63 per cent of participants agree or strongly agree that EEIS products are helping to reduce energy consumption and bills, and 87 per cent of participating businesses are satisfied or very satisfied with their lighting upgrade. These results evidence a very high level of satisfaction with the types of services that will be offered through this bill and through the continuation of the scheme.

This bill will achieve the central recommendation from the EEIS review, which was that the scheme should be continued. It is also implementing the review recommendation of replacing the current greenhouse gas emissions metric so that scheme results are instead measured by the energy savings they achieve. This will work better than the current carbon metric, in view of the government's 100 per cent renewable electricity target, which will be achieved in 2020.

The 10-year extension will ensure that the ACT balances economic, social equity and environmental outcomes while delivering strong economy-wide benefits. These benefits are estimated to deliver \$15.4 million in net present value to the ACT economy.

One of the main benefits of the bill is its contribution towards increasing opportunities for low income households to reduce energy use and costs by way of the scheme's priority household target. The ACT's low income households are most affected by energy price rises because they pay the highest proportion of their income on energy but are the least able to make improvements and invest in efficient items.

One of my roles as Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability is to review the scheme's impact on low income households and to set the priority household target. This target prevents an unacceptable risk of leaving the most vulnerable group fully exposed to increasing energy prices. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that I have increased the priority household target from the current 20 per cent to 30 per cent for 2020. The level of the priority household target will be subject to ongoing review over the life of the scheme extension. This increase has been underpinned by the

government's initiative to improve energy efficiency in public housing, which runs from 2018 until 2021. This budget initiative, worth over \$7 million, is providing approximately 2,200 highly efficient heaters and hot water units into public housing through this scheme. Raising the target to 30 per cent in 2020 ensures that privately owned and rented low income households will also continue to receive benefits from the scheme.

The regulatory impact statement presents some options for further increasing energy saving opportunities for low income households by expanding the priority household classes to potentially include all rental houses, family tax benefit part B recipients, ACT services access card holders and additional referral agencies. These are not included in the bill, since they will be achieved later through subordinate legislation.

Madam Speaker, I believe that the extension of the energy efficiency improvement scheme through this bill is responsible and prudent and that it will build on a proven, cost-effective option for reducing energy bills, enhancing social equity and reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the territory. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Official Visitor Amendment Bill 2019

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 Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (10.37): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Official Visitor Amendment Bill 2019. The bill amends the Official Visitor Act 2012 and related operational acts. The bill gives effect to the recommendations from a 2017 review of the ACT official visitor scheme, conducted by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, to strengthen the scheme and support official visitors to do their vital work.

I would like to take this opportunity to talk about the scheme and the work of official visitors in the territory. The official visitor scheme is an independent monitoring scheme for people who are being held in government institutions or staying in community facilities, and who are dependent on service providers. The people in this accommodation are described in the act as “entitled people”. The places that can be visited by official visitors are known in the act as “visitable places”.

Official visitors are independent statutory office holders, appointed for their skills and expertise. They meet and talk with entitled people in visitable places to hear their concerns and help them resolve any complaints. They make reports to the minister

with responsibility for the visitable place about any issues of concern that they hear or observe, giving those ministers valuable and direct insight into what is happening on the ground in these places.

Official visitors visit Bimberi and residential out of home care facilities for children and young people, the AMC, mental health facilities, accommodation for people with disability and accommodation for homeless people. There is a requirement for some official visitors to be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, to better meet the needs of Indigenous people, who are over-represented in many visitable places.

As minister with responsibility for the Official Visitor Act, I am responsible for the operation of the scheme as a whole, but this scheme is relevant and important to many ministerial portfolios.

In 2017 the Justice and Community Safety Directorate conducted a review of the scheme, which involved consultation with official visitors, operational directorates and a range of community stakeholders. I would like to acknowledge the work of Ms Pam Jenkins in conducting the review. The review confirmed that the official visitor scheme is a valuable scheme and that official visitors are highly trusted by clients and service providers alike. I would like to thank all our official visitors for the important work that they do. I would also like to thank the Public Trustee and Guardian, who has managed the administration of the scheme fairly and efficiently.

The review did identify opportunities to improve the operation of the scheme, particularly in increasing the consistency in the way that official visitors work in different areas, the reports that they make and the level of support that we provide to them. The bill makes a range of changes to address the issues identified.

The bill was developed in consultation with the official visitor working group. Members include the ACT official visitors, representatives of all operational directorates as well as the ACT Human Rights Commission, and the Public Trustee and Guardian. I would also like to thank the working group members for their time and careful consideration of the bill.

I will now discuss some of the key amendments proposed by the bill. The bill amends the Official Visitor Act to clarify the legislative functions of official visitors. The review found that there was a lack of shared understanding about the official visitors' role across all areas. The review recommended that the Official Visitor Act be amended to more clearly set out the functions of an official visitor, including their role in highlighting systemic issues.

The bill amends the Official Visitor Act to state that the functions of official visitors include visiting a place and meeting entitled people at the place, monitoring conditions and services at the place, investigating and seeking to resolve complaints from or on behalf of entitled people at the place, identifying and reporting on systemic issues adversely affecting entitled people at the place, referring complaints to other investigative entities where appropriate, and reporting to the ministers as required.

The bill also includes legislative principles to guide the exercise of an official visitor's functions. An official visitor must respect and promote the human rights of entitled people and promote high quality care, service and treatment that is centred on their needs. They must consider the wishes of entitled people in relation to visits and how complaints are dealt with, and encourage the early resolution of complaints whenever reasonable and practicable to do so.

The bill improves the coverage and flexibility of the official visitor scheme. Under the current framework official visitors are appointed under their separate operational acts. The legislation has prevented official visitors from covering for each other and visiting places under a different operational act if an official visitor goes on leave or resigns. This has created particular difficulties for the homelessness official visitor, who is the only official visitor appointed under the Housing Assistance Act. The bill rectifies this situation by centralising the appointment of official visitors under the Official Visitor Act and allowing official visitors to visit places under different operational acts where required. It also avoids any perception of conflict of interest by ensuring that official visitors are not recruited by the operational areas that they oversee.

The bill helps to make sure that entitled people are aware of their rights to contact official visitors. An operating entity for a visitable place must give an entitled person information about the person's right to make complaints to the official visitor in a way that is accessible to the person.

The bill makes important changes to the Housing Assistance Act so that the homelessness official visitor can visit more people. The bill expands the definition of a "visitable place" to include independent accommodation provided by specialist homelessness services and to allow the homelessness official visitor to visit these premises on request or where they have concerns. It does not extend the operation of the official visitor scheme to public housing or community housing.

The bill amends the Official Visitor Act to give official visitors greater access to records kept in visitable places, in situations where this is reasonable and necessary. An official visitor may inspect a record to perform their functions if the official visitor has taken reasonable steps to find out if the entitled person consents and forms the view on reasonable grounds that the entitled person may not be able to consent but the person has not indicated that they object to the records being inspected. This means that the official visitor cannot override the entitled person's expressed wishes about the inspection of their records.

The bill contains a range of safeguards relating to the operation of these provisions, such as requiring the official visitor to report any instances where this power has been used to the minister. I will also ensure that guidelines are developed under this provision, following further consultation with stakeholders, to ensure that official visitors exercise these powers in a way that is consistent with the human rights of entitled people.

The review recommended that the Official Visitor Act be amended to provide a more comprehensive reporting framework. The bill amends and strengthens the quarterly reporting requirement for official visitors. The bill requires the official visitor board to prepare an annual report. The report must be provided to the official visitor minister for tabling in the Assembly. The report must also be published. The annual report must include information about the number of visits, complaints and referrals, and a summary of systemic issues identified by official visitors.

The bill also makes an important change to the way visitable places are recorded. The bill abolishes the requirement for the minister to specify addresses and details of visitable places in guidelines. While in some areas, such as corrections, visitable places do not change often, in other areas, such as homelessness services, disability accommodation and residential out of home care, numbers and locations of visitable places change more regularly and it can be difficult for operational areas to keep the guidelines up to date. The process of developing and notifying new guidelines is an administrative burden and there are also real privacy concerns associated with publishing details of certain visitable places; for example, residential out of home care facilities.

The bill replaces the guideline requirement with a requirement for the director-general of an operational directorate to maintain a register of visitable places that can be more easily updated. Details of the register are required to be provided to a range of specified people.

Other amendments proposed by the bill include clarifying the role and functions of the official visitors board, strengthening the independence of official visitors by confirming that they are not subject to the direction of operational directorates or other entities, except as provided by the act and other legislation, and removing the title of principal mental health official visitor.

The title of principal mental health official visitor was a remnant of the previous standalone mental health official visitor scheme. Many of the roles that were previously performed by the principal mental health official visitor, including coordinating annual training, will now be undertaken by the dedicated executive officer.

In conclusion, this bill makes significant improvements to the official visitor scheme to help official visitors provide vital support to vulnerable people and to enhance the oversight of visitable places. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Statement by chair

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (10.48): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and

City Services for the Ninth Assembly relating to statutory appointments in accordance with continuing resolution 5A.

I wish to inform the Assembly that during the applicable reporting period, 1 January 2019 to 30 June 2019, the committee considered a total of 13 appointments and reappointments to the following bodies: the Veterinary Practitioners Board; the Rail Safety National Drug and Alcohol Analysts and the ACT Climate Change Council. I present the following paper:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—9th Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2019.

Integrity Commission—Standing Committee Statement by chair

MR WALL (Brindabella) (10.48): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission. On 9 August the Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission, along with the Standing Committee on Public Accounts, met with Mr Dennis Cowdroy, the ACT Integrity Commissioner. The meeting was held partly to address some questions raised by the Standing Committee on Public Accounts about the interaction between Assembly committees and the commission. Members will have seen the advice from the ethics and integrity adviser, as endorsed by the commissioner, circulated by the Speaker on Tuesday.

The Integrity Commissioner provided the committees with an update on progress in establishing the commission. Recruitment processes for a CEO are underway. The commissioner is confident that the commission will be operational by 1 December, as required by the act. The commissioner provided a chronology of the actions taken to establish the commission to date, as well as tasks still to be completed. I seek leave to table the chronology, for the information of members.

Leave granted.

MR WALL: I present the following paper:

ACT Integrity Commission—Establishment Chronology.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Appropriation Bill 2019-2020

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020

Cognate papers:

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee report

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee—government response]

Detail stage

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—Part 1.6

Debate resumed from 13 August 2019.

MADAM SPEAKER: I remind members that in debating order of the day No 1, executive business, they may also address their remarks to executive business order of the day No 2.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (10.51): I will start with treasury and revenue matters; I will then move on to some of the vast universe that CMTEDD covers. I will not be able to cover all of the vast universe, however.

I will start with concessions, because the concessions system is vital for improving the fairness of our taxation system. There are, obviously, some issues because the ACT government has only very limited information about a person's income and wealth. Basically, they have to use the information provided by the commonwealth in the form of concession cards, which is an ongoing issue. I am looking forward to the response from the government on this issue, following my fair fines motion which will occur at the end of next week.

We very much welcome concessions assistance rising by over \$7 million, a 10 per cent increase. A \$46 per year increase in the utilities concession commenced on 1 July. I know that is not a huge amount of money, but all the people getting it will be people who really need it.

On that note, I very much welcome the government's new assistance website. It pulls together the various bits of ACT government assistance and it makes it a lot easier for people to find what they are eligible for. Hopefully, in many cases, their friends, service providers and family will point this out to them; nonetheless, once you have done that, you will have a much better chance of finding everything you are entitled to.

I will now move on to tax reform. Clearly, since 2012, tax reform has made important changes like scrapping insurance duty and the move from stamp duty to rates. I note, for those who are interested, that in Domain today there is an article about government taxation revenue in stamp duty as a proportion of total government revenue for the ACT and what the situation is in other states. Interestingly, we are only the second lowest. The Northern Territory is lower. We are almost the same as South Australia and WA, which demonstrates how narrow our taxation base is. We are forced to tax properties as our major thing.

The Greens support the general principles of tax reform, but taxation must stay as fair as possible as reform rolls out. The review that the government has committed to—and I assume it is doing it as we speak—is very timely. The review is essential to balance economic efficiency and fairness. It will be looking at the fairness of the

various options and help set a way forward that will hopefully have a degree of tripartisan support for the future. This is to be completed before next year's budget. I would like to see this happen well before next year's budget so that all parties are in a position to consider what it says, in terms of framing their response to next year's budget and framing their policies going forward, because next year is an election year.

The current budget includes a change to residential rates schedules to maintain a balance between houses and units. The Greens very clearly see this as an interim measure while the review is completed. This is one of the principal issues as to why the Greens think we need to look at moving from the current land-based rating system to a market-based system. What people do not remember is that, in moving from stamp duty to rates, we have made two changes. By moving to rates, we have moved to annual taxation, which makes a lot more sense, because the government has to pay its bills every year for health, education, rubbish, roads et cetera. It absolutely makes sense for the people of Canberra to pay that on a yearly basis.

Stamp duty was based on the market value of your residence. Rates are only based on the land value of your residence. Market value, while not a perfect indicator of your wealth, is much closer to an indicator of your wealth than land tax. The Greens have been banging on about this for a while. I am also interested that this was recently recommended by IPART in New South Wales:

The Local Government Act 1993 (NSW) should be amended to mandate Capital Improved Value (CIV) as the basis for setting ad valorem rates in the metropolitan council areas.

It is good to see more support for this. It happens in South Australia and Victoria as well. I am looking forward to the ACT government following this fairness and progressive agenda.

The other thing to note in revenue is the land tax exemption for those landlords who rent their properties out through a community housing provider at 75 per cent of market rent or less. This is something that I have been pushing for since the Seventh Assembly, so I am very pleased that it has been instigated. However, I have been speaking to the various community housing providers and I can tell you that there have not been many people take it up as yet. There are more MLAs than there are landlords in this scheme.

The basic problem here is that the scheme needs to be ongoing. Most landlords who get involved in this will wait until their current tenant leaves. The sort of landlord who wants to be involved in this is not someone who is going to evict a tenant who is happy where they are. So you have to wait until your tenant leaves; then, as it is only currently a two-year scheme and it has already started, you will be looking at maybe only a year when you will have access to the concession. It will really not make much difference.

I would very much like to see this be an ongoing, continuing scheme. I certainly support the idea that there should be a review of it to see how much it is costing and whether people have worked out how to sort it, because there will always be people

who look at doing that. It simply will not work if it is a very short, time-limited scheme, as it is at present.

Moving on, more positively, the Greens support the development of the wellbeing indicators. We believe that balancing social, economic and environmental outcomes, including climate change impact analysis and poverty, and gender and disability impact analysis, are integral to the wellbeing indicators. Thus we really support them. For the wellbeing indicators work to truly have an effect on Canberra, they have to be there for the long term. There is no point having them for a year or two and then saying, "No, we'll do something else." If they are to work, there has to be community and tripartisan support.

I know the government has done some work in consulting with the community and that it is one of the engagements that is up on the your say website, which is really good. But it is important, as I said, to have tripartisan support. There is a possibility that at some stage the Liberal Party will be the government, and I would like to see engagement on the wellbeing indicators so that they can also feel, and everybody here can feel, that these are a reasonable reflection of what this community wants, so that they will be ongoing, and not something that is partisan and belongs to one particular party. That is why the estimates committee's recommendation 22 was:

... recommends that the ACT Government include all Members of the Legislative Assembly in the development of the wellbeing indicators.

Once the indicators have been developed, the public officials will need to be trained in how to use them.

The other thing that the government either has not put its mind to or has not put its mind publicly to as yet is: what will the government do in the event that different indicators are going in different directions? There could well be a policy which works well for one indicator and has a negative impact on another indicator, or potentially has unintended consequences for certain groups or for the environment, or creates climate pressures. How will the different indicators be balanced against each other if it appears that one helps something and one hinders something else? The government clearly has competing priorities. And how are the wellbeing indicators going to compete with each other? *(Second speaking period taken.)*

Moving on to the lease variation charge, of course we welcome the first simplification of the lease variation charge as a result of the review which followed the 2017 Greens motion. We are disappointed that the main issue of the lease variation charge considerations, which was the impact of charges on residential redevelopment, has been pushed back. It is obviously currently still in the too-hard basket.

I am also very pleased about the introduction of the 25 per cent lease variation charge remission for registered community housing providers, which will commence on 1 October, to encourage the development of more affordable rental housing. This is budgeted to cost \$200,000 a year for the first three years, but, curiously, zero in 2022-23. I do not know what it is, but I certainly hope that we will still have

registered community housing providers providing more affordable housing in the 2022-23 financial year.

I now go to probably the most important issue in this portfolio: climate change. In May this Assembly passed a resolution agreeing that we are in a climate emergency. Thank you all very much for voting for it. This is in recognition of the fact that we are facing a global catastrophe, an ecological breakdown, and this is having devastating impacts on our environment, our budget, our society and also the government's budget. The resolution says that action is needed across all government agencies and that climate change needs to be at the centre of government decision-making.

I emphasise here again that the Chief Minister's directorate, as the central agency, should be leading this transition and ensuring that the government orientates itself around climate change action. As my colleague Mr Rattenbury said in his speech in reply to the budget:

The climate emergency declaration cannot be a platitude. We are in an emergency. The government's decisions and the government's budgets need to be framed around the issue of climate change and impacts on future generations.

Some of the recommendations in the estimates report go to this issue. The committee recommends, for example, that all agencies orientate their decision-making around climate change and ensure that they are compatible with the ACT's climate change goals. It also recommends that the ACT government ensure that budget funding decisions are explicitly considered in the context of the zero emissions by 2045 target and associated interim targets and that the costs of carbon emissions or the social cost of carbon are factored into treasury and directorate cost-benefit analysis.

This is really just a starting point for a government that recognises the climate change threat and genuinely intends to respond. The starting point is to ensure that government decisions are consistent and compatible with climate change action. We should be stopping and reconsidering any decisions that would make the problem worse. In this category I cite a few things like building unsustainable infrastructure that is reliant on fossil fuels or continuing to plan our city in a way that encourages private car use instead of more sustainable options.

I also touch on building policy. When people buy a new home they have no way of knowing how well it is built. Unfortunately, too many people find they have bought into a poor quality building, with many thousands of dollars of repair work needed, and that is just unfair. That is why I am very pleased to see the government include almost \$9 million over four years for additional building quality compliance work to drive dodgy builders out of the system. It has also been good to see the government taking a strong approach on building quality over the last 12 months.

On participatory democracy, the Greens are strong supporters of deliberative democracy, and it has been interesting to see the experimentation in this over the last few years. I am pleased to see that the budget at least partly implements the better suburbs statement, which was a result of the Greens participatory budgeting motion. But I note that the budget does not include funding for any new deliberative

democracy. I hope it continues anyway and I hope the government does a fulsome evaluation of what has been done so far, with the aim of basically a better democracy and increasing trust in our Assembly and government.

One of the quite bizarre things that were discussed at the estimates hearings—and I think it is now under this part of the government—is the Woden CIT site. It was discussed by the committee, and it suggested that there were no major barriers to using the CIT site for anything. It was just that there was some asbestos there. My daughter went to school there. The question in everybody's mind is: how is it safer for people to be on the streets than to be in a building which, over the years, has housed literally thousands of people? I have not quite worked that one out. I am really sad that the government has lost the opportunity to do something to seriously address our homelessness problem.

The Greens are of course pleased that the government is investing more money in upgrades to Canberra's local arts facilities and community centres, and it is really good to ensure that these facilities are equipped with up-to-date energy facilities, firstly, to reduce the cost incurred by tenants in these buildings; secondly, to ensure that these are fit for purpose for the organisations that use them; and, thirdly, to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions, because they all reduce energy use.

I particularly welcome the nearly \$1 million of upgrades to the Canberra Theatre over the next two years, but even more exciting than that are the plans for expansion of the Canberra Theatre into—I am not quite sure how best to describe it—what I would call the MLAs' car park. I am sure that that is not its official name. I certainly urge the government to use as much of that car park as is needed for the theatre and to ensure that there is good public transport—maybe a part-time showtime bus or tram stop there so that theatre-goers do not need to drive and there are not people saying, “We have to keep the car park so that the theatre will be viable.” This is where, harking back to yesterday's debate, longer hours for public transport are very good. That means that you can take public transport to the theatre, to the movies, to go out at night.

It also exciting that the Kingston arts precinct looks like it may finally be built. It has been a long time coming, and I very much hope it is going to be worth the wait and that all the heritage and governance issues of the precinct will be successfully resolved. I am also very pleased to see the government's support, including in my electorate, for the community arts associated with the Woden experiment.

In summary, there are lots of things in this that we welcome. But there is a lot more work to be done and number one is climate change.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (11.10): Recently the statistics working group of a meeting of cultural ministers, under the auspices of COAG, released a communique outlining cultural funding by governments for the year 2017-18. The communique made for interesting reading, for it showed how the spending by states and territories has changed over the three years to 2017-18. It showed, for example, that the growth in the ACT government's cultural expenditure, which includes arts and heritage, was static from 2015-16 to 2016-17. The ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia whose

expenditure growth was static. The increases across the country from 2016-17 to 2017-18 were the highest in New South Wales and South Australia. The ACT increased too, but one could interpret much of that as being catch-up from the previous years.

It is also telling that the ACT's expenditure level is nearly the same as the Northern Territory's. The ACT has twice as many people as the Northern Territory, so this government's commitment to cultural funding is about half the per capita level of our friends in the north. It is the same story for capital expenditure on the arts. The ACT expenditure in 2017 was almost the same as the Northern Territory's. Having said that, only New South Wales and South Australia had any real commitment to arts capital expenditure. All other states and territories need to pull up their socks in this regard.

During estimates I submitted a question on notice about future arts funding in the ACT. My question was this: what is the budget for artsACT funding for 2019-20 and for the outyears? The answer was:

The arts funding budget for 2019-20 is \$10.6 million and may increase by CPI in the out years if available.

I emphasise "may increase by CPI". There are two very critical elements to this answer: the word "may" and the words "if available". Let me give that part of the answer again. The minister is saying that arts funding may increase by CPI in the outyears if available. I do not know what "if available" means. Does it mean they do not know what CPI will be in the outyears? Are they seriously saying that the ACT has so little money that it cannot increase arts funding by CPI?

This answer does two things. Firstly, it underscores the static nature of the Labor-Greens government approach and attitude to the arts in this town. Secondly, it offers no certainty for the arts community, already running on the smell of an oily rag. This static state, the hallmark of this Labor-Greens government's commitment to the arts in the ACT, is evidenced further by the 2019-20 budget's accountability indicators for arts engagement. These indicators offer no hope to the arts community that this government has any commitment either to growth or to its importance to the ACT broader community. They offer no hope that this government has any understanding of the many benefits—economic, social, and health and wellbeing—that the arts community brings to the ACT and its people.

Let me look briefly at the first accountability indicator, the number of arts organisations that support community participation. Despite the ACT's growing population, the government anticipates no growth in this area. This is because there is no growth in funding. The target is 24 for both 2018-19 and 2019-20. This is down from the target of 25 for 2017-18, a target that was achieved. The decline in the target was because the government defunded the highly successful music engagement program run out of the ANU School of Music. The much-celebrated H course in music is the government's next target for defunding. It runs out of Narrabundah and offers a unique and valuable opportunity for our most gifted young musicians. This Labor-Greens government—with the support of the Greens—has ensured that this program will be no more after the end of this year.

Another static accountability indicator is the percentage of tenants of community arts facilities who are satisfied with the management of the facilities. The target of 80 per cent was achieved in the last two years and is set for 2019-20. But it is down from 85 per cent, which was the target in 2016-17. This suggests that the government is complacent about the management of these facilities and is not seeking to improve its practices or entertain any notion of innovation.

Further, if the government cannot achieve a target, it simply lowers it so that it can. It does not try harder or smarter to achieve improved outcomes. This complacency continues in the satisfaction targets set and achieved at 80 per cent over the past three years for the management of grants administered by artsACT.

Why is it that the Labor-Greens government cannot aspire to greater heights? Why can't the Labor-Greens government embrace the concepts of efficiency, effectiveness and innovation? Why can't this Labor-Greens government push the envelope rather than just shuffle paper?

As we continue down the list of accountability indicators, we see the same approach adopted even for the number of attendees at programs delivered by arts funded organisations. The target of 350,000 was set and achieved in each of the last three years. It has been set at the same level for 2019-20. Despite Canberra's population growth, this government does not think, or hope or expect that any more people will engage with arts programs. I doubt I could easily find an arts organisation that returns anything but increasing figures for public engagement in its programs. Why is the Labor-Greens government satisfied with zero growth in public engagement in arts programs?

In the 2018-19 budget the government discontinued another accountability indicator. It was the target for the number of engagement activities with the community on arts and cultural matters. It consistently was set and achieved for the previous four years. The government's excuse for discontinuing this target was: "Due to the changing nature of the engagement undertaken, the number of engagement activities is likely to vary." If you are going to engage with people in a meaningful and effective way, of course it will vary from year to year. But is it beyond the wit of art bureaucrats in the ACT to come up with innovative ways of engaging with people, and to measure that?

The annual variations will establish a trend, hopefully a growing one, for activities in which the government engages with arts organisations and the people who participate in them. But setting a static target of four per year and then discontinuing it altogether says to me that this government no longer talks to the ACT arts sector. Why is the Labor-Greens government shutting itself away from the arts community?

As in many areas in which this government is failing to deliver services to its long-suffering taxpayers, such as health, education and transport, this government is failing to deliver on the arts. Despite what this government and this minister tell you, the ACT arts community continues to struggle to make ends meet. The arts community continues to struggle to be heard. In spite of it all, the arts community continues to do amazing things, not just artistically, but economically and socially.

I must comment briefly on the Kingston arts precinct. The minister opened his comments by saying what a great idea it was and how fantastic it was. But we know that this has been mishandled from the very beginning. There has been uncertainty and misinformation. Arts organisations slated to move to the precinct have been expected to undertake planning in a vacuum. They still do not know how their needs and expectations will be met, and this goes right down to whether hardworking volunteers will have a place to park their cars. The government has hedged the question of rents. The design concepts are unknown.

And now it will all start again, because the Suburban Land Agency has taken over responsibility for its development. We are already years beyond the time line, and still there is no design and there has not been a sod turned. (*Second speaking period taken.*) I have to reflect on this because when I was the shadow minister for the arts, in 2011 and 2012, there was a huge amount of discussion about the Kingston arts precinct and the Territory Plan variation—Ms Le Couteur is nodding because she was there as well—that set up the process for the Kingston arts precinct.

That was in 2011-12. I think the debate was in 2012. Part of the debate was whether we should change the fabric of the Fitters Workshop, which thankfully we did not, and I thank the Greens for their support in that very important endeavour. That was 2012. We are now at 2019. It is five years and we are just beginning. We have just signed a contract with the preferred tenderer, and we do not have a design. We have a concept. It is like everything else that this government does in the infrastructure space: it takes so long.

Let us talk about SPIRE. Let us talk about the health infrastructure which they were going to build after the 2012 election. They put it on hold. Then they promised to build SPIRE at the election in 2016. They had no idea what they were promising. The construction time for that has blown out and blown out. At the same time they promised a new stage of the women's and children's hospital, to be delivered in 2019.

The Kingston arts precinct has been on the boiler since 2012. In 2016 we had a preferred tenderer. It took them three years to sign an agreement with that preferred tenderer. This is the whole state of everything about this government: its languid incapacity to build things on time.

The Labor-Greens government have a static approach to the arts. The arts community cannot trust them to have any faith in their ability to grow the community, because they are just steady staters. Under the Labor-Greens government, there is no future for the arts. Despite the government's inaction on the arts, despite its defunding of valued arts programs, and despite its static approach and attitude to arts development in town, the arts, of their own volition and on their own initiative, continue to flourish, almost in spite of this government.

I want to finish on a very positive note that goes to the amazing talent in this city and what it offers to its citizens and to the wider world. This will come as a surprise to the Labor-Greens government. Sadly, I was away when the Australian World Orchestra made its concert debut in Canberra just a few weeks ago. I note that the minister

attended the concert. My senior adviser did too. As we know, my senior adviser reviews for *CityNews*, and he wrote a review for *CityNews* on this. I want to quote from that review:

This wholly-Australian orchestra features players who are at the top of their game—principals from major orchestras and music schools all over the world, including Australia. One might ponder how many might have studied at the ANU School of Music? Especially pleasing was that Canberra's own Max McBride was one of the eight double basses, taking the principal's chair in the second half.

My senior adviser did ponder his question. We have found out that, of the 93 players in the Australia World Orchestra, one, double bassist Max McBride, teaches at the ANU School of Music; another, trombonist Michael Mulcahy, is a former lecturer at the ANU School of Music; and nine other players studied at the ANU School of Music. Almost 12 per cent of the members of the Australian World Orchestra have strong connections to the ANU School of Music. I am pleased to see that the school is coming out of the chaos of 2012, when the school was gutted of its teaching staff and programs, and returning to be an institution which will continue to turn out world-class performance musicians.

For all this government's inaction, its static approach and its attitude to the arts in Canberra, the arts will move on and will continue to grow. The ACT arts community will continue to create great artistic culture to enrich our city, our country and the world. They will do that in spite of this Labor-Greens government.

MR GUPTA (Yerrabi) (11.26): I rise today to speak to the ACT government's commitment to fostering diverse economic growth within the ACT, as evidenced by the 2019-20 budget. The ACT government's economy is one of the strongest economies in Australia. Over the past three years the ACT has experienced a combined economic growth rate of 12 per cent. Through this time we have also created over 3,000 new businesses and more than 16,000 local jobs.

This budget continues to strengthen our economy through supporting local businesses to grow, creating new jobs for Canberrans through tourism and event promotion, and boosting transport and infrastructure investment throughout the ACT. Local businesses are the backbone of our economy. As I mentioned in my maiden speech, supporting and advocating for the needs of local businesses is the key priority of mine, as a member for Yerrabi. It is imperative that we support our hardworking local business owners to grow and expand, as this contributes to the development and the success of the overall economy.

I am pleased to affirm that in this budget the ACT Labor government puts our local businesses first. Through attracting and supporting investment as well as helping our businesses become export market ready, not only does this budget continue the economic growth of the ACT but we are also securing the future of local businesses to continue to positively contribute to the ACT for years to come.

Furthermore, the ACT is currently experiencing increasing rates of population growth. The population of my home town of Gungahlin alone is set to grow by over 30,000

new residents by 2028. Whilst strong population growth brings great diversity into our community, it also creates economic challenges that must be addressed. This budget recognises the importance of job creation in supporting our growing population and stimulating economic activity in our region. The ACT Labor government is prioritising the creations of new jobs for Canberrans through the facilitation of major events as well as promoting our tourism sector on a global stage.

As an avid cricket fan, I am incredibly excited that Canberra will play host to the ICC Twenty20 Cricket World Cup at Manuka Oval in 2020. Not only will this event please my fellow cricket fans in Canberra but, more importantly, it will create a number of local jobs as well as attract international visitors, providing a direct and immediate boost to our local businesses and overall economy.

Expanding the operation and promotion of our tourism sector remains a key economic priority in this budget. Locally, in Yerrabi, a new \$300,000 camping area will be created near the existing Exhibition Park camping ground, attracting local and interstate visitors to the area.

Also in 2020, Canberra will host the Australian Tourism Awards. This event, again, will create a number of jobs for Canberra locals but will also signify the ACT's capability and commitment to being a key tourism hub in Australia. This is supported through the government's continued commitment to grow our international relations, which will deliver economic, social and cultural benefits to all Canberrans.

I am proud of this government's commitment to job creation for our locals, as well as its continued work promoting Canberra and what it has to offer, to attract both local and international visitors.

The key area of investment to stimulate the economy is the transport and infrastructure sector. In this budget I am pleased that the ACT government has affirmed its commitment to expanding local transport and infrastructure through developing a number of projects within the ACT, especially in my electorate of Yerrabi. Most notably, the proposed development of the multimillion-dollar Throsby multi-sport complex, which will include a number of soccer facilities and football facilities, will place ACT sporting infrastructure on the world stage, attracting international events and boosting the economy.

Similarly, this budget has committed over \$1 million to the designed improvement of the Gungahlin town centre road network, an investment that, I can assure you, will be greatly welcomed by all the residents. Investment in infrastructure in this year's budget solidifies the continued economic growth of our regions as well as providing exciting prospects for the future of the ACT.

In conclusion, a strong economy benefits all Canberrans. Only an ACT Labor government is committed to continuing the strength of our great economy through supporting our hardworking local business owners, creating new jobs for Canberrans through investment in tourism and events as well as continuing to invest in key areas of the ACT such as transport and infrastructure. The commitments outlined in this budget will ensure not only that our economy continues to prosper but also that all

Canberrans will benefit through an enhanced quality of life. I commend this budget to the house.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (11.31): I am pleased today to be speaking in my shadow portfolio role of sport and recreation minister, firstly as a lover of all things sport and thoroughly enjoying getting out into our community and seeing the amazing work going on, but secondly because I understand the benefits that sport and recreation can provide—the health benefits, the community benefits, the social engagement and mental health aspects and of course the economic benefit through things like tourism, industry and business.

I welcome the investments outlined in the budget for the new home of football in Throsby. It is a very exciting development. Capital Football is leading the way in female participation in soccer across the country. As a founding member of the W-League they really are promoting the sport as inclusive and fun for everyone. And this work is paying off, with participation rates growing by 13 per cent in 2017 and strong growth in junior soccer. That is why the Throsby proposal is great but, to be honest, it is not enough. I worry that this ground only solves the problem for a small segment of the community and does not deliver on the shortage or quality of grounds across the ACT.

I also welcome the investment in Stromlo. It seems that this is another hotspot for the government, having already sunk \$33 million into the pool, not to mention the other assets in this precinct. I was pleased to hear the recent call from the Greens to turn Stromlo Forest Park into a mountain biking resort, urging investment in accommodation, bike tracks and other infrastructure to turn the park into a village atmosphere. But it is a shame that this call has come from the previous minister for sport who could have set this space up for success from the outset. Still, we will watch and wait and see what happens here.

Other than that, the budget had a minor spend on upgrading security at GIO Stadium, which seems to hint that there is still no decision on the future of a stadium, despite the Chief Minister making some noises earlier this year.

The most exciting item for me in this year's budget was the upgrade to the Lake Tuggeranong Rowing Club sheds. Actually, this was announced last year but delivery has been delayed. I am not sure how many of you here are aware of the Lake Tuggeranong Rowing Club and their situation, but I know that my colleague Nicole Lawder, who is a keen kayaker and is often on the lake at Lake Tuggeranong, knows this club quite well. I visited the Lake Tuggeranong Rowing Club late last year and they are literally in a dug-out basement under the college. Really, we can do better. I am happy they are getting some upgrades for their sheds.

But, sadly, many sport and recreation clubs in the ACT do not feature in the government's priorities or even rate a mention. We have numerous sporting codes in Canberra turning away players due to the lack of facilities—netball, basketball, ice hockey, table tennis, touch football, badminton, just to mention a few. Just yesterday we had a petition lodged by the Canberra Roller Derby League about the lack of

indoor facilities. And this comes off the back of a report, two years in the making, into indoor sporting facilities in Woden, Belconnen and Gungahlin.

What does this budget provide them, despite the evidence and recommendations from this report about the need for extra facilities and multipurpose indoor facilities in particular? Again, as with most things, this government just does not seem to be able to spend taxpayer dollars in a way that reflects the expectations or needs of the community. They do not service the sports grounds efficiently or effectively, they do not build facilities that keep pace with population growth and they do not support grassroots sport and recreation. I will continue to liaise with clubs and community groups and continue to raise these important issues with the government so that in future budgets they might consider providing the much-needed support that these clubs in the ACT need.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (11.36): I will comment on a number of different areas within this budget allocation that cover many of my portfolios but indicate that I will return at other points in the debate to contribute further.

I want to focus my comments initially this morning on economic development, trade, investment and industry, the CBR Innovation Network, special events, and tourism. I will come back to tertiary education, training and research skills, treasury and other economic outcomes in a later part of the debate.

I can report to the Assembly that the ACT economy remains one of the strongest and most advanced in the country. Whilst other economies in Australia are faced with long-term transitions away from reliance on traditional industries and natural resources, the key driver of the ACT's economy is our service export sector, particularly in the areas of higher education and tourism.

I can report to the Assembly that today more than 60 per cent of Canberrans work outside the public service in a wide range of local industries, including higher education, tourism, construction, health care, professional services, hospitality and innovation, to name a few.

The ACT government's economic development strategy is to continue to diversify the local economy through encouragement of the development of key industry sectors and to further build awareness of Canberra both nationally and internationally as a great place to live, work, visit and invest in.

I can report to the Assembly that we have the lowest unemployment rate in the country, and we are continuing to work to ensure that we can attract and develop the skills that we will need to support our growth industries.

Expanding the ACT's private sector business base is an important aspect of increasing our economic diversity, maintaining stable economic growth and creating new job

opportunities. As part of this strategy, we are providing direct investment, as well as policy and other enabling support to key growth industries in the territory.

To support this, we have committed nearly \$12 million over the next four years to a series of programs. This will achieve our economic diversification outcomes through close collaboration with industry and the tertiary education institutions to attract investment in key sectors. These include the space industry, defence, cybersecurity, renewables and agricultural technology.

We are seeking to further develop and create awareness of our thriving innovation ecosystem to support start-ups and high-growth potential businesses in accelerating their growth. We are supporting Indigenous business development. We are building our local export capability by helping local small and medium businesses to get into the export market, to help them to be export market ready.

We are promoting export development, investment attraction and trade mission support, working with the office of international engagement, delivering on the territory's international engagement strategy. We are supporting innovative projects like the CANdrive automated vehicle trial, the CBRfree wi-fi network, and a range of new projects around smart city technologies, including facilitating a whole-of-government response to telecommunications carriers' plans for the rollout of 5G technology in Canberra.

I can advise the Assembly that the ACT government has partnered with Austrade to co-fund a TradeStart adviser position to deliver export advisory services and to provide access to Austrade's extensive offshore networks and resources that will assist local businesses to develop international markets.

We have also partnered with Austrade to have a specific ACT in-market representative in Singapore to promote trade and education opportunities and to enhance foreign investment attraction outcomes for the territory. This position is embedded within Austrade in Singapore and will provide services to our local businesses to help them generate economic outcomes and support the ACT's international engagement into Singapore and South-East Asia.

We continue to work to build Canberra's reputation as an innovation powerhouse. That is why this budget commits a further \$5 million to continue our support for the CBR Innovation Network. The network has grown to become a critical connecting element of our city's innovation ecosystem, bringing government, research partners and industry together to drive innovation and support entrepreneurs, start-ups and high-growth businesses.

The network delivers and facilitates a range of programs and services aimed at supporting and enabling entrepreneurs and helps them to attract venture capital through programs like idea to impact, innovation connect and the GRIFFIN accelerator.

I can advise the Assembly that the CBR Innovation Network now reaches a community of over 17,000. Last year 50 small and medium-size start-ups engaged

with their programs, and 749 businesses, government, academics and citizens participated in innovation events, including hackathons, co-design sessions and innovation days. This ongoing funding from the government to the innovation network provides a platform for CBRIN to build on its successes to date and to explore new avenues for growth.

Canberra's major events calendar continues to thrive and diversify, with events like Enlighten, Floriade and Summernats creating jobs and opportunities for local Canberra businesses and attracting even more visitors to our city. This year's Enlighten festival was the biggest ever, attracting over 328,000 visitors and contributing a record \$5.5 million in direct expenditure to the local economy. In 2020 we will host a new winter festival to fill a gap in our events calendar and showcase Canberra's strengths in innovation, knowledge, creative thinking and culture.

Following on from the sell-out success of our first international test cricket match earlier this year, as Mr Gupta has indicated, Canberra has been appointed as a host city for five women's group matches at the ICC Women's Twenty20 World Cup. These matches will be held in February 2020. This budget allocates funding for our participation in this event and forms part of the ACT government's agenda to actively promote and support top-level women's sport and to stimulate economic growth through major events and tourism activity.

Manuka Oval will welcome seven of the world's best women's teams, including the Australian team, in a festival of cricket across three consecutive days. Hosting these matches will deliver extensive international media coverage and profiling opportunities for Canberra through the tournament's global broadcast, which will further enhance our city's reputation as a world-class events destination. Visiting spectators, players, sponsors, media and match officials will also provide a significant tourism boost for our region.

On the topic of tourism, as a result of the government's focus on and commitments to grow our visitor economy and tourism industry, I have now been tourism minister for 13 years and I can advise the Assembly that visitors to Canberra are contributing more than ever to our local economy, creating new jobs and more opportunities for our local businesses and tourism operators.

Data released yesterday shows that the Canberra tourism industry supported 19,300 jobs in 2017-18. That is an increase of 1,700 jobs on the previous year and represents the highest growth rate of tourism jobs in the country. I want to repeat that: the highest growth rate of tourism jobs in the country is here in the ACT.

Our tourism industry is booming. The contribution of tourism to our local economy is growing faster than in any other state or territory. There is booming employment and a booming economic contribution—all-time historic records for both international and domestic visitors to our city. The contribution is up 10.5 percent on the previous year and contributes \$2.4 billion to the ACT's gross state product, a gross state product that exceeds the state of Tasmania's, I hasten to add.

Earlier this year our investment in targeted tourism strategies was recognised, with Canberra and the region receiving five awards at the national tourism awards, and three of Canberra's cultural attractions gaining international exposure by attaining recognition through the signature experiences of Australia status. Next year—and this is important—we will showcase our city and our wonderful local food and beverage offerings on the national stage as we host the Australian tourism awards, providing opportunities for local operators to nominate and participate, to gain national and international recognition.

Domestic and international visitors stayed over 13 million nights in the year ending March 2019 and contributed a record-breaking \$2.46 billion to our local economy in the same period. Part of our strategy to continue this growth in tourism is through increasing our domestic and international aviation connections and building on our strengths in existing markets through strategic partnerships and marketing campaigns by VisitCanberra.

A particular focus will be on the domestic market, on low-cost domestic carriers. We continue to engage with Tiger and Jetstar to see them bring more or any flights to Canberra, and we will continue to engage with international airlines as well.

We will also seek hotel investment into Canberra to supplement our existing properties and to provide more options for visitors. We are particularly targeting five-star internationally branded hotels who do not have a presence in our city and whose own in-house marketing reaches hundreds of millions of people across the world through their hotel loyalty programs.

This is an important next step on the supply side for Canberra's tourism and hospitality industry. As we are smashing all previous records in seeing the fastest growth in tourism of any state or territory, now is the time to be investing in Canberra's tourism and hospitality sector. It is very pleasing to see more than a decade's work now culminating in these record-breaking results, nation-leading results, massive boosts to employment in our city and a significant increase in tourism's economic contribution to the territory.

It brings together a significant policy focus for the government in diversifying the territory's economy, and the results are there for all to see. We are nation-leading, we are continuing on our growth path and next year we host the Australian tourism awards. Tourism in Canberra is booming. It is fantastic to see.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, Minister for Government Services and Procurement and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (11.48): To have a strong building industry we need to invest in our regulator to make sure that the legislative framework is adhered to and enforced. The work that Access Canberra does that is funded in this area of the ACT budget to ensure compliance in the building industry continues to be more and more relevant as the industry grows.

The construction industry is a key driver underpinning the ACT's strong economy, with the sector growing 38 per cent in the last five years. That is why, in the 2019-20 financial year, this government has again invested in Access Canberra's resourcing to ensure that members of the ACT community continue to feel safe in their homes and in the places where they work and entertain. This government will invest a total of \$8.9 million over the next four years to boost building quality in the ACT even further.

As both Minister for Building Quality Improvement and Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, I have been sending a clear message for some time: if you want to build in Canberra, you must deliver high quality work. There will be no place for builders and developers who do things on the cheap and leave Canberrans with the bill. As a government, we are cracking down on dodgy builders.

We understand that this, and meeting community expectations, cannot be achieved unless we invest. We need to continue to invest in our regulator. We need to support the regulator in its efforts to administer tougher licensing requirements and undertake better education and engagement for the community and the industry. That is why this year Access Canberra is getting a funding boost for 16 staff specifically to tackle building quality. Of those 16, eight rapid response officers will undertake up to 1,000 more inspections and site assessments each year. That is an investment of approximately \$4.7 million.

The Access Canberra rapid regulatory response team works to manage building complaints quickly and effectively. The inspectors undertake preliminary assessments of complaints and site inspections to determine whether there has been or whether there is likely to be a breach of building and/or planning legislation. The team also assesses whether a complaint requires a regulatory response, measured against Access Canberra's compliance framework, which ensures that resources are directed to where the risks of harm, unsafe practices or misconduct are the greatest. Regulatory action undertaken by the team includes stop-work notices and demerit points for construction licensees.

As an indication of the number of activities undertaken by the team, it is worth noting that last financial year the pilot rapid regulatory response team assessed 352 cases. The team attended and closed 246 cases. The team escalated 64 cases for further investigation, and 42 were referred to other areas of government for further action. The team is now formalised, with eight staff working for our community to resolve complaints quickly.

The introduction of licensing exams means an increase in scrutiny. Four additional officers will support the administration of the government's tough new licence requirements for new and existing builders. That is an investment of approximately \$2.1 million. The ACT is leading the nation when it comes to setting mandatory exams for builders looking to be licensed in the ACT across A, B and C classes and select builders at the point of their licence renewal. Exams were introduced across the classes in May 2019, and they test the knowledge of builders in Canberra. New builder licence applicants will have two opportunities to sit the exam before their licence application is refused.

There are also exclusion periods that apply where new licence applicants fail in the first and subsequent application. This means that they must take time to sharpen their knowledge before seeking to be licensed in the ACT. In addition, one in five builders will be required to sit an exam at the time of renewal. As a government, we understand that licensing exams are another of the regulatory tools available for deterring poor quality building practices. This financial year, Access Canberra is expecting to administer more than 450 of these exams.

An important part of achieving quality buildings in the ACT is ensuring that we have consumers and an educated industry. Access Canberra will receive funding for four officers to enhance information and engagement, to help consumers know their rights, and to ensure that industry is well informed of their obligations. In addition, these officers will assist in targeting the regulator's resources to those areas of greatest risk and harm, through strong data analysis. This is an investment of almost \$2.1 million.

The government is delivering on its commitment to improve building quality in the ACT. We are educating. We are engaging. We are regulating. We are working with the public and with licence holders to ensure that everyone is informed. We know that enforcement alone does not work. We have to use the full suite of regulatory tools at our disposal. It is our responsibility as a government to make sure the regulator is adequately resourced to achieve this and we are on the front foot.

In addition to our nation-leading building reform program, this investment is designed to make buildings in Canberra the best in Australia, to bring confidence back to the industry, and to raise the public's confidence in the work of the regulator. I trust that those in the building industry who have been so supportive of our work to raise standards and professionalism across the industry will welcome this government's investment and will partner with us to ensure that we continue to make Canberra a safe and livable city now and for the future.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Community Services and Facilities, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Transport and City Services) (11.56): I rise to speak in relation to the property group part of the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. Through the ACT budget, we are investing in community infrastructure that gives our town centres and suburbs their unique character and makes Canberra a great place to live. The ACT Property Group currently leases out 156 properties across the territory for use as community centres, halls, early childhood centres and other community facilities like men's sheds.

The ACT government recognises that community programs and initiatives are highly valued by Canberrans and that these facilities are critical to the success of such programs. That is why we provide subsidised rent to community groups that are committed to continuing to invest in the facilities that they use in delivering vital services to the community.

In the budget, the government is investing a total of \$4.927 million across 17 community facilities. These proposed works include lift refurbishments, toilet upgrades and floor covering replacements at the Belconnen community centre;

heating, ventilation and air-conditioning upgrades at the Mount Rogers community centre; three new roofs for the Pearce Community Centre buildings; a new men's shed at the Hughes Community Centre; and refurbishment of the wet areas at the Spence Children's Cottage.

We will be taking steps to ensure that all our facilities are safe, accessible and comfortable for Canberrans to use. We will be investing \$1.2 million to improve safety, upgrade buildings and remove hazardous materials, and half a million dollars to refurbish older buildings to improve energy efficiency. Four early childhood centres will benefit from half a million dollars worth of upgrades, and heritage buildings like Albert Hall will receive \$425,000 worth of revitalisation works.

The government recognises the invaluable contributions that men's sheds play in our community, providing a place for older men to connect socially and give back to the community across the ACT. In recognition of that, we are looking forward to the construction of a new men's shed in Hughes, which is being supported through the budget.

The government knows how important community facilities are to Canberrans and the variety of uses that they provide, from early childhood centres to places of worship, meeting rooms, performance venues and much more. The range of benefits is enormous. I look forward to seeing how the continued investment that we are making through the budget can further enhance the work of our vital community organisations.

I commend this part of the budget to the Assembly.

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

Sitting suspended from 11.59 am to 2.00 pm.

Questions without notice

Access Canberra—unkempt properties

MR COE: Madam Speaker, my question is to the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services regarding a property in Kaleen with hundreds of whitegoods in the front and back yards and on adjacent public land. The evidence suggests that the owner is operating a scrap metal and whitegoods storage business, and perhaps even sales.

As you would be aware, Minister, numerous controlled activity orders have been issued for decades. These orders have required the lessee to remove all second-hand appliances, waste materials and scrap metals from various precincts. Minister, why are all these goods still there, including on adjacent public land?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Coe for his question. In terms of the particular matters in relation to the property in Delegate Street in Kaleen, I want to put it in context.

Mr Hanson: Nothing like naming the street.

MR RAMSAY: They have been made public already. Putting it in context, there have been 179 complaints received in 2018-19 regarding 159 properties: 132 of the properties did not meet the unclean leasehold criteria; the remaining 27 properties did meet the unclean criteria. Twenty of those were resolved without enforcement action. Of the remaining seven, three had controlled activity orders that were issued and four are still under investigation. Of those three controlled activity orders, one has been complied with and two are still being monitored. Of the two that are still being monitored, one relates to hoarding. That is the context of what we are talking about across the ACT.

When it comes to matters of hoarding, as you would be very aware, Madam Speaker, it is important to take a broad and holistic approach. I put on record my empathy for those who live around that property and note the concern that has been voiced in the community. But I also acknowledge that there is complexity around it. Simplistic solutions are not going to be a helpful way forward. I note that there have been comments made across the community sector in the past 24 hours about simplistic solutions that are offered by the opposition. It is important for us to work carefully—*(Time expired.)*

MR COE: Minister, is a person in Canberra allowed to have 250 whitegoods on a residential property, which goes to occupy the vast majority of that site?

MR RAMSAY: In relation to that site, as I say, there is a controlled activity order and the hoarding case management group is working carefully. The hoarding case management group was formed in 2015 because they are complex issues. Simplistic responses to complex issues will not only not solve the issue, it has been demonstrated that they make it worse, not better. So what we will continue to do—

Mr Coe interjecting—

MR RAMSAY: Each hoarding case has—

Mr Coe interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, enough, thank you.

MR RAMSAY: Each hoarding case has a government-led agency. The health protection service in the ACT Health Directorate is the body that chairs that hoarding group. In this particular circumstance, the most recent visit to that site by the government regulators was on 13 August. The government will continue to work on this.

MS ORR: Minister, what is the best way to treat the root cause of hoarding, and is a punitive approach effective?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the question, and it is an important question.

Mr Coe: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Ramsay, resume your seat.

Mr Coe: I ask you to consider whether that supplementary question is in order. The issue that I raised was not hoarding; it was about a commercial activity taking place on a property in Kaleen.

MADAM SPEAKER: A substantive part of the minister's response referred to complexity around matters such as hoarding. Therefore I believe it is in order.

MR RAMSAY: It is important to be able to deal with matters with the complexity they deserve and the seriousness they deserve, not the simplicity of the Canberra Liberals.

When it is a matter that has been determined to fit within the unclean leasehold provisions, it can be that the hoarding case management group works with that. Hoarding is ultimately, as has been commented on in the media over the past 24 or 48 hours, a matter that arises from mental health conditions as well. In particular circumstances, it is important to be able to deal with the whole of that. The government agencies that are working with the hoarding case management group are Housing ACT, Access Canberra, Transport Canberra and City Services, waste regulation, ACT Fire & Rescue, the Ambulance Service, the Public Advocate, the Public Trustee and Guardian, Canberra Health Services, the ACT Health Directorate and the Community Services Directorate. They work together with the community sector as well.

It is important to note that, as has been demonstrated over and over again, unless you deal with this matter with a wraparound, holistic approach, you will make the matter worse. Then we will simply—

Mr Coe: It's a massive public health issue. The neighbours. The mosquitoes. The rats. The snakes.

MR RAMSAY: You can yell "rats" and "snakes" as much as you want, Mr Coe, but the issue here is that if you do not deal with the matter holistically, the matter will become worse, not better. *(Time expired.)*

Planning—Molonglo Valley

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management and relates to the lack of a supermarket in Molonglo. Minister, with the current closure of the Denman Prospect supermarket and the recent DA rejection of KOKO Molonglo, all three suitable sites released so far have failed to provide the Molonglo community with a supermarket. What is the ACT government doing to ensure that the local community has a reasonable level of facilities?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. It is of course important to have facilities where possible in new areas and they normally go through in the planning process to approve applications for the construction of those buildings. The lease of those is really up to the private sector, the owner of the buildings.

I went out and visited the supermarket site in Denman Prospect earlier this year. It was, I thought, a pretty good supermarket and I was impressed by the operation there. Obviously the supermarket owner could not see it working. They are now vacating that site, and I understand from the owner of the centre that there will be a new leaseholder there very shortly.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, will land release in the Molonglo group centre be the answer? Will it be brought forward to give the local community a chance of having a full-sized supermarket within the next three years?

MR GENTLEMAN: I will take that on notice in regard to the timing of the release for the full-sized supermarket.

MRS JONES: Minister, what have you done about the state of local supermarkets in both Denman Prospect and Coombs, where residents regularly experience difficulties in buying what they want?

MR GENTLEMAN: We have had many conversations with the local community about the services that could be provided in those areas.

Mrs Jones interjecting—

MR GENTLEMAN: I am sorry, I did not hear the interjection.

Mrs Jones: The shopkeeper at Coombs has never met you.

MR GENTLEMAN: It is, of course, important that we provide whatever services we can for the residents of those new areas. We will work with the owners of those shopping centres to the best of our ability to be able to get people on board to work in the areas.

Transport Canberra—weekend bus services

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the minister for transport. Minister, in addition to hiring more bus drivers, are you making changes to the enterprise agreement in order to address the ongoing issues plaguing the weekend bus network?

MR STEEL: No, not at this stage. In response to Miss Burch's question, we are looking at a range of different options. The focus is on recruiting more drivers. At this stage we are not looking at changing the enterprise agreement. We are seeing what options are available to us to meet reliability issues on the weekend by increasing the number of drivers, in addition to a range of other options.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, are there plans to cut weekend services because of the staffing issues you have been unable to resolve?

MR STEEL: As I just mentioned, the government is looking at a range of different issues to make sure that we provide reliability for weekend services. The focus for us

is on recruiting more drivers. That is how we will deliver the increased services on the weekend.

MR COE: Minister, how many shifts are yet to be filled for this coming weekend?

MR STEEL: As I explained yesterday in the debate here in the Assembly, there is a range of complex factors in our rostering system. We try to fill the roster right up until and including the weekend of those services being delivered to make sure that as many services can be delivered as possible to the community. To say now on a Thursday, two days out from the weekend, that we are not running services would mean that we could not possibly fill those services. The Transport Canberra team works very diligently right up until the last minute to make sure that we can fill as many shifts as we can on the weekend and deliver more services, which we have done under the new network.

Mr Coe: Point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe.

Mr Coe: It is on relevance. The question I asked was: how many shifts are yet to be filled? It is quite objective. As of right now, where are the vacancies? To say that there is an in-principle objection to stating it—

MADAM SPEAKER: I think he explained that he was unable to provide that answer and that the department is working on it right to the end. So there is no point of order.

Education—early childhood education

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, why has the government committed to working towards free, universal preschool access for all three-year-old children?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question and for his interest in early childhood education across the ACT. The impact of early childhood education on positive life outcomes is indisputable and supported by international and national research. OECD research involving 72 countries concluded that a minimum of two years of early childhood education is needed to have a good chance of educational success by 15 years of age.

Between three and five years of age, children develop the peer social skills needed to regulate their emotions. This is also a time when children are naturally curious, when a love of learning can be instilled and when critical cognitive, creative and language skills can be developed. High quality early childhood education plays an important role in supporting children to learn during these pivotal years. This is because learning is cumulative. Each stage builds on the last, enabling a child to learn for life. For children experiencing vulnerabilities or disadvantage, this education plays an even more significant role in turning the curve on inequity. When children start their formal education behind their peers, they often stay behind. Catching up becomes harder year on year.

The ACT government acknowledges that cost is a key barrier to children in the ACT equitably accessing early learning programs. Providing free, universal access to high quality early childhood education for three-year-olds will give every child a fair start to life. It is for this reason that the ACT government has committed to working towards 15 hours per week, 600 hours per year, of free, universal early childhood education for all three-year-old children.

MR PETTERSSON: How will the government target those three-year-old children who will most benefit from improving access to preschool?

MS BERRY: The introduction of free universal preschool for all three-year-old children will of course require a phased implementation in order to build the capacity of the sector in meeting this demand. Targeting access to those children and families most in need will ensure equity and fairness during the first phase of the implementation, with a \$2.2 million investment towards equitable access to early childhood education committed in the 2019-20 ACT budget.

In the first phase it is anticipated that vacancies within existing ACT services will be utilised to improve access for families experiencing disadvantage and vulnerability. Consultation with services will be ongoing over the coming months as the proposed approach is being confirmed.

Based on extensive modelling work, it is envisaged that dedicated places will be funded in these services in partnership with early childhood schools, public schools in locations to meet the needs of these priority families. Families will be identified through trusted supported networks and services already working with families most in need such as maternal and child health services, public housing, child and family centres and the child development service. This is important because when the services partner together they can deliver coordinated supports that meet the holistic needs of families at times when life can otherwise be overwhelming.

Importantly, during this first phase the ACT government will also be ensuring positive childhood experiences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. Again, this work is still being finalised. However, I anticipate being able to provide further information in coming months.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will this initiative complement the broader programs delivered by the government to support early childhood education?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Tara Cheyne for the supplementary. Delivering three-year-old preschool will be one of a range of strategies to enhance early childhood education and care in the ACT that will be outlined in the early childhood strategy later this year. Some of the excellent programs that will be strengthened through the strategy include Koori preschools, which provide early childhood education for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged from three to five years. Koori preschools focus on cultural integrity, parent engagement and transitions to school. The Koori preschool program also works closely with the ACT child and family centres to develop strong partnerships and link families with programs that strengthen community and cultural connections.

The prep for pre program engages families to be active partners in their children's learning prior to them entering the education system. Prep for pre is a targeted program for children and parents who need extra support to prepare for preschool. This could be because of particular needs or family circumstances. The program also provides for developmental assessments of children if needed.

Play groups and out-of-school hours care also play key roles in connecting with families in local communities. The early childhood strategy will have a focus on partnerships that support community connections for families and effective transitions for ACT children through strong collaborative relationships.

The details of these collaborations will unfold over time but what is clear is that three-year-old preschools will be an integrated part of a holistic service system that supports families and children from birth right through to their early school years.

Canberra Hospital—emergency department

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. It has been reported to the opposition that the Canberra Hospital emergency department has been closed and patients are being diverted to Calvary. It has also been reported to us that nurses are being SMSed to do extra shifts and that beds are being opened across the hospital. Minister, can you confirm whether the ED at Canberra Hospital is closed to new patients? Is a bypass policy in place to take patients to Calvary? Are nurses being called on to do extra shifts, and are beds being opened elsewhere in the hospital to deal with the situation?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Hanson for the question. I cannot confirm in relation to the ED at the moment, but I can confirm that the emergency department at Canberra Hospital was on bypass for a period last night. For the information of the Assembly—and I know that Canberra Hospital and Canberra Health Services have indicated this on their Facebook page as well—yesterday was a day when they experienced a particularly large increase in demand through the emergency department. Last night, Wednesday, 14 August, Canberra Hospital exceeded capacity. To ease the pressure across the hospital, they created internal capacity, discharged appropriate patients and transferred patients to private hospitals.

Canberra Health Services have strong existing relationships with the private hospitals to ensure that patients receive safe and clinically appropriate care in cases of increased demand. Canberra Health Services also worked closely with the ACT Ambulance Service to manage transfers of patients across the health system. There was no obvious cause for the surge in admissions, other than usual seasonal fluctuations. This situation is likely to take a few days to resolve.

As I mentioned, Canberra Health Services had a period of bypass from 10 pm on Wednesday evening, yesterday evening, to 2 am today, 15 August. A bypass period provided a period to reduce inflow into the emergency department, to ensure that the emergency department stays safe. I would assure members, though, that during a bypass, where possible, ambulances are diverted to an alternative hospital to manage a

peak period of demand, but only stable patients who meet clinically appropriate criteria are diverted. The Ambulance Service would never bypass a hospital during a life-threatening emergency. Paediatric patients, those with life-threatening emergencies and trauma patients would always be taken to Canberra Hospital.

It is a good opportunity to remind the community, and Canberra Health Services has sought to do so, to attend emergency departments only in a genuine emergency. (*Time expired.*)

MR HANSON: Minister, what risks will patients face from being turned away from the emergency department at Canberra Hospital?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As I have already said, only stable patients who meet clinically appropriate criteria are diverted. The Ambulance Service would never bypass a hospital during a life-threatening emergency. Paediatric patients, those with life-threatening emergencies and trauma patients will always be taken directly to the Canberra Hospital.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, is this the first time that the hospital has been on bypass? Has it happened before? If so, when and how often?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will have to take that question on notice.

Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—child and adolescent mental health unit

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Mental Health. Minister, on 15 November 2017, you told the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services that the expanded Centenary Hospital for Women and Children, including a dedicated child and adolescent mental health unit, would be operational by early 2020. Around seven months later on 27 June 2018, you signed the answer to a question taken at estimates on notice advising that the Centenary hospital expansion was forecast to be completed by the financial year 2021-22. Minister, a further 14 months on, can you give the Assembly the latest update on when the dedicated child and adolescent mental health unit within the Centenary hospital will be fully operational?

MR RATTENBURY: As Mrs Dunne has highlighted, there has been a revision of the date. Those earlier answers I gave were based on the advice given to me by ACT Health at the time. As both the current Minister for Health and the previous minister for health have outlined, there has been substantial work done on the design of that facility, including engagement with clinicians. Particularly in the mental health space, that has resulted in ongoing discussions about the best way to design that facility and also what the right model of care is.

Personally, I think that has been a good process. That additional discussion has ensured that we are getting a facility that will meet the needs of our prospective patients. In terms of Mrs Dunne's very specific question, given her penchant for

wanting to come back and quote these things later, I will get an exact answer and provide it to her on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, when you are supplying the answer, or before that, can you explain to the Assembly how, given the Greens' so-called commitment to mental health and given your pivotal role in keeping this government in power, you have allowed this high priority facility to languish in the way that it has?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Rattenbury.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, there are no interjections. Enough.

MR RATTENBURY: I reject the premise of Mrs Dunne's question. In my previous answer, I outlined some of the considerable work that has been going on around that project and the professional engagement that has been happening in order to get the right design. I have followed this issue very closely.

Mrs Dunne's premise also suggests that we have been standing still on a range of other matters. She would well know from budget papers and the various comments I have made in this place that we have continued to move forward on a range of other projects as well that are highly beneficial for young people. For example, our outreach service, according to the clinical advice to me, is a really effective way of helping young people in mental health crisis. For some young people, that can be even more effective than spending time in an inpatient facility.

We are not standing still. We are continuing to develop services; we are continuing to increase resourcing for these services; and we continue to do the work to ensure that we deliver an adolescent mental health unit in the ACT.

MRS JONES: Minister, how many beds will be in the dedicated child and adolescent mental health unit, and what will you do to ensure that it does not have the same capacity issues that the adult mental health unit has recently had?

MR RATTENBURY: Those numbers will be based on the best modelling available to the ACT government.

Chief Health Officer—recruitment

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, in January 2019 the ACT's then Chief Health Officer announced his resignation, effective March 2019. On 10 August 2019 it was reported in the media that a national search had begun for a replacement. Minister, why has it taken eight months to begin the search for a replacement?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will take the question on notice in terms of the detail, noting that it is a matter for the directorate to undertake staffing. But there is a

perfectly competent Acting Chief Health Officer in place and she is doing a fantastic job.

MRS JONES: Minister, what implications for healthcare outcomes for Canberrans are presented by the lack of a permanent chief health officer since March?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Jones for the supplementary. As I noted, there is an Acting Chief Health Officer in place who is doing a great job, and there are no implications for the community. We will of course work as quickly as possible now to recruit a permanent chief health officer but the current Acting Chief Health officer is doing a great job.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, have we been without an acting or a chief health officer during the past 10 months?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Not to my knowledge, Ms Cheyne.

Tuggeranong—public transport

MS LAWDER: My question is to the minister for transport: in a recent ABC radio interview you admitted that patronage in Tuggeranong has fallen since the introduction of network 19. When will your government be giving residents in Tuggeranong the public transport they deserve?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Lawder for her question. That data is freely available and was provided to the estimates committee. It is something that we continue to monitor as the system rolls out. Obviously we are in the early days of the new public transport system and we have seen overall a very significant increase in the number of people using public transport. Journeys are up by 10.5 per cent over the first 10 weeks of the new network compared with the same period in 2018. Overall there is a significant strength. In relation to the regions—

Ms Lawder: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat, please; there is a point of order.

Ms Lawder: The question was very specific about patronage in Tuggeranong falling since the introduction of network 19. Not generally across the system: in Tuggeranong.

MADAM SPEAKER: Yes, Ms Lawder. I will ask the minister to come to that point, if he has more comments to add.

MR STEEL: We continue to monitor the new transport system and how people are using it throughout all parts of Canberra, including in Tuggeranong. We are looking at whether some tweaks need to be made in certain areas. We have already made a substantial number of tweaks, particularly working with local schools, and we will continue to monitor the outcome of the new network.

With any new network change of this size we would usually expect to see a drop overall in the number of people taking journeys on public transport. In fact, we have seen the opposite.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why has the rapid 5 bus, that is supposed to go from the city to Tuggeranong, been known to cease its service at Woden instead of continuing further south?

MR STEEL: I think Ms Lawder is referring to the rapid 4 service, which used to be known as the blue rapid. I have provided answers to the Assembly in relation to that on notice.

MR PARTON: Minister, will you bring back Xpresso services; or will they be more long black perhaps?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Parton for his question. The answer is that we are not currently planning on doing that. Some peak buses were provided under the new network, particularly down in Tuggeranong, and those services continue to operate.

Hospitals—University of Canberra

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, how has the University of Canberra Hospital performed since its opening one year ago?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question and for her interest in the University of Canberra Hospital. Since the commencement of outpatient services on 10 July 2018, a number of services were successfully relocated to the University of Canberra Hospital, including rehabilitation, aged and community services, mental health services, in-patient services, rehabilitation medicine clinics and hydrotherapy services. The aged care assessment team, ACAT, was the final service to relocate to UCH, on Monday, 30 July 2018.

On 17 July 2019 I was pleased to attend UCH's first birthday celebrations where I highlighted some of the key milestones of the preceding 12 months, including more than 2,000 patients seen at UCH; more than 10,000 visits to UCH clinics, including 4,400 in multidisciplinary therapy clinics and 2,475 in hydrotherapy; more than 65,000 in-patient meals served which, according to one of the patients I spoke with during the birthday celebrations, are of great quality; and around 44,000-kilowatt hours of solar energy captured and reused at UCH to reduce energy imported from utility providers since the solar panels were commissioned in December 2018.

We have also achieved significant milestones in respect of our collaboration with the University of Canberra. The first University of Canberra students commenced clinical placements in UCH wards in August 2018, providing students with direct exposure to real-world clinical practices aiming to deliver more skills and more knowledgeable health professionals into the future. The UC faculty of health has a space at UCH where members of the faculty focus on building allied health research capacity across ACT Health.

I also had the opportunity to talk with several of the more than 300 staff and their patients at UCH's first birthday and was pleased to hear from them how positive their experience has been, despite the sometimes trying circumstances that patients find themselves in.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, what services and facilities does UCH offer to patients?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. The University of Canberra Hospital is a purpose-built specialist centre for rehabilitation, research and recovery, providing subacute rehabilitation care and support for adults who are experiencing mental illness or recovering from surgery, illness or injury.

At capacity, UCH provides 140 overnight rehabilitation beds, including 20 adult mental health rehabilitation beds managed by mental health, justice health and alcohol and drug services. In addition to the inpatient beds, the hospital offers, as I mentioned, day places consisting of a mix of adult mental health and rehabilitation day places. People using the day service will be admitted to the hospital to attend for full or half-day rehabilitation programs throughout the week, enabling them to stay in their homes during their rehabilitation.

Ambulatory and non-admitted rehabilitation services are also provided from this facility. Specialist programs undertaken at UCH include rehabilitation medicine outpatient clinics, a falls assessment and prevention service, hydrotherapy, a driver assessment and rehabilitation service, a vestibular rehabilitation service, a focal spasticity clinic, a speech and occupational therapy assistive technology clinic and the vocational assessment and rehabilitation service.

The mental health day program provides a range of group programs, including dialectical behaviour therapy, mood management, anxiety management, depression management, and a recovering from psychosis and mindfulness skills-based program.

It is also important to note that, given that UCH is a rehabilitation facility, of course, it does not have an emergency department and it does not perform surgical operations. The closest emergency department is at Calvary Public Hospital or the Canberra Hospital.

MS CODY: Minister, how does having a dedicated public rehabilitation hospital fit into the government's territory-wide health services strategy?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for the supplementary question and for her interest in the government's territory-wide health services strategy. As I have said, UCH is Canberra's first dedicated rehabilitation facility. Its establishment saw the consolidation of public rehabilitation, subacute and mental health rehabilitation services into one facility, creating a territory-wide centre for subacute rehabilitation care and planning for subacute rehabilitation needs.

Moving patients out of an acute hospital setting into a purpose-built environment promotes recovery and encourages independence and autonomy. In providing services

on a territory-wide basis, it is important that UCH services operate with strong networks and an integrated approach with referring services at Canberra Hospital, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce and any other referring hospitals and community facilities.

UCH also provides many clinical placement opportunities for both qualified health professionals and students across multiple disciplines, including medicine, nursing and allied health. The hospital supports innovative teaching and training of future health professionals through its collaboration with the University of Canberra and the collocation of the clinical education and research centre. As I mentioned earlier, the University of Canberra Hospital is developing as a centre for research, with several projects underway, including investigating the impact of the rehabilitation environment on patient and staff activity and a collaboration with UC examining patient and staff experiences within the rehabilitation facilities.

With a broad range of high quality services for physical and mental health rehabilitation and opportunities to collaborate with our educational partners, UCH offers a perfect opportunity for research and innovation to improve health outcomes for the Canberra community now and into the future.

Planning—Scullin

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. It follows a letter the opposition sent to him on 9 July 2019 about the government's intentions for a development in Frewin Place in Scullin. Minister, why has the government failed to consult with local residents about the future use of Frewin Place in Scullin?

MR GENTLEMAN: I will have to take the detail of that question on notice. I cannot recall the correspondence. So will take it on notice and come back with an answer.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, what is the consultation process for developments such as what is intended for Frewin Place in Scullin?

MR GENTLEMAN: I understand that it is an urban renewal site, so there will be consultation around any development application as per the normal process.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, why are you and your agency treating the residents near Frewin Place in Scullin with disdain by basically telling them that they have no role in the consultation process?

MR GENTLEMAN: That is not the case at all.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—health funding

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. The 2019-20 budget shows a decrease in funding allocated to build the much-needed upgrades to the Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service facility in Narrabundah. Minister, why has this funding commitment been reduced?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Milligan for the question, but it has not. Some money has been moved from one year to another in accordance with the agreement with Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service around their building schedule for this project. My recollection is that money has been brought forward to provide money earlier to enable Winnunga to get on with the project, which I understand is currently in the development application stage.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, what is the total allocation in this budget for expenditure on the much needed building for Winnunga?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I would note that this funding was not allocated in this budget originally and it was a \$12 million project.

MR WALL: Minister, what consultation occurred with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community before the funding profile changed for the Winnunga expansion?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Wall for the question. This is entirely driven by Winnunga Nimmityjah's own building schedule for this project and the agreement that is with them. This is a very interesting—

Opposition members interjecting—

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I do not know if Winnunga was consulted about the question that was being asked, because my recollection is that it is a bring-forward of funding. It relates to the fact that we are entering into an engagement with Winnunga where we are giving them the funding to manage the building of this building. It will be owned by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, by Winnunga. The project is led by them; it is owned by them; and it will be an incredible Aboriginal community-controlled health facility that is entirely owned by the Aboriginal community.

I will be very interested if there is a background to the question that Mr Milligan would like to share with me later, if some concerns have been raised with him. My understanding is that this is entirely in relation to the funding agreement that is with Winnunga; it is about the milestones that have been set in collaboration with Winnunga; and they are leading and controlling this project. As I said, it is currently in the development application stage. I really look forward to, hopefully, that application being approved soon and the sod-turning for the project.

Molonglo Valley—community spaces

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. What outdoor spaces is the ACT government providing for residents of the Molonglo Valley?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Cody for her interest in that electorate area. The Molonglo River Reserve is one of our newest nature reserves in the member's

electorate. It stretches from downstream of Scrivener Dam to the Murrumbidgee River Corridor reserve. This new reserve will be a unique addition and extension to the nature parks of Canberra as well as being part of the everyday lives of residents of the Molonglo Valley.

The reserve contains some of Canberra's best river landscapes and is home to many native plants and animals, including the threatened pink-tailed worm-lizard, the superb parrot and natural temperate grassland and box-gum grassy woodland habitat. The Aboriginal cultural landscape, the river and the gorges and the rich biodiversity provide a variety of conservation, research, recreational and educational experiences for all.

In its eastern section the reserve is bounded by the new Molonglo Valley urban area. Because of this, careful planning has been undertaken to protect the natural and cultural values while also providing opportunities for the local community and visitors to enjoy and learn from the natural and cultural landscape.

This new reserve shows this government's commitment to protecting and enhancing the bush capital. We recognise the important role our parks and reserves play in improving Canberrans' lives. Many Canberrans live not far away from them. We can protect our natural environment because of good economic management guided by our belief in the importance of public services.

MS CODY: Minister, what will this new reserve be like?

MR GENTLEMAN: Residents in Ms Cody's electorate will be able to access the reserve via a network of trails for walkers, cyclists and horse riders. This network will use existing management trails as well as some purpose-built trails. Links to nearby major attractions, including the National Arboretum, the National Zoo and Aquarium and Stromlo Forest Park, will be part of the network.

Designed to avoid areas of high ecological or cultural sensitivity, the trails will guide people to key vantage points and provide access to areas where the natural and cultural landscape can be appreciated. There will be lookouts and picnic shelters to maximise the experiences available at the reserve.

Site-specific signage about the unique natural and cultural values will enhance the experience and will educate the community on the significance of this beautiful landscape. Already two unique walking trails have been completed in the reserve near Coombs. The box-gum walk takes visitors on a return walk from Coombs through a special area of box-gum woodland, and tells the story of the woodland habitat and the crucial role of remnant trees. I believe the trail is well used by Coombs locals. On the opposite side of the river a trail takes walkers on the peninsula below Barrer Hill, where a series of Ngunnawal artworks display local plants and animals with Ngunnawal words.

MR GUPTA: Minister, how are members of the community being included in the design of these community spaces?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Gupta for his question. There will be two nature parks in the reserve, one at each end of the urban section. These areas will be focus points for higher level use by the community while not comprising the ecological and cultural values. Community consultation is now underway on the first of these parks.

Located adjacent to Whitlam and Denman Prospect, this park provides sweeping views over the river corridor and broader Molonglo Valley. It will offer walking trails, river access, fishing, picnics and nature play. It will also see significant native restoration of this presently degraded site.

The second nature park is located adjacent to the east of the third stage of Molonglo and implementation will start when the urban development reaches this area. During the development of the reserve management plan, the community were consulted, including recreational user groups and conservation groups. The design of experiences in the reserve will encourage the community to learn and understand this special environment, to enjoy it and use it respectfully.

Madam Speaker, it is my hope, and the vision of the new reserve, that it will become the treasured natural and cultural front yard for new residents in Molonglo. We have been able to deliver this reserve because of our belief in protecting the environment and providing community services. You cannot do this if you are copying Tony Abbott. That means cuts to services and favours to their Liberal mates.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, I have got it—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: I have got it, thank you. Mr Gentleman, we had this—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, please! If there was quiet, I would be able to get to Mr Gentleman and remind him of the conversation we had yesterday, but the rabble noise—

Ms Lawder interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: There is no pointing. Ms Lawder, if your side was quiet and behaved, he would have been brought to order.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: You are warned, Mr Hanson. Mr Gentleman, when you are referring to people, do so by their proper title. We had this little exchange yesterday. In future, Mr Tony Abbott, thank you.

Asbestos—government information

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety. In an answer to Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20 question taken on notice 375 you advised that no non-disclosure agreements were signed by owners of Mr Fluffy homes; however, an article in the *Canberra Times* on 19 July 2017 reported that at least one owner was asked to sign a non-disclosure agreement. Minister, did you mislead the Assembly in your answer to that question?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Parton for the question. I certainly did not intentionally mislead. I will double-check the information that was provided, the date of that response to the question on notice, the date of the information in the *Canberra Times* and whether that information in the *Canberra Times* is in fact accurate. If I do need to correct the record, I will of course come back to the Assembly and do so.

MR PARTON: Minister, how can Canberrans have confidence and trust in your leadership or this government when you are potentially providing inaccurate information as part of official Assembly processes, and how many non-disclosure agreements were signed?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I have already indicated to Mr Parton that I will go and check both the information that I was provided and also the information that has been provided by the *Canberra Times* and whether that information is accurate. Of course, in relation to matter like this, ministers rely on the information that is provided to them by their directorates, and the accuracy of that information. I will have to go back to the directorate and check that that information was accurate at the time that I signed that response to the question on notice and check again the advice that is in the *Canberra Times*.

MR WALL: Minister, was it standard practice for non-disclosure agreements to be signed with the owners of Mr Fluffy properties, and what was the reason for such agreements being entered into?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Wall for the supplementary. Given that my response to a question on notice was that no non-disclosure agreements had been signed, it is clearly not standard practice.

Multicultural affairs—support program

MR GUPTA: My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the progress of the integrated welcome to Canberra support service announced in June?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Gupta for his question. Earlier this year the government announced a suite of new services to support recently arrived migrants, refugees and asylum seekers moving to Canberra, called the integrated welcome to Canberra support service. These new support services align with the ACT government's vision for an accessible, inclusive and cohesive Canberra and will meet one of the priority

actions from the ACT multicultural summit held late last year. They form part of the actions under our ACT multicultural framework second action plan that I tabled in the Assembly in May.

They will complement and enhance existing ACT government and ACT community settlement programs and are intended to ensure that services meet the current and evolving needs of people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds arriving in and making Canberra their home. Tenders to deliver this service closed a few weeks ago, and I look forward to the successful tenderer being announced very soon. It is expected that delivery of the program will commence by the end of October this year.

I am excited to know that this new service is so close to commencing. As I am sure members can appreciate, it is practical support like this that can turn around what has the potential to be quite an overwhelming time for newly arrived Canberrans. We want to make sure that their experience in getting access to services is seamless and supportive. This new service will enhance Canberra as a welcoming and inclusive city where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

MR GUPTA: Minister, under this initiative, how will new Canberrans be able to access information about our city and the services available to them?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Gupta for his supplementary. The integrated welcome to Canberra support service is designed to deliver three key services to help newly arrived Canberrans feel at home in our great city.

A welcome to Canberra pack will be developed that will contain key settlement information about the range of services available across the territory and how to access them, to assist new Canberrans to feel welcome and to positively establish a life in our city. The information provided in the pack will be delivered in both digital and hardcopy formats and include direct links and contacts to get new Canberrans in touch with the people and services that can help them.

The second service in the suite will be a welcoming navigator support service to provide ongoing assistance and advocacy tailored to an individual's needs. The navigator will help recently arrived migrants and refugees to find housing and rental support; access health services and trauma counselling; gain employment and navigate the ACT's legal system; and connect with other services, including commonwealth government services like Centrelink, My Aged Care and the NDIS.

Finally, a biannual welcome to Canberra forum will be held to enable new Canberrans to connect and link with other community members, services and organisations.

MRS JONES: Minister, as part of the integrated support service which languages precisely will be available, both the translation information and available interpreters?

MR STEEL: We have gone out to the community to ask them to tender for this program. We will be looking to hear from those organisations that work regularly with people newly arrived in Canberra.

Mrs Jones: Point of order.

MR STEEL: They will be targeting their services at languages of those particular cohorts.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat; there is a point of order.

Mrs Jones: As to relevance, Madam Speaker, the question was precisely which languages. The same non-answer was given in estimates and—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, I am not reflecting on what was said in estimates, but—

Mrs Jones: No, fair enough. But the point I am making is that the question about precisely which languages cannot be answered by saying a range of community groups will be consulted. Which languages?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, resume your seat. I think that goes to answering the question. Minister.

MR STEEL: The distrust of the Canberra Liberals of the community organisations that will be tendering for the service is extraordinary.

Opposition members interjecting—

MR STEEL: These are organisation that have been working with newly arrived migrants and refugees for decades in our city. They understand well the needs of these services. When they tender for those services they will be able to target the work—

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat, minister.

Mrs Jones: A point of order, Madam Speaker, the minister still has not been relevant to the question of which languages will be provided by the service.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, you have raised that as a point of order; I have said the answer—

Mrs Jones: But it still has not been addressed. He now has 35 seconds to go.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, resume your seat. The minister is referring to me. He is covering your answer because he is talking about his dialogue with the community to resolve what languages will be offered and how they will be provided.

MR STEEL: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Of course these organisations will come forward—

Mrs Dunne: A point of order, Madam Speaker, I seek your guidance. I may have misheard, but I think that Minister Steel said the members of the opposition were untrustworthy. If that is the case—

MADAM SPEAKER: I did not hear that, Mrs Dunne.

Mrs Dunne: I am not sure I heard all the words accurately and I am open to being corrected, but if the minister said that the members of the opposition were untrustworthy I ask him to withdraw because it is unparliamentary.

MADAM SPEAKER: I did not hear it. I am happy to look at *Hansard*, but there was a lot of noise. Minister, do you have light to shed on that?

MR STEEL: If I suggested it I withdraw it, Madam Speaker. We—

Mrs Jones: Your time's up.

MR STEEL: These are—

Mrs Jones: Time's up.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, your time has expired.

MR STEEL: Well, if you do not want to hear the answer that is fine. (*Time expired.*)

Municipal services—Fyshwick

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, a number of commercial property owners in Fyshwick have raised concerns with me about the lack of maintenance of footpaths, driveways and car parks located on territory-owned land adjacent to their properties. Potholes and cracked footpaths, amongst other issues, pose safety hazards not only to customers but also to staff who work at these premises. Minister, on average, businesses in Fyshwick contribute \$23,800 or more each financial year in commercial rates. Given the excessive commercial rates charged by your government to property owners in Fyshwick, why are basic maintenance and repairs on territory land in the area and adjacent to these premises not being undertaken?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Wall for his question. I am very happy to hear about the specific issues that are arising in Fyshwick. If he wants to write to me, he can, or the businesses themselves can get in touch with me directly. I am happy to look at those issues. The government continues to work to maintain the substantial 3,000-kilometre and more roads and footpaths across the ACT. If there are issues that come to light I am happy to look at addressing those.

MR WALL: Minister, why is it incumbent upon leaseholders to raise concerns with the opposition and then put pressure on you as the minister in order to get things addressed?

MR STEEL: Every road is different. Some roads receive more stress than others. Some have more water on them than others or have more sunlight than others and may deteriorate at a faster rate. But overall we aim to achieve the five per cent target for road resurfacing throughout the year. It is something that we work on. It is a good standard and we have done that.

I want to address the fact that it has been raised by the opposition. They claimed that our government had cut the road resurfacing program. That was a misreading of the figures. In fact what we have done is invest more in road maintenance—

Mr Coe: When have you reached five per cent? Tell me when you have reached five per cent.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Coe, enough.

MR STEEL: and we are making a very significant effort to make sure that we have roads that are in good condition for road users. But if there are specific roads that need to be brought to our attention then please bring them to my attention in detail.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why are commercial ratepayers being forced to remediate basic infrastructure issues on territory land because of a lack of action on your part?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I am very happy to look at what we can do to improve those roads. You just raised it with me now. You have not provided the detail. I am happy to receive that detail, whether it is from you or from the businesses.

Clubs—government support

MS ORR: My question is to the Attorney-General. Minister, what new support is the government providing to help our local clubs stay strong and community focused?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the question. Throughout this term, the government has been absolutely committed to supporting our local clubs. We have lived up to that commitment through fresh policy approaches and substantial financial incentives. We are supporting our local clubs to remain sustainable, diverse and community focused.

We know that clubs offer important cultural, sporting and recreational opportunities for Canberrans. They are not just places to gamble, and they are not just hospitality businesses with concessions. Our clubs are here to serve their members, their workers and their communities.

This year, we delivered a new regulatory model for community contributions. This means that clubs and the organisations they support will have more transparent rules for ensuring that gaming machine revenue gets to the charities and the community groups that need it most. We have worked closely with clubs to achieve that reform. Many of our clubs already recognise that reliance on poker machine revenue is not sustainable and welcome the government's support to diversify their business models.

In order to support our clubs, we delivered a 50 per cent gaming tax rebate for small and medium clubs, alongside a \$10,000 grant program earlier this term. This year we are doing even more. As in previous efforts, small and medium clubs are our focus. They will have priority in accessing the government's new diversification support fund, which will pay for advice and for assistance that the clubs are looking for to develop new business models. We have also established a small clubs liaison service inside Access Canberra, which is there to ensure that they have all of the information that they need and direct access to support.

This government is committed to supporting our local clubs. We will stay hard at work on delivering that commitment.

MS ORR: Minister, can you tell the Assembly more about how the small clubs liaison officer service will support clubs?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Ms Orr for the supplementary question. This new small clubs liaison officer service was an election commitment. It was promised in ACT Labor's supporting local community clubs policy. Two other key supports promised in that policy—a \$10,000 grant and a 50 per cent tax rebate for every small and medium club—have been in place since 2017. The small clubs liaison will operate on the principle of no wrong door. That means that there will be a single point of contact for information or advice.

This new initiative provides a single point of contact for small or medium-sized clubs. Small and medium clubs can use the service to access information or advice regarding diversification, regulatory, legislative and administrative issues. If the liaison officer cannot answer a question immediately or provide that advice in the first instance, they will source the information or they will provide a point of contact for a subject matter expert.

Smaller clubs face unique challenges in the evolving business and regulatory environment. The support that this provides will help them to take the best advantage of emerging business opportunities. It will also make it even easier to engage with the ACT government. All of this support will help those clubs focus on their members and on the community organisations that they support. This government will keep working with them to make sure that they keep providing cultural, sporting and recreational services to their members and to their neighbours.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how will the community contributions reforms that you mentioned helped to deliver more support for sport, recreation and cultural events?

MR RAMSAY: I thank Mr Pettersson for the supplementary question. Throughout this process of reform the government has put community benefits first and foremost. Our community contributions scheme is a central part of that policy. Community contributions reflect the obligations of those who have the privilege of operating gaming machines to give back directly to their communities. They are required to do this in ways that go beyond using revenue from gaming machines to serve their own members.

This government knows that many community groups have formed relationships with clubs that are supportive, and we want the community contributions scheme to keep on working for those groups. We also want it to reach even more people who are in need of support.

That is why we engage clearly and strongly with clubs and with community groups to reform the scheme. It is now more transparent, it gives clearer guidance to clubs and, most importantly, it supports them to give even more support to those who need it most. As a whole, our policy approach to gaming shows that we are committed to ensuring the maximum possible benefits for those who need the help most.

We will keep working collaboratively with clubs and with the community to deliver on our promises and to do it in a way that promotes a sustainable, diverse and even more community-focused club sector.

Mr Barr: Madam Speaker, I will not invoke the Parton rule, but I will ask that all further questions be placed on the notice paper.

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Canberra Hospital—emergency department

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—health funding

Chief Health Officer—recruitment

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I was asked at the beginning of question time whether the emergency department at Canberra Hospital was closed or was on bypass. The emergency department at Canberra Hospital was not on bypass at that time, is not on bypass and it certainly is not closed.

I have been given to understand that at least one member of the opposition has tweeted that the emergency department at the Canberra Hospital is closed. I need to be very clear with the Assembly that even were an emergency department on bypass for ambulances it is still open for walk-ins. Our emergency department is not closed. I strongly encourage members of this Assembly not to mislead the public about the availability of health services in our city as this could actually be quite dangerous for people.

We of course encourage people who do not need to go to the emergency department to seek treatment in a walk-in centre or go to their GP, particularly when the emergency department is busy. But those people who need to go to the emergency department should go there. And it is open for them.

On another matter arising from question time today, I can confirm that the Winnunga Nimmitjiah funding for their building project was indeed brought forward to reflect the milestones in the executed deed of grant with Winnunga.

I can also advise, in relation to the recruitment of the Chief Health Officer, that a number of processes have been undertaken since March 2019 to ensure that the Health Directorate is in a position to successfully recruit to the role. An in-depth review of

the position description was undertaken to ensure that it reflected recent changes in the role, the transition to two agencies and structure for the directorate.

A thorough process to contract a recruitment agency was undertaken and the successful agency was contracted in July 2019. The recruitment agency has commenced their executive search and the position has been advertised on the agency's website. The position will also be advertised on ACT government sites before the end of next week.

This is of course a highly specialised and technical leadership role within the ACT public health system. As a result, the directorate has taken time to ensure that processes are thorough to ensure that we can recruit the best possible candidate to this position.

Members

Use of titles of respect

MADAM SPEAKER: Are there other matters arising from question time?

MRS JONES: Yes, Madam Speaker. During question time today a member opposite referred to my colleague as "Ms C Burch". The member's preferred prenominal is "Miss"—Miss Burch—except during votes and similar proceedings when we realise that in order to differentiate from Ms J Burch such an unusual term of reference is used. For absolute clarity, the preferred prenominal is "Miss"—Miss Burch.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you for that update, Mrs Jones.

Appropriation Bill 2019-2020

[Cognate bill:

Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020

Cognate papers:

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee report

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee—government response]

Detail stage

Schedule 1—Appropriations—Proposed expenditure.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—Part 1.6

Debate resumed.

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (3.07): I was not going to speak on this section of the appropriation debate. We were going to leave all our comments pertaining to building quality until the planning section. But after hearing the words from my friend, Mr Ramsay, I just felt the need to respond in particular to the additional spending in the area of building quality and enforcement. I pay tribute to Mr Ramsay in that I think his heart is in the right place. I have known Mr Ramsay for a long time, and I think he is a good man. I think he has a genuine will in this space, much more so

than his predecessor, Mr Gentleman. Under Mr Ramsay's watch we have seen some genuine movement.

What I question is the minister's understanding of the industry and his understanding of the problems. I feel that many of the new measures that have been put in place to protect the community from the five per cent will impede the 95 per cent. Many of the new measures put in place in the name of improving building quality will add a brand new layer of compliance and red tape which is being passed on to the construction industry. And of course that will in turn be passed on to the consumer at a time when housing unaffordability is this government's middle name.

In many of his ministerial roles—and I think we have just witnessed one of the classic examples in response to the dorothy dixer on changes in the club industry—Mr Ramsay has demonstrated an inability to genuinely engage with stakeholders but moreover an inability to listen to those at the coalface. I think we are seeing, with a number of the measures that are being introduced, that the so-called solution does not actually quite fit the problem and will potentially create greater unintended problems.

I understand that there is enormous political pressure in this space and there is a pressure on the minister to act—and all power to him for acting—but I am worried that some of these measures will not hit the target. When you go to conduct for surveyors and certifiers as the case in point, my genuine fear is that this new code of conduct, combined with the insurance crisis which is facing that industry, may well force a significant number of those in this line of work to simply stop offering those services in this space. And I do not know where we go to after that. They are small in number at this stage anyway. If those services are not available it brings a number of things in the construction industry to a grinding halt.

What I see time and time again from Mr Ramsay is his inability to accept that if we are to genuinely improve things the industry must be a major part of the solution. Indeed, at the end of the day they have to be the biggest part. The naysayers would say that the industry has not been a part of the solution until now but I think they would be wrong. The industry has, through its individual players and through its umbrella organisations, lifted its game in many areas. But of course, as is so often the case in pretty much any pursuit, you are very rarely remembered for the 90 per cent or 95 per cent that you are doing right. You are usually remembered for the five per cent that you are doing wrong.

In regard to the actual increase in expenditure in this space, I genuinely applaud the government for stepping up to the plate but what I would say is that it is far too little far too late, that so much of the new spending and new initiatives are destined to fail in regard to the desired outcomes because this minister seems determined to fight against the industry rather than fight arm and arm with it.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (3.12): I speak on this line item in my portfolio responsibilities as Minister for Sport and Recreation. The government is continuing its

investment in our suburbs by providing facilities and opportunities for Canberrans to get active close to their homes.

Canberra's 40,000 football players, together with the local Gungahlin community, will receive a boost with a new home-of-football precinct in Throsby. The budget commits \$20 million to deliver this facility for high-performance and community players in partnership with Capital Football and the Football Federation of Australia, FFA. Through this partnership, Capital Football will also contribute \$4.5 million to the home of football in partnership with the Football Federation of Australia. The government will also bring three national team games to Canberra, including both the Matildas and the Socceroos.

Our partnership is delivering results for the ACT. Just last week I was happy to announce that football fans from Canberra and around Australia will have the opportunity to converge at GIO Stadium when the Socceroos play Nepal on Thursday, 10 October 2019, in their first match at home as part of the second round of qualification for the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The home of football, which will include football pitches, an indoor futsal facility, office space and associated amenities, is planned for completion in 2021-22. The entire Canberra football community and residents in Gungahlin will benefit from the government's investment, with these open space sportsgrounds available for everyone when not in the use for formal games and training activities.

The government is also working to ensure that the community in the new suburbs of the Molonglo Valley have space to get outside and participate in sport. Through funding in this budget, the government will undertake design and planning for Stromlo Forrest Park district playing fields as part of our efforts to ensure that local infrastructure grows alongside new communities in this part of the city. Government has allocated \$200,000 towards this design and planning process, which will include stakeholder consultation and is expected to take around 12 months, consistent with our election commitment.

The 2019 budget also allocates funding to keep people safe while engaged in their sport through funding to support the regulation of combat sports in the ACT as we approach the commencement of the Controlled Sports Act this October.

Finally, the government is contributing, through this budget, to the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia 2020 Tokyo team appeals as well as providing training grants for eligible ACT athletes. This recognises Canberra's unique status as the home of elite sport through the Australian Institute of Sport at Bruce.

The government is investing \$300,000 over two years, supporting team and athlete preparations. Of this amount, \$100,000 will be provided to each of the Australian Olympic Committee and Paralympics Australia, with an additional \$100,000 used to provide targeted training grants to local athletes in the mix for team selection. For the previous Olympics and Paralympics, 30 local athletes shared in \$80,000 worth of support. It is important to acknowledge the many gifted and talented sportspeople who call the ACT home.

In making these remarks, I also highlight the encouraging progress in another key priority in this portfolio, to improve women's participation in sport. In August 2016 I announced that all peak bodies funded by the ACT government through triennial agreements were required to achieve 40 per cent representation of women on their boards by 2020 or risk being ineligible for funding. The government has been regularly reminding this sector of this position and the sector has been responding. Of the 28 triennial organisations, half are currently achieving 40 per cent or more, with a further six at 30 per cent or more. This is significant progress.

Ultimately these quotas are about providing more opportunities for women to be leaders in sport. It is about our sporting boards improving their governance through greater diversity and ensuring that our aspiration to have more women involved in sport is guided by more women in leadership roles.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (3.16): I rise to speak on this part of the budget in my role as Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety.

As those in this place know, there is currently considerable work underway to implement recommendations arising from the independent review of the ACT's work health and safety compliance and enforcement framework which was undertaken in 2018. Indeed, I introduced the bill to make the legislative change required to provide an independent WorkSafe ACT this morning. But there is more work to do beyond the legislative amendments.

In the 2018-19 budget review, \$1.54 million was committed to establish a project implementation team tasked with implementing the recommendations beyond the legislative amendments, recommendations which are operational in nature and will support the new governance model. Their work will ensure that a renewed WorkSafe ACT is set up with policies and procedures that will serve all stakeholders into the future, that are clear and direct in respect of enforcement and compliance, and that ensure that WorkSafe inspectors and industry alike will understand their obligations.

WorkSafe ACT has had an ongoing focus on ensuring that everyone understands their obligations in respect of workplace safety, and it shows. An increased emphasis on safety awareness, proactive site inspections and enforcement action has seen WorkSafe ACT more than double enforcement and regulatory activity in 2018-19 from the previous year. In 2018-19 WorkSafe inspectors undertook close to 4,000 inspections and visits to work sites across our city, with a particular focus on young workers and high-risk industries. The work now underway will continue to build on those impressive outcomes and to ensure that the new organisational structure reflects the needs of the ACT community and is an organisational structure focused on providing secure permanent jobs for the staff of WorkSafe ACT.

Our commitment to ACT public servants stands firm, regardless of where someone may work. Where we can do so, jobs in the ACT public sector will be permanent.

That is why, in this year's budget, we funded \$471,000 to improve job security for ACT government employees by reviewing the use of casual and temporary employment across the public service, aiming to identify roles that could be transitioned to secure permanent positions. I understand that considerable work has already been undertaken with stakeholders to ensure that we create a solid foundation on which to undertake this work. I look forward to seeing the results.

I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the work of the workplace safety and industrial relations group within CMTEDD. I am constantly impressed by their professionalism and the quality of their policy work on a range of issues, from labour hire licensing to the secure local jobs code; legislative changes to strengthen work, health and safety across our community; and the considerable work that is still ongoing to create the independent WorkSafe ACT. The group's accountability indicator in relation to policy advice really tells only a small part of the story. I also recognise how often they take calls and meet with me and my staff to discuss issues that are key to driving our progressive agenda in the ACT.

The 2018-19 financial year saw the significant achievement of the ACT becoming a self-insurer for workers compensation within the Comcare scheme. This was a large and complex piece of work that most Canberrans will never know or care about, but which will deliver real improvements for ACT public servants.

Finally, I want to congratulate the work safety and IR team and their colleagues across the ACT public service on their work in continuing to reduce the incidence of serious workplace injury. The estimated outcome for 2018-19 of 7.87 claims resulting in absence from the workplace of one week or more per 1,000 employees significantly exceeds the target of 9.84. This speaks to the commitment across our public service leadership, to whom the work safety and IR team also provides advice. That commitment is driving the development of whole-of-government strategies, including those to address occupational violence and mental health and wellbeing.

These are important pieces of work and highlight that there will always be more to do to create safer and healthier workplaces in both the government and non-government sectors. The work safety and industrial relations team is clearly committed to this work. I thank them for the support they have given me as minister over the past year and the work they do for all Canberrans.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (3.20): The 2019-20 budget is building for Canberra's future. As a government, we are making strong investments across a range of areas that will improve our social and economic outlook.

Through the 2019-20 budget, we will deliver stronger compliance to improve building quality across the ACT. The government will hire 16 more staff for Access Canberra to undertake monitoring and compliance activity, as well as provide more information to industry and homebuyers about their rights and obligations when carrying out building work. These staff will also have the capacity to deliver more exams for builder licences so that builders in Canberra have the knowledge and skills they need to ensure they are completing their work properly.

We are all aware of the serious issues that exist with the ACT's building and construction industry. This government is committed to delivering real outcomes to improve building practices across the territory. Within my electorate, there are a lot of people who raise these issues with me. I am committed to working with Minister Ramsay and the Assembly to push further reforms to fix the systemic issues we are experiencing in Canberra.

I am proud to live in Australia's most inclusive city and to be part of a government that values our diverse community. Through this year's budget, this government will continue to support LGBTIQ+ Canberrans to ensure that we are all provided with the opportunity to live proudly within our city and free from discrimination. The capital of equality strategy will continue to be implemented, with a focus on creating a more inclusive and knowledgeable public sector and community; investing in more inclusive and accessible services; and ensuring that the ACT's laws are free from discrimination towards the LGBTIQ+ community.

We are also supporting community-driven initiatives that improve the social and emotional wellbeing, inclusion and participation of LGBTIQ+ people in our community through the capital of equality grants program. LGBTIQ+ Canberrans will continue to be supported through this budget, and I am pleased that our community will have the opportunity to embrace our diverse identities.

Our government understands the importance of providing secure jobs and opportunities for skilled employment for all Canberrans. It is a fundamental value of ACT Labor that everyone deserves access to employment. That is why we will continue to invest in a strong and secure workforce.

Through the 2019-20 budget, we are investing in our public service by supporting more permanent ACT government jobs. The government will lead by example in improving job security for ACT government employees by reviewing the use of casual and temporary employment across directorates. This review will aim to identify types of work currently being done by temporary staff which can be transitioned to secure, permanent roles over time. We can guarantee Canberrans that under a Labor government, no jobs will be cut in our public service. In fact, we will employ more people to deliver the public services that our growing city needs.

This budget will also support the growth of future skills, with more apprenticeship and vocational training places. The government will establish a future skills for future jobs grants program to support industry projects that help increase Australian apprenticeship commencements in the ACT. We are committed to funding vocational education places in the ACT, and we will continue to keep the CIT in public hands so that it can provide the best possible training for the jobs of the future.

One of the major sport and recreation investments in this budget is the new home of football in Throsby. This will include new football fields and a dedicated indoor futsal facility for Throsby residents and football players from right across Canberra. The project will be delivered in partnership with Capital Football, which will make a financial contribution to the facility. Gungahlin is very excited about this new home

of football, and I look forward to catching a few games in Throsby once the works are complete.

The 2019-20 budget delivers for Canberrans, and I am pleased to support the investments within the CMTEDD portfolio.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (3.24): I will speak now on the tertiary education portfolio component of this budget item. The portfolio has recently come under my responsibilities, and I recognise the significant importance that tertiary education plays as our city continues to grow. The tertiary education portfolio encompasses higher education and research, skills and vocational education and training.

With several of the world's top 100 universities and the highly regarded Canberra Institute of Technology delivering vocational education and training, in addition to the many registered training organisations, there is no doubt that our city's education offering is strong, diverse, inclusive and high quality.

Service exports such as education are now a key driver of Canberra's growth and the diversification of our economy. The tertiary education sector is a core focus for the government's economic diversification strategy. The sector contributes \$3.3 billion annually to the territory economy and there are 20,000 jobs in the ACT economy in this sector. The sector educates 64,000 students each year, and around one in six people in the ACT either work or study at a tertiary institution.

International education is Canberra's largest export and our first export sector to reach over \$1 billion in earnings, which it did in 2018. The sector is growing rapidly. It grew 15 per cent between 2017 and 2018.

Since 2013, when Study Canberra commenced, international education exports have more than doubled. Enrolments have increased by 75 per cent to now number over 19,000. The growth and transformation of Canberra's tertiary education sector demonstrates the government's ambition to continue to grow, diversify and build our city's knowledge economy. The knowledge economy has become a key aspect of Canberra's competitive advantage in developing industries of the future, like our defence, cybersecurity, space and renewable energy industries. To consolidate this tremendous success, in the 2017-18 fiscal year the government committed a further \$3 million over four years to Study Canberra to continue to promote our city as a great place to study and as a leader in education and research.

In partnership with the education sector, Study Canberra markets Canberra as Australia's study destination of choice for local, interstate and international students, and helps drive continuous improvement in the student experience here in Canberra through a range of project activities. Study Canberra plays a key role in leading the implementation of the ACT's international education strategy, entitled "Canberra: Australia's Education Capital," that I launched in 2016.

The ACT government also works collaboratively with our local universities, such as the University of Canberra, the Australian National University and UNSW Canberra to actively promote our city as a great place to study and live, through the implementation of the international engagement strategy, which is focusing on strengthening our key markets, particularly China, but there has also been a focus in recent times on increasing student attraction from emerging markets like India and Indonesia.

With regard to vocational education and training, strong engagement with employers is a key strategy in driving increased engagement with vocational education and training in the territory. In this budget the government has committed funding across three years to establish a workforce skills and development officer position within the economic development division of CMTEDD.

Supporting skills development will ensure that the ACT is well positioned to build our knowledge capital and respond to emerging industry needs. The new position will support increased Australian apprenticeship commencements through matching apprentices and trainees with suitable employment opportunities.

To support industry projects that help increase Australian apprenticeship commencements in the ACT, the government has committed in this budget a further \$500,000 per annum to establish an ongoing future skills for future jobs grants program. The program will enable market diversification and increase the number of commencements across pre-apprenticeships, pre-traineeships, Australian apprenticeships, higher apprenticeships, and other employment-related training in the ACT. It is anticipated that both initiatives will attract matched contributions from the commonwealth through our national partnership on skilling Australians.

Training is also a key aspect of social connectedness and social inclusion. I was recently very pleased to announce the recipients of the second round of the adult community education grants. These grants support projects that address youth unemployment, reduce recidivism rates in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees, better support the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse people living with disability, and improve the economic participation and social inclusion of refugees and migrants. The government recognises that access to vocational education and training is important, not only for economic wellbeing but for our social wellbeing as well.

VET plays a key role in meeting the skills needs of Australian and ACT businesses and citizens. It supports the development of a skilled and capable workforce. It enables growth in key economic sectors and contributes to a more inclusive society where people are equipped to meet their needs and aspirations and participate fully in our economy, our community and our democracy.

In this landscape the ACT government recognises the important role that the Canberra Institute of Technology has in delivering the skills needed by our evolving workforce and our changing economy. At the last election we committed to providing a minimum of 70 per cent of total ACT government funding for VET directly to CIT, to continue to support its critical function as the premier VET provider in the territory.

At last week's COAG meeting, first ministers agreed to a new vision for VET, a vision which aims to build on the strengths of the current system and position VET as an equal and integral part of our post-school tertiary education system. Ministers with responsibility for skills have now been asked to develop a road map for further reform by early 2020. I look forward to ongoing collaboration with the commonwealth and other states and territories to ensure that we leverage the strengths of the existing national architecture and address areas where our system can become more responsive to learners, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds, employers and the economy.

It is worth noting in this context that I believe the ACT is the only jurisdiction where the first minister is also the treasurer and the skills minister, and all three COAG ministerial councils will be involved in delivering this work at a national level. I will be pleased to be there at every step of the way.

Earlier this year, the Australian government released a review of Australia's VET system. The review was conducted by Mr Steven Joyce, a former minister for tertiary education, skills and employment in the New Zealand government. The review's recommendations centred around the key principles of strengthening quality assurance, speeding up qualifications development, simpler funding and skills-matching mechanisms, better careers information, clearer secondary school pathways into VET, and greater access for disadvantaged Australians.

These principles reflect a sensible approach to continual improvement of a system that, whilst not broken, can be enhanced to better respond to current and future skills needs. The ACT government is cautious, however, about endorsing the 71 recommendations that provide a potential road map for reform without further consideration, consultation and analysis.

In going forward we need to ensure that TAFE, as the cornerstone of VET in the territory, and nationally, is supported to maintain and strengthen its critical community service and development functions and quality service delivery. We want to ensure that we avoid a narrow and instrumental view of vocational education and training based on what has worked in the past. We want to ensure that we provide learners with opportunities to develop transferable skills, essential capabilities and adaptive expertise to equip them for a changing world of work and lifelong learning. Things like teamwork, problem solving, critical thinking and communication skills, in addition to the all-important technical skills, are what employers want and what learners need.

The recommendations in the Joyce review go only part of the way in providing potential solutions to improving the system and ensuring that it is agile and future focused.

In response to the Joyce review, the Australian government announced a \$525 million "delivering skills for today and tomorrow" package in its last budget. This package includes a range of new subsidies, industry training hubs and scholarships. It also contains funding for the establishment of three new agencies, a national skills commission, pilot skills organisations and a national careers institute.

At this stage there is little detail about what these agencies will do and how they will operate. Work is currently underway by the commonwealth government to develop their scope and composition. We look forward to further advice from the commonwealth in relation to their intent and the time frames associated with implementing these measures.

I would like to particularly welcome the establishment of a national careers institute. It will provide—it certainly should provide—important advice for young people, and their parents, caregivers and teachers, to navigate their options; to make informed decisions about their future; and to facilitate a smoother transition from school into further education, training and employment.

However, the implementation of the national skills commission and skills organisations will need to be considered carefully to ensure that their roles, their responsibilities and their objectives are clear and understood, and to avoid further complicating the VET system, which is already very complicated, or doing anything that would limit the ability of states and territories to deliver training outcomes tailored to our local needs. That must be resisted.

The ACT government recognises that a properly supported and funded vocational education and training sector that is capable of responding to local needs and priorities is absolutely critical to delivering an adaptable workforce and enabling all working aged Canberrans to develop the skills they need to participate effectively in the labour market.

Importantly, we also recognise that a strong vocational education and training sector enables people, regardless of their background or circumstances, to develop valuable lifelong learning skills and capabilities that support their wellbeing and their capacity to contribute and participate in our community.

For these reasons, we are committed to working with the Australian government and other states and territories to ensure that future reforms maintain the integrity of TAFE and the broader VET system; support lifelong learning for all Australians; and deliver the skills we need now and the skills we will need in the future. The VET sector is vital to our local economy. The ACT government will continue to implement policies that ensure that our skill needs are met and that those who wish to undertake training for various reasons are supported to do so. I commend this part of the appropriation to the Assembly.

If no-one else is speaking, I have one final section I should comment on. I will resume with the treasury stream, which is a significant element within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate. This area provides strategic advice and support to the government and all ACT government agencies in relation to budget and financial management, economic and revenue policy, infrastructure financing, federal financial relations, and workers compensation policy. Treasury is also responsible for advising on and implementing revenue policy, including tax reform; collecting tax revenue; and managing the territory's financial assets and liabilities, including our superannuation liabilities and investments.

In that context, the treasury is a very busy agency as the ACT's economy continues to grow rapidly—the fastest in the nation—and as we forge on with important structural reforms to the territory's taxation system, whilst delivering comprehensive third-party insurance reform in Canberra.

As this year's budget has highlighted, our local economy is likely to have achieved four per cent growth in 2018-19. We expect that to moderate somewhat but still be at least three per cent in 2019-20, which follows a period of very rapid expansion which saw the economy grow by 12 per cent in the past three years. The forward forecasts show that our city is on track for this kind of steady and sustainable growth, growth that is boosting living standards over time.

Our recent economic growth has supported the creation of over 3,200 new businesses and more than 20,000 jobs in the past four years. Our unemployment rate is consistently one of the lowest in the country—I believe the figures out this morning confirmed, again, that we have the lowest unemployment rate in the nation—even as our community has been growing by around 8,000 people a year. The size of the city is growing, too, with construction commencing on a record number of new homes over the past 12 months.

The ACT government is continuing to expand our investment in vital government services and new public infrastructure to meet this growth. We are doing this because we understand the importance of managing this growth, of getting this growth right, to protect our city's unique character and our world-rated No 1 livability as more people call Canberra home.

Tax reform is a key part of our plan to get this growth right, by ensuring that all contribute fairly to the services and infrastructure we all use. Making the ACT budget fairer and more sustainable by transitioning away from inefficient transaction taxes to broad-based taxes levied through general rates benefits the economy; and it benefits everyone, because we ensure that we have the capacity to deliver the services and infrastructure that Canberrans rely on now and will rely on in the years to come when some of our traditional sources of revenue become more constrained.

With this year's budget, we are approaching the halfway mark of the tax reform program. We have already fully abolished insurance duty, cut stamp duty to zero for around 70 per cent of commercial property transactions, raised the payroll tax threshold so that 90 per cent of small and medium businesses do not pay it at all, and cut stamp duty on every single residential property sale.

Someone buying a half-million dollar home today pays \$9,100 less in stamp duty than they would have before tax reform commenced. By 2021-22, we will have almost halved residential stamp duty for all transactions below \$600,000. As of 1 July this year, we have taken the next step in this reform by fully abolishing stamp duty for eligible first homebuyers, making it easier for young Canberrans and those on low incomes to own their own home. First homebuyers with a household income below \$160,000, with some additional allowances for first homebuyers with children, will no longer have to pay any stamp duty, regardless of whether they are buying a newly

built home or an existing property in an established suburb. This means that an eligible first homebuyer family who purchase a property valued at the ACT's current median price of \$580,000 will be saving around \$15,000 in stamp duty.

As we get closer to the next stage of tax reform, it is important to understand in detail how the first two phases have gone, and what the impact has been on both our community and our economy. That is why we have commissioned a detailed analysis of the impacts of the reform to be conducted through the coming year, with the assistance of an advisory group of independent experts, who include Professor Robert Breunig from the Tax and Transfer Policy Institute at the Australian National University; Professor Robert Tanton from NATSEM; and Dr Richard Dennis from the Australia Institute. This detailed work will inform the settings for the next five-year phase of tax reform. We will use the insights to ensure that the economic objectives of this reform are maintained at the same time as meeting the community's needs and priorities.

Of course, tax reform is not the only big reform that treasury and the government are currently working on. Since the Assembly passed the new motor accident injury scheme earlier this year, the team have been hard at work preparing for the new scheme's expected commencement in early 2020.

The new scheme replaces the ACT's at-fault common law compensation scheme with a no-fault defined benefits common law scheme. This means that Canberrans who are injured in a motor vehicle accident will no longer have to prove that someone else was at fault to access treatment, care and support. Indeed, everyone who is injured in a motor vehicle accident will be entitled to receive treatment, care and lost income benefits for up to five years. People who are more seriously injured will continue to be able to make a claim for further compensation through common law, as is currently the case.

This means that around 600 more Canberrans each year will be covered by the new scheme than under the prior arrangements. This 40 per cent increase in coverage delivers a better and fairer scheme for people when the worst happens. At the same time, the new scheme is expected to deliver lower insurance premiums, helping to reduce cost of living pressures for Canberra motorists.

This year, the budget delivers new funding for the motor accident injuries commission so that they can support Canberrans through the transition to the new scheme and provide stronger oversight of insurers from next year. The new scheme is intended to facilitate faster and easier access to benefits without lengthy legal disputes, but we understand that there will always be some cases that need external review, so the budget also provides additional resources to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal to ensure that where MAI matters need external review they have that review and Canberrans can access this quickly and equitably.

Finally, I want to highlight one area of treasury's work that directly touches on tens of thousands of Canberrans. That is the government's concessions program. We provide a wide range of concessions to Canberrans on low or fixed incomes or people who are just experiencing a period of hardship. This includes assistance towards general rates,

utility bills, driver's licence fees, motor vehicle registration fees and public transport fares, amongst other things. In this year's budget, there is a total of \$76.6 million for these concessions. From July this year, this includes an increase in the utilities concession, which is paid to Canberra home owners and renters on low and fixed incomes. The payment will increase by \$46, bringing the total assistance with energy bills through this concession to \$700 annually. We have also increased the life support rebate by five per cent, to \$128 a year, and continued the pensioner duty concession scheme for a further year to give older Canberrans more time to benefit from it. The concessions program is not a high-profile part of the work that treasury does, but it is an extremely important part of the government's efforts to support Canberrans when they need it.

With that, Madam Assistant Speaker, I believe that I have spoken on every area of my portfolio responsibilities within this directorate. Across all of my portfolios, clearly this is the number one area within the budget that I have direct responsibility for. I commend each of the new initiatives, and the great work that is being undertaken by the directorate, to the Assembly.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—Part 1.7

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (3.47): This year's budget for the Attorney-General's and JACS portion really is a budget of two stories. The first is the story that the government wants people to hear, the story that is in the headlines in the budget papers, such as the one that promises "better support when it matters", or the headlines in the strategic objectives and indicators section that promise "an accessible justice system", "a safe community", and "promotion and protection of rights and interests".

We noticed, when looking at the budget papers in more detail, that there is another story in this budget. That story is one of cuts to essential services and concealment of those cuts by the government. From the first read-through, we noticed that there were numerous complex "ups and downs" in budget figures throughout the budget papers. Some of these are one-off items with explanations, for example, the costs associated with the Eastman trial, but others were not.

During the estimates hearings, we questioned the government and ministers about all of these words and phrases that were not in the government press releases and social media tiles; they are words and expressions that were exposed throughout those hearings and that exposed the true story of this budget. For example, there are several areas where terms like "reclassification" and "revised funding profile" are used. When we pushed during the estimates hearings, we found that "reclassification of grants to legal assistance services" was actually a cut of \$1.138 million in the first year and \$1.174 million in the second.

When we questioned wording such as "revised funding profile", we were especially concerned about this, because the fine print revealed that this related to "Safer families—enhancing access to justice for non-English speakers". Under questioning,

we found that this actually meant that positions that provided translation services for non-English speakers in our courts were being cut. There were some word games during hearings when it was claimed that the measure merely “did not fund” the positions, but the effect is the same: those translation positions, just like those in Legal Aid, are being cut.

It got worse. A number of line items were stated as “cessations”. Under “Safer families—implementation of the Joint Australian Law Reform Commission and NSW Law Reform Commission Report on Family Violence”, there are cuts of \$127,000 in the first year, \$378,000 in the second, \$387,000 in the third and \$397,000 in the last outyear. There is another so-called “cessation” under the line item “Safer families—stronger criminal justice responses”. These so-called “cessations” total over \$1 million in the forward estimates.

Then there are items called “reforming” by this government. “Reforming the safer families levy”, on page 64 of budget statement D, is actually a cut of \$313,000 in the 2020-21 year. There is another reduction, or a cut, of \$321,000 in the 2021-22 financial year, and another cut of \$329,000 in the 2022-23 financial year. I have previously labelled these cuts as cruel, and I reiterate that they are cruel. They have been hidden using abstruse language like “reforming”, “re-profiling” or “repurposing”.

These cuts were exposed, and the government’s response has been, quite frankly, appalling. The government’s response was:

... the family safety levy was always intended to provide opportunities for innovation to respond to domestic and family violence in the ACT.

That was the government’s response during question time. But that is not the case. When this levy was introduced, it was not all about innovation. Let me quote the Chief Minister regarding what was actually said at the time that this levy was introduced. He said that the levy “protects the funding for the package”, ensuring that the money went directly to addressing family violence. Further, he said:

I reiterate that the funding raised through this levy will be legislated and locked in for the long term.

Not so much, as it turns out. Mr Barr, back in 2016, said:

The levy means the funds are locked in. The funds cannot be diverted without scrutiny by the Assembly, and this provides an important assurance to the community that the services that rely on the funding will continue.

Let me repeat that:

... the services that rely on the funding will continue.

He went on to say:

Also, by funding the measure in this way, through a levy, the revenue stream will grow ...

The Attorney-General at the time confirmed that the most important aspect of the levy was certainty. At the time they sold this based on these funds going directly to the services and providing certainty. Let me quote:

The Treasurer has made clear that we believe there is a need to identify a secure and ongoing funding source ... There needs to be an ongoing and guaranteed level of funding and the best way to do that, in the government's view, is to effectively hypothecate a revenue-raising mechanism to provide a dedicated income stream to address this problem in an ongoing way.

This was meant to be, and it was sold as, providing certainty to those front-line organisations, to the services that I have listed previously where jobs are being cut, wholesale, across the board. It was never intended for "innovation". If we go back to when this levy was instigated, there was no talk about innovation. That was not mentioned. That is yet another weasel word being used by the Attorney-General and the other ministers to justify cuts to front-line domestic and family violence services.

This funding was always there to provide certainty. It was intended to be, in the words of the ministers, "legislated and locked in for the long term". It was intended to be "ongoing and guaranteed". But we know that the funding is anything but locked in and guaranteed because the funding for these very important front-line services has gone. It has disappeared. All we hear, in answer to the opposition's question about where the money is going, is, "It's off to innovation." Clearly, what is happening is that it is being sucked back within the bureaucracy.

It is an absolute tragedy that these cuts are being made to crucial services relating to family violence. It is a travesty, and all of these front-line agencies are now in a situation of uncertainty, wondering what the hell is going to happen when they are providing these services to migrants and refugees, to people suffering from domestic and family violence. There is no guarantee from the government that any of these services will continue, when we were told back in 2016 that it was all about providing a guarantee.

I reiterate the following recommendations put to the estimates committee:

Given the evidence of the Legal Aid Commissioner that the cuts would have 'a big impact on hundreds of clients who are predominantly women', I call on the government to reverse those cuts to Legal Aid to at least maintain current roles in support of domestic violence roles;

I call on the government to restore funding for vital services in our courts, including translation services.

This government is reaping millions and millions from that levy. It has a budget in the billions. It talks about fairness, it talks about equity, and this government is cutting front-line services for domestic and family violence and for refugee and immigrant services providing translation. It is absolutely disgraceful.

I will not support these cuts; absolutely not. It is a really disappointing thing that this government has done. There is an opportunity, hopefully, when the minister speaks, to

explain to those front-line services why these cuts are being made and when they will be restored. *(Second speaking period taken.)*

Going to another point, the ACT Coroner's Court annual report 2018-19 has been tabled. The report highlights the outstanding work that the magistrates in the ACT perform when conducting work as coroners. Yet again, however, it exposed an area where vital services were left without the resources required. In the report Chief Magistrate, Lorraine Walker states:

The ACT Coroner's Court receives no allocated resourcing for the performance of judicial coronial functions. Again the arrangements of some long standing whereby every Magistrate retains an active coronial case load continued in 2018/19, but that case load is discharged as a secondary priority—

I repeat: as a secondary priority—

with duties as a Magistrate commanding more immediate attention.

The Chief Magistrate continued:

I make my call again for proper resourcing of the ACT Coroners Court and the appointment of a dedicated Coroner. My coronial colleagues and the staff of the Court do the best they can within the time ordinarily available to them, and as this Report demonstrates, have achieved truly remarkable results in the circumstances. A dedicated Coroner however is probably the next step which needs to be taken to professionalise the jurisdiction and ensure consistency and efficiency in dealing with matters.

I support those calls and I urge the government to act.

We hear a lot from those opposite, and particularly from Mr Gentleman, that the opposition did not support the budget on particular line items. Let me be very clear that I do not support a budget that cuts services to front-line organisations that are there providing support, particularly, as the CEO of Legal Aid said, to women who are facing domestic and family violence, the people who need support in our courts with translation, and other front-line staff. I cannot find it in myself to support these cruel cuts that are being made by this government. Clearly, it has its priorities wrong.

I call on the government again to restore these cuts immediately and also to provide the support that the Magistrates Court needs with the provision of a dedicated coroner.

MRS JONES (Murrumbidgee) (4.01): I rise today to make remarks on police, emergency services and corrections. The men and women of the front lines have not been prioritised under this government. The police have been stripped of resources, paramedic numbers neglected for years, firefighters are below the funded establishment and the prison continues to lurch from crisis to crisis.

The Canberra Liberals were disappointed to see the government pass on the opportunity to invest further in our front-line force. In 2010-11 there were 719 sworn police officers serving in the front lines of ACT Policing but under this Labor-Greens

government that number has fallen to just 643—a cut of 75 front-line officers compared to the beginning of the decade—while the population has grown by more than 50,000. This is proof of the government's lack of commitment to our police force.

We have seen many areas of crime increasing, most notably the continued ram raids targeting local and family businesses. This is a growing concern in the community and is having a huge impact on many businesses. Family businesses are forced to pay tens of thousands, if not hundreds of thousands, of dollars to repair their businesses. Even businesses that have not been the victims of crime are having to invest more and more money, which they do not have, in additional security measures because of this concern.

The government constantly praise the strong growth in Canberra's population but they seem to conveniently forget that is growing when it comes to funding our police. As our population continues to grow, workloads for our police continue to increase. Funding, as per this budget, has failed to keep up with inflation, population growth and workloads.

Let us take a look at Gungahlin Police Station as an example. Gungahlin station is one of the many areas of policing infrastructure that is not fit for purpose. The population in Gungahlin has, quite as expected, skyrocketed, something absolutely expected and predicted, while the police infrastructure has stagnated. There are now over 70,000 residents in the area. There is little to no capacity for officers to conduct soft interviewing of victims of domestic or sexual violence. Nor is there a break-out or lunch room. There is not room for additional personnel to be rostered at this station; it is just too small. When they flush the toilet, everyone in the station can hear.

The government's approach to dealing with capacity issues at Gungahlin is to issue them with smart phones so that they can do more work in public places. While that may have its uses it is not a solution to the issue of staffing. Indeed it raises other concerns about personal time management and how we manage the stress that our staff experience.

On emergency services, the ACT government has failed to support front-line emergency service personnel and provide them with appropriate resources and equipment. Paramedics have suffered years of chronic understaffing, with up to 41.5 per cent of shifts under this minister falling below minimum crewing, while firefighters are left with ageing equipment and inadequate training and support.

The government has spruiked that it will hire additional firefighters over two recruitment colleges but confirmed in estimates that this is simply to try to get the workforce back up to the funded establishment, something that it should already be achieving, making the announcement somewhat misleading.

The government finally appears to be taking some action on acquiring additional aerial firefighting appliances. The issue-plagued and frequently unavailable Bronto, Canberra's only high-rise firefighting truck, has been unavailable much of the time. It has meant that firefighters were forced to carry extinguishers and hoses up 12 floors to respond to an apartment building site fire earlier this year. The Bronto has been

unavailable 16 per cent of the time, and a replacement has been provided for only less than half of that time. At the last election Labor committed to providing another aerial appliance. They have slow-walked this process and are yet to fulfil this commitment. Let us hope that this budget finally makes it happen.

The Canberra Liberals welcome the initiatives of scoping for new fire and ambulance stations, an additional firefighting helicopter and looking into a new fire danger rating system. We look forward to seeing the outcomes of these initiatives and will keep a close eye on the government to ensure that they are working to deliver this in full and on time.

Finally, in corrections, the Alexander Maconochie Centre continues to cost ACT ratepayers more while the facility fails to live up to its mandate. We have seen multiple escapes, bashings, high levels of contraband, continual illicit drug abuse and, sadly, two deaths. We have even seen a prisoner mistakenly released, walking straight out the front door.

The minister for corrections has overseen this facility for seven years now. However, his mismanagement of and distracted attitude towards the operations of the AMC has led to record low levels of staff morale. The AMC is suffering from a toxic workplace culture, with 93 resignations in the past three years and still 31 current jobs open. In 2018-19, corrections staff clocked more than 26,000 hours of overtime, almost triple the additional hours worked in the 2016-17 financial year. In one cell block, the AU building, there were 111 rolling lock-ins over 92 days in 2018-19 due to understaffing. That means that inmates in the AU building experienced lock-ins for a quarter of the year. How is that human rights compliant? Ratepayers continue to pay the price for this government's inability to manage the ACT's only prison. Costs continue to go up, while outcomes are going down. What a debacle! Once in a while we have a chance to make a difference in someone's life.

In the coroner's report into one of the deaths we have seen in the facility he said that the inmate had complained repeatedly of a toothache then, months later, having seen no dentist and still waiting in pain, he died from an overdose. I do not know how this facility has been run so poorly that an inmate in severe pain has had to self-medicate in this way. What a shame!

This budget fails the men and women on our front-line, delivering justice and keeping the peace. It fails those in our custody, to whom we owe the obligation to do our best to make them better going out than when coming into our facility. Ultimately, it fails the ratepayers of Canberra who are left to foot the bill for each and every year of Labor-Greens mismanagement.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, Minister for Government Services and Procurement and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (4.08): I am most pleased to speak in support of the appropriation bills and the 2019-20 budget, building on and progressing key commitments for an effective justice system that will bring better outcomes for our community. This budget commits further funding for safe and effective criminal and

civil justice in the ACT. As Attorney-General, I am part of a government that is proudly people-focused and progressive.

Every Canberran is entitled to a transparent and accessible but timely justice system. And we are delivering new legislation and new services that provide tangible results for people, families and our whole community. Our first priority is ensuring that the most vulnerable people in our city are able to realise the rights and protections that are built into our legal system.

This government is providing \$2.4 million in 2019-20 and 2020-21 to continue implementing recommendations arising from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. This funding will support the establishment of an intermediary scheme. The scheme will ensure that the voices of vulnerable people can be heard in our justice system by providing vulnerable witnesses with a communication specialist to assist them in communicating with the police and the court. The ACT government will continue working closely with the commonwealth and with other jurisdictions to implement the recommendations of the royal commission and to improve the way that vulnerable people are supported in our court process. That support goes beyond our work in response to the royal commission.

This budget provides funding to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people and also to support parents, grandparents and children in care, and protection matters. Those measures include \$0.7 million over four years to fund the Warrumbul sentencing court. The Warrumbul court provides a culturally appropriate sentencing process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth in the justice system. This funding will support Warrumbul panel members and the coordinator. This is part of the government's building communities, not prisons investment to reduce reoffending by 25 per cent by 2025.

The budget also includes \$1.9 million over four years to establish a therapeutic care court for care and protection matters heard within the Children's Court. This will provide court-led interventions for parents whose children have been removed from their care or are at risk of being removed and to seek to achieve reunification and also address parental substance abuse issues, parenting capacity issues, family violence and mental health issues. This initiative also includes funding of over \$200,000 to Legal Aid to deliver a new duty solicitor service in the Children's Court. The duty solicitor will be available to help parents and grandparents who are involved in care and protection proceedings.

This government is also investing in a safer community through harm minimisation. We can and we do invest in supporting our local clubs to transition away from gaming machines as a business model and introduce even more robust harm minimisation protections. The 2018-19 budget review provided \$6.2 million over four years to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and to CMTEDD to support the reduction of gaming machine authorisations to 4,000 by 1 July 2020 and to establish a clubs industry diversification support fund. And we have further provided \$1.1 million in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to JACS and to CMTEDD to deliver the government's commitment to reduce gambling harm in the ACT community, whilst supporting the ongoing viability and vibrancy of our community club sector.

Harm minimisation is and will remain a key component of our approach to drug and alcohol addiction. The 2018-19 budget review included funding for a dedicated ACT drug and alcohol court. This new program will reduce recidivism by providing treatment for people whose crimes are the result of a drug or alcohol dependency. The evidence is strong that if we provide the right support services to people with drug and alcohol problems at the right point in their contact with the judicial system we can address these dependencies and, in turn, build more resilient people, families and communities.

My directorate has been provided with \$6.1 million over three years, including for a fitout within the courts precinct and ICT systems to support the new drug court. A further \$5.8 million was provided to Housing ACT, to Legal Aid and to the Health Directorate, and these services will work together to help people overcome addiction while taking responsibility for their crimes.

I am pleased to note, while we are referring to the drug and alcohol court, the judicial resourcing that is provided as well. It follows the recent announcement of the appointment of the former Chief Magistrate, Lorraine Walker, as the acting judge who will be overseeing the work of the drug and alcohol court. That comes alongside the appointment of Acting Chief Magistrate Theakston, the increase in hours of Magistrate Stewart from part time to full time, the reappointment of Special Magistrate Hunter and the new appointments of special magistrates Warwick and McCarthy.

The allocation of these extensive judicial resources is of course a matter for the new Acting Chief Magistrate but I am pleased to note and to draw to the attention of members in this chamber recent correspondence from Acting Chief Magistrate Theakston who has commended the government on its action to resource the Magistrates Court for the provision of the services to the people of Canberra.

Our investment in legal services supports our community across the spectrum of needs. From year one of this term the ACT government has been a supporter of our community legal centres, and this budget continues that support. It includes \$300,000 in 2019-20 to further support the works of Care Inc., the Women's Legal Centre and the Environmental Defenders Office. The government recognises that community legal centres are crucial in ensuring that vulnerable people have access to high quality legal assistance and support to navigate the justice system.

As part of our robust, evidence-based response to organised crime we focus on stripping criminals of their assets. The DPP will receive \$2.8 million over four years for additional prosecutors specialised in seizing criminal assets. The ACT has experienced immediate results since the establishment of the confiscation of criminal assets team within the DPP in March 2018, with an unprecedented growth in confiscation proceedings.

The increase in resources to both ACT Policing and the ACT's Director of Public Prosecutions has allowed ACT authorities to undertake more complex and larger scale confiscation proceedings. In addition to supporting front-line efforts to reduce crime

and to ensure that our courts are accessible, this budget contains a range of measures to improve the public service and to support government transparency.

The 2018-19 budget review included \$3 million in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to support the processing of requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act. There has been a significant increase in the number and the complexities of FOI applications received across government since the commencement of that new FOI Act. The funding will enable the government to employ additional staff to ensure the timely handling of the applications.

The budget includes \$1.9 million to support the ACT Ombudsman's role under the Freedom of Information Act and as the principal officer for the ACT judicial commission. These services support the integrity of systems for accessing government information and for the oversight of judicial officers in the ACT. The funding reflects the government's commitment to transparency and to accountability.

Finally, this budget provides \$4.3 million over four years to provide additional resources to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, or ACAT, for it to hear disputes arising under the new motor accident injury scheme. This will be an important service for Canberrans who are seeking to access treatment and care when they are injured in a car accident. The funding is in addition to the \$400,000 provided in the 2018-19 budget review.

This budget delivers real, valuable justice services for Canberrans. Our courts will be better equipped to support vulnerable people and to address the causes of crime and not just the consequences of crime. The hardworking professionals in our community legal centres, at Legal Aid and at our Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions will receive support to do even more for our community.

This government will keep working to make sure that our values are backed up by resources and we will keep delivering reforms and initiatives that make our justice system even timelier, even more transparent and even more accessible for Canberrans. I commend this section of the budget to the Assembly.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management, Minister for Police and Emergency Services and Minister assisting the Chief Minister on Advanced Technology and Space Industries) (4.18): I would like to commence by expressing my thanks and the government's appreciation to all the staff who work in each of our emergency services for their continued efforts in keeping the ACT community safe.

As the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, I am pleased to support the 2019-20 budget, which contains a number of initiatives that will enhance emergency service capabilities for the ACT.

In the 2019 ACT budget we will deliver a major boost to resources for ACT Policing, supporting the service in transitioning to a new service model that will better support the Canberra community into the future. The new model will see ACT Policing take a

system-wide approach to crime prevention, disruption and response, helping to deliver on our goal of reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025.

Our \$33.9 million commitment through this budget is the single largest investment in ACT Policing in this decade. By making this investment and recruiting over 60 operational staff over the coming years, the government will help our police officers meet evolving community needs, tackle new and emerging crimes and be more effective and visible to help keep our community safe.

The budget will provide \$1.1 million over three years to support preparatory work to establish and trial a new fixated threat assessment capability in the ACT with officers from ACT Policing and ACT Health. We are investing more than \$9 million over four years to upgrade ACT Policing facilities, to ensure that facilities are compliant with the building code of Australia and work health and safety.

The ACT 2019-20 budget provides funding of \$9.52 million for the ACT Emergency Services Agency, ESA. New initiative support includes \$3.1 million in 2019-2020 and 2020-21 to purchase a new aerial firefighting appliance and a new pumper for ACT Fire & Rescue; \$2.65 million over four years to contract an additional helicopter to combat bushfires in the ACT and surrounding region and implement phase 3 of the national fire and danger rating system; \$1.9 million in 2019-20 and 2020-21 to upgrade the ACT state emergency services Majura unit at Hackett, to ensure the continuation of a high level of operational response to flood and storm events in Canberra's inner north; and \$0.9 million in 2019-20 to complete due diligence investigations and undertake preliminary design for a new fire and ambulance station in the city and Molonglo Valley.

There will be \$0.7 million in 2019-20 to undertake two recruit colleges, hiring 36 additional firefighters. This recruitment will maintain operational capability in firefighting and emergency rescue and help build workforce diversity in support of our women in emergency services strategy. There will be \$1.2 million in 2019-20 to upgrade the multipurpose room at the Hume heli-base and create separate change areas for male and female volunteers at the Hall facility to better support workplace diversity. This initiative will be delivered through the better infrastructure fund. And there will be \$70,000 in 2019-20 to scope innovative service delivery options and models of care for the ACT ambulance service to meet the needs of a growing Canberra.

In addition to these measures, the 2018-19 budget review, over four years from 2018-19, has provided \$15.8 million over four years to recruit two additional ambulance crews, 30 paramedics, and expand the ACTAS fleet with five new ambulances to ensure that the ACT's emergency response times remain the best in the country as Canberra grows; \$3.1 million over four years to continue improving the ACT's preparedness for bushfires, including by upgrading the ACT's aerial bushfire fighting aviation fleet to include a specialist intelligence gathering-enabled helicopter; and \$2.3 million in 2018-19 and 2019-20 to provide new structural personal protective clothing to firefighters, to help keep them safe at work. They are all good opportunities to ensure that ESA grows well into the future.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (4.23): I am pleased to speak to this section of the budget in support of the expenditure under this sub-item of the overall expenditure.

This year's budget for the portfolio areas for which I am responsible provides a significant boost in our attempts to build communities, not prisons; to make sure that through that expenditure, through the reforms that we are undertaking, we provide opportunities for people to break their cycle of offending here in the ACT and ensure that our community is as safe as possible. They are the objectives of the work that we are trying to do through this budget process and through the other policy reforms that we are undertaking.

Through this budget, we are investing a further \$70.9 million in our building communities not prisons stream of work. That is on top of the commitment that was made in February of this year, during the midyear budget review, for an initial \$14.6 million for new and expanded community programs. This package seeks to deliver our focus on bringing together strength-based supports and inclusive pathways that lead to better outcomes for people cycling in and out of prison. We believe this is a smarter, more cost-effective approach to our justice system that helps keep families together; as I said, reduces crime; and builds a safer and more secure Canberra for the whole community.

There are a number of elements to this expenditure that cut across my corrections and justice portfolio responsibilities. These include more supported housing for better justice outcomes. This is a recognition that many people involved in the criminal justice system also have issues of insecure housing. This can have a series of consequences. We believe that the investment we are making here, of \$13 million over the next three years to better support the housing needs of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in the criminal justice system, can make a concrete difference. That is the focus of the expenditure in this year's budget; it follows our announcement earlier this year that we would invest \$6.8 million to establish a bail accommodation transition support service for male detainees. Safe and supportive housing is a significant concern for women. The justice housing service will provide accommodation options to help ensure that alleged offenders are not denied bail because they do not have an address to go to.

With a significant number of our women in custody spending short periods of time there, these sorts of initiatives clearly have the potential to make a difference and keep some people out of custody, which we think, particularly for female detainees, is a very important objective because of the impact that time in custody can have not just for them but for the whole family unit in a way that is different from that experienced by families of male detainees.

We want to also improve rehabilitation options for detainees at the AMC, which will include a purpose-built reintegration centre. I have been quizzed about this in question time, but we have been very clear. This year we commence planning and design for

the Alexander Maconochie reintegration centre. This budget delivers \$35 million to construct the centre, further resource the staff and deliver support programs for residents. The new centre will deliver up to 80 beds and increase the range of rehabilitation programs available to detainees.

This is a facility that will be built outside the wire at the AMC. It is a very different approach from simply building more accommodation units or cells within the higher security environment. This is about putting a strong emphasis on rehabilitation. It is about having an environment where low security and low risk detainees can be accommodated outside the fence. It provides an incentive for people to engage in their programs and engage in and focus on their upcoming potential release or parole period, and to have detainees forward focus on the possibilities that are available to them through good engagement and good behaviour whilst in custody.

We also, through this budget, expand the ACT bail program to support offenders to comply with bail to keep them and the community safe. Providing support for people to be safely placed on bail and supported to comply with bail, we believe is particularly crucial in reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system.

We will deliver an additional \$1.3 million in the budget for the bail support program, to strengthen accommodation and employment options for people on bail, because we believe that we can support people to be more successful on bail through addressing the underlying accommodation issues they often face and also helping them to understand their bail conditions. We find that some people who end up breaching their bail conditions do it through perhaps a lack of understanding of their bail conditions because of the complexity of some of those conditions at times. Proactive case management and support while people are on bail have been shown to result in greater levels of compliance, reduced offending, increased community safety and reduced numbers of people on remand in prison.

An important part of the work that the government has been doing for a number of years in the space of justice reinvestment is the policy work that has gone on behind the team. In 2014, the government made a commitment to develop a justice reinvestment strategy. Our approach, which the Australian Institute of Criminology has endorsed, involves adopting a multifaceted strategy, incorporating multiple interventions that achieve greater cumulative results in both the community and the justice system. The policy work is an important part of that.

In this budget we are investing \$3.2 million to develop a world-class reducing recidivism research collaboration that will draw on the best minds in the fields of criminology and law to help the ACT government to achieve our justice reform program. This includes not only having a strong team within the Justice and Community Safety Directorate but also having partnerships with institutions like the Australian National University and, through that, working with partners overseas to make sure that we are embracing the best policy, the best research and therefore the best options for maximising safety for our community here in the ACT.

We know that the AMC has been under pressure for population. That is not a secret. This budget boosts staff capacity at the Alexander Maconochie Centre, both to increase the number of corrections officers who might, to use the expression, work on the floor and to improve rehabilitation rates.

Alongside the purpose-built reintegration centre, we will also boost staff capacity at the AMC. Part of that will be to improve sentence management and post-release planning. For many people, time in custody can be a turning point in their lives. This investment seeks to take better advantage of that time behind bars to encourage genuine change and rehabilitation. It will allow a deeper engagement with the detainee's original offending behaviour and increase the capacity for more targeted and individual services responses. And, as I said, we will deliver more custodial staff and additional services to reflect the growing population in the AMC.

These are significant investments, particularly focused on the corrections space, but also occurring in the justice space.

The Attorney-General has mentioned the Warrumbul sentencing court. This is an important justice investment that targets young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been involved in the criminal justice system. I am glad the attorney touched on this today because it is a really important program. Under the guidance of a panel of elders, children and young people will be assisted to understand the underlying reasons and circumstances behind their offending behaviour.

The budget review, which I touched on earlier, has continued this theme of justice reinvestment and seeking to provide people with the supports at the root cause of their offending behaviour rather than simply by expanding the jail. That is the rationale behind the building communities not prisons program. That included the extension of the Yarrabi Bamirr program, extension of the strong connected neighbourhoods program, previously known as the high density housing program, and additional funds to Victim Support ACT to improve critical support services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All of these investments by the government, including an investment to give the victims of crime financial assistance scheme more capacity, are about looking at the various points in the justice system where the community interacts. In particular, for those who have repeat interactions with the justice system, it is about trying to intervene in a way that breaks that cycle for them, as I touched on at the beginning of my remarks.

We believe this is the way to reduce recidivism over the years, to meet our target of reducing recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025, to ease pressure on the Alexander Maconochie Centre, to help people to have better lives in our community, and to make our community safer. If we can break that cycle of repeat offending, law-abiding members of the community will not be subjected to criminal offences. That is the case: this is as much about victims as it is about offenders, because we want to reduce the number of victims in our community as well.

I will go to a couple of other areas in my portfolio. This year we have provided additional funding to the Human Rights Commission to strengthen oversight of health workers by implementing the national code for unregistered health workers.

There is money in the budget in the road safety space to continue the operations of the Canberra Hospital's fitness to drive medical clinic. This clinic provides complex medical assessments for older drivers to ensure their fitness to drive. This is very important from two perspectives. For those people who are fit to continue to drive, it maximises their independence, and I think people really value that. But for those for whom, perhaps because of the ageing process, being on the road as a driver is no longer safe, we need to make challenging but clear decisions about that, so that we minimise the risks there.

We do see an over-representation of older drivers in our road crash statistics. I do not want to make generalisations about that. Having a service like this enables us to make rational and evidence-based decisions about people's fitness to drive in a way that is objective. Hopefully, although it can be a difficult moment, people will find it to be a fair and evidence-based decision.

We have also, in this year's budget, committed money to implement reforms to the graduated licensing scheme that will provide a staged approach to driver licensing, with restrictions and sanctions that are reduced as experience is gained. Again this is reflected in the fact that we see over-representation of younger drivers in our crash statistics. In trying to take an evidence-based approach to this, we have sought to reform our graduated licensing scheme so that drivers are able to come through in a way that maximises their safety and that of other road users. Age is simply a reflection of when people get their licence. It is really about experience, and we are trying to give people an experience-building process in the driving system, so that they become as safe a driver as possible. It is an important reform for road safety, and one that will make a difference over the coming years.

Outside my direct portfolio responsibilities, I would like to take this opportunity to commend my colleagues on our government's ongoing and obvious commitment to reducing recidivism and tackling crime in new and innovative ways. We have heard comments from two other ministers about that today, and I thank them for that.

In particular, this year's budget brings the drug and alcohol court closer to operation. It is a key parliamentary agreement item for this Assembly. I know that a number of ministers, led by the Attorney-General, have been working on this project, in partnership with members of the judiciary, to bring this really important project to fruition. This will serve as an essential new forum for an offender's substance use to be considered as part of their broader health and support needs, and proactively help them engage with treatment and rehabilitation.

I look forward to the formal commencement of that project. I am pleased to see the appointment of former Chief Magistrate Lorraine Walker as the justice who will be in charge of that court. Her passion and commitment for that sort of work will be very critical to the success of the court. These courts rely on having members of the

judiciary who bring not only a commitment to therapeutic justice but a certain personal touch to it. I wish Magistrate Walker a great deal of success in that role. I think that this court can be an important part of the ACT's justice system.

Likewise I would like to acknowledge the positive work of the police minister in the recently released new direction for ACT Policing. Again, we are seeing really thoughtful work going into what justice means in the ACT and how we can make our community safer.

I note that the Attorney-General has provided additional support for community legal centres by increasing funding to Care Inc and the Women's Legal Centre, as well as the introduction of an intermediary scheme in the ACT to help vulnerable witnesses, including children, people with disability and victims of child sexual abuse in their interactions with the justice system. This has been a clear recommendation of the Victims of Crime Commissioner, based on experience in other jurisdictions. I think it fits very well with the agenda that the Attorney-General has for us to be a restorative jurisdiction, one that seeks, as I said earlier, to think about what justice means and how we can deliver it for people in their various interactions with the justice system.

For all of the reasons that I have touched on—the direction of our justice investment work and our attempts to work with victims and various other people in the justice system—the Greens will be pleased to support this part of the budget. I look forward to, with my colleagues, rolling out this work through the course of the coming financial year and in future years so that we make Canberra a place that has good justice policy.

Proposed expenditure agreed to.

Community Services Directorate—Part 1.8

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (4.39): I begin by addressing safer families. Many everyday Canberrans are more than happy to pay the annual safer families levy in order to contribute to making our city safer by better responding to and preventing domestic violence. But community concerns remain regarding whether essential front-line services are receiving the support they need. These concerns have increased with the 2019-20 budget revealing that several safer families initiatives are on the chopping block. This budget shows the funding for five initiatives falling to zero dollars in 2020-21.

One of these initiatives, implementation of the joint Australian Law Reform Commission and New South Wales Law Reform Commission report on family violence, provided three additional staff involved in protection orders. According to what we were told in estimates hearings, one of these positions is already being cut this year. Another initiative, stronger criminal justice responses, added three staff to the department of public prosecutions. Similarly, it was confirmed in hearings that one position has been cut this year.

I attempted to find out from the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence how many more front-line staff will be let go resulting from these cuts in

two other initiatives: stronger police support for family violence victims and enhanced child protection and case management and coordination. Unfortunately, she is not as forthcoming as JACS officials were during estimates hearings. Her response to my questions on notice was simply: “The safer families package funds functions, not positions.”

We do know that the last of these initiatives, the improved access to legal aid initiative, currently pays for 2.5 full-time staff. In hearings, Dr Boersig, the CEO of Legal Aid ACT, said that without continued funding after this year, he would have to either cut services to hundreds of domestic violence victims or cut services to other Legal Aid clients. The Attorney-General attempted to reassure us all by stating that the government is hoping that demand for these services will decrease before their funding is cut off, but we simply have no evidence of this yet.

Even some of those who have publicly supported the new safer families initiatives that will be funded in part through these cuts are worried about the capacity of our front-line services to deal with a demand that, despite Mr Ramsay’s hopefulness, seems to be going up, not down.

The Domestic Violence Crisis Service chief executive, Mirjana Wilson, for example, has called the decision to direct safer families funding towards training all 21,000 of the territory’s public servants a “bold move”, but she has expressed concern that:

Just raising awareness is not OK in and of itself ... If we’re then funnelling everyone back to services of which there are few to respond to this in the territory, we really need to ensure they’re funded to do that well.

The issue is getting the balance right between funding front-line services whilst also piloting new initiatives. This is an issue of priorities and deciding what gets funded first. On this point, many Canberrans fear that this budget may be getting that all-important balance wrong.

I now want to address care and protection. This is another crucially important area where Canberrans expect their government to get things right. This budget commits an additional \$39 million to out of home care over the next four years. Most people would see child protection as one of the essential services that a government should be funding appropriately. The question, then, is about how exactly the service is being run. On this point, we have mixed results, much of it quite worrying.

To take just one example, last year this government committed \$594,000 in additional funding to increase permanency orders for children and young people in out of home care. This provided 4.1 full-time equivalent dedicated employees to work on this matter, and still the government fell short of its goal of just 25 permanency outcomes. This budget provides for an increase to \$935,000, which will increase the number of dedicated staff to 6.5. One hopes that the target might actually be reached this year.

When the Minister for Children, Youth and Families recently tabled the mid-term review of the government’s out of home care strategy, she did highlight one bright point: that the number of children and young people entering care may finally be

slowing. I note, however, that the number exiting care also appears to be in decline. One can add to this concerns that have recently been raised publicly about the state of the territory's residential care system. They have been shared with me privately almost since I entered this place. As one barrister said to me earlier this year, there is little point in removing children from the parental home just to place them in a home where they feel completely unsafe much of the time.

I should add that though I am somewhat relieved that steps are finally being taken towards my 2017 motion regarding external review of care and protection decisions, this process has taken entirely too long, stretching back over several Labor-Greens governments. Earlier this year, all four of the territory's human rights commissioners signed a document stating:

... the provision of external merits review of child protection decisions ... is essential for achieving full compliance with the ACT's human rights obligations.

In other words, we are not human rights compliant in the space of child protection. This needs to be fixed as a matter of urgency.

The response from the minister when I raise such issues is often that these matters are complex. They are; I acknowledge that. But then the question becomes: can we trust this government to handle complex matters? On this point, I and many other Canberra residents are not convinced.

Data in the KPMG-led mid-term evaluation of the government's out of home care strategy, which I have referred to, add to this worry. The evaluation found that, during the first two years of the strategy's implementation, the percentage of kids entering care for the first time who received the required health passport dropped from 73 per cent to 49 per cent. Even more worrying, over the same time span, the percentage of kids who have a therapeutic plan within six weeks of entering care plummeted from 64 per cent to only 22 per cent.

These plans are intended to allow for the correct placement and care of a child. I have heard from former residential care workers how difficult it is to meet the needs of a young person who shows up in a house without a plan in place, with the plan often not arriving until several months later. Yes, we know that some of these kids will have experienced more trauma in their short lives than all of us here in the Assembly combined. That is why it is even more crucial that each of them should have a therapeutic plan. The government is failing tremendously in this area.

I bring up these two statistics because, unlike so many other facets of child protection, they are not that complex. Making sure that children who enter care are provided with health passports and therapeutic plans is something that this government has complete control over. Yet instead of making it happen, they have let something that is relatively straightforward slip shamefully. Madam Deputy Speaker, if a government cannot get the easy parts right, why should we have confidence that they can get the complex parts correct?

I now speak briefly on multicultural affairs. Budget paper 3 includes the word “multicultural” exactly three times, twice when pointing out that we have a Minister for Multicultural Affairs and once when indicating that the CSD has responsibility for multicultural affairs policies and services. That is it.

The detailed budget statement for the Community Services Directorate has only a few more mentions, half of which are in relation to the National Multicultural Festival. On this point, I note that, despite increased funding for this event, I have been informed that it still ran small deficits in 2018 and 2019. *(Second speaking period taken.)*

During estimates hearings, I asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs which multicultural community groups or organisations he had consulted with prior to the ACT government making the decision to join the Welcoming Cities network. In response, I was told that this government was confident its decision would be supported without the need for any consultation. I would respectfully suggest that this response perfectly sums up how this government sees Canberra’s growing multicultural communities. Why stoop to consult when one already knows what people really want or need? This is the message that is increasingly being received by culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans, and I see nothing in this budget to challenge that.

After 18 years of government, one would think that Labor would be doing better with community services. Instead, they have shown that they are incapable of handling even simple services. As a result, our vulnerable people have been forgotten. A government is no longer fit to govern when this is the case. Canberrans deserve better.

MRS JONES (Murrumbidgee) (4.51): Once again we are debating a budget which, for the women of the ACT, perhaps has not delivered all that it could have. It was put to me by a witness during the estimates hearings that the ACT budget is crafted and finalised, and then a process of reverse engineering is undertaken to see which policies may benefit women. Those are then announced for women. How many were specifically crafted for women? Where is the push to improve women’s safety? And not just at the margins, but genuinely taking practical steps to improve, for example, safety, such as by providing better and more street lighting or having a greater presence and availability of police on the beat and in our suburbs.

How about asking all of our ACT public service staff what they need in their workplace? How can we make their lives better? How can we improve work and life balance?

That being said, as a result of our discussions during estimates around this issue, I am working with the Minister for Women to advocate for better and more suitable breastfeeding and pumping facilities across the federal public service for mothers returning to work. I have been liaising with the minister’s office, and I expect that we will shortly be sending a joint letter to the federal Minister for Women, advocating for an audit and an improvement of the breastfeeding rooms and facilities across the APS in the ACT.

Breastfeeding rooms must work really well. This is crucial for women and their babies' needs. Breastfeeding room details may sound like a small business to some, but they can make a huge difference to the mothers who want to achieve work and family success. The very process of maintaining feeding and/or pumping upon return to work is a complex, demanding and emotional business. It changes week to week, and sometimes day to day, and can be a make-or-break issue for many mums. We owe it to the mothers returning to work to make this as smooth as possible from an employer perspective.

The Canberra Liberals believe that all women should be empowered to fully participate and succeed in their family, community and economic aspirations. We will continue to fight for this outcome, practically and genuinely. I encourage the minister to be strong and to make more improvements for women to be able to achieve their aspirations for their lives here in the ACT.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, Minister for Government Services and Procurement and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (4.53): I am pleased to speak in this section of the appropriation bill debate in relation to the government's support for seniors. Older Canberrans make a huge contribution to the life of this city. They do so through their work, through their roles as carers, through volunteering and by participating on many boards and committees.

According to census data in 2016, 12½ per cent of Canberrans are aged 65 and over. That is around 50,000 people, but we know this number has continued to grow since that census. As our city expands, and as the number of older Canberrans increases, the ACT government is working to ensure that our city provides the support services, the infrastructure, the environment and the culture that enables our seniors to continue to lead rich, happy and healthy lives.

Budgets show a government's priorities, and in this budget we have a variety of measures across many portfolios that are specifically designed to assist our older Canberrans. Our goal is to ensure that Canberra continues to grow as an age-friendly city. An age-friendly city is one that provides opportunities for full social participation and for health and safety to be maintained so that quality of life is enhanced for people as they age.

To achieve this, the government has commenced the process of developing an age-friendly city plan for Canberra. This plan will set out how we will ensure that Canberra remains one of the best places to be a senior Australian. The plan will be developed in partnership with my Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing and will draw on the views of senior Canberrans from right across the territory. The first consultation forum to help to develop that plan was held on 25 July, and I will continue to meet with community members to hear their thoughts on our age-friendly vision. The plan will be finalised and released in early 2020.

While that is the big picture, there are a host of other important initiatives that are already delivering for older Canberrans. The government's 2019-20 budget includes a range of measures to support our goals for these important Canberra citizens. The social inclusion of seniors will be supported through an additional allocation of \$162,000 over two years to our community partner, the Council on the Ageing ACT, COTA. This will assist COTA in its excellent work to expand its delivery of the ACT seniors card program and its Seniors Week events.

The seniors card program is one of our most effective tools to strengthen social inclusion because it encourages older people to keep active and be engaged in the community by providing access to discounts and concessions. Participating businesses provide these discounts on a range of goods and services, which enables seniors to save on leisure, entertainment, travel, dining out and much more. The seniors card directory, which lists the businesses supporting the scheme, is available online and in hard copy through Access Canberra, ACT libraries and directly from COTA.

Another important initiative that this government has provided in this budget is funding for ACT Seniors Week. Seniors Week, which is also facilitated by COTA, is held in March each year and provides opportunities for older Canberrans and their families to become aware of and connect with the services they need to lead fulfilling lives. It provides seniors with a range of educational, physical, health and wellbeing events and programs, as well as open days and come-and-try activities.

The ACT Seniors Expo is held in Seniors Week and hosts more than 120 exhibitors who showcase government services, retirement and aged-care advice, community links, investment ideas and, most importantly, social and leisure activity groups. The Seniors Expo brings together service providers and older Canberrans in a way that benefits the entire community through showcasing goods and services that enhance the wellbeing of the more senior members of our community.

The number of people who are accessing the seniors card program and the Seniors Week activities is increasing over time, reflecting the increasing number of seniors living in the ACT. It is fantastic that these programs continue to attract strong interest from the community. The increase in funding to COTA for these programs is a recognition of the growing costs that are associated with a higher number of participants in the program.

The ACT government is conscious of the need for senior Canberrans to stay and feel connected. Our recent survey of people over 55 years indicated that 59 per cent of respondents preferred to source information online. For this reason the government also directly facilitates service access and information for seniors through its centralised assistance website. The website brings together up-to-date information on the full range of government concessions, services and supports; therefore, it makes it easier for people to apply.

Unfortunately, in our city there are some older Canberrans who struggle because of low fixed incomes. The ACT government is supporting the most vulnerable people in the community, including those seniors, through direct financial assistance. The

utilities concession covers electricity, natural gas, water and sewerage and is available to eligible residents of ACT caravan parks and retirement villages with embedded electricity networks. From 1 July this year the utilities concession increased by \$46 to \$700 a year.

The pensioner duty concession scheme has been extended to 30 June 2020. This scheme assists eligible pensioners to move to accommodation that is better suited to their needs by charging a concessional rate of conveyancing duty.

In recent years the challenging problem of elder abuse has emerged as an issue for older Canberrans, and the ACT government has responded. We have provided \$640,000 over four years to fund a seniors rights service in Legal Aid called OPALS, the Older Persons ACT Legal Service. OPALS provides specialist legal services for older people in the ACT who are experiencing or are vulnerable to elder abuse, which can come in many forms. The support that seniors can receive from Legal Aid through the OPALS program will assist them to know their rights, point them to additional specialist services should they need them and give them expert legal advice if required.

Elder abuse is insidious and it can rob older Canberrans of quality of life in their later years. OPALS is just one of the ways that we are seeking to combat it. We are also working with our cross-jurisdictional colleagues to implement the national plan to respond to the abuse of older Australians. Under the national plan we are strengthening service responses, improving safeguards for vulnerable people and older adults, and increasing community awareness and access to information.

In the 2019-20 budget we are also funding better health care in the community in places where and when people need it. We are boosting acute service delivery by the expansion of front-line services at the Canberra Hospital, which includes additional allied and nursing staff for aged care. We have increased the life support rebate by five per cent in 2019-20, bringing the annual payment to \$128 a year. This rebate provides help with electricity bills for eligible Canberrans who need electrically operated life support equipment at home to treat a life-threatening condition.

We are strengthening home-based care for older Canberrans. The geriatric rapid acute care evaluation service, GRACE, makes it easier for older people in residential aged-care facilities to avoid unnecessary hospital visits by providing them with free treatment in a place that they are familiar with.

We are also investing further in palliative care. The ACT government will facilitate the expansion to Clare Holland House being funded by the Australian government and the Snow Foundation, and invest \$1.7 million to improve the palliative and end-of-life care coordination of people living in residential aged-care facilities. Senior Canberrans can also search for the “find our ACT health service” webpage. It includes up-to-date information about aged-care health services in Canberra and the surrounding region.

In city services, the age-friendly suburbs program shows the government’s commitment to improving path network infrastructure and connectivity in suburbs that include a large proportion of residents aged over 55 years, as well as aged-care

and retirement facilities. The program has been underway since the 2015-16 financial year and funding is continuing in this budget. We will be increasing the number of suburbs that receive age-friendly upgrades to ensure that our seniors can move around their suburbs safely. I commend Minister Steel for his work in this area.

This benefits the whole community because these upgrades not only support our older Canberrans but also provide good quality pathways for people on bikes and clear crossings for the mobility impaired. This helps people of all ages and all levels of mobility to move around the city with ease.

The government is committed to a strong transport system, as transport is key to connecting senior Canberrans across our community. The flexible bus service assists those who are socially isolated to engage in community events by providing them with much-needed transport. The service supports the aged or people with a mobility difficulty through its fleet of minibuses, which are wheelchair accessible.

We are also aware that much of the good work to support seniors takes place within the community. In the past year our grants programs have provided significant assistance for groups and organisations supporting older Canberrans. Under our seniors grants program, funding was provided to organisations such as the ACT Disability, Aged and Carer Advocacy Service, ADACAS, to deliver an elder abuse prevention and safeguard project, to COTA for the Hughes community garden, and to Legal Aid ACT for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elder abuse consultation process.

The government recognises the immense capacity of mature workers and understands the need for them to be provided with unique support so that they can upskill and fill key roles in workplaces across the Canberra region. The ACT government's mature workers grants program funds projects that assist mature workers and employers to navigate the range of upskilling and reskilling opportunities and associated financial, learning and job-seeking supports.

Two projects are currently funded under the mature workers grants program. The CIT Mature Workers Support Service provides high quality, individual case management services to assist mature workers to overcome barriers to participation in and successful completion of reskilling and upskilling opportunities, and facilitates the matching of mature students with employment and training opportunities in the ACT tourism industry.

The Canberra Business Chamber mature age workers in tourism project aims to place at least 40 mature workers in employment in the ACT tourism sector. This project draws on the experience of business leaders who have successfully employed mature workers and recognise the benefits of a diverse workforce. Senior Canberrans can also benefit from digital training sessions offered by Libraries ACT, in addition to free access to computers, internet and wi-fi at our public libraries.

The government not only wants to help older Canberrans; it wants to recognise their enormous contribution. Each year we acknowledge the long-term contributions of people who have lived in Canberra for 50 years or more, with the Chief Minister's

Canberra gold awards. The awards recognise the unique contribution made by individuals and groups who have chosen to make a long-term commitment to the ACT. Through these awards the ACT government celebrates this dedication by honouring Canberrans who have resided or operated in the ACT for 50 years or more. More than 90 individuals and 12 community groups were recognised at a ceremony in March, earlier this year.

Finally, as I noted earlier, staff from the office for seniors are working across the government and with the community to develop an age-friendly city plan. We have acknowledged the significance of this portfolio by adding funding in 2019-20 for an additional staff member to the office for seniors and veterans to develop policy, work with community groups and help support the ACT government's Ministerial Advisory Council on Ageing, MACA. The MACA provides advice to government on how we keep Canberra inclusive through valuing and supporting the contributions and involvement of older Canberrans. Again I place on record my thanks to Fiona May, the previous Chair of MACA, and Professor Diane Gibson, the new Chair of MACA.

This suite of services and supports provided by the ACT government is testament to the high value that we place on our older citizens. We will continue to work towards building an age-friendly city where seniors are recognised and celebrated, a community that is inclusive of young and old alike, in which all people are respected, and in which all are able to contribute to our city. On the basis of all of these important initiatives, I commend this section of the appropriation bill to the Assembly.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (5.08): I rise at this moment to talk about the budget issues for the Community Services Directorate. There are a lot of different matters in this. I am starting with disability, for no particular reason. I am particularly pleased to see that the Community Services Directorate priorities include the integrated response program for people with disability and the implementation of the disability justice strategy. As the first jurisdiction to fully implement the NDIS, we have learnt that there are still people with disability falling through the gaps in service provision under the NDIS. This investment in maintaining support for disability services during the transition is a vital action to ensure that people do not get left behind.

The enhancement of the capacity of the senior practitioner and the strengthening of child development services should provide support for those who most need it and improve outcomes for children and families through coordinated, locally based services. I am very pleased to see the investment in reducing, and hopefully eliminating, the use of restrictive practices in disability, education and out of home care settings. I have met with the senior practitioner and I am confident that she will ensure that organisations are aware of what constitutes restrictive practice and what legal and other obligations they have to adhere to in their reporting obligations in this regard.

I am also pleased to see that the ACT government has agreed, in principle, to guarantee adequate funding for the children and young people's equipment loan scheme, CAYPELS, and that the implementation of assistive technology provisions for NDIS participants will also be considered in the context of the CAYPELS service.

I note the success of the work being undertaken by Our Booris, Our Way to address the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the care and protection and out of home care systems. It can only be described as a blight on our society that this over-representation is continuing and, clearly, engaging with, listening to and working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is integral to any effective response to this problem.

I support the investment in vulnerable children and young people, and I was very pleased to find that last week, when asked a question about out of home care providers, the minister stated that it was extremely unlikely that any new for-profit provider will join the active consortium. That would seem to be something best delivered by people who are not making a dollar out of it.

I am also very pleased that there is additional funding to expand the rollout of the age-friendly program but disappointed that the expansion is not faster. As Canberrans age, more people will need the improved infrastructure to maintain or enhance their ability to get around, and of course even people who are not aged will and do appreciate age-friendly suburbs. They are friendly for all ages, not just older ages. I was pleased to hear Minister Ramsay's speech about the expansion of the seniors card and also very pleased to see that Seniors Week will be expanded.

I look forward to learning more about how the ACT is going to act on the national plan to respond to the abuse of older Canberrans. I have heard many stories about abuse of older Canberrans, particularly financial abuse. Some of these are alarming, and they highlight to me the need for adequate service responses and for our community to embrace the notions of connectedness, respect and belonging to all, particularly for our elderly, who so often become socially isolated. This is a big segue into another portfolio, Transport Canberra. If people cannot easily leave their home they really find it difficult to be part of our community, and this is really important in terms of people's long-term wellbeing.

I note that, even with the release of the capital of equality strategy, the LGBTIQ strategy, in fact the only expenditure identified in the budget is for a 12-month scoping study on health issues, much of which has already been identified by the community. In the estimates process the ACT government said it was committed to the principles outlined in the Darlington statement and that the government will be considering the blueprint developed by AIDS Action, A Gender Agenda and Collective Action for a coordinated response to the health needs of the LGBTIQ community which will include a consideration of a peer-led gender clinic.

Moving on to women, I was very pleased to see a women's budget statement this year. They have not been there for the last few years. But I was really disappointed to find that it was simply a grab bag of initiatives that might in some way affect women. We talked about that in estimates, and that really does seem to be what it was. It was just things that mentioned women in their statement when they went to budget cabinet.

But the purpose of a women's budget statement analysis is to identify the impact of the budget on women, and that is more than just which new initiatives they say impact

on women. Gender analysis more broadly is designed to promote equity, as opposed to equality, and this means that men, women and non-binary people should not always be treated in the same way, because they have different life experiences. For example, we know that most single-headed households are headed by women. Initiatives that benefit flexible working arrangements will benefit more women than men and will create a more balanced workforce. I am very pleased the government has agreed to accept feedback on the statement and consider further ways to embed gender analysis in the budget, including more work on those who do not identify with the binary definitions of male and female.

I really look forward to future budgets being measured against both the wellbeing indicators as well as the economic metrics. I talked a bit about that in my discussion on CMTEDD, but it is very important from CSD's point of view because those indicators are going to show us how well we are doing with all the things that CSD are looking at: improving access to housing, strengthening family cohesion, growing social inclusion, better health, better wellbeing. I could go on, but I will not.

Imagine if the statement of equity also reflected what we have done towards achieving equity for those in our community who are particularly disadvantaged, such as Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, people with a disability, culturally and linguistically diverse community members, those who identify as LGBTIQ, as well as women, who of course are the largest of the groups. Until this happens, until we have equity, there is a need to look at the impact of new investments and programs in the budget on specific groups to ensure that investment and outcomes are fair and that we are indeed an inclusive community.

The ACT government has unfortunately merely noted the recommendations from the estimates committee about moving the Office for Women into the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, saying that its current location in the Community Services Directorate is consistent with other whole-of-government functions such as the offices for disability, seniors and veterans, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs. However, I note that the Office for LGBTI Affairs sits in the Chief Minister's directorate, yet it has a very similar function. My recommendation would be that, for true consistency, all these offices, including the Office of Multicultural Affairs, should be located in the same directorate, preferably a directorate that has the authority to direct, monitor and evaluate work across all government directorates.

Moving on to family safety, I support the rollout of training for all public servants, including managers and those on the front line. Obviously there are different levels of training for different people. This is going to all public servants. This is an important step which will increase awareness and break down the silence concerning family violence. I think this will be relevant not only to their work life but to their non-work life. *(Second speaking period taken.)*

I note that the family safety hub legal services pilot will be extended to allow for evaluation. This innovative pilot targets one of the most at-risk groups of family violence: pregnant or newly parenting women. I very much hope it can be continued, if found to be effective. Therein lies the biggest risk to the territory's commitment to

address family violence. I believe Mr Hanson talked about it in the JACS section, and I will talk about it a bit again.

The family safety levy is targeted at innovative and new ways of tackling this wicked problem. That is all well and good. We clearly need innovation. But what happens to the pilots after they are found to be effective? They will no longer be innovative but, being effective, they will need to be funded. For example, the funding provided to Legal Aid under the family safety levy will cease coming from this levy. The community needs reassurance that such programs will not just come and go but will be maintained. I think it is incumbent on all ministers to ensure that ongoing funding is secured for all the successful initiatives that come out of the family safety levy.

There seems to be a bit of lack of consistency already in this, with the room for change program for perpetrators receiving additional funds over each of the next four years whilst an evaluation is undertaken. This may well be the correct thing to do. Hopefully it is doing a good job with the perpetrators. But also I note that it is, by comparison with services for victims, an expensive program to run. That makes it all the more important to ensure that it is working well and achieving the desired outcomes.

It is clear that the ACT community is broadly supportive of paying the family safety levy and on that basis we have an obligation to ensure that it is well and appropriately used. We must not lose the momentum that has been gained in addressing family violence since a number of tragic family violence deaths in our community a few years ago.

I must point out the inequity in effort, funding and programs when comparing family violence to sexual violence. While some family violence occurs in a domestic and family context, not all of it does. This is why it requires its own specific plan to address it. As I have said before, and I say again—unfortunately he is not here to listen to it—I look forward to working with the attorney on the development of a refined definition of consent in the Crimes Act during this term. I hope that this will be the catalyst for further change as far as sexual violence in our community goes. We need to have a definition which involves free and voluntary consent.

Unfortunately we are still waiting on the promised education campaigns about the non-consensual sharing of intimate images. I suggested a more focused approach is needed for the delivery of respectful relationships education, particularly that understanding and negotiating consent should be a focus for education spending in the next budget.

Despite the focus on hoarding this week, with a bill tabled by Mr Coe yesterday and with the government's planned mandatory code of conduct for the management of hoarding, which is part of the litter bill that Mr Steel has put forward, I note there has been no allocation of funding for any programs that address hoarding behaviour. Members may be aware that previously Woden Community Service received a small amount of funding for this. But that funding has ceased.

I reiterate that using punishment to address hoarding is highly unlikely to be the right answer. As has been stated in this Assembly over the last couple of days, most people who hoard actually have underlying mental health issues. We need to make sure that those people with hoarding problems or hoarding tendencies are adequately supported and that this is funded in future budgets.

I take this opportunity, talking about funding and possible punishment as an approach for changing people's behaviours, to remind the Assembly that we have also proposed progressive revenue measures, such as last year's call for an investigation of income-based fines, as set fines do not recognise the unequal impacts of high costs of living and people's ability to pay. This is something that the government will be reporting back on next week. Basically that is when they have to as a result of my motion. But this is an issue we need to bear in mind as we debate legislation against hoarding, littering and animal abuse in the coming weeks.

Finally, I note that there are numerous plans in existence or in development in relation to social inclusion and community services. Plans such as the women's plan and the first action plan, the age-friendly cities plan, the disability justice strategy, the drug strategy action plan, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander action plan on children and young people, leadership, cultural integrity, inclusion, justice, economic participation, health and wellbeing, employment, housing and lifelong learning, the blueprint for youth justice, the carers strategy and the ACT multicultural framework second action plan—all these need to be adequately resourced.

One of the dangers that I fear we are falling into in having strategic plans, underlying action plans, is that they create a false sense of what is possible and a false sense of what is actually happening unless they are adequately funded. The government has to follow through on its aspirational goals in the publicly circulated plans in order to ensure that they remain trusted by the community. To a large extent, I think the lack of follow-through is a budget issue. I think this is a very real point on which to end my speech on CSD. Clearly, in general the Greens are in favour of all the initiatives. We just need to make sure that what is promised is more than promised; it is actually delivered.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (5.25): I rise to talk on the veterans element of the budget. As members would be aware, I have been a long-term advocate for veterans in the ACT. It is my view that it took too long for the government to take the lead on this issue and recognise and support veterans. However, I would like to acknowledge the current minister's interest and activity in this area. It is an area that deserves bipartisan support, which it currently receives. In that vein, I also acknowledge that on a number of occasions the minister and I have shared a lift to various activities. I regularly see him at the War Memorial and other veterans activities throughout the ACT, and that is a good thing.

I note that in this budget there are a number of elements that have been previously promised and are being delivered. The new advisory council has met on a number of occasions, under the leadership of its chair, Brigadier Alison Creagh. There have been seven community engagement opportunities this year and I trust that they have proven valuable.

I note and support a number of grants that have been allocated throughout the year. I encourage the government to continue and expand this program. This was an initiative that we proposed at the last election. The government has copied it and is rolling it out. That is a good thing; I welcome it. I recognise some of the groups and the work they do. They include the Legacy Club of Canberra. I am a legatee and I understand intimately the work that that organisation does for widows and for families. There is the Woden Valley RSL. Again, I am a member of that organisation and I recognise the fantastic work that they do. They have received a grant to purchase a new computer to help with their publishing and administration.

There is also Buddy Up Australia, which received a grant to manage PTSD in the ADF and emergency services by providing education and psychological and social support. Other grants include the South Canberra Veterans Shed, Vietnam Veterans and Veterans ACT, the Ex-Defence Integration Team, Soldier On and Lifeline. All of these groups do outstanding work. I support them and I acknowledge the government support for them.

I look forward to seeing more detail on these programs in this portfolio area. I look forward to seeing reports on advisory council meetings and the outcome of community engagement meetings in due course.

I want to slightly deviate from the budget. The minister is regularly at the Australian War Memorial, as am I. I acknowledge today that the Director of the Australian War Memorial, Brendan Nelson, has indicated that he will be retiring at the end of the year. I think it would be appropriate for me to say a few words to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution that Brendan Nelson has made to the War Memorial. I acknowledge the work that was done through the centenary of World War I events. In my view, and I know it is a view shared with other veterans in the ACT, there has been no greater servant of the Australian War Memorial since its inception and its founder, Charles Bean.

I am sure that the Liberal and Labor members of the Assembly, though I am not quite so sure about the Greens, would join me in acknowledging and thanking Brendan Nelson for the great work that he has done in recognising the service of those who have died for our country and keeping their memory alive—very alive—not just through commemorative activities but through the great displays at the War Memorial and in raising the profile and understanding of veterans of contemporary conflicts.

I am delighted to be able to acknowledge that the ACT government is doing good work in this area and acknowledge the contribution of Brendan Nelson on the occasion of his imminent retirement. I thank him on behalf of, I am sure, all members here for his contribution to the Australian War Memorial.

MS ORR (Yerrabi) (5.30): I am proud to be part of this ACT government that supports our city to be the most inclusive in Australia. Our cultural landscape is populated and shaped by people who have migrated to Canberra from more than 180 countries across the globe. As it currently stands, Canberra is home to more than 400,000 people, with roughly half of our city's residents having at least one parent

born overseas. More than 26 per cent of Canberrans were born overseas, and one in four people speak a language other than English, with the most common languages being Mandarin, Vietnamese, Cantonese and Hindi.

Through this budget, the ACT government continues to fund the National Multicultural Festival, which will ensure that Canberra will continue to host a vibrant, community-focused event that celebrates our cultural diversity and strengthens social inclusion within our city.

This government's ongoing commitment to supporting and strengthening our city's multicultural community is shown through the continuation of the multicultural grants program, whereby \$260,000 will be shared amongst dozens of local multicultural community organisations each year.

I am proud to represent the Gungahlin region, where 33 per cent of residents are from culturally diverse backgrounds. Through my work as a local member for Yerrabi, I have the privilege of engaging with our multicultural community through interactions with organisations including FINACT, the Telangana Association, IWIN and the Canberra Muslim Community at Gungahlin mosque.

Further to our commitment to supporting culturally and linguistically diverse Canberra, this government has joined the Welcoming Cities network, which reconfirms our commitment to including all Canberrans in social, cultural, economic and civil life.

I would like to highlight some of the important investments in the 2019-20 budget that support Canberrans living with a disability.

Under our agreement with the commonwealth government for the joint funding of the NDIS, the ACT government is committed to fully maintaining mainstream services so that people with a disability have the support they need. With over 6,800 Canberrans now accessing support under the NDIS, the ACT government continues to advocate for better conditions for individuals operating under the scheme while the Liberal government holds this portfolio. This budget continues to grow investment and support in mainstream and existing disability services. This will ensure that Canberrans who are not currently receiving an individual support package under the NDIS still get free access to the services they need. Through the 2019-20 budget, annual disability inclusion grants will continue to offer an opportunity for local community groups to access funds, encouraging the social inclusion of people living with a disability in the ACT.

This budget contains important investments in public housing for Canberrans. Everyone deserves the right to have a roof over their head, which is why this government is tackling the issue of housing affordability. As a government, we understand our responsibility to ensure that Canberrans have access to social housing assistance, whilst also supporting those currently experiencing homelessness. This year we will deliver around \$21 million worth of funding towards our specialist homelessness services and community housing providers. This will see more low cost housing to low and moderate income earners who are unable to secure private rental

or home ownership. The ACT government is also dedicated to raising the standards in social housing by continuing to renew 1,000 homes and add 200 new homes to the public housing portfolio.

The 2019-20 budget delivers on our commitment to support Canberrans who need it most. This government will always prioritise social inclusion within our community, because that is what makes us such a progressive and diverse city.

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (5.34): I am pleased to note in this year's budget an extension of the pensioner duty concession scheme, a proportionate increase in the available grant funding for seniors groups, and acknowledgement of the issue and funding towards combating elder abuse. But many of the items in the budget are not funded very far into the future, so there is not a lot of long-term commitment. We know—it is well documented and well talked about—that seniors have not been a priority of this ACT government.

On the pensioner duty concession scheme, I am pleased to see that the government has renewed this scheme for another year. The pensioner duty concession scheme assists eligible pensioners who own a residential home to move to accommodation more suited to their needs—for example, moving from a house to a townhouse—by reducing the conveyance duty payable on their purchase of a residential home or residential land.

We know that 12.5 per cent of Canberrans are over 65 years of age and that the percentage of older people is increasing as our population ages. We know from previous years that the number of people applying for the pensioner duty concession scheme is increasing every year. But the government has decided to only fund this program for one more year. Last year I asked why this program had only been extended for a year and was told: “The ACT Government is considering the Pensioner Duty Concession Scheme in the context of all Government programs and policies.” It is great to see this scheme temporarily extended, but it is clearly not a long-term priority of this government.

Inclusion and participation aim to strengthen the inclusion and participation of all people in our community, including seniors. This means community events, awards, ceremonies, grants and the administration and funding of community sector services and programs.

In budget statements G the government identified “supporting innovative projects that promote inclusion and social participation for seniors” and promoting Canberra as “an age-friendly city which enables and values the active participation of older members of the community” as strategic and operational priorities.

In this area, the government has removed many of the accountability indicators and goals from the output, so it is hard to understand what we are going to get information on next year. For example, whilst many indicators have been removed, the target number of the indicator “community building, participation grants and scholarship programs administered” has increased only by one in the same period, so it is going to be a challenge to understand where the money is being spent and on what. There has

been a new indicator introduced, “community engagement opportunities for seniors”, with a target of seven events per year; I will look forward to hearing more about what constitutes community engagement opportunities and how the government decides and defines what they are.

The government have invested \$162,000 over the next two years for growing the inclusion of Canberra seniors. In estimates it was indicated that this funding would be going to COTA to help support seniors card administration and the Seniors Week Expo. I would like to echo the minister’s earlier comments and place on the record my appreciation for the work of COTA ACT.

This funding only goes for two more financial years. The government have said that they will be entering into discussions with COTA about how to support them, moving forward. I hope they will give them greater certainty in the future. It is something that community groups across the board, not just in the seniors area, say is important for them, to enable them to keep up with their strategic plans and retain key staff.

On elder abuse, the government has funded OPALS. There is tripartisan support for combating elder abuse, but with the ageing population and more people potentially at risk of elder abuse, there is always more that can be done. There was a committee recommendation that the resourcing of OPALS be reviewed, but this was only noted in the government response.

It is estimated that anywhere between five and 20 per cent of older people may be currently experiencing elder abuse. The World Health Organisation reports that one in six people will experience elder abuse in their lifetime. Sadly, elder abuse is often perpetuated by someone close to the victim. It can be hard to recognise for what it is, but we need more than OPALS. OPALS is a great start, but we need a specific ACT implementation plan against elder abuse. We need to carefully consider the specifics and nuances of the ACT and deliver a tailored, committed and detailed response.

Earlier the minister touched on health services. He said that the government was funding better health care. But already this week, and previously in the Assembly, we have spoken about hydrotherapy services and the fact that under this government many seniors will be disadvantaged with respect to hydrotherapy. It is important for older people to be able to socialise and mobilise to live healthy, happy lives. We know there are many physical, social and emotional benefits of hydrotherapy, but this does not appear to be a priority for this government.

We have spoken this week, and in previous weeks, about the importance of transport options for seniors. Again, this does not seem to be a priority for the government, with many bus services cut. That is severely impacting many residents. In my electorate at least, apart from school children, it is impacting seniors more and more. Just yesterday I read out a letter from a Wanniasa resident in her eighties who spoke about how the cut of her local bus stop and bus service is leaving her isolated.

It seems that in some ways, despite some positives, seniors continue to be seen as second-class citizens here in Canberra. There is some movement and some progress, but it is clearly not a big priority for this government. I do not want Canberra to be a

place where we have second-class citizens. I want Canberra to be a place where everyone has access to the services that they need. That includes older people who have contributed so much to the city in the course of their lives. They feel disappointed that now they are being treated like second-class citizens in their old age.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Community Services and Facilities, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Transport and City Services) (5.42): I am very pleased to speak on the Community Services Directorate part of the budget, specifically in relation to multicultural affairs. The ACT government is committed to maintaining our great standing as a welcoming and inclusive city for people from a range of different backgrounds and experiences, and all walks of life. We want to ensure that people are supported on arrival to the ACT and can settle into our city, enjoying an environment where people are proud to highlight and celebrate their cultural diversity.

We are also very proud of Canberrans and their involvement with their local communities and we are committed to supporting them to safely and meaningfully engage and contribute to community groups, volunteer organisations and events. The biggest of these events, of course, is the National Multicultural Festival. The government has made a clear statement of support for the festival. We are building on our initial investment in last year's budget review, which is reflected in the budget and highlights a total of \$2.621 million worth of further investment to enhance the festival over five years.

This increased investment in the festival will provide additional resources, allowing for the year-round planning necessary to sustain a festival of this size as a key community celebration and flagship event for our city. It will also help to support our engagement with the nearly 250 multicultural and community groups that participate each year.

The government listens to our community. The increased investment in the National Multicultural Festival has been supported by the multicultural community and has been motivated by community feedback and by last year's independent review of the festival. It will allow the government to continue to provide a safe, family-friendly event for the more than 200,000 visitors who attend the festival weekend each year and ensure that it remains a vibrant, community-focused event that celebrates Canberra's cultural diversity and strengthens social cohesion.

This year the government will also continue to implement a number of other key programs designed to make our city a more welcoming and inclusive place for new arrivals. We are commencing the implementation of the second action plan for the ACT multicultural framework, which was developed in consultation with the multicultural community, the Multicultural Advisory Council, and particularly through the very successful multicultural summit held late last year.

The action plan outlines the intention for Canberra to benchmark its programs and policies against the Welcoming Cities standard, allowing us to identify areas for improvement to help us strengthen our support for people settling in the ACT and the broader community.

I was a bit disappointed to hear Mrs Kikkert's comments in relation to the Welcoming Cities network membership. That was a commitment by this Assembly. The Assembly supported, in a tripartisan way, a motion moved by the Chief Minister to become a member of the network. It is not a particularly controversial thing to have the aspiration to become a welcoming city for all people, and particularly newly arrived migrants, refugees and other people. It is something that is a starting point for a really deep conversation with the community about how we support people to be welcomed in our community, to feel included, to feel like they belong, as well as what supports and services we provide to them currently and what we can do to improve on that, in consultation with those communities and also with reference to what is happening in other jurisdictions, other Welcoming Cities in Australia and around the world.

It was very disappointing to hear Mrs Kikkert say that, because when she made her speech in relation to the motion on 21 March she said that the Canberra Liberals welcomed the ACT's membership of the Welcoming Cities network and she commended the motion to the Assembly. For her to come in to this place today, during the debate, and criticise the Assembly's commitment to become a member of the Welcoming Cities network is incredibly disappointing for the stature of our city, especially when we have already embarked on the work we need to do to benchmark ourselves against the standard, which will be a very important piece of work, and one that she should pay attention to, because it will help to outline what we need to do as a city to become more welcoming and inclusive in the future.

The multicultural framework action plan also contains initiatives to ensure that information for people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds, including newly arrived Canberrans, is readily available and promoted. Procurement is nearing completion for the delivery of a welcome to Canberra information pack, which I mentioned in question time, which will be provided to newly arrived Canberrans and will complement the existing settlement services.

We will also continue to deliver the existing and very popular workforce participation assistance program, in partnership with the community organisations, which the government committed funding to in the 2018-19 budget. As part of the commitment, Multicultural Employment Services was granted funding to work with other ACT and regional settlement services to provide individual, case-managed employment support to refugees living in the ACT who are unable to find employment, ACT services access cardholders, asylum seekers residing in the ACT on bridging visas with work rights, and people residing in the ACT from non-English-speaking backgrounds. This enhances the services provided by Job Active to ensure that all clients understand their work rights and entitlements.

Similarly, last year Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services was contracted to deliver three English language programs for refugees and asylum seekers on bridging visas and ACT services access cardholders living in the ACT.

In addition to this range of services, this year the ACT government will continue to support the community through our many grants and awards, including those catering

for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans, like the multicultural participation grants program, the annual multicultural awards and the new honorary ambassador program. Through successive budgets, including this one, our government continues to strengthen Canberra as a welcoming and inclusive city where everyone feels a sense of belonging.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (5.49): The Indigenous affairs portfolio crosses into many areas of public policy—education, health, justice, environment and housing, to name just a few. That is why I was disappointed once again with what was put forward in the 2019-20 budget, and in the community services area in particular.

I suppose I should not be surprised that the government continue to dismiss the needs of the community in favour of their own agenda. But I know from feedback I have received from the Indigenous community that they are deeply upset. I will quote a member of the local community before the budget was released:

With the ACT election next year, I'll be looking for investments in Aboriginal solutions. We continue to have some of the worst stats in the country and little innovation or trust in Aboriginal solutions.

This statement was both a challenge to the government and a reflection on the optimism within the community for the future—a future which, if they are given the chance to lead themselves, can look much better. Sadly, as expected, after the budget was released I was told this by a community leader:

Whatever funding is available, we are not even thought of as they would prefer mainstream to solve our issues. They simply don't trust us.

Yes, the budget and funding priorities of this government certainly reflect that lack of trust, not to mention a lack of vision or creativity.

Earlier this year I was privileged to work in partnership with the community to release 18 practical policy initiatives. These were solutions that were driven by the community to longstanding issues like handing Boomanulla Oval back to the community, ensuring that Gugan Gulwan are housed in suitable accommodation for all of the programs and services that they offer, and finding ways for healing and proper case management, not just for offenders but for families and kids.

Nineteen years of Labor in the ACT is a driving factor behind the current outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Sadly, this budget delivers more of the same. I do not pretend to have all of the answers; for so many of those areas, it is a long-term game, not an overnight fix, and I acknowledge that. But one thing I do know for sure is that this budget provides no real funding or solutions.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander budget statement for 2019-20 states that the ACT government is committed to delivering equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans. I do not understand how they can make this claim, given the statistics in the ACT. In so many areas we are the worst in the country, and, if not the worst, we take second place.

How do they propose to deliver equitable outcomes? In February 2019 they signed a new partnership with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2019-28. I was genuinely excited about this agreement, as I am sure many in the community were, too. It was an opportunity to put in place a 10-year plan supported by a robust framework that cuts across all areas of government. The government promised big things—action plans, and targets that can be measured and reported against real data. What we got was \$12 million; what it is allocated to, I am not quite sure.

The budget says it is to “implement the ACT strategic priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health 2019-28 in partnership”. It talks about co-design, reports, reviews and policies. My take on this is that we can continue to expect more of the same from this government over the forward period—lots of talk and very little action; lots of reports and no real plan; lots of mainstream, government-led programs and very little investment to empower the community.

On the positive side, the government has renewed its commitment to Our Booris, Our Way. I eagerly await the final outcomes from this process, although, given the progress to date with implementing the interim recommendations, I am not that confident.

They have also promised to respond to the *We don't shoot our wounded* report—a report that was published in 2009, 10 years ago, and now they are going to actually do something. Why has it taken 10 years to act on these recommendations? At least now we have on record that they will use this report to inform specialist domestic violence programs for our community. Again I will watch this space very carefully to see what is delivered, as addressing family violence for the Indigenous community is vitally important. I hope it is community-controlled organisations that get the lead on this important work. Again, I doubt it.

Overall, for Indigenous affairs this budget was underwhelming, to say the least. In many ways it just confirmed what we already knew: this government does not listen to the community or trust them to deliver their own solutions.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (5.55): I will be making three speeches in relation to this particular part of the budget, so I will respond to some of Mr Milligan's ridiculous comments at another time. This government is committed to ensuring that, as our city grows, our most vulnerable are not left behind. I am proud that this budget includes valuable new initiatives in my portfolios of children, youth and families, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs, and disability that continue to build a better Canberra community.

The ACT government budget makes a strong investment in improving social connectedness; strengthening families and helping to end the stubborn disadvantage that continues through generations; reducing family violence; cutting the number of

people coming into contact with our justice system; strengthening support for people with disability; acting to protect children and young people at risk; helping to build a brighter future for all Canberrans; and seeing our community continue to be even more inclusive in the years ahead.

In this speech I am going to focus on the children, youth and families portfolio. As you would be aware, Madam Speaker, I am absolutely committed to ensuring that vulnerable Canberrans, including children, young people and families with complexities in their lives, are appropriately supported. I am equally committed to ensuring that staff who work with these vulnerable Canberrans are appropriately recognised and supported.

As I have spoken about previously, young people in detention are particularly vulnerable. This government continues to work to ensure that these young people are supported by a youth justice system that is rehabilitative and provides opportunities for them. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who work tirelessly to support these young people: the youth workers, teachers, health workers, management and many staff in non-government organisations who engage with the young people in Bimberi every week and indeed with those who are on youth justice orders in the community.

The safety and security of young people and staff members at Bimberi are a priority for this government. In this budget we have increased our investment in the safety and security of young people and staff at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre by funding CCTV upgrades throughout the centre. The 2017-18 budget review allocated \$1.189 million in funding to upgrade the security infrastructure at Bimberi. The upgrades included improvements to the CCTV system to enable continued coverage of the site, as well as greater storage capacity for visual recordings. Now that Bimberi has the capability to support greater CCTV coverage and recordings, the government will purchase and install approximately 100 additional CCTV cameras across Bimberi.

The second stage of this project will allow the Bimberi system to integrate with a whole-of-government emergency services CCTV network. In the event of an emergency, there will be the capability for emergency services outside of the centre to log in to the system and see what is occurring, to determine the most appropriate response. Of course appropriate privacy and security arrangements will be in place to ensure that that occurs only in an emergency.

This \$907,000 investment over four years also responds to the first recommendation of the Human Rights Commission report, *Commission initiated review of allegations regarding Bimberi Youth Justice Centre*.

This budget also includes an investment of \$39.757 million over four years to strengthen support for vulnerable children and young people, their families and carers, through sustainable funding for out of home care services. Under A step up for our kids: out of home care strategy 2015-20, child and youth protection services work collaboratively with the ACT Together consortium, led by Barnardos, as well as with foster and kinship carers, to embed a therapeutic trauma informed model of care for our most vulnerable children and young people.

As those in this place would be aware, the strategy aims to work with families through prevention and reunification services and to improve outcomes for children and young people in care through permanent stable placements when they are not able to remain with or return to their birth family.

The investments in this year's budget will ensure that we are funding our community partner, ACT Together, for the number of children and young people in care, and at a sustainable price, reflecting an increase in the flat fee paid to Barnardos as the ACT Together consortium leader. This further investment follows a mid-term contract review. The review was built into the contract precisely because we are doing something unique in contracting for the continuum of care, including foster care, kinship care, residential care, case management and therapeutic supports, all within one contract.

I will take the opportunity, as it has been a topic of conversation this week, to respond to some of the things that Mrs Kikkert noted in relation to the mid-strategy evaluation report for A step up for our kids. As I noted when I tabled the report, the mid-strategy evaluation contains data which is current to June 2018. The most recent snapshot report, which includes operational data up to 31 March 2019, is indeed showing some promising signs. While service demand for out of home care or for child protection continues to grow, the latest snapshot report has identified that this is at a lower rate in 2018-19 than in previous years, and I recognise that Mrs Kikkert acknowledged this.

From July 2018 to March 2019, 90 children and young people entered the out of home care system. This is 21 fewer than in the same period for the previous year. There has also been an increase in the stability of placements since the baseline report. To briefly respond to Mrs Kikkert's comments in relation to the fact that while entries have gone down exits have also gone down: as I have previously noted in this place, it is a specific intention of the step-up strategy to ensure that, where children and young people are unable to live safely with their birth families or be restored to their birth families safely, they have a stable placement as soon as possible. That is specifically to address the challenge that child protection systems have had historically of children being restored unsuccessfully to their birth families multiple times, re-traumatising those children. So stability and permanency are an important part of the step-up strategy where young people cannot live safely with their birth families.

I also want to note some other points in relation to more recent achievements. The number of children aged under 11 being placed in residential care has continued to decrease since the implementation of the strategy, and no children aged under 11 were placed into residential care during 2017-18.

There has been some discussion this week in relation to health passports, and I advised the Assembly yesterday or the day before that I was seeking some further information in relation to that. I can provide the following information to the Assembly, as I know that Mrs Kikkert touched on it in her contribution as well. The mid-strategy evaluation showed that, in 2017-18, 94 per cent of children who entered care had an initial health check completed, where required, within six weeks of entering care. The number of children and young people aged from zero to 17 who

entered care for the first time and had a health passport completed was 153 in 2015-16 and dropped to 53 in 2017-18.

We are seeing a different picture 12 months on from the mid-strategy evaluation. Operational data is showing that the number of children and young people who had passports issued increased to 89 in 2018-19. It is important to note that operational data includes those children who have been in care previously, whereas the mid-strategy evaluation only captured children who entered care for the first time. But a concerted effort has been made to address what appears to be a data lag, and this means that so far in 2019-20 we have seen 109 health passports issued. So, in response to the question that I was asked the other day, we have seen a change over more recent times.

The Community Services Directorate has improved the administration of the issue of health passports for children in care, and this will continue to be monitored. It is important to note—I mentioned the figure earlier—that children entering care have health assessments that identify any health needs that need to be addressed, and this information is shared with carers, including those who provide care to young people in residential care. As I noted when I started this part of the speech, 94 per cent of children who entered care in 2017-18 had that initial health check completed within six weeks of entering care. Of course, the joint governance group for A step up for our kids will continue to review the findings of the evaluation report and more recent data for improvements that can be made in the implementation of the strategy.

The package in the budget also includes a continuation of grandfathering arrangements for payments to those carers who have children in their care who were with them prior to the implementation of A step up and who would otherwise have seen a reduction in the support they were receiving from 1 July 2019. As we continue to work collaboratively with foster and kinship carers and with our service partners to embed a therapeutic trauma informed model of care for our most vulnerable children and young people, we will also commence policy work to consider the next steps in the out of home care reforms post-2020.

The budget investment includes funding for staff to undertake this important policy work. The budget also includes additional resources to complete the new child and youth record information management system, enabling better information sharing and more effective case management for children and young people, their families and carers. Child and youth protection services' new client management system, the child and youth record information system, CYRIS, is nearing completion and is expected to be launched in the coming months. The government is continuing to support this important and complex piece of work, with funding to complete the phase 4 portals component.

This will digitally connect the community to child and youth protection services, fulfilling a commitment to make government support more accessible, easy and technically relevant to our community. The portals are a fundamental component of the project for children and young people in care, their families and carers, and providers. The interactive portals will improve how child and youth protection services interacts with children and young people and their carers and will improve

reporting capability. The portals will also allow users to exchange information digitally with child and youth protection services. CYRIS will also be able to provide alerts and notifications which will ensure that important information is distributed quickly. The portals will increase administrative efficiencies and allow caseworkers to spend more time in the community responding to and supporting children and their families.

This budget also includes further investment in one of the most significant pieces of work currently being undertaken in respect of our out of home care system. Establishing the Our Booris, Our Way review and providing funding to support the implementation of interim recommendations is part of the government's commitment to tackling the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care.

I was pleased to hear Mr Milligan acknowledge that the government is investing \$1.744 million over four years to continue to implement the interim recommendations of the Our Booris, Our Way review. This investment will support training and workforce development to increase the cultural proficiency of child protection staff and includes the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle within policy, practice and training.

We will also support the continuation of family group conferencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at risk of ongoing involvement with the child protection system, to keep children safe, strong and connected to family and culture. I want to particularly acknowledge the contribution of Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and OzChild in their partnership to trial functional family therapy child welfare for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families as well.

This investment in family group conferencing builds on the initial investment of \$308,000 in the 2018-19 budget review, and this funding was to commence work on addressing recommendations received throughout the review. This work and the corresponding investment is wholly in line with the ACT government's commitment to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led solutions, aligning with the overarching theme of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2019-28, strong families, and in line with its underlying principle of self-determination.

In closing, on this part of the Community Services Directorate, I want to acknowledge that yesterday was the last day for Premier Youthworks to be delivering residential care in the ACT and today we have seen a smooth transition to the provision of care by Barnardos. I particularly want to acknowledge the staff in the Community Services Directorate and in Barnardos who worked so hard to achieve a smooth transition for children and young people and for the staff of Premier Youthworks.

I particularly want to acknowledge Christine Murray, who heads up the people management area of the Community Services Directorate and who many people in the chamber will probably know. She has been involved before in these difficult transitions for service delivery for vulnerable people, but she did an incredible job, along with the senior staff from the children, youth and families area, working with the Australian Services Union and with Barnardos to ensure this smooth transition of

service. I want to put on record today my enormous thanks to them for completing this very complex task so smoothly.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong—Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability, Minister for Corrections and Justice Health, Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety and Minister for Mental Health) (6.10): I would like to speak today to budget initiatives related to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders. During this last year we have seen the development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement for 2019-28, which sets out a long-term direction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs and obligates the ACT government and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body to work together towards equitable outcomes for this population group.

We cannot deny that there is significant overrepresentation of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in care and protection, out of home care and juvenile justice systems and that this ultimately contributes to an over-representation in the criminal justice system. We also cannot deny that this is a challenge all governments across Australia are grappling with.

These issues are widespread and ubiquitous and speak to the impacts of colonisation, dispossession of lands, language and culture and successive implementation of ineffectual policies and programs. To overcome this overrepresentation, we must get better at developing solutions with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in order to understand what will work in the most effective way and in order to understand at which point in a young person's or their family's life appropriate supports will be most beneficial.

I am pleased to see that this budget does commit funds for several initiatives, including strengthening services for young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I am pleased that the guidance of the Our Booris, Our Way steering committee continues to be sought and that there is a commitment to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principles, as this is fundamental to ensuring a child's connection to family and community, with a sense of identity and culture.

Listening to and working alongside the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community is integral to any success in reducing inequality and this approach is a good example of that. As I have said before in this place, we must engage with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in a way that builds and demonstrates trust.

Without trust, we are doomed. Without trust, we cannot work in partnership and we cannot work collectively together to ensure that we have programs and initiatives that will address and achieve the outcomes the community needs. We must respect and understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have the knowledge and experience to make the best decisions concerning their children's and their own lives.

These commitments, not only to implement the child placement principles but to support training and workforce development to increase cultural proficiency and

continue family group conferencing, will go some way to building that trust. The fact that the family group conferencing work is being led by an Aboriginal controlled organisation I think is an important element of its potential success. Last year I spoke about the need to build trust and reminded us all of the words of an Aboriginal Canberran who said, "We will move at the speed of trust."

I believe that this trust is building as we go forward. It is not easy. Through my portfolio areas, we have worked on a number of projects such as having Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Community and Health Services deliver health services within the AMC. This is not being done anywhere else in Australia, and it would be fair to say that it has not been without challenges. Trying to do something like this the first time is always hard. A deficit of trust has been one of the challenges in working through a workable solution and getting to a place that we all want to get to. But over time that trust will build; I am optimistic that that will be the case.

Yarrabi Bamirr, a project which is also being delivered in partnership with Winnunga, is another one where it took some time to find and design the model that we wanted to run. Different people had different ideas on it. But through a process of working together and building trust we have made progress there as well and I think that the evaluation of that program will show that it has had an important impact.

I note that the budget also allocates funds for the implementation of the ACT strategic priorities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health 2019-28. These priorities aim to drive better health, wellbeing and quality of life outcomes and to address health inequalities between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans and other Australians. It is my hope that these investments will contribute to reducing these inequalities.

I am pleased to see a commitment from the government to co-design and plan an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander alcohol and drug residential rehabilitation facility to complement existing services including the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm. It goes without saying that the development of this culturally appropriate residential facility must be enabled by a commitment to investment in capital and operational funding in future years and must be enabled by truly listening to and embracing the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander voice about what is needed. We do not need a repeat of the loss of trust that resulted from the unfortunate lack of clear communication about the healing farm. That has been canvassed in this place and clearly there was misunderstanding and miscommunication there. Hopefully we can learn some lessons from that and do better in the future.

As I have touched on in my earlier remarks, there is some really important investment in my own portfolio areas of justice and corrections. It goes without saying that I am deeply committed to justice reinvestment and to reducing recidivism for all Canberrans. But I know that this will have particular significance for our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, because of their overrepresentation in the criminal justice system. Funding of the circle sentencing courts, expansion of bail support programs and investment in justice housing are all ways to assist with reducing the number of Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in the criminal justice system.

I note in the budget the investment of \$10,000 for stage 2 of the conservation management plan for Aboriginal places in the better infrastructure fund. I am not exactly clear what these funds will be spent on. But I imagine it is things like repairing signs or putting up fences around significant heritage items such as scarred trees.

This leads me to the items that are related to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in the parliamentary agreement. The first is continuing funding support for dedicated culture and language programs in schools and in after-school programs, about which I know questions were asked during the estimates hearings. The Greens are pleased that Belconnen High School is developing and implementing such a program and that the board of senior secondary study is also developing an Aboriginal language and culture course under the humanities and social sciences framework.

It is a difficult thing for the ACT government to actually ensure that such programs are being rolled out across all of the schools, due to the level of autonomy that ACT government schools have. In keeping with the parliamentary agreement item 8.1, I would recommend that more schools get involved with Aboriginal culture and language programs, particularly as this is the International Year of Indigenous Languages. It is a good time to be focusing on this discussion.

The second item that is touched on in the parliamentary agreement is ensuring that cultural connections are considered in planning and heritage assessments. That was also discussed in the estimates process and the Greens reiterate our commitment to listening to and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this regard. We believe that systems can be strengthened and that accountability is needed to ensure that such cultural connections are preserved, not just for this generation but for generations into the future.

We certainly support the government's efforts regarding Reconciliation Day and the reconciliation grants to assist with promoting, understanding and celebrating Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures and we believe that these are tangible steps towards true reconciliation that promote understanding and connection between cultures in our community.

We believe that sovereignty was never ceded and that Australia has unfinished business. In the absence of a national treaty with Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia, we should proceed as a territory to encourage truth telling as a path to justice and healing and in order to advance true reconciliation. We must formalise and recognise that government policies and practices need to respect the right of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples to self-determination, the improvement of their social and economic conditions, to participate in decisions that affect them and to freely determine their development policies.

We are pleased to support this element of the budget, clear in the knowledge that there is much more work yet to be done.

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (6.18): The 2019-20 budget has a number of new initiatives in my portfolio areas related to the Community Services Directorate and Housing ACT.

As Minister for Women, I am proud of the progress made through this budget to facilitate equal participation for women in our workplaces and community life. The ACT government is deeply committed to providing opportunities for women and girls to reach their full potential. In the 2019-20 budget the government has been taking action to achieve this goal, such as having reintroduced the ACT women's budget statement as an accompanying document to the budget papers.

The statement highlights a number of significant funding initiatives. My ministerial colleagues will talk about some of these and have done so today when discussing their portfolio specific initiatives. But I take the time to highlight some of my own, particularly around what the government is doing to support women and girls.

For example, there has been a major investment in the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children and associated services which greatly benefit women's reproductive health. The government has committed significant funding for the safer families initiatives, which will improve women's safety and access to justice, particularly for women from an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander background. The government has also invested in major women's sporting events by providing funding to host five games for the women's T20 Cricket World Cup in February 2020.

Many of the initiatives funded in this budget take forward actions under the ACT women's plan 2016-26. The first action plan to implement the women's plan is now wrapping up and development of the second action plan is currently underway. I am pleased that there has been progress made against actions under the first action plan and the Office for Women is now working collaboratively with YWCA Canberra, the Women's Centre for Health Matters and ACTCOSS to incorporate voices of the community in this next phase.

The second action plan will draw on the findings of this work and will be released for implementation next year. The key success for the Office for Women has been the ACT diversity register, launched in 2018 with an aim to support the government's commitment to improve diversity in appointments to boards and committees and in leadership roles. I look forward to working together with the community to create more opportunities for women and girls in the ACT. All of these initiatives will work to make gender equality a reality.

We are a government who believe in cultural change and systemic reform. We believe in building community and government capability to address domestic and family violence in our community. There has been significant progress over the past few years in the establishment of the family safety hub. The family safety hub is a space for new ideas, a connector of services providers and a champion for change, co-designed with government and community sector partners.

The insights gathered through the co-design for the family safety hub have prompted the government to think differently about the role for the hub in the ACT. The co-design highlighted that collaboration is needed to design and test solutions to systemic problems. The insights also provide an evidence base for future reforms.

The government has committed \$2.8 million over four years to provide training for ACT government managers and staff to recognise and respond to the needs of adults and children, clients, colleagues and anyone experiencing domestic and family violence. This training is in addition to intensive specialist training already provided to some parts of the ACT government. The training will be made available to 21,000 ACT public servants and ACT Policing employees. It is likely that, whether they are aware of it or not, everyone knows someone who has experienced domestic and family violence. All staff will be equipped with the skills to recognise and respond to these issues.

The office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety will lead the development and implementation of a death review model for the ACT, with \$831,000 from this year's budget. This will better inform the changes that need to be made in response to family and domestic violence. Room4Change is an important therapeutic residential men's behaviour change program run by the Domestic Violence Crisis Service. This pilot program will now be extended with \$4.243 million from the budget and provide certainty of funding for this innovative and valuable program that keeps families in their homes, while working with the perpetrators and victims of family and domestic violence.

In addition, the government is committed to provide funds to extend the health justice partnership to continue legal services for pregnant women and new parents experiencing domestic and family violence, which has already helped a number of women in our hospitals with legal and other supports.

This budget delivers on a number of key commitments from the housing strategy that will strengthen public housing and provide more supported housing for people experiencing homelessness. Over the next five years the ACT government will invest \$100 million and develop 1,200 modern and efficient homes, including 200 extra homes for those in need of housing. This is per capita the biggest investment of public housing in the country. The program builds on the success of the public housing renewal program, which replaced 1,288 of the oldest and most inefficient properties with modern and accessible homes that better meet the needs of tenants. The 2019-20 budget commits \$20 million to the first year program and will start work on more than 250 new homes.

The 2019-20 budget delivers 2016 election commitments to build a second common ground in Dickson, which will provide at least 40 new homes for affordable and community housing to people experiencing chronic and cyclical homelessness. The first common ground in Gungahlin has been doing fantastic work with its residents and has been supported incredibly well by the local community, helping each of the residents to maintain their housing as well as excel in their lives.

Under the housing strategy this year's budget brings the community and government together to tackle homelessness and some of the root causes, to reduce the instances of people exiting an institution into homelessness. Housing ACT is working to support the Justice and Community Services' justice housing program which helps alleviate and provide alternatives to jail, as well as the drug and alcohol court that is due to open in the next six months.

The budget will invest \$7.2 million to provide more housing for people interacting with the justice system—this cohort has a much higher risk of experiencing homelessness—and will work to help clients with an expanded program of housing and supports. Additional funding of \$1.271 million over three years has been allocated to Housing ACT to manage the intersections with public housing and the JACS initiatives, including partnering with the drug and alcohol court.

Across all of my portfolios—women, family and domestic violence, and housing—this budget takes measures to further forward the government's aims, and as such I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Standing orders—suspension

Motion (by **Ms Cheyne**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of standing orders be suspended as would prevent matters of public importance being discussed on Tuesday, 20 August 2019.

Adjournment

Motion (by Ms Stephen-Smith) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Lyons Youth Haven

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (6.27): You might recall that yesterday I spoke in this place about Tyler Greenhalgh, who joined me for work experience last week. As you know, he wrote several speeches for me, and this, I am pleased to say, is another of them.

Madam Speaker, I had a cracking time visiting Lions Youth Haven recently. Lions Youth Haven is a working farm in Kambah that provides disengaged youth with support, confidence and tangible skills in a picturesque setting. During my visit, I met some of the students and the key people who support the farm, Trish and Ian. Trish and Ian can only be described as people with hearts of gold. They both used to be teachers and, since retiring, now donate their time at the farm.

While there, I watched students from a Canberra high school prepare their own fruit salad for morning tea and prep tacos for lunch. Ian and Trish place a lot of importance on students having a balanced and nutritious diet, as well as learning how to cook. When I was talking to the students about what they were learning, they were able to label every part of a chicken, tell me how and where to cut a cow to make a steak—and they even had some hands-on experience with that—and why hens can grow spurs even though they are not roosters. If you are wondering, it is because of a change to testosterone levels.

The students were also really experienced at handling animals. One young woman had a gift when it came to holding and catching farm animals. She knew how to stop the piglets from screaming, the chicks' favourite food and even how to pick up the flapping ducks so that they stopped flapping.

Madam Speaker, I was given the opportunity to crack a literal whip, but I decided that my role here was enough. Instead, I watched another student who had been attending the program for eight months crack the whip with precision. Tyler himself was taught in a matter of five minutes how to crack a whip as well.

Before leaving, I was given the first opportunity in my life to hold a piglet, as well as a baby chick that the students had been tending to for two weeks. Through being taught about these animals and how to look after them, as well as other very tangible skills like building fences, the students attending Lions Youth Haven have developed a lot of respect for Ian and Trish, each other and, most importantly, themselves.

As a result of the program, some of the students have undertaken CIT courses, trained as butchers and discovered other opportunities that they can take advantage of. It was very easy to see the passion that these students had for working on the farm and with the animals. One student had not missed a day at the farm in two years. He once dislocated his knee but still managed to get to the farm the very next day.

Madam Speaker, the Lions Youth Haven is such a beautiful place, and not just in the literal sense. It provides a safe space for at-risk youth, a space where they can learn not only about animals and farm work and life but life lessons that they can use in the future. We can be particularly grateful that we have people like Trish and Ian, and the support of the local Lions, who are creating these amazing opportunities in our community. Thank you.

Legislative Assembly library fellowship program

MS BERRY (Ginninderra—Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Sport and Recreation and Minister for Women) (6.30): I am pleased today to talk about the ACT Legislative Assembly library fellowship program, which is designed to advance parliamentary, political, legal, social or economic studies of the ACT.

The fellowship provides academics, scholars, PhD students and postdoctoral candidates with an opportunity to undertake research based in the ACT Legislative Assembly library. This program is open to all scholars and in particular those whose research interests are centred on ACT politics, ACT history, ACT parliamentary affairs, parliamentary procedure, ACT economics and other subjects related to the Assembly or the ACT more broadly.

Fellows have access to the internal library collections and are supported by library staff for the duration of their fellowship. The purpose of the fellowship is to contribute to scholarship on the Assembly and its work; promote knowledge and understanding of the Assembly; provide a researcher with work experience in a parliamentary environment; contribute to the knowledge of the ACT, for use by ACT MLAs and other Assembly personnel; and build a historical database of papers relating to the ACT which can be used for future purposes.

This year's fellow was Ms Nicole Moore, a PhD candidate at the University of Canberra. Ms Moore's fellowship paper, "Engaging citizens through co-design and deliberative engagements", aims to build public sector capability in engaging citizens in decision-making processes.

The fellowship paper acknowledges that the ACT government has made significant progress in recent years in developing a more coordinated whole-of-government approach to engaging Canberrans. However, as is the case around the world, our changing social contexts mean that we must always strive to be better and do better for the people that we serve.

This paper provides historical reviews of co-design and deliberative engagements, and two distinct methods of citizen engagement that have been used in the ACT, as well as around the world. The paper provides comparisons and commonalities, along with recommended considerations that public servants should make when deciding between each approach.

In the case of co-design, the paper suggests that the most useful application would be in cases where lived experiences should guide decision making, where challenges are complex and innovative solutions are needed. In the case of deliberative engagements, the paper suggests that the most useful application would be cases where evidence needs to be unpacked to determine shared preferences and priorities between citizens, using critical reasoning.

The paper also suggests that combining approaches can enable citizens to engage in different ways over time. For example, citizens may be involved in deliberating on high order preferences before moving into more targeted co-design processes to identify specific solutions. In particular, the paper argues that both co-design and deliberative engagements provide useful methods for collaborating with citizens to shape public policy and service system decisions. Given the importance of engaging citizens in public policy, this fellowship paper provides a useful guidance for the public service, as well as for members of the ACT Assembly.

I encourage members to review the paper. I congratulate the Assembly library and you, Madam Speaker, on this valuable fellowship program. I would also like to acknowledge and thank Ms Nicole Moore, who has spent some time in my office for the last couple of weeks, helping my office in between staffing arrangements. I thank her for her support as well as for the work that she has done on this particularly important and informative paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 6.35 pm until Tuesday, 20 August 2019, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Housing—rental (Question No 2526)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) When did the Affordable Rental Scheme (ARS) commence operating.
- (2) Is the ARS still operating; if so, is the ARS still taking on new tenants.
- (3) How are or were ARS properties funded and/or sourced, for example, purchased from the private market, constructed specifically for the ARS, sub-leased from Housing ACT.
- (4) For each year of the ARS's operation, can the Minister provide the number of dwellings in (a) the ARS and (b) each suburb.
- (5) How are ARS properties allocated.
- (6) Who makes decisions about ARS allocations and is there a waiting list.
- (7) Can the Minister provide (a) the number of dwellings with a single tenant, (b) the number of dwellings with more than one tenant, (c) how many of the tenants are female, (d) How many of the tenants are male and (e) the number of households that fall into each of the rent bands.
- (8) Given the Community Services Directorate website contains a factsheet about the rent setting model of the ARS, are the rent bands, listed as current as at 7 April 2014, in the document available at https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/585938/Fact-sheet-ARO-rent-bands.pdf, still current; if not, can the Minister provide information about the current rent bands, and where a prospective ARS tenant would find these.
- (9) Can the Minister explain what "Commonwealth rent assistance imputed", written under the table, refers to.
- (10) Has the ARS been reviewed; if so, can the Minister provide details of any review/s.

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

The Affordable Rental Scheme (ARS) provides affordable housing for older people who are on low incomes. Housing ACT manages this scheme on behalf of the Affordable Rental Office (ARO).

- (1) The ARS commenced operating in December 2011.
- (2) Yes, the ARS is still operating, and it is still taking on new tenants.
- (3) The ARS properties were constructed for Housing ACT as part of a larger construction initiative and properties were then transferred to the ARS for affordable housing use.

- (4) The ARS properties are located in developments in five suburbs: Bonython, Kambah, Chapman, Rivett and Florey. The number of properties in each site are shown in the following table.

ARS DWELLINGS	30-JUN-12	30-JUN-13	30-JUN-14	30-JUN-15	30-JUN-16	30-JUN-17	30-JUN-18	21-MAY-19
BONYTHON	4	7	7	7	8	8	11	11
CHAPMAN	6	6	7	7	8	8	8	8
FLOREY	4	4	5	5	6	8	10	11
KAMBAH	3	4	4	8	9	9	11	11
RIVETT	6	5	5	7	9	10	12	15
TOTAL	23	26	28	34	40	43	52	56

- (5) When a property becomes available the ARS Housing Manager contacts the next applicant on the waiting list, reassesses their income to ensure that they remain eligible for the ARS and that they are placed in the correct rent band for the property. The Housing ACT Financial Controller approves the income assessment before a property offer is made.
- (6) The ARS Housing Manager makes decisions about the allocation of properties. Housing offers are made based on an applicant's position on the waiting list and their expressed location preferences. There are currently 19 applicants on the waiting list.
- (7) A breakdown of the current ARS tenants is provided below:
- a. 45 properties have a single tenant;
 - b. 11 properties have more than one tenant;
 - c. 45 tenants are female;
 - d. 22 tenants are male;
 - e. 19 tenants are on rent band A;
 - 10 tenants are on rent band B;
 - 13 tenants are on rent band C;
 - five tenants are on rent band D;
 - two tenants are on rent band E; and
 - seven tenants are on rent band F.

Rent Bands

Rent Band	Annual Income Band*	Weekly Income Band	Market Rent Payable
	\$	\$	%
A	24779-29000	475-557	33.33%
B	29001-34500	558-663	40.00%
C	34501-41211	664-792	50.00%
D	41212-49557	793-953	55.00%
E	49558-52166	954-1003	66.67%
F	52167-63536	1004-1222	74.90%

- (8) The rent bands shown in the factsheet dated 7 April 2014 is current.
- (9) The statement 'Commonwealth Rent Assistance imputed' relates to the calculation of a tenant's income. As ARS tenants are eligible to receive Commonwealth Rent Assistance, receipt of this assistance is assumed when calculating their income and allocating them to a relevant rent band.

- (10) The ARS has not been reviewed since it commenced.

Housing—rental bonds (Question No 2527)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

- (1) What are the steps involved in processing a rental bond refund.
- (2) How many refund forms are lodged each day and of these, how many forms are (a) signed by both parties and (b) only partially completed and then require notification to the other party/ies.
- (3) In relation to the table provided in the response to question on notice 2413, which relates to the average time to refund bonds per month following receipt of completed Refund Application forms, does (a) the average time to refund bonds per month refer to business days or calendar days, (b) the average time to refund bonds include full refunds, partial refunds, undisputed, and disputed claims and (c) does a “completed refund form” refer to a form that has been signed by both the leasee and the lessor with no dispute; if so, why are bond processing times as long as they are, given that money is transferred electronically; if not, do the average bond return times also include instances where only one party has signed the bond return form and the other party must be given 14 days to dispute the claim.
- (4) How many full-time equivalent staff work at the Office for Rental Bonds (ORB).
- (5) Has the new ORB online portal reduced time for bond returns or created any other efficiencies for ORB staff.
- (6) When will tenants be able to use the ORB portal.
- (7) Does ORB have data on how long it takes lessors to lodge bond return forms after a tenancy has ended; if so, can the Minister provide information on this for each month that data is available for the last three years.

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

- (1) The steps involved to process a rental bond manually (not through the web portal) are:
 - a) The Office of Rental Bonds (ORB) receives a refund application by email or post and the application is verified by a rental bonds officer including the address, tenants, bank account details agent/lessor name, required signatures, etc, and then the officer records the refund against the bond.
 - b) A supervising officer then checks the information and approves the release of the bond money which is then transferred into the nominated bank account(s) which can then take up to two working days to appear in the party’s or parties’ accounts.

If a lessor or agent uses the new Rental Bond Portal when raising the refund request, the refund can be actioned more quickly and may be released on the same day it is received. This is because the portal has a range of validations that helps

ensure correct information is provided. Once released, the funds may take two days to clear and appear in the nominated account(s).

- (2) There were, on average, 81 refund applications submitted per business day in 2018.
 - a) Not all forms are required to be signed by both parties. Therefore, ORB does not collect data at this level of detail.
 - b) An average of approximately one third of refund applications per day were invalid or required other party/ies authorisation.
 - (3) a) The average time refers to business days
 - b) The average time includes full and partial refunds where authorised, it does not include disputed applications (where the disputed amount comprises any or all of the bond).
 - c) A completed form refers to a valid form.
 - i. The ten day processing period relates to manual forms – which are the majority of applications.
 - ii. Ongoing migration from the manual system to the new portal is expected to reduce processing time.
 - iii. If a lessor or agent raises a refund request through the portal, the refund can be actioned and released the same day it is received.
 - (4) There are currently 10.5 FTE staff working for the ORB.
 - (5) The online portal has reduced back office bond lodgement processes as information no longer has to be manually transposed from paper forms. The benefit will be able to be quantified as the transition to the new system continues. The portal has also reduced time for processing bond returns (from agents and lessors).
 - (6) The portal was released on 26 November 2018 to lessors and managing agents with a view to allowing tenants to access the portal in the future. Issues of identification, authorisation and access have not been settled at this point for lessees. These are important considerations for the integrity of the online refund process.
 - (7) The ORB does not hold data on the time between a tenancy ending and lodgement of bond return forms.
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Public housing—renewal program (Question No 2528)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

In relation to the ACT Housing Strategy Growing and Renewal Public Housing 2019-2024 plan, can the Minister provide information about the five year capital works program that has been developed, including information on (a) what type of existing public housing sites will be renewed, broken down by number of (i) detached dwellings, (ii) existing dual occupancy dwellings, (iii) existing triple occupancy dwellings, (iv) townhouse sites and dwellings and (v) multi-unit sites where there are more than 50 dwellings, (b) the number of existing public housing dwellings that will be sold into the private market, broken down by suburb, (c) the number of existing public housing

dwellings that will be have new public housing built on the same site, broken down by suburb, (d) the breakdown of new builds, by (i) detached dwellings, (ii) new dual occupancy dwellings, (iii) new triple occupancy dwellings, (iv) number of townhouse sites and dwellings and (v) number of multi-unit sites where there are more than 50 dwellings, (e) how many of the new dwellings will be (i) Adaptable Class C, (ii) Livable Housing Standard Silver, (iii) Livable Housing Standard Gold and (iv) Livable Housing Standard Platinum, (f) the number of new public housing dwellings, broken down by suburb and (g) the number of new public housing dwellings that are less thanb 500 metres from a (i) local shopping centre, (ii) group centre, (iii) town centre, (iv) medical centre and (v) rapid bus service stop or light rail station.

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

- a.
 - i. While the first public housing renewal program focused on divesting multi-unit complexes, the *Growing and Renewing Public Housing 2019-24* program focuses on renewing and growing our single and low density stock. Housing ACT anticipates that approximately 300 single dwellings will be demolished and that approximately 700 new dwellings will be built back onto those blocks.
 - ii. It is unlikely the program will include the redevelopment of any existing dual or tri occupancy developments, unless there is a specific need to rebuild the existing properties (i.e. structural issues, extensive fire damage, age and/or condition).
 - iii. See response at a.ii.
 - iv. The program does not include the sale or redevelopment of any townhouse or multi-unit sites. Any proposal to sell and/or redevelop multi-unit sites will be subject to Cabinet consideration and will be based on the strategic planning work that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) will be undertaking on such sites. Funding for this planning and feasibility work will be provided to EPSDD by Housing ACT on a fee for service basis (\$1.5 million over five years).
 - v. See response at a.iv.
- b. In addition to the \$100 million investment in public housing identified in the Budget, the Growing and Renewing Public Housing program will be funded by the sale of around 700 dwellings generating *approximately* \$500 million to be reinvested directly into public housing. In 2019-20, Housing ACT anticipates selling approximately 113 dwellings to generate more than \$70 million. A breakdown of anticipated sales by suburb is not available, as the sales program will be largely dependent on tenants' desire to relocate.
- c. Housing ACT anticipates demolishing approximately 300 single dwellings and building approximately 700 new dwellings back onto those blocks. A breakdown of redevelopments by suburb is not available as the renewal program will be largely dependent on tenants' desire to relocate.
- d.
 - i. Approximately 50 detached dwellings will be constructed as part of this program.
 - ii. The majority of new builds will be dual and tri-occupancy and low density multi-units. There may be some larger multi-unit complexes constructed, but they are unlikely to include more than 30 dwellings. The breakdown of the dwelling mix is

not available as the capital program will be largely dependent on tenants' desire to relocate.

iii. See response at d.ii.

iv. See response at d.ii.

v. No multi-unit complexes of more than 50 dwellings will be constructed as part of this program.

e.

i. Wherever possible, all new public housing will be designed to meet Class C Adaptable housing standards. Adaptable housing ensures people of all ages and abilities can live within the home and it can be easily adapted to meet changing household needs without requiring costly or substantial modifications. Class C housing must include all essential features of the Australian Standard for Adaptable Housing (AS4299-1995) and be certified by an independent accessibility consultant.

Where Class C Adaptable housing is precluded because of site constraints, the design for public housing will conform to the principles of Gold Liveable Housing Design. The gold level provides for more generous dimensions for most of the core liveable housing design elements and includes additional elements in areas such as the kitchen and bedroom.

If neither Class C Adaptable or Gold Liveable Housing Design can be achieved – or for specific projects and/or sites – housing will be designed to standard industry specifications, noting that properties are matched according to tenant's individual needs.

ii. See answer at e.i.

iii. See answer at e.i.

iv. See answer at e.i.

v. See answer at e.i.

f. The breakdown of new public housing dwellings by suburb is not available because the capital program will be largely dependent on tenants' desire to relocate. The breakdown by suburb for the acquisition program is not available as it will depend on the availability of suitable stock in the market.

g.

i. The breakdown of new public housing dwellings by proximity to shops, services and transport is not available because the capital program will be largely dependent on tenants' desire to relocate. A key guiding principle of the government's salt and pepper approach to public housing is to locate properties close to transport, jobs and services and also to appropriately match properties according to tenant's individual needs.

ii. See response to g.i.

iii. See response to g.i.

iv. See response to g.i.

v. See response to g.i.

**Schools—playgrounds
(Question No 2529)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How many ACT Government school playgrounds are available to the public.
- (2) Is it necessary that an ACT Government staff member be on site in order for the public to access ACT Government school playground.

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

- (1) Directorate Policy is that facilities are to be made available for community use when not in use by the school:

https://www.education.act.gov.au/publications_and_policies/School-and-Corporate-Policies/facilities-and-assets/communityout-of-hours-use/community-use-of-school-facilities-policy

The majority of ACT public school playgrounds are accessible to members of the public outside of school hours. Data about specific school arrangements regarding access is not collected centrally.

- (2) No.

**Schools—kitchen gardens
(Question No 2530)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How many ACT Government schools have kitchen gardens and can the Minister provide a list of those ACT Government schools that have kitchen gardens.
- (2) What is the proportion of vegetarian meal options available in ACT Government school canteens.

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

- (1) The installation and implementation of a school kitchen garden is a school-based decision. The Education Directorate does not centrally monitor or collate school's participation in these programs or initiatives.
 - (2) All ACT Public Schools must adhere to the requirements of the ACT Public School Food and Drink Policy which includes provision for the serving of vegetarian food in school canteens.
-

**Environment—protected native species
(Question No 2531)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

Will the list of protected native species required under the Nature Conservation Act be updated to include mammals.

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

No. Native animals, including all native mammals are protected under the *Nature Conservation Act 2014* (the NC Act). The definition of an animal includes all animals except invertebrates, fish (or humans). An exception for this is a species that is also listed as a pest animal.

Invertebrates and fish become protected 'animals' when they are listed as protected native species, or if they are listed as threatened native species under the NC Act or listed as threatened or migratory species under the EPBC Act.

The Minister for the Environment and Heritage (the Minister) is required to make a list of native species *that* are 'protected native species' under section 111 of the Act. One of the objective of the protected species list is to bring some native species of fish and invertebrate into the Act. This means the animal offence provisions in Chapter 6 apply to protected fish and protected invertebrates (as they do to mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians). It is an offence under Chapter 6 of the Act to kill, endanger, harm, take or keep a native animal without a licence to do so by the Conservator of Fauna and Flora.

The protected species list provides the same level of protection to listed fish and listed *invertebrates* as that provided under Chapter 6 of the NC Act to mammals, birds, reptiles and amphibians. I am advised that there would be no additional protection provided through specifically listing mammals as protected species.

**Planning—Watson
(Question No 2532)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

(1) In relation to the Watson Horse Paddocks and Ted Noffs site (Watson sections 84, 85, 86, 87 and 75 (pt block 7 only), has the ACT Government, in the last four years, undertaken any investigations into (a) suitability of this land for land release or future development, (b) rezoning this land and (c) converting this land to nature reserve or environmental offset area.

(2) What conservation status (if any) does this land have.

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

(1a) No.

(1b) No.

(1c) No.

- (2) There has been no environmental survey of this area in the last four years. ACTMapi indicates that there have been environmental values identified on some of the blocks listed above (including ecological communities (Commonwealth and ACT listed) Box Gum Woodland and listed reptiles (Rosenberg's Monitor)).

**Municipal services—litter
(Question No 2533)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) Does the Aldi at the Jamison Centre on Bowman Street, Macquarie comply with clause 24E of the *Litter Act 2004*; if not, has Aldi been penalised; if not, why not.
- (2) Does The Food Forum at Westfield's Belconnen Mall, Benjamin Way, Belconnen, comply with Clause 24F of the *Litter Act 2004*; if not, has The Food Forum been penalised; if not, why not.
- (3) In the last three years, how many retailers have been penalised for not complying with Clause 24E of the *Litter Act 2004*.
- (4) In the last three years, how many retailers have been penalised for not complying with Clause 24F of the *Litter Act 2004*.

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Yes, noting that a recent inspection of the Food Forum store did not observe shopping trolleys available for customer use. Further inquiries are being made with the retailer to establish if they have shopping trolleys and if so, to ensure the retailer is compliant.
- (3, 4) Zero. The engage and educate approach taken to ensure retailers are aware and compliant with their responsibilities in relation to trolley containment has been largely successful. TCCS has not identified any deliberate or repetitive non-compliance warranting compliance action.

**Municipal services—street sweeping
(Question No 2534)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) Why does the Annual Street Sweeping Schedule, recently published on the tccs.act.gov.au website, not include the suburbs of (a) Beard, (b) Coombs, (c) Denman Prospect, (d) Wright, (e) Molonglo and (f) Moncrieff.
- (2) If a suburb is not featured on the Annual Street Sweeping Schedule, does this mean that the suburb in question will not be receiving street sweeping services.

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

- (1) TCCS is in the process of trialling the first stage of the street sweeping optimisation project. Following successful implementation of the trial, the published program will be updated to include these suburbs.
- (2) No. Street sweeping occurs across all suburbs at least twice per year. The suburbs not on the published program were swept in January 2019 and are next scheduled for sweeping during August 2019.

**Municipal services—trees
(Question No 2535)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Planning and Land Management*):

What was the number of the development application that resulted in the planning decision to remove all the *Platanus Orientalis* trees from public land by the Canberra Centre, approximately 10 years ago, on the road verge along Cooyong and Ballumbir Streets (beside City Section 96 carpark).

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

The development application number that resulted in the planning decision to remove all the *Platanus Orientalis* trees from public land by the Canberra Centre approximately 10 years ago is 201120272, over Block 1 Section 96 City.

**Waste—green bins
(Question No 2536)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How many households across Canberra now possess green waste bins.
- (2) Does the ACT Government collect data on the proportion of green waste bins that are put out for collection each fortnight; if so, can the Minister provide the relevant data.
- (3) Does the ACT Government have access to data that may demonstrate a change in the amount of green waste being taken directly to green waste recycling centres by members of the public since the introduction of the green bins.

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

As at 30 April 2019

- (1) 65,004 households have opted in and been delivered an organic garden waste bin from December 2016 to 30 April 2019.
- (2) Yes, the ACT Government has data on presentation rates (bin lifts):

Months	Registrations	Bins issued (Aggregate)	Collection events (bin lifts) in month	Fortnights in the month	Kerbside presentation rate	Comments
Dec-16	1,525	0				
Jan-17	3,227	0				
Feb-17	480	0				
Mar-17	906	0				
Apr-17	923	7,061	4,261	3	20%	*Program commenced
May-17	380	7,441	8,681	2	58%	
Jun-17	93	7,534	7,869	2	52%	
Jul-17	132	7,666	6,041	2	39%	
Aug-17	128	7,794	8,252	3	35%	
Sep-17	123	7,917	8,781	2	55%	
Oct-17	141	8,058	10,496	2	65%	
Nov-17	3,107	8,058	11,720	2	73%	
Dec-17	3,921	8,058	11,005	2	68%	
Jan-18	3,931	19,017	16,118	2	42%	*Tuggeranong roll-out
Feb-18	1,240	20,257	22,773	2	56%	
Mar-18	598	20,855	25,843	2	62%	
Apr-18	587	21,442	23,364	2	54%	
May-18	261	21,703	21,989	3	34%	
Jun-18	257	21,960	18,976	2	43%	
Jul-18	218	22,178	16,607	2	37%	
Aug-18	8,593	22,178	16,520	2	37%	
Sep-18	4,447	35,218	28,907	2	41%	*Belconnen roll-out
Oct-18	1,843	37,061	40,197	3	36%	
Nov-18	1,249	38,310	49,540	2	65%	
Dec-18	715	39,025	55,031	2	71%	
Jan-19	10,866	39,025	50,621	2	65%	
Feb-19	5,349	39,025	50,439	2	65%	
Mar-19	6,108	39,025	52,698	2	68%	
Apr-19	3,656	65,004	65,708	2	51%	*Rest of Canberra roll-out
May-19		65,004			0%	
Jun-19		65,004			0%	
Total bins	65,004					

(3) No specific data is available. The amount of green waste taken to these facilities varies significantly from year-to-year, is impacted by seasonal factors, such as rainfall and temperature, and comes from a variety of sources not just ACT households.

Roads—Majura Parkway (Question No 2537)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 17 May 2019
(redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services):

Was an evaluation conducted after the opening of the Majura Parkway of its impact on traffic on other roads in the ACT; if so, (a) on which roads did traffic increase as a result of the opening of the Majura Parkway, and by how much and (d) what was the impact on traffic on Northbourne Avenue.

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

- (1) Traffic modelling advice prior to the Majura Parkway construction predicted travel times for the Majura Parkway for the year 2031 in the AM peak hour of 6 minutes and 30 seconds. The future year estimate was based on assumptions for a future traffic network and traffic generating developments that have largely been realised and so this travel time is a fair indicator of expected traffic conditions.

The current measured AM peak hour travel time for the Majura Parkway is 6 minutes and 43 seconds. This is a close approximation to the modelled estimate of the journey time.

Traffic has increased on Majura Parkway which provides a detour for traffic traversing through the ACT. The predicted AM peak hour traffic volume on Majura Parkway for 2031 was 3,928 vehicles. The measured AM peak hour volumes for Majura Parkway in December 2017 was 3,470 vehicles.

The construction of the Majura Parkway has diverted significant volumes of traffic traversing the ACT that would otherwise have used Northbourne Avenue. Measuring the impact of diverting this traffic is however, not feasible given that the traffic on Northbourne Avenue will have been influenced by major road projects and the growth in the Gungahlin area over recent years and the construction and operation of light rail.

Schools—Margaret Hendry School (Question No 2538)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) Were invitations sent to any Members of the Legislative Assembly for Yerrabi to attend the opening of the Margaret Hendry School on 9 May 2019.
- (2) Were invitations to any other ACT or Federal representatives to attend the opening of the Margaret Hendry School.
- (3) If invitations were extended to those referred to in parts (1) and (2), what is their name and what is the reason they were invited.
- (4) If invitations were not extended to those referred to in parts (1) and (2), why not.

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

1. Non-Executive government Members for Yerrabi were invited to attend the opening of the government's Margaret Hendry School that the government funded in its 2015-16 ACT Budget.
2. No.
3. Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, as Ms Orr is a member of the government in Yerrabi.
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, as Mr Pettersson is a member of the government in Yerrabi.

Ms Meegan Fitzharris MLA, as Ms Fitzharris is a member of the government in Yerrabi.

4. Construction of Margaret Hendry School is an ACT Government initiative funded in the government's 2015-16 ACT Budget. Other Members of the Legislative Assembly in Yerrabi are not members of the ACT Government. Federal parliamentary representatives are not members of the ACT Government and the government constructed the school without federal funding.

Children and young people—review process (Question No 2539)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) In relation to the internal review process of decisions in the Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS), what decisions made by CYPS or ACT Together can be internally reviewed.
- (2) How many members make up the Assessment Review Committee (ARC), and what are their combined as well as individual roles and responsibilities.
- (3) What is the process for internal review where a case manager disagrees with a decision made by the ARC.
- (4) How many reviews were undertaken by the ARC in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19 to the date that this question was published.
- (5) How many staff make up the CYPS Complaints Unit, and what are their combined as well as individual roles and responsibilities.
- (6) How many complaints were received by the CYPS Complaints Unit in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19, to the date that this question was published.
- (7) How many managers are employed at CYPS, and what are each of their roles and responsibilities.

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

- (1) The internal review of CYPS decisions is outlined in the discussion paper *Review of child protection decisions in the ACT*. The discussion paper is available on the Community Services Directorate website at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/review-of-child-protection-decisions-in-the-act>.

The steps to seeking an internal review of a decision are outlined in the *Working together for kids* parent guide - *Guide 4: Feedback and raising concerns*. This guide is available on the Community Services Directorate website at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/ocyfs/children/child-and-youth-protection-services/working-together-for-kids>

- (2) The Application Review Committee (ARC) consists of three members including: Senior Manager, CYPS North; Senior Manager, CYPS South and the Senior Manager, Legal Services. In addition, advisory roles are held by the Cultural Services Team and the Assessment and Support Team. These participants are present for the entirety of each meeting.

ARC reviews all proposed applications for Court Orders. There are a range of Court Orders applicable to children and young people in out of home care that can be applied for as outlined in the *Children and Young People Act 2008* and the *Adoption Act 1993*. Case managers from both CYPS and ACT Together present court applications to ARC depending on who has case management for the child or young person. Applications may include:

- a new order;
- the revocation of an Order;
- changes to Orders;
- EPR Orders;
- Adoption Orders; and
- appeal applications.

Applications to court are brought by the Director-General of CSD.

The aim of ARC is to review all proposed applications for orders and ensure that they:

- are child centred and consistent with best interest principles (S.349 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008*);
- demonstrate collaboration with key partners to best meet the needs of the child or young person and their family;
- demonstrate good decision-making which meets the requirements under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*;
- are timely and provide stability for children and young people; and
- are robust, transparent and accountable and adhere to CYPS policies and procedures.

- (3) Case managers make recommendations to ARC. ARC makes decisions based on the information provided by the case manager in accordance with their role as outlined in Question 2.
- (4) ARC meets every Tuesday. The length of these meetings is determined by the number of cases listed for discussion, ranging from six to eight cases. Additional meetings can also be held out of session.

The data sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and to collect and assemble this information solely for the purpose of answering the question is a major task, requiring a considerable diversion of resources. In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from the provision of direct services to clients, for the purposes of answering the Member's question.

- (5) The Children Youth and Families (CYF) Community Engagement and Client Services team, (formerly the Complaints Unit), has four staff members: a Manager; two Community Engagement and Client Services Officers; and a Carer Liaison Officer.

The Manager is responsible for providing leadership and supervision to the team, overseeing complaints management processes, and strengthening relationships between CYF and stakeholders.

The two Community Engagement and Client Services Officers manage and respond to the resolution of complaints in alignment with Community Services Directorate policy.

The Carer Liaison Officer is a point of contact for carers. The position focuses on improving and strengthening relationships between carers, agencies and government. The role also provides a complaints management and resolution function.

(6) 2016-17 and 2017-18 complaints data was provided in QON-18/110:

- 2016-17: 73 complaints were addressed; and
- 2017-18: 69 complaints were addressed.

Data is currently only available for July to December 2018 and totals 54 complaints.

(7) CYPS is funded for 15 Senior Manager and Manager positions. These positions work across CYPS Operations and CYPS Practice and Performance. They do not include Bimberi funded positions.

CYPS Operations - Senior Managers and Managers:

These positions are responsible for providing leadership, supervision, and practice support, managing operational case management teams, implementing projects, and managing legislative compliance.

Senior Manager Legal Services:

This position is responsible for providing leadership and supervision to the CYPS Legal Services team. They are also responsible for representing and exercising the powers of the Director-General in all CYPS matters before the courts and tribunals in accordance with legislative and policy requirements.

Operational Compliance and Support Manager:

This position is responsible for tracking and monitoring legislative compliance, overseeing the coordination of CYPS responses to reviews, and provides advice in relation to sensitive CYPS client matters.

Manager Operational Support:

This position manages the CYPS administrative team ensuring caseworkers are supported to deliver high quality case management and responses to children and young people.

CYPS Practice and Performance:

The Senior Managers and Managers within this area lead the ongoing work associated with practice improvement, operational policy development, training and workforce development and stakeholder partnerships.

Manager Assessment and Support:

This position leads teams that facilitate adoptions, provide kinship carer support, undertake assessments, manages permanency planning for children in care, and manages the CYPS Cultural Services Team.

Manager Relationship Management:

This position leads the strategic partnership and contract management of community-based agencies who deliver programs funded under *A Step Up for Our Kids* Strategy.

Principal Therapist:

This position provides therapy to children in out of home care, manages Melaleuca Place and a team of Therapeutic Assessors.

**Transport—MyWay card
(Question No 2540)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

Are there any plans for the Government to install a MyWay Ticket Vending Machine at the Charnwood Group Centre; if so, when can residents expect to see one in operation; if not, why not and will the ACT Government consider installing one in the future as part of the 2019-2020 Budget.

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

- (1) There are no current plans to install a MyWay Ticket Vending Machine at the Charnwood Group Centre. Ticket Vending Machines in the first instance have been installed only at major bus interchanges and on light rail stops. MyWay cards can be purchased and topped up at the Charnwood Newsagency.

**Municipal services—drinking fountains
(Question No 2541)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How many drinking fountains are currently in operation in the area of West Belconnen and where are they located.
- (2) Are there any plans by the Government to install more drinking fountains in West Belconnen, particularly at parks or local shops; if so, what are the proposed locations and when can residents expect to see them in operation; if not, why not, and will the Government consider installing more drinking fountains in West Belconnen in the future as part of the 2019-2020 Budget.

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

- (1) For the purpose of answering this question, West Belconnen is considered to include the suburbs located west of Kingsford Smith Drive. There are three drinking fountains in West Belconnen. Charnwood Shopping Centre, Higgins Shopping Centre and Holt Shopping Centre each have one of these drinking fountains.
 - (2) The ACT Government will consider additional drinking fountains in the future, based on community need.
-

**Municipal services—playgrounds
(Question No 2542)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

Are there any plans by the ACT Government to construct a new playground in the Scullin shops area; if so, what is the proposed location and when can residents expect to see construction commence; if not, why not, and will the Government consider the construction of such a playground in the future as part of the 2019-2020 Budget

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

The Better Suburbs Statement 2030 was developed in 2018 through a deliberative democracy process to determine a blueprint of priorities for the delivery of city services. A Forum of community members allocated \$1.9 million to upgrade and improve plays spaces across Canberra. While there is no current plan to construct a new playground within the Scullin Shop's area, the Government will build a new playground in neighbouring Higgins and upgrade 19 existing playgrounds, including 6 in Belconnen. The community can currently utilise six existing neighbourhood parks with playgrounds in Scullin.

**Waste—recycling
(Question No 2543)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) Are there any plans by the Government to install recycling bins at Kippax Fair and/or Charnwood Group Centre; if so, when will they be installed and where will the bins be located; if not, will the ACT Government consider installing recycling bins at Kippax Fair and Charnwood Group Centre for the 2019-20 Budget.
- (2) What is the breakdown of costs for the installation and running of a recycling bin, including cost of the bin, installation, collection and maintenance etc.

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

- (1) The ACT Government is exploring options for improved waste management in public areas, including a littering education program to encourage personal responsibility for disposing of rubbish thoughtfully and the feasibility of providing additional waste and recycling bins in high use public areas.
 - (2) Costs vary depending on the style of bin chosen and whether a shroud is provided to improve visual amenity. A bin with shroud costs approximately \$2000.00 to supply and install. Maintenance costs (pressure cleaning as required) are minimal unless the bin is vandalised. Recycling bins are typically emptied twice weekly, however, they are monitored and emptied more often if required.
-

**Municipal services—parks
(Question No 2544)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) Does the ACT Government have any plans to construct a footbridge, as has been long requested by the Umbagong District Park Users and residents of Latham, as well as other residents of the Ginninderra electorate; if so, when will construction be expected to commence; if not, why not and will the Government consider such a construction in the future for the 2019-2020 Budget.
- (2) If the Government will not consider such a construction, will the Government conduct a study on stepping stone usage and level of demand for a proposed footbridge.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of construction for the proposed footbridge design as submitted by the Umbagong District Park Users.

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

- (1) Due to ongoing enquiries, a pedestrian bridge at Umbagong has been placed on the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate future capital works list. Delivering these requests is a significant undertaking, and strategically prioritised over current and future years within available budgets
- (2) In 2013, a letterbox drop and online survey was conducted on the stepping stone usage at Umbagong District Park in Latham. The survey found that the majority of respondents were regular users of the crossing, with 25% using the crossing daily; 22% using it more than once a week; 20% using it weekly; 23% using it monthly; and 9% never using the low-level crossing. Approximately 80% of respondents preferred no change and retention of the stepping stones, 15% preferred construction of a bridge, and 5% preferred a low-level crossing. From these survey results, a decision was made at the time not to construct a bridge and to leave the stepping stones in place. Signage was put in place advising that the stepping stones may not provide safe access for all users, and that an alternative bridge crossing is a near distance away. There is no considered value in a further study of stepping stone usage and proposed demand.
- (3) Based on the construction cost of the Ashley Drive pedestrian crossing over Tuggeranong channel which was \$1.2 million, the estimated cost of the construction of the Ginninderra Creek footbridge at Umbagong Park is approximately \$1.5 million.

**Recycling—container deposit scheme
(Question No 2545)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How many container refund depots are in operation in West Belconnen, and where are they located.
- (2) Are there any plans by the Government to install additional container refund depots in the area of West Belconnen; if so, what is the proposed location and when can

residents expect to see them in operation; if not, why not, and will the Government consider the construction of a container refund depot in West Belconnen in the future as part of the 2019-2020 Budget?

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

- (1) There are currently three express return points in the Belconnen District. These are Anglicare Jamison (Unit 2/3 Jamison Centre, Macquarie), Belconnen Vinnies (Corner Rae and Purdue Streets, Belconnen) and at Basketball ACT (42 Oatley Court, Belconnen).
 - (2) The network operator, ReTurn-It, has received approval to open a further express point in West Belconnen and the ACT Government is working with the network operator to have this site operational as soon as possible. Information on this and other new return points will be made available once the appropriate licencing arrangements are confirmed and in place.
-

Multicultural affairs—funding (Question No 2546)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

How much funding was given to Multicultural Youth Services (MYS) in the 2017-18 financial year and what was the breakdown of expenditures of that funding, as reported by the MYS.

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

The Community Services Directorate (the Directorate) provides funding support to Queanbeyan Multilingual Centre Incorporated trading as Multicultural Youth Services (MYS) and Multicultural Employment Services (MES) for a range of support services and programs.

In 2017-18, the directorate provided a total of \$491,281 (GST exclusive) to MYS. This total is inclusive of MYS Equal Remuneration Order (ERO) allocation.

The funding was provided to MYS for three support services and programs, including:

- Multicultural Youth Services (\$37,357.20 GST exclusive);
- Multicultural Youth Engagement Services and Workplace Readiness Training Program (\$314,378.66 GST exclusive); and
- Workforce Participation Assistance for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers (\$139,545.45 GST exclusive).

MYS have reported and acquitted on each of the funded programs for the financial year 2017-18 in accordance with the terms and conditions of the executed funding agreements. The acquittal reports have been accepted by the Directorate, noting full exhaustion of allocated funding for both:

- Multicultural Youth Services; and

- Multicultural Youth Engagement Services and Workplace Readiness Training Program.

For the Workforce Participation Assistance for Migrants, Refugees and Asylum Seekers service, MYS reported expenditure of \$69,773 (GST exclusive) in the 2017/18 financial year, in line with the project milestones and deliverables.

Roads—Osburn Drive (Question No 2548)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

Are there any plans for the Government to establish a pedestrian crossing across Osburn Drive (near Eccles Circuit), Macgregor, so that children who reside in New Macgregor can cross the road safely when walking to and from Macgregor primary school; if so, what are the details of any planned construction, and when will it be completed; if not, when will the Government investigate the demand for pedestrian crossing options at this location to improve safety of children, other pedestrians and drivers in this area.

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

- (1) The ACT Government recognises the importance of walking and cycling as a means of getting around the city and supporting Canberrans to pursue active lifestyles. Active lifestyles can improve community connections as well as assist in reducing the rates of obesity in our community.

The type of crossing facility provided to cross a road depends on the location and the likely volumes of pedestrians and vehicles. The roundabout at Eccles Circuit/Osburn Drive has pedestrian refuges that provide convenient and safe road crossing points. This type of crossing is appropriate given the expected volume of vehicles and pedestrians in the area and the surrounding land uses.

There are currently no plans for a zebra crossing or school crossing on Osburn Drive close to this roundabout. I have requested that Roads ACT work with the School Travel Coordinator to review the pedestrian routes to the Macgregor Primary School and assess whether additional formal pedestrian crossings are warranted on Osburn Drive to assist students walking to school.

Multicultural affairs—community language grants program (Question No 2549)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Facilities, upon notice, on 17 May 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs*):

Are there any reporting requirements stipulated by the ACT Government and/or the ACT Community Language Schools Association in regard to the receiving of annual grants and/or other financial support given to community language schools; if so, what are the reporting requirements, for example, submission of receipts, expenditures log etc; if not, what measures are taken by the ACT Government to ensure that funding given to community language schools is used responsibly and appropriately.

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

- (1) The ACT Community Language Schools Association Inc (the Association) receives annual ACT Government funding under two Deeds of Grants. One Deed of Grant provides funding to support the administration of the Association and the second Deed of Grant provides grant funding for all eligible Community Language Schools.

The ACT Government requires the Association to submit a 12-month Financial Acquittal and a 12-month Report Statement against the Output and Performance Indicators in the Deed of Grant associated with the funding provided to the Community Language Schools. The Output and Performance Indicators which the Association must report to the Territory by 30 May 2019 includes:

- the number of students eligible for grants enrolled for the 2019 calendar year;
- the number of playgroups eligible to receive supplementary funding for the 2019 calendar year;
- the number of language schools eligible to receive supplementary funding to assist with administration cost for the 2019 calendar year; and
- the number of professional development events held for the community language school teachers.

Further, the ACT Government will undertake an independent review on the investment in ACT Community Language Schools as identified in the *ACT Multicultural Framework Second Action Plan (2019-2020)*.

Access Canberra—drivers licences (Question No 2550)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Business and Regulatory Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) In relation to ACT drivers' licences for seniors, (a) under what conditions do concessions apply for seniors, (b) what is the annual value of the concession per licence and (b) how many seniors' concessions are issued per year.
- (2) In relation to ACT drivers' licences for Centrelink recipients, (a) under what conditions do concessions apply for Centrelink recipients, (b) what is the annual value of the concession per licence and (b) how many Centrelink concessions are issued per year.
- (3) In relation to ACT drivers' licences for DVA card holders, (a) under what conditions do concessions apply for DVA card holders, (b) what is the annual value of the concession per licence and (b) how many DVA card holder concessions are issued per year.
- (4) In relation to ACT drivers' licences for drivers with good driving records, (a) under what conditions do concessions apply for good drivers, (b) what is the annual value of the concession per licence and (b) how many good driver licence holder concessions are issued per year.

- (5) Are any concessions issued in combination with other concessions; if so, (a) which concessions can be combined, (b) what are the details of those combined concessions and (c) how many combined concessions are issued per year.

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

- (1) (a) No driver licence concessions are applied to seniors.
 (b) Zero
 (c) Zero.
- (2) (a) The holder of a Pensioner Concession Card issued by the Department of Human Services is entitled to a discount on the issue and renewal of a driver licence. Centrelink Health Care Card holders also attract a concession when renewing their driver licence.
 (b) Pension Card Holders are entitled to a 100% concession on the driver licence fee. The annual fee is \$38.54, and a licence may be issued for a period of up to ten years. Centrelink Health Care card holders receive a 50% concession on the issue or renewal of a one year licence.
 (c) 6,154 concessions have been granted in the past 12 months. It is important to note that licences are renewed for a five or ten year period so the 6,154 represents only those that have been issued or renewed a licence in the past 12 months.
- (3) (a) The holder of a Pension Concession or Gold Card issued by the Department of Veterans' Affairs is entitled to a discount on the issue or renewal of a driver licence.
 (b) Pension and Gold Card holders are entitled to a 100% concession on the driver licence fee. The annual fee is \$38.54 and the licence may be issued for a period of up to ten years.
 (c) 153 concessions have been granted in the past 12 months. It is important to note that licences are renewed for a five or ten year period so the 153 represents only those that have been issued or renewed a licence in the past 12 months.
- (4) (a) ACT residents are eligible to receive a 30% discount on their driver licence renewals, if they have no relevant traffic offences recorded for the previous five years.
 (b) 30%
 (c) 21,348
- (5) No concessions are combined for driver licence transactions.

Animals—dogs (Question No 2551)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019
(redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services):

In relation to the Domestic Animal Service (DAS), in the past five years, how many dogs have been (a) surrendered to DAS, (b) seized by DAS, (c) returned to owners and (d) euthanised.

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

	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-to 3 July 2019	Total
Surrendered	142	213	160	154	162	794
Seized	54	124	147	201	237	715
Returned to owners	783	849	680	536	620	3399
Euthanised	132	138	140	100	86	591

**Domestic animal services—fees
(Question No 2552)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 17 May 2019:

- (1) How much money has been collected in total from the public in fees and fines issued by Domestic Animal Service (DAS), in the past five completed financial years.
- (2) How much money has been collected in total from the public in fees, fines etc issued by DAS for fees listed in Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (1), Disallowable Instrument DI2018-77 (or any update).
- (3) If the amounts in parts (1) and (2) are not the same, what is the explanation for the difference
- (4) How much money has been collected in total from the public in fees, fines etc issued by DAS for fees listed in Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (1), Disallowable Instrument DI2018-77 (or any update), in the past five completed financial years, broken down by (a) Registration of Dogs, (b) licences and permits, (c) seizure impoundment and transportation of dogs, (d) sale of dogs and (e) microchipping of dogs.
- (5) How much money has been refunded in total from the public in fees, fines etc issued by DAS for fees listed in Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (1), Disallowable Instrument DI2018-77 (or any update), in the past five completed financial years.
- (6) How much money has been waived in total from the public in fees, fines etc issued by DAS for fees listed in Domestic Animals (Fees) Determination 2018 (1) the Disallowable Instrument DI2018-77 (or any update), in the past five completed financial years
- (7) If it is not possible to simply print reports from standard accounting software to answer these questions, why not.
- (8) If it is not possible to simply print reports from standard accounting software to answer these questions, can the Minister provide those reports easily available to managers to monitor this data.

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

This information was previously provided to the Member through Question on Notice Paper, No 25, Question No. 2002.

Hospitals—prosthetic supplies (Question No 2553)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) Who supplied prosthetics to the ACT's public hospitals during each of the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18 and (d) 2018-19 (to 31 March 2019).
- (2) During each year in part (1) what was the expenditure on prosthetics to each supplier.
- (3) During each year in part (1), (a) what was the cost value of any stocks of prosthetics that had reached their use-by date and were disposed of and (b) how were those prosthetics disposed of.
- (4) At any point, when a prosthetics supplier was changed, were all stocks on hand from the previous supplier used; if not (a) why, (b) what happened to the stocks that were not used, (c) what was the cost value of unused stocks and (d) what costs of unused stocks were recovered.

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

REVISED RESPONSE

(1) & (2)

Canberra Health Services

Canberra Health Services have advised that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require considerable resources.

In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from other priority activities for the purposes of answering the Member's question.

Calvary Public Hospital Bruce

Expenditure for Prostheses by Supplier by Year (All figures are expressed in \$'000)

Supplier	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 to March
ACT Health	\$55.5	\$32.1	\$36.2	\$7.6
Admedus (Australia) Pty Ltd	\$3.0	\$0.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
Alcon Australia	\$79.0	\$158.7	\$114.1	\$97.4
Allegra Orthopaedics Ltd	\$11.7	\$0.6	\$0.0	\$0.0
Allergan Australia Pty Ltd	\$24.1	\$45.6	\$5.7	\$0.0
Alliance Surgical Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.3	\$0.0
AMO Australia Ltd	\$171.5	\$200.2	\$255.5	\$164.6
Applied Medical Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.0	\$0.0
Astora Womens Health Australia Pty Ltd	\$4.8	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Australian Biotechnologies	\$0.0	\$39.5	\$20.8	\$22.2
B. Braun Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$4.8	\$0.0	\$0.3
Bard Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$6.3	\$0.0	\$22.7
Bard Australia PTY Lyd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$17.9	\$0.0
Baxter Health Care Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.7	\$0.0
Boston Scientific Pty Ltd	\$33.2	\$31.8	\$22.3	\$11.6
Calvary John James Hospital	\$0.0	\$0.7	\$1.1	\$0.0

Supplier	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19 to March
ColoPlast Pty Ltd	\$1.3	\$1.3	\$0.7	\$0.0
ConMed Linvatec Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.0
Cook Medical Australia Pty Ltd	\$6.7	\$0.3	\$6.8	\$3.5
Corin Australia Pty Ltd	\$32.2	\$13.9	\$4.8	\$43.9
Coviden Pty Ltd	\$447.5	\$165.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Designs for Vision	\$74.9	\$56.7	\$16.4	\$6.6
Device Technologies	\$115.3	\$59.5	\$79.4	\$62.6
DJO Global Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$14.3	\$8.3	\$25.7
Endotherapeutics Pty Ltd	\$11.3	\$11.6	\$9.1	\$20.7
GeistlichPharma Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.8	\$0.0	\$0.0
Geringe Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$3.9	\$16.1
Glaukos Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$10.9	\$3.0
Halyard Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.5	\$0.0
Heraeus Medical Australi Pty Ltd	\$25.8	\$55.9	\$34.4	\$19.2
Hipac Healthcare Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.4	\$0.0
HKLS Martin Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.5	\$0.6	\$1.3
Inova Pharmaceuticals (Aust) Pty Ltd	\$21.8	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.6
Integra Neurosciences Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.4	\$0.0
IQ Medical Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$2.9	\$0.0	\$0.0
Johnson and Johnson	\$592.7	\$497.1	\$379.3	\$249.2
Lifehealthcare Distribution Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$1.5	\$8.4	\$0.0
Lima Orthopaedics Australia	\$114.0	\$106.5	\$250.2	\$64.0
Lions Eye Donation service	\$0.0	\$18.0	\$15.0	\$0.0
LMT Surgical Pty Ltd	\$4.6	\$4.6	\$9.4	\$5.5
Maquet Geringe Group	\$22.8	\$6.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
Mathys Orthopaedics Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$6.7	\$0.0
Matortho Ltd	\$25.5	\$8.5	\$0.0	\$0.0
MD Solutions Australasia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.5	\$0.0
Medartis Australia and New Zealand Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.5	\$26.3	\$29.7
Medical and Optical	\$16.6	\$18.6	\$23.9	\$7.0
Medical Specialties Australasia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$1.6	\$20.4	\$6.9
Medtronic Australasia Pty Ltd	\$49.9	\$172.9	\$185.1	\$52.9
NeoTract Australia Pty Ltd	\$5.0	\$8.7	\$5.0	\$0.0
Nevro Medical Pty Ltd	\$22.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Orthotech Orthopaedic Group	\$6.6	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Princess Alexandria Hospital	\$50.2	\$5.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Smith & Nephew Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$114.0	\$7.8	\$104.9
Smith & Nephew Surgical Pty Ltd	\$196.3	\$179.1	\$331.5	\$90.1
South Eastern Sydney LHD	\$25.1	\$18.2	\$12.7	\$19.4
Specialist Medical Supplies	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$1.1
Stryker Australia Pty Ltd	\$1,407.6	\$1,181.0	\$1,313.1	\$814.7
Surgical Devices Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$2.5	\$1.3
Surgical Specialties Pty Ltd	\$1.6	\$4.2	\$1.2	\$0.9
Teleflex Medical Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.4	\$0.8	\$5.7	\$9.6
Tornier Pty Ltd	\$40.8	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
Uhealth Australia Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$6.3	\$0.0	\$0.0
Unidentified Reallocations	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.0
W. L. Gore & Associated (Aust) Pty Ltd	\$0.0	\$0.0	\$0.8	\$0.0
Wright Medical Australia Pty Ltd	\$73.8	\$89.6	\$96.1	\$15.8
Zimmer Pty Ltd	\$123.5	\$268.4	\$115.0	\$104.3
	\$3,898.3	\$3,615.7	\$3,474.0	\$2,106.8

(3a)

2015-16	nil recorded	
2016-17	nil recorded	
2017-18	nil recorded	
2018-19	AR 2323 BCC (anchor)	Consignment \$501 – Device Technology
	AEOSML (endo clip)	Purchase \$381-Teleflex
	L02115 (Biosel)	unsure purchase or consigned \$722 DePuy

(3b) Stock used for educational purposes

(4a) Not applicable

(4b) Orthopaedic – arthroplasties. When contract changed, Zimmer removed all stock from Hospital and replaced by Stryker prostheses.

(4c) No charges.

(4d) No costs incurred.

Schools—solar panels (Question No 2554)

Ms Lee asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) Which Government schools (a) contain and (b) do not contain, solar panels on their roofs.
- (2) Of the schools in part (1) (a), can the Minister provide the (a) percentage of roof space taken up by solar panels and (b) amount of electricity that the schools generate from solar panels.
- (3) If any schools generate more electricity than they consume, is there any way for this electricity to be (a) stored in a battery and (b) put into the energy grid.
- (4) For each school that has solar panels (a) how were the panels funded and (b) what was the total cost of installing the panels (including any associated operating costs).
- (5) Is the viability of solar panels among the planning considerations when designing a new school.
- (6) Do any ACT Government schools have energy generation aside from solar panels; if so, what is the (a) type of energy and (b) amount of energy produced.

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

- (1) All eighty-eight ACT public schools have roof top solar panels. A total of 2,357kW of solar photovoltaic (PV) arrays are installed. In general, primary schools have 10kW systems, high schools 20kW systems and colleges 30kW systems. New schools constructed post 2012 have 100kW systems. Amaroo School has a 600kW solar array system that is owned and operated by a third party.

- (2)
- a) The Directorate does not have information on the percentage of each school roof that is taken up by solar panels. Total roof area does not provide an indicator of potential space for solar panels due to other plant and equipment being located on the roof, roof orientation suitable for solar and some roof profiles not being suitable for solar (curved roof profiles or structural configuration for example).
 - b) A total of 2620 megawatt hours (MWh) of electricity is produced annually by Education Directorate (EDU) owned solar systems (excluding Amaroo School).
- (3)
- a) Yes.
 - b) Yes.
- (4)
- a) Retrofit systems have been funded through a combination of ACT Government and former Commonwealth Government programs. New schools include the cost of systems in total construction costs.
 - b) The approximate total capital cost is \$4.38M. A solar maintenance contract is in place to provide for routine maintenance, cleaning and safety checks across all government owned solar PV systems on ACT public Schools. The total value of the maintenance contract is \$220k over three years.
- (5) All new schools include a 100kW solar PV array. The government is also expanding solar on existing schools.
- (6)
- a) Amaroo School has a small wind turbine (5kW) that is 15 years old. The turbine was installed as part of the school construction.
 - b) The annual energy production of the wind turbine is not known as the system has not operated reliably in recent years.

Government—invoices (Question No 2555)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 7 June 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Health*):

- (1) In relation to the payments made during April 2019 that were reported on the Register of Notifiable Invoices, why did it take an average of more than 56 days to pay the six invoices from Comensura Pty Ltd, totalling \$1 132 049.92.
- (2) Why did it take 84 days to pay the invoice from the Australian Digital Health Agency, totalling \$132 225.00.
- (3) Why was a rebate of \$57 351.86 paid to the Canberra Mothercraft Society.
- (4) In relation to the payment of \$30 492.00 to Robson Environmental, for inspections (a) what inspections were made, (b) what recommendations were made and (c) how has Canberra Health Services responded to those recommendations.

- (5) Why were the payments made to the Australian National University (\$26 925.80) and Woden Community Service Inc (\$30 000.00) described as “Other Creditors” and what goods and/or services were supplied for those payments.

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

- (1) Revised information approval processes were implemented which delayed the payment of these invoices. These new processes have now been refined and enable the timely approval of all future invoices for Comensura.
- (2) This invoice was sent to a former employee at ACT Health. This delayed the payment of the invoice but these contact details have since been rectified for future invoices received from the Australian Digital Health Agency.
- (3) An amount of \$57,351.86 was paid to Canberra Mothercraft Society to cover costs covered under the current contract for transition out services at the Queen Elizabeth II facility.
- (4) In relation to the payment of \$30 492.00 to Robson Environmental:
 - a) This invoice relates to scheduled re-inspection surveys for Hazardous Materials Reports for 16 Canberra Health Services owned buildings as required by the Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011 Section 430.
 - b) Recommendations relate to the condition and management of asbestos containing materials and other hazardous materials in these buildings. All recommendations are added to the asbestos management plan for the building for action as required by Section 430, Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011.
 - c) Actions are undertaken on an as needed basis.
- (5) The description “other creditors” was captured incorrectly on the notifiable invoice list and were paid with the correct account code.

Payment of \$26,925.80 to Australian National University was for National Association of Testing Authorities (NATA) accreditation for Canberra Clinical Genomics (CCG). NATA, through its network of industry experts, provides organisations an independent assurance of technical capability through a rigorous accreditation process. The NATA accreditation of CCG makes it one of only a few labs in Australia that is accredited to provide advanced genetic diagnoses via the method of whole exome sequencing (a form of genome sequencing which is at the cutting edge of clinical diagnostics and medicine).

Payment of \$30,000 to Woden Community Service Inc was an instalment for a Hoarding Advocacy Support Services (HASS) trial for clients experiencing severe complex hoarding and squalor issues. The HASS supports and complements the existing ACT Government management of severe and complex cases of hoarding and squalor in the ACT community, currently overseen by the multi-agency Hoarding Case Management Group (HCMG).

**Light rail—street furniture
(Question No 2556)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) Where will the proposed street furniture within the light rail corridor (excluding the street furniture in precincts 1, 2 and 3), costing \$1 055 000 be placed, in relation to question on notice No 38 regarding contract variations during light rail construction submitted by Mr Coe MLA in the inquiry into referred 2017-2018 Annual and Financial Reports.
- (2) What are the expected dates of completion for the street furniture placement in relation to part (1).
- (3) Where will the bike racks at the Gungahlin stop will be located, and what is the expected completion date.
- (4) How will the Hibberson street lighting will be amended.

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

- (1) The proposed street furniture indicated in modification order #5(excluding precincts 1,2,3) generally relates to painted vertical elements (i.e. lighting poles, overhead line poles, traffic signal poles and street signs) and will be placed in the following areas:
 - Verge: (1) land to west of northbound lanes, including splitter islands, and (2) land to the east of Southbound lanes, including splitter islands;
 - Precinct 4: median, verges and roadways commencing at Federal Highway and Flemington Road intersection and extending to Antill/Mouat and Northbourne Avenue intersection;
 - Precinct 5: median, verges and roadways of Northbourne Ave between Antill/Mouat and Streets and Rudd/Bunda Streets;
 - Precinct 6: median, verges and roadways of Northbourne Ave between Rudd/Bunda and Alinga Street; and
 - Northourne Plaza: median, verges and roadways of Northbourne Ave between Alinga Street and London Circuit.
- (2) Majority of infrastructure has already been installed. Outstanding works are scheduled to be completed by Canberra Metro by the end of third quarter 2019.
- (3) A number of bicycle racks have already been installed around Hibberson Street and Gungahlin Place. TCCS is currently exploring the option of additional bicycle facilities in the Gungahlin Town Centre.
- (4) Transport Canberra requested Canberra Metro investigate alternative lighting columns of 4.5m height, in lieu of the 6.5m heights installed, between Hinder Street and Kate Grace Street. Following design and Canberra Metro costings the Territory elected to support the 6.5m high street lights.

Light rail—launch (Question No 2557)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 7 June 2019
(redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services):

- (1) What (a) was the total cost to prepare and run the light rail launch day event on 20 April 2019 in the Gungahlin Town Centre and (b) is the breakdown of costings to prepare and run the event in the Town Centre.
- (2) What (a) was the total cost to prepare and run the event in the City and (b) is the breakdown of costings to prepare and run the event in the City.
- (3) Were contracts awarded for the preparation or running of the event in the (a) Gungahlin Town Centre and (b) City; if so, (i) to whom and (ii) for what purpose.
- (4) What was the total attendance to the event in the (a) Gungahlin Town Centre and (b) City.
- (5) Were invitations distributed for the event in the (a) Gungahlin Town Centre and (b) City.

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

- (1) The cost of the event across the two sites, including event management and entertainment, was \$155,000. In addition, \$292,000 was spent on public safety and crowd management activities that would have occurred regardless of the launch event.
- (2) As above, the event costs were shared across the two sites.
- (3) Yes. (i) Kicks Entertainment for both sites. (ii) for event management and entertainment.
- (4) Attendance was measured using light rail passenger journeys across the day. There were 29,000 passenger journeys.
- (5) The light rail community event on 20 April 2019 was a public event therefore there was no need to issue invitations for either (a) Gungahlin Town Centre or (b) City. The light rail launch was publicised through multiple channels across targeted locations. The light rail launch campaign consisted of bus adshel and live sites, print media advertising, radio (and associated media interviews), announcement flyers and a heavyweight digital campaign through ACT Government owned assets and external social networks.

Light rail—review (Question No 2558)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) When will consultation with businesses along the light rail corridor and in the Gungahlin Town Centre commence for the proposed six months post-operation review of the light rail.
- (2) What opportunities will be provided to businesses along the light rail corridor and in the Gungahlin Town Centre to contribute to the review.
- (3) Will businesses along the light rail corridor and in the Gungahlin Town Centre be able to provide financial data to aid the review.

- (4) What geographical areas will be included in the review.
- (5) What are the terms of reference for the review.
- (6) Will the review report be tabled in the Legislative Assembly; if so, when.

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

- (1) Light Rail services commenced on 20 April 2019. The Minister for Transport will report back to the Assembly within six months of the start of light rail services. The exact timing of consultation is to be finalised.
- (2) The scope of the consultation is to be finalised.
- (3) The scope of the consultation is to be finalised, though it is expected businesses may provide information as they see fit.
- (4) The scope of the consultation is to be finalised.
- (5) The scope of the consultation is to be finalised.
- (6) Light Rail services commenced on 20 April 2019. The Minister for Transport will report back to the Assembly within six months of the start of light rail services.

**Light rail—landscaping
(Question No 2559)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) What outstanding landscaping works are due to be completed relating to light rail construction and what are the dates of expected completion.
- (2) What outstanding roadwork is due to be completed relating to light rail construction and what are the expected dates of completion.
- (3) What ongoing maintenance for the landscape (grass, trees and the like) surrounding the light rail tracks is required and what are the costs for these ongoing maintenance works.

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

- (1) The replacement of any trees and final landscape planting is expected to occur by the end of the third quarter 2019.
 - (2) It is expected that all remaining works within the Light Rail corridor associated with outstanding asphaltting and re-sheeting of remaining intersections and road sections will be finalised by the end of the third quarter 2019.
 - (3) Ongoing maintenance of landscaping and costs associated are the responsibility of Canberra Metro and included in availability payments. Weed management and formative pruning of the *Eucalyptus mannifera* will likely be included in ongoing maintenance.
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**Roads—active transport
(Question No 2560)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019
(redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services):

- (1) Which footpaths will be upgraded as part of the active travel upgrades for Aranda and Holt, and what are the start and completion dates for work anticipated.
- (2) Which cycleways will be upgraded, and what are the start and completion dates for work anticipated.
- (3) Which bus stop infrastructures in the Ginninderra electorate will be upgraded, and what are the anticipated start and completion dates for each upgrade.

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

- (1) Community engagement for the age friendly suburbs program, which includes active travel upgrades for Aranda and Holt, closed on 14 June 2019. The list of improvements, including footpath upgrades, will be informed by community feedback received through the YourSay webpage and at the four pop-up events held in May in Aranda and Holt. The final list of improvements will be posted on the YourSay webpage once they are finalised.

Construction is anticipated to commence in late 2019 and to be completed in 2021.

- (2) The 2018-19 and 2019-20 budgets included upgrades to cycleways, including:
 - The Belconnen Bikeway, which is anticipated to start construction in mid-2019 and to be completed in 2020.
 - The Woden Cycle Loop, which is anticipated to start construction in early 2020 and to be completed in 2021.
 - The Heysen Street Link, which is anticipated to start construction in early 2020 and to be completed in mid-2020.
 - The Flemington Road path, which is anticipated to start construction in early 2020 and to be completed in 2021.
- (3) In the Ginninderra electorate, the program for the upgrade for 2019-20 to bus stops is yet to be finalised. 11 upgrades to bus stops were completed in 2018-19 in the Ginninderra Electorate.

**Municipal services—street sweeping
(Question No 2561)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) How much will street sweeping be increased by for each suburb in the Ginninderra electorate.
- (2) When will the improved frequency of street sweeping commence.

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

- (1) Frequency increase for each suburb has not yet been determined. Work is currently underway to determine increased frequency in each suburb.
 - (2) Improved frequency of street sweeping will commence in Mid 2020.
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**Roads—upgrades
(Question No 2562)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 7 June 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What kind of upgrades will be carried out by the ACT Government at the Starke Street and Southern Cross Drive intersection and what (a) is the estimated cost, (b) are the anticipated start and completion dates and (c) are the anticipated start and completion dates for the tender process.
- (2) Was a related traffic study conducted of this intersection; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of the study as an attachment.

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

- (1) Exact scope of the upgrades will be determined through the tender process. Upgrades will include signalisation and safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. Timing and costs of the project are also subject to the tender process.
- (2) A Document Readiness report was prepared by Browns Consulting and is at Attachment A.

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

**Roads—upgrades
(Question No 2563)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 7 June 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What kind of upgrades will be carried out by the ACT Government at the Belconnen Way and Springvale Drive intersection and what (a) is the estimated cost, (b) is the anticipated start and completion dates for the tender process and (c) are the anticipated start and completion dates.
- (2) Was a related traffic study conducted of this intersection; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of the study as an attachment.

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

- (1) Exact scope of the upgrades will be determined through the tender process. Upgrades will include signalisation and safety improvements for pedestrians and cyclists. Timing and costs of the project are also subject to the tender process.

- (2) A Document Readiness report was prepared by GHD Consulting and is contained at Attachment A.

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

**Roads—projects
(Question No 2564)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Roads, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) What are the anticipated start and completion dates for the roadwork for the (a) William Hovell Drive duplication and (b) arterial road between Ginninderra Drive and Barton Highway.
- (2) Can the Minister provide an attachment for the detailed design and location of the roadwork for the (a) William Hovell Drive duplication and (b) arterial road between Ginninderra Drive and Barton Highway.

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

- (1) (a) William Hovell Drive is still in early design stages with detail design to commence in 2019-20.
(b) Construction is currently programmed to commence in 2020.
- (2) (a) Refer to answer 1.
(b) Refer to Attachment A.

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

**Schools—capital works
(Question No 2565)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) What are the anticipated start and completion dates of the upgrades for the (a) heating system at Hawker College and (b) additional transportable classrooms at Hawker Primary School.
- (2) How many additional transportable classrooms will be built at Hawker Primary School and what will the additional transportable classrooms be used for, i.e. general classroom, science lab etc.
- (3) How many feasibility studies for growing school demand in West Belconnen and Belconnen town centre will be undertaken by the ACT Government and what (a) is the specific focus of each study and (b) are the anticipated start and completion dates for conducting each study.

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

- (1) (a) The Heating Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) upgrade at Hawker College is currently being designed and will be staged with the initial upgraded cooling function scheduled for completion by the first day of term 1, 2020. The upgraded heating function and completion of the upgrade, including the new Building Management System (BMS), is scheduled by the first day of term 2, 2020.
(b) The new transportable building will be installed at Hawker Primary School by the start of the school year in 2020.
- (2) One transportable building will be installed at Hawker Primary School. The building will have two classrooms that are multi-purpose learning space which has been recently deployed in other ACT public schools. These spaces have flexible learning areas and can be adapted for a range of functions. They are also fully insulated, fitted with reverse-cycle air conditioning and include Wifi connectivity with contemporary educational infrastructure.
- (3) The Government will be undertaking a range of feasibility studies for new and expanded school capacity in growth areas of Canberra. One of these studies will focus on West Belconnen and one will focus on the Belconnen Town Centre and adjacent areas of Belconnen. The focus of the studies is on providing clarity on the need for investment in additional school sites and/or capacity in higher growth areas, examining student demand management options, and establishing a sound evidence base for land use decisions. Work has commenced on all the planned study areas. The studies will be completed over 2019-20 and 2020 21.

Calvary Hospital—urology services (Question No 2566)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Health and Wellbeing, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) How many more staff will be added to Calvary's Public Hospital's (CPH) Emergency Department and (a) what is the work classification of each staff member and (b) when will they commence work.
- (2) What is the anticipated date for the implementation of a new urology model of care at CPH and how many more minor day procedures will the new model of care provide capacity for.
- (3) What outpatient services will be provided under the new urology model of care, and what is the anticipated patient capacity for these services.

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

- (1) 46 additional full time equivalent staff will be added to the Calvary ED team. The roles will include medical officers, specialist and general nursing staff, and administration staff.
(a) The classifications will be determined on a position-by-position basis, with classifications reflecting the skill mix required to consistently deliver high quality service under the Calvary ED model of care.

- (b) The additional staff will commence over the next two years.
 - (2) The enhanced urology model of care at Calvary Public Hospital will be implemented in a staged manner from 1 July 2020. There will be a phased introduction of procedures and outpatient clinic services, in line with additional theatre capacity brought on line at Calvary and in collaboration with Canberra Health Services. The number of procedures, and volume and nature of outpatient clinic services at Calvary, are yet to be determined but will reflect Calvary's role in a territory-wide urology service.
 - (3) Outpatient services under the new model of care will be consistent with Calvary's roles in a territory-wide urology service. The capacity of the service will be sufficient to provide timely and high-quality treatment and care for patients requiring elective and emergency urology services at Calvary.
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Municipal services—playgrounds (Question No 2567)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019
(*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) What new play spaces is the ACT Government considering to deliver for Higgins.
- (2) What play space upgrades are the ACT Government currently considering to deliver for Higgins.
- (3) What is the total budget allocation for each new or upgraded play space in Higgins.
- (4) What are the anticipated start and completion dates for works on each play space.

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

- (1) A concept plan is currently being developed for one new feature play space to be constructed in Higgins, through a community co-design process.
 - (2) The upgrades will be based on the outcome of the co-design process.
 - (3) \$2.15m has been allocated for play space upgrades across the City. Exact scope for Higgins will be determined once the design has been finalised.
 - (4) The feature play space is proposed for construction in 2019-20. The final delivery schedule will be determined after the community co-design activities are completed.
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Sport—stadium security (Question No 2568)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 7 June 2019 (*redirected to the Treasurer*):

What are the anticipated start and completion dates for each security improvement (including CCTV upgrade) at GIO Stadium, as part of the 2019-20 Budget.

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

A number of security measures including enhanced CCTV camera network will be completed at GIO Stadium prior to 30 June 2020. Due to security reasons, no further information will be provided.

**Mental health—services
(Question No 2569)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 7 June 2019
(*redirected to the Minister for Community Services and Facilities*):

What (a) kind of upgrades will be undertaken, (b) are the anticipated start and completion dates for upgrades and (c) is the budget allocation for upgrades, for each of the following centres (i) Belconnen Community Centre, (ii) Spence Children's Cottage and (iii) Mount Rogers Community Centre.

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

i. Belconnen Community Centre

- a. Upgrades to lifts, completion of toilet refurbishment, replacement of flooring (carpet/vinyl) and upgrade of internal handrails to meet current safety standards.
- b. Toilet refurbishments started in 2018-19. Timings for all other works are subject to the running of a procurement process to engage contractors, which will commence in early July 2019.
- c. The budget allocated is \$380,000.

ii. Spence Children's Cottage

- a. Refurbishment/upgrades to wet areas, wash area, nappy change area and laundry as well as asbestos removal.
- b. Timings for works are subject to the running of a procurement process to engage contractors, which will commence early July 2019.
- c. The budget allocated is \$110,000.

iii. Mount Rogers Community Centre

- a. Complete passive fire upgrades, roof repairs and undertake design and specification documentation for upgrade of HVAC.
- b. Timings for works are subject to the running of a procurement process to engage contractors, which will commence early in July 2019.
- c. \$300,000.

It is important to note the funding for each of these projects listed is indicative only and will be confirmed once the full detailed scope of works is established and each project has gone to quote/tender.

**Municipal services—stormwater network
(Question No 2570)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019
(redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services):

- (1) Which areas of the stormwater network will be upgraded in Page and Weetangera.
- (2) What (a) are the anticipated start and completion dates for the upgrades, (b) is the budget allocation for stormwater upgrades in Page, (c) is the budget allocation for stormwater upgrades in Weetangera, and (d) is the current status of the stormwater network in Page and Weetangera.
- (3) Why were upgrades to the stormwater network in Page and Weetangera deemed necessary.
- (4) What problems were reported in relation to the stormwater network in Page and/or Weetangera for the years (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20 (to the date this question was published).

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

- (1) Design work has progressed at the following locations:
 - (a) Mayo Street, Weetangera (adjacent to Section 10 Block 35 – 9 Mayo Street);
 - (b) Intersection of Mayo Street and Bambridge Street, Weetangera;
 - (c) Intersection of Darmody Street and Abernathy Street, Weetangera; and
 - (d) Krichauff Street corner (adjacent to Section 41 Block 16 – 23 Krichauff Street), Page.
- (2) (a) Design and some construction work is currently underway from funding from the 2018-19 budget. It is anticipated that there will be continued rolling design and construction works commencing in the 2019-20 financial year and continuing for the life of the budget allocation period.

(b & c) The budget allocated for works in Page and Weetangera are part of the \$19m allocated across the period 2019-20 to 2022-23.

(d) The current status of the stormwater network in Page and Weetangera is functional. Planned improvements will optimise the necessary management and amenity for residents and businesses.
- (3) Upgrades in the stormwater network in Page and Weetangera were deemed necessary due to historic flooding that has occurred in the area. The stormwater network for these suburbs were largely constructed when the suburbs were established (mid to late 1960s). The design of the stormwater drainage system was therefore undertaken at a time when design standards differed to today's standards, and provisions for overland flow paths were not considered in the same way they are today. Selective upgrades to the network have occurred over the years to address localised concerns.

- (4) For the date range in question (July 2017 to present), the problems reported in relation to the stormwater network in Page/Weetangera align largely with the noted areas warranting improvement addressed under question 1.
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**Municipal services—shopping centre upgrades
(Question No 2571)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) What is the allocated budget for upgrades to (a) Dunlop and (b) Fraser, shops, as part of the 2019-20 Budget.
- (2) When will works commence for each shopping centre, and when are they anticipated to be completed.
- (3) Can the Minister provide an attachment detailing the proposed designs for the upgrades to Dunlop and Fraser shops.

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

- (1) Please refer to the 2019-20 Budget Papers.
 - (2) The design works are expected to commence in 2019, and construction is anticipated to be completed in 2020.
 - (3) More details will be provided as the project progresses.
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**Environment—recycling bins
(Question No 2572)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) Which local shops in the Ginninderra electorate will receive recycling bins as part of the 2019-20 Budget.
- (2) How many bins will be installed at each shop and when will these recycling bins be installed.
- (3) What other local shops in the ACT will receive recycling bins as part of the 2019-20 Budget.

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

- (1-3) Details of the program will be announced in the coming months.
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**ACT Emergency Services Agency—website
(Question No 2573)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Police and Emergency Services, upon notice, on 7 June 2019:

- (1) What was the total cost of the design and rebuild of the newly launched ACT Emergency Services Agency website.
- (2) Which groups were consulted about the design, rebuild and functionality of this website and (a) when and (b) how, were they consulted.
- (3) What is the rationale for including patient transfer responses on the incidents map.

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

- (1) A five year contract was executed with Adelphi Digital Consulting Group Ltd (Adelphi Digital), for the provision of a content management system and managed website hosting services for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) website. The value of the contract is \$0.831m over the five years.
- (2) As part of their contract, Adelphi Digital conducted research to:
 - better understand how the ESA website was being accessed by users
 - explore issues and recommend improvements
 - better understand what stakeholders are looking for in the website
 - use the findings to feed into the design and information architecture of the site.

Commencing in May 2018, data was gathered via external stakeholders through sources such as:

- a review of the existing website
- website traffic analysis
- ESA Have Your Say emails
- online survey responses
- user groups (identifying primary and secondary users)
- personas (analysis of engagement by a selection of external users).

Commencing in May 2018 internal consultation on the website design and content occurred across all ESA Services as follows:

- ESA Chief Officers;
- ESA Executives;
- Staff members from each of the Services and Enabling Services; and
- Volunteers.

ESA acknowledges it did not specifically consult unions and volunteer associations.

- (3) The rationale for initially including patient transfer responses on the incidents map was that this demand for service reflects part of the workload of the ACT Ambulance Service.

However, since the soft launch of the new ESA website on 5 June 2019, feedback has resulted in patient transfer responses being removed, on the basis that they are not emergency incidents.
