



Debates

WEEKLY HANSARD

Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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Thursday, 24 October 2019

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Thursday, 24 October 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.

Ministerial delegation to India

Ministerial statement

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) (10.02): I am pleased today to report to the Assembly on the delegation I led to India in September. The purpose of the mission was to build links between our tertiary education sectors and further build awareness of Canberra as a tourism destination to visit, which are both important as we seek to diversify our city's international student base and continue to grow our local economy.

India is identified in Canberra's international engagement strategy as one of our 10 key markets, with education and research, and tourism representing the greatest opportunities in our key capability areas. The delegation travelled to Delhi and Mumbai. I was accompanied by an adviser, the Commissioner for International Engagement, an ACT public servant from the tertiary education area, representatives of both the University of Canberra and UNSW Canberra and, from the Legislative Assembly, our newest MLA, Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta.

Madam Speaker, India's economy is of global importance. It has a young and large population who are seeking out opportunities across the globe. It is the third largest economy in the world. It is clear from the discussions we had there that there is considerable untapped potential for partnerships between our two jurisdictions.

India is already Australia's fourth largest trading partner, with Australian merchandise and services exports to India valued at \$21.1 billion and two-way trade valued at \$29.1 billion in 2018. Total Indian investment in Australia is near \$15.5 billion and total Australian investment in India is over \$13.9 billion. Already we have a strong and productive partnership, but there is no doubt that there is ample opportunity to further build on this.

As is now a tradition for ACT government trade missions, the first meeting for the delegation was with the Australian High Commissioner to India, Her Excellency, Ms Harinder Sidhu. The High Commissioner and her team provided useful insights into the delivery of the commonwealth's India engagement strategy and guidance on where the best opportunities were for the ACT in the market. The High Commissioner also hosted a reception at her residence for the members of the delegation to engage with local representatives with an interest in furthering relations with Canberra.

The Australian Consul-General in Mumbai, Mr Tony Huber, was also an integral part of the mission. Mr Huber and his staff briefed the delegation on opportunities in

Mumbai, arranged meetings and assisted in the delivery of a reception with the educational, tourism and business community of Mumbai. Mr Huber also facilitated the arrival and departure of the delegation.

India's higher education system is the second largest in the world and the higher education student population exceeds 36.5 million people. We know that Indian students are highly mobile compared to those in other countries and have a long history of travelling abroad to study and work. These factors alone present an amazing opportunity for Canberra to increase linkages with prospective Indian students, education institutions and research bodies for mutual benefit.

As India grows, it will look to other countries for three things: to provide onshore training, to provide offshore education and to offer pathways for Indian workers to take up jobs overseas. Australia is well placed to partner with India across all three. As I mentioned, the delegation was joined by representatives from the University of Canberra and the University of New South Wales Canberra, while the Australian National University had its own delegation travelling through India at the same time.

The University of Canberra hosted a lunch where I was able to witness the signing of several MOUs between the University of Canberra and a number of colleges affiliated with the University of Mumbai. Over the past two years, the University of Canberra has greatly expanded its presence across India by establishing close working relationships with various institutes, including prominent colleges affiliated to the University of Mumbai, one of the world's largest universities.

To date, engagement with these institutions has focused on articulation of the University of Mumbai programs to the University of Canberra, resulting in more students from these institutions studying in Canberra. However, with the signing of these MOUs we hope to build on this relationship by broadening the scope of engagement to establish cross-institutional partnerships. These MOUs signal the University of Canberra's commitment, and indeed the city's commitment, to building stronger relationships in India and affirms UC's presence in the region.

In New Delhi, UNSW hosted a meeting where we met with their India country director and several affiliated institutions, including the George Institute for Global Health and the Energy and Resources Institute. This meeting enabled us to discuss the work that UNSW Canberra is doing in India with its partners and build awareness of the great work Canberra is doing in the fields of renewable energy, space, ICT and agritech. We also discussed solutions to shared challenges, including energy efficient community housing and community-based health care.

The delegation also met with the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, where we were able to develop a deeper understanding of the challenges India is facing in the higher education sector and to discuss opportunities for Canberra's tertiary and research institutions to collaborate with the Indian government in developing solutions to these challenges.

I also had the privilege of meeting with the Chief Minister of Delhi, Arvind Kejriwal, his Deputy Chief Minister and the health minister, as well as their officials. The

discussion was broad ranging as we discussed issues such as the administrative arrangements with the national government, education and teacher quality, improving wellbeing, hospitals and health provision as well as infrastructure.

The discussion on education particularly focused on teacher quality and training and the Delhi Chief Minister's desire for Delhi to be a hub of world-class teaching and training. The meeting was very productive. Of course, when you can get past the difference in scale, there is much that the ACT has to offer to Delhi in its quest to lift their educational standards. We also met with the Association of Australian Education Representatives in India. This meeting was particularly useful as it allowed us to openly discuss the actual practicalities of students from India coming to Australia, and to Canberra in particular.

The importance of India as a source of international tourists also cannot be understated. India is the ACT's fourth largest market for international tourists, providing 7.1 per cent of total international visitors to Canberra with visitors growing by 31 per cent in the year to June 2019. To build on this momentum we met with the Tourism Australia India market representative to discuss the potential and the opportunities that exist. I am pleased to advise the Assembly that VisitCanberra and Tourism Australia are working closely together and will work even more closely in the future.

Meetings were also held with two airlines during the mission. Firstly, we met with the Singapore Airlines general manager for India to discuss how we can cooperate further to increase visitors from India to Canberra flying on Singapore Airlines. VisitCanberra and Singapore Airlines currently undertake cooperative marketing into the region, and we signalled a desire to undertake additional marketing partnerships.

Secondly, the Commissioner for International Engagement also met with Vistara airline. Vistara is a new full-service airline that commenced operations in January 2015. It is jointly owned by the Indian Tata Sons and Singapore Airlines. In August this year, they commenced international operations between Delhi and Singapore and intend to grow their international routes.

Their alliance with Singapore Airlines, linked with their established domestic routes, offers further opportunity in the Indian market by transiting through Singapore directly into Canberra. We also participated in a tourism roundtable with a group of Indian travel agents who specialise in the Australian market. We were able to inform them of the maturing of the Canberra market, the growth and diversity of our hotel offerings and activities in the Canberra region. The unique insights they provided on various sectors they work in will help us develop new strategies to grow leisure, business and education-related visitation.

We also held a tourism investor roundtable in Delhi with 16 investors. This allowed us to familiarise investors with Canberra and our city's tourism economy. It was a lively discussion ranging from the nature of the market, foreign investment rules, the availability of historic buildings for reuse and how land is brought to market in the ACT.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the following people for making the trade mission a success: Australia's High Commissioner to India, Her Excellency, Ms Harinder Sidhu and her staff at the High Commission in Delhi; Australia's Consul-General in Mumbai, Mr Tony Huber and his staff; from the University of Canberra, Professor Lawrence Pratchett, Pro-Vice Chancellor, International; Mr Aditya Vaddiparthi; Ms Tamara Lions from the University of New South Wales Canberra; Mr Deepak-Raj Gupta MLA for his valuable support, cultural connections and enthusiasm during the mission; and, as always, the ACT's Commissioner for International Engagement, Mr Brendan Smyth, for his enthusiasm, the support of his team; and broader ACT government officials. Thank you all for your assistance in executing this short but successful trade mission.

To all of those we had the opportunity to meet, particularly in Mumbai, especially those who braved the level red monsoonal flooding that occurred whilst we were in the city, thank you very much for your participation in the events. Madam Speaker, at the beginning of this statement I said it is clear that there is considerable untapped potential for partnerships between Canberra and India. Following this mission, I am absolutely certain of that. We look forward to helping realise that potential in the coming years.

I present the following paper:

Ministerial delegation to India—September 2019—Ministerial statement,
Thursday, 24 October 2019.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Health—patient navigation service

Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.13): Thank you, Madam Speaker, for the opportunity to provide the Assembly with a progress report on a patient navigation service in line with recommendation 92 of the report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2019-20. Members may recall that the government response to recommendation 92 of the report agreed that the ACT Health Directorate will continue to explore options for a patient navigation service.

In 2017 the ACT government commissioned the Health Care Consumers Association to develop a model of patient care navigation in the ACT. I take the opportunity to thank the HCCA for the final report completed in September 2018, *A model for patient navigation in the ACT for people with chronic and complex conditions*. While the report is already publicly available on the HCCS website I will also table a copy of the report for the information of the Assembly.

The objective of the report's proposed model is to address and remove barriers preventing a smooth transition between hospitals and the community for people with chronic and complex conditions. The report describes barriers to patient care navigation and outlines key principles criteria for a successful service and intended outcomes.

The report's findings are informed by examples of care coordination in hospital, and the community, two patient care navigation case studies and interviews with health professionals and consumers. It also provides background on patient care navigation and recommendations for governance, IT and work force requirements to implement a successful model. These examples will be useful as the ACT Health Directorate completes further policy work in this space.

In researching patient navigators, the HCCA reviewed two services operating in other jurisdictions: the Queensland Nurse Navigator Service and the Western Healthlinks Service operated by Silver Chain Group in Victoria. The Queensland model is led by senior nurses and has an open referral system. The service provides end-to-end care with key aspects including advanced hospital discharge, nurse-navigator-led outpatient clinics and coordinating patient and caregiver care. Navigators are based in hospitals and community health centres.

By comparison, the Victorian Western Healthlinks Service is primarily operated out of a central office by health navigators who are registered nurses or allied health professionals. Patients are identified through an emergency department algorithm that targets high users and frequent inpatient admissions. Navigators are accredited through the Flinders University program of chronic conditions management.

The model proposed by the HCCA is based on the lessons learned from the two case studies, including the staff profile and referral systems. The report's analysis of the two services also noted the critical importance of IT systems to enable e-referrals and sharing of patient information. Anecdotal evidence in the report suggested that both services were well received by patients.

The report indicates that a successful patient navigation service should provide a single point of contact for individuals where they can receive assistance to navigate across health settings and take a coordinated care approach. This approach aligns with ACT Health's commitment to providing patient-centred care, which emphasises a commitment that every person with a chronic condition receives the right care in the right place at the right time and with the right team. A patient navigator service will support this commitment and improve the management of chronic conditions.

The report also identifies examples of care coordination being delivered across the ACT, including clinical care coordinators, the geriatric rapid acute care evaluation program, or GRACE, and the chronic care program, CCP. The CCP was highlighted as providing excellent coordination services. This program provides care coordination through a clinical care coordinator. A comprehensive patient-centred assessment is performed. Goal setting interventions are then developed with the patient and the health professionals involved in care.

The aim of CCP is to assist in maintaining a coordinated approach to managing a patient's condition. CCP assists the client to remain well in the community, navigate and engage with our health system and prevent unnecessary hospital presentations and admissions. The report notes that CCP is the closest we have to a patient navigation service at present in the ACT.

A successful navigation service should support a person to self-manage their conditions as much as possible. In doing so, navigation services improve patient outcomes and the overall quality of healthcare delivery. The report suggests that a more coordinated approach to patient care in the ACT, including better data systems and better discharge practices, could improve the patient experience for those with complex or chronic conditions and reduce the incidence of avoidable hospital admissions.

The report identifies the flow of information as critical to enabling effective patient navigation services. The report noted that the Canberra health system had over 200 IT systems that capture and store patient information, leading to fragmentation and frustrating coordination of care. As members may recall, in May this year the ACT government released the ACT digital health strategy 2019-29. The government is investing \$106 million in capital over the next eight years to support the digital health record, a key activity to support the achievement of the strategy.

The strategy sets out the government's vision for enabling and delivering person-centred care through digital innovation. A core component of the strategy is progressing clinical information integration and ensuring that information can be shared across systems and is accessible to healthcare providers.

Key to realising this vision will be the delivery of the digital health record. The digital health record is a comprehensive record of interactions between a person and publicly funded health services in the ACT. It will be centred around the person, rather than focused on clinical speciality or treatment location. Additionally, a patient's healthcare team will be able to more readily access information, improving care and reducing errors. It will enable them to better focus on the person requiring care, rather than spending time searching for key health information.

Finally, the report highlights the importance of addressing the social needs of the patient, including lifestyle factors or social issues that are either contributing or protective factors to a patient's condition, for example, financial security, transport to and from appointments, and health literacy. Importantly, layperson navigation programs have proven particularly successful in improving access to health services for vulnerable populations, such as lower socioeconomic groups and culturally and linguistically diverse communities.

Other issues, such as the mapping of privacy implications and consent arrangements to allow data sharing across health services, still need to be considered in the development of a patient navigation service. I acknowledge that patient navigation services should be implemented more broadly and we can apply these learnings to other areas of the health system.

Providing a holistic and supportive health navigation service for the broader ACT community is a long-term objective. As part of that objective, the ACT government has committed an additional \$500,000 over three years to the Health Care Consumers Association to develop clear information to help patients better understand the health system. We know that actively engaging individuals in their own treatment enables them to take control of the management of their health and improve their quality of life. Coordination of different healthcare providers and settings across the different sectors as well as active engagement has significant potential to lead to better health outcomes.

Further work is required to develop a detailed model of patient care navigation for the ACT. The Health Directorate is exploring options to implement a model for a patient navigation service that would include but may not be limited to chronic conditions.

The government acknowledges the importance of having patient navigation services available to all members of the community as part of providing person-centred care. The government is constantly working to improve the coordination of care across the health service. The information reported by the HCCA enables us to reflect on areas of success, identify areas for improvement and commence further policy work to support the development of patient navigation services and the government's commitment to delivering exemplary person-centred care across the ACT health system.

I present a copy of the following papers:

A model for patient navigation in the ACT for people with chronic and complex conditions, dated 7 September 2018—Prepared by the Health Care Consumers' Association.

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee—Report—Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2019-2020—Recommendation 92—Progress report on a patient navigation service—Ministerial statement, 24 October 2019.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (10.21): That was eight or nine minutes of our life that we will not get back ever again. I am really disappointed at this statement today because the minister has simply rehashed what was in the Health Care Consumers Association report and has not really flagged a way forward. That is appalling when you consider for instance that in August I asked questions on notice about patient pathways in the Canberra Hospital and I got a 3½-page rehash of most of the stuff that was in this statement today. But one thing that came out is that according to the hospital there is a revision of services and pathways with individual areas responsible for the implementation of initiatives.

According to the minister's answer to a question on notice, there are currently 456 localised pathways in the Canberra health network to get people into hospital or

to get the appropriate treatment they need. Four hundred and fifty six pathways do not constitute a navigable the health system.

Ms Stephen-Smith: That is health pathways for GPs.

MRS DUNNE: It is not navigable for GPs and it is not navigable for patients. The system is not timely and does not provide people with assistance. I scratch my head and wonder why the government asked the Health Care Consumers Association and provided them with budget funding to do this work for it to sit on the shelf. The report has been on the Health Care Consumers Association webpage since at least September last year. That is over a year and nothing has happened. There are no clear pathways for people to access medical services in the hospital which are reliable and discernible and repeatable. This report is an indictment of successive Labor health ministers for the failure to address this important issue.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.24): I note that Mrs Dunne's reference to health pathways is actually a mechanism for GPs to better navigate the system that is managed by the Capital Health Network. That was the context of the response to the question on notice that I provided to Mrs Dunne. It is not relevant to the topic of this debate and yet again goes to the way that Mrs Dunne conflates different issues and/or does not understand the different paths of the system.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Out of home care strategy

Ministerial statement

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (10.25): As members are aware, I have presented a six-monthly report on A step up for our kids, the ACT government's out of home care strategy, to the Legislative Assembly since April 2018. I am pleased to be presenting the fourth progress report today. A step up for our kids aims to improve outcomes for children and young people in out of home care by providing more flexible, child-focused services and to reduce demand for out of home care places.

The snapshot report is one of a range of reporting and evaluation mechanisms that the Community Services Directorate uses to monitor implementation of the strategy. The report has point in time data on service demand, data on performance of the out of home care system, and comparisons between reporting periods since July 2016. The snapshot report I am presenting today has three years of data: 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19. It means that we are in a better position to identify trends or short-term fluctuations and to continue improving the system response.

To provide a more holistic view of how the out of home care service system is performing, the Community Services Directorate continues to refine and increase the number of headline measures as the service system matures and more data becomes

available. The current headline measures in the snapshot report include the number of children and young people entering care in that quarter; the number of children and young people exiting care; and comparison of the number of children being case managed by ACT Together and child and youth protection services to monitor service capacity and indicate the number of children on short-term orders versus long-term orders; the type of placements children are in at that time and the number of children in each placement type; the number of enduring parental responsibility orders and adoptions completed; the number of newly approved carers and the number of carers exiting; and the number of children and young people supported through prevention programs not entering care within six and 12 months of support commencing.

It is important to note that the data is internal operational data that can be updated and changed between reporting periods, and caution should be exercised when using and interpreting data in this report and comparing between reporting periods.

Madam Speaker, reform takes time. A step up for our kids aims to create generational change, to break cycles of intergenerational harm, and to improve long-term outcomes for families, children and young people. A key focus of the strategy has been the investment in intensive parenting and family preservation supports. The data presented in this snapshot report shows that we are seeing some positive progress in this area.

This snapshot report highlights the following. There has been a slowdown in new entries into care. Service demand continues to increase, but at a lower rate in 2018-19 than in 2017-18 and 2016-17. From July 2018 to June 2019, 122 children and young people entered the out of home care system, compared to 155 in 2017-18 and 196 in 2016-17.

As reported previously, this reduction in demand is also reflected in the lower number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering care. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people represented 20 per cent of those entering care in 2018-19. This compares with 32 per cent of entries into care in 2017-18 and 30 per cent in 2016-17. What this means in terms of numbers is that 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entered care in 2018-19, and this compares with 50 in 2017-18 and 59 in 2016-17. As we are talking about small numbers over a limited period of time, it is appropriate to be cautious about this data. However, this data does indicate some promising signs of progress on the challenge and imperative of reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care.

We are also starting to see an increase in the number of children and young people supported through prevention services. From July 2018 to June 2019, 85 children and young people received a prevention service, compared to 79 in 2017-18. Among them, 74 children and young people, 87 per cent, did not enter care within 12 months of support commencing. This compares with 59 children and young people, 75 per cent, in 2017-18.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people engaged with prevention services and not entering care within 12 months of support

commencing has also improved. At the end of 2018-19, of the 19 children and young people being supported, 14 did not enter care within 12 months of support commencing. This compared to eight out of 19 children and young people at the end of 2017-18. Again, we are talking about small numbers over a 12-month period, so it is appropriate to be cautious, but we will continue to monitor this data carefully. Prevention services were introduced by this strategy and mirror the intent to keep children and young people with their families.

Since the introduction of A step up, we have established new supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families aimed at reducing the number of children entering care, which I will discuss further shortly. The majority of children and young people in out of home care continue to be children and young people on long-term orders. The data on placement type identifies that more than half of all children and young people in care are currently placed with kinship carers.

The majority of children and young people in residential care, 89 per cent, are aged 12 or above. A key priority for ACT Together and child and youth protection services is to continue to work together to reduce the number of children and young people in residential care.

A total of 15 enduring parental responsibility orders and adoptions from out of home care were completed in 2018-19, compared with 11 in 2017-18. The number of children and young people with permanency placements was 102 as at 30 June 2019, of which 48 children and young people were in foster care and 54 were in kinship care.

As at 30 June 2019, 191 children and young people had a cultural plan in place. This is 91 per cent of all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in care. Child and youth protection services remains committed to undertaking quarterly reviews to address compliance with this important feature of the system and to ensure that quality cultural plans are in place. The Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee has emphasised the importance of quality plans.

In 2018-19, a total of 83 new carers were approved. During this same period, 122 carers had their approved carer status renewed, which is an increase of 22 compared to the previous year. The increase and retention of carers demonstrates a commitment by child and youth protection services and ACT Together to supporting carers, who are so central to the out of home care system.

Madam Speaker, the highlights from the snapshot report show that the rate at which Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people are entering care has slowed. However, I remain acutely aware of the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the out of home care system and remain committed to driving change in this area.

As members are aware, I welcomed the release of the interim report by the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee on 31 August 2018 and the recommendations received in December 2018 and May 2019. To date, 14 recommendations have been made by the steering committee and we will receive its final report towards the end of this year.

The Community Services Directorate provides a quarterly progress report on the commencement and progress of work in response to the steering committee interim recommendations. Copies of the progress reports are available on the strong families website.

As part of this ongoing commitment to reducing the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, I am pleased to advise that the Community Services Directorate has: engaged a designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander practice leader within child and youth protection services, who has a key role in embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle within the directorate and ensuring that culturally responsive practice remains at the forefront of decision-making; engaged an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander senior policy officer, who is responsible for the development of a strategy to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle into child and youth protection services policies and procedures; engaged SNAICC to undertake training for child and youth protection services staff on the implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle in practice—a total of nine workshops have been delivered since March 2019—and continued to support staff to undertake the child and youth protection services cultural development program. The program is designed to provide staff with an understanding of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures, with a strong focus on collaboration and the establishment of positive working relationships.

Madam Speaker, in addition to the work currently being progressed alongside the response to the Our Booris, Our Way review, I would like to provide an update on the family group conferencing and functional family therapy programs. As members are aware, both of these programs support A step up for our kids and the investment in intensive parenting and family preservation support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

From the commencement of the family group conferencing program in November 2017 up to 30 June 2019, 29 families have been involved in a family group conference, involving 69 children. That is 29 families making decisions about how to keep their children safe. Forty-six Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children have not subsequently entered care following a family group conference. For the remaining 23 children, decisions about the best care arrangements, other than with birth families, have been made by the extended family.

The partnership between Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation and OzChild continues to deliver the functional family therapy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families at risk of ongoing involvement with the child protection system. As at 30 August 2019, the program is working with 26 families, involving approximately 64 children. More families will be accepted as capacity becomes available. OzChild and Gugan Gulwan are having great success engaging with families. At this stage, they have engaged 100 per cent of families who have been referred to the program.

Madam Speaker, the Community Services Directorate remains committed to the monitoring and measurement of long-term outcomes. In August this year, I tabled the

mid-strategy evaluation report undertaken by KPMG in the Legislative Assembly. The mid-strategy evaluation report confirmed that the impact of individual reforms is still developing, due to the fundamental shift in the provision of services in the out of home care sector. The report included a range of findings that reflect that the evaluation was undertaken at the midpoint of a significant reform that will take time to mature. Importantly, the evaluation largely considers data for 2016-17 and 2017-18, compared with the baseline of 2015-16.

The operational data in this snapshot report provides an updated assessment of the implementation of the strategy and evidence that the individual reforms are leading to positive impacts for vulnerable children and young people. I look forward to updating the community on the ongoing reform of the out of home care system and the importance of A step up for our kids with the next progress report in the Legislative Assembly in April next year.

I present the following papers:

A Step Up for Our Kids—Snapshot Report—October 2019.

Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020—*A Step Up for Our Kids—One Step Can Make a Lifetime of Difference*—Update—October 2019—Ministerial statement, 24 October 2019.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Tree canopy coverage

Ministerial statement

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for City Services, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction, Minister for Roads and Active Travel and Minister for Transport) (10.36): Canberra's urban forest is important to our city in so many ways. It is one of the key elements in preparing our city to be resilient against the effects of climate change and has a key role in creating a sense of identity, making it easier to use active travel methods, and contributes to the overall wellbeing of our citizens. Enhancing the urban forest is a priority for the government and I am proud to report back to the Assembly on what we are doing to protect and increase our tree canopy coverage. In September this year the ACT government released our climate change strategy and the living infrastructure plan. Together, these outline a path forward to responsibly managed climate change and make our city more resilient.

The living infrastructure plan aims to maintain and improve living infrastructure on public and private land in Canberra. The plan sets out a number of actions to protect and enhance Canberra's living infrastructure, including a target of 30 per cent canopy cover and 30 per cent permeable surfaces that are to be achieved across Canberra's urban footprint by 2045.

To support these ambitious and important goals, earlier this year the ACT government committed to planting 17,000 trees on public land between now and 2023. This is the most significant investment in Canberra's urban forest this century. We will prioritise planting trees where shade and cooling are most valuable, such as along nature strips and adjacent to paths and cycleways that link to schools, community facilities and shopping centres. Species selection will take into account climate projections as well as a range of other factors.

As another example of our commitment to maintain a healthy and resilient urban forest the ACT government is developing our urban forest strategy in close collaboration with other managers of Canberra's urban forest. The strategy will provide a framework for decision making into the future and ensure consistency in policy and practices across government. Importantly, it will take into account the community's interest in the management of Canberra's urban forest and identify best practice principles and procedures that will be applied to the management of trees throughout their life and afterwards.

I am pleased to report that the government has also made significant progress in reviewing the Territory Plan and infrastructure design standards in the last 12 months. In late 2018 Minister Gentleman released the ACT planning strategy 2018. This strategy builds on the successes of the 2012 strategy and reflects and integrates the vision and directions of the ACT community; in particular in relation to housing, transport and climate change.

The ACT planning review will look at the Planning and Development Act 2007 and the Territory Plan and how they form the ACT planning system. As part of the review, relevant government policies, such as those in the living infrastructure plan, will be incorporated into the Territory Plan to enable them to be taken into consideration in the development assessment process. New TCCS infrastructure design standards were released in April 2019 as part of this broader picture of work and are available to view on the TCCS website.

One of the actions under the living infrastructure plan and a motion from the Assembly in 2017 was to review the Tree Protection Act. Yesterday I announced that the ACT government has started this review and I released a discussion paper and survey. I present the following paper:

Review of the *Tree Protection Act 2005*—Discussion paper—October 2019.

The Tree Protection Act sets out how we manage trees on leased land and has a focus on protecting individual trees rather than the broader urban forest. Under our existing tree protection laws thousands of trees are removed on leased land in Canberra and not replaced. We want to hear from the community on how we can improve this outcome. We are specifically asking if the community supports introducing a no net loss system of offsets so that, if a tree has to be removed, it will be replaced by one or more new trees either on the lease or in another place proximate. The legislation managing trees should contribute to growing our city's tree canopy cover and the sensible management of our urban forest.

However, we have also heard from the community that the system of managing trees on private land can be inflexible, and we are seeking feedback on how the legislation and strict criteria can be improved. We want to hear from the community about how we increase the contribution of trees on leased land and enhance our canopy without significantly impacting on the private enjoyment of leased land. I encourage the community to come forward about their experiences with our tree laws and where they can be improved to achieve the overall outcome of improving our city's tree canopy coverage. Consultation on the review of the Tree Protection Act is open until 8 December 2019 and I look forward to reporting back to the Assembly on progress in 2020.

I present a copy of the following paper:

Canberra's tree canopy coverage—To protect and increase—Response to the Assembly resolution of 25 October 2017—Ministerial statement, 24 October 2019.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (10.41): I thank Minister Steel for this statement which, of course, was in response to my motion in 2017. We are the bush capital but the number of trees, the amount of bush in the bush capital, is decreasing. Earlier this year the Greens delivered a Canberra first, not a world first but a Canberra first: a commitment from the government to achieve a 30 per cent urban canopy target and a 30 per cent surface permeability target.

By introducing an urban canopy target, we are working to secure our current tree canopy, which is at 20 per cent, and ensure that it grows and ensure that we plant many, many more trees in the years to come. These trees are going to provide much-needed shade and habitat for our city, while reducing impacts of the urban heat island effect.

My motion covered street and park trees, trees on private land, and making room for trees in new suburbs. As Minister Steel alluded to, a lot of people are very concerned about the loss of trees in our suburbs. It is a standard thing in terms of planning objections and I note in my electorate of Murrumbidgee there is a large proposal in Weston for the current—I was going to say “the former”—AFP site. It is the development which currently intends to remove all the existing trees.

The fact that that can even be regarded as a legal proposition is really quite worrying. They intend to plant more trees but those trees, clearly, will be a lot smaller than what is planned to be removed. And I anticipate there will be considerable community unhappiness about that. We need to change our laws so that that is not regarded as an acceptable solution.

Trees are continually being lost through redevelopment. It is not just in these larger redevelopments but, when one house is knocked down and replaced by a bigger house,

the new house is always a lot bigger and the existing trees are removed. And we see this over and over again. We need stronger tree protection legislation to better protect our existing trees and we also need to make room for trees during redevelopment.

I am pleased that the government has issued its discussion paper and I hope to make a submission to it on behalf of the Greens. I am also very, very delighted to see the living infrastructure plan which was announced by my colleague, Minister Rattenbury, and I look forward to action to see the great targets in that, the 30 per cent for canopy and the 30 per cent for permeability, actually being implemented in the ACT. We have done it with greenhouse gasses. If we can do it with greenhouse gasses then we can do it with nice, easy to count things like trees, tree canopies and permeable surfaces. I am glad the government is starting to make progress and I do hope, though, that the progress will speed up between now and the next report, which I understand is due in mid-2020.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (10.46): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Amendment Bill 2019, which creates greater transparency in the use and administration of members communications budgets. As all members would be aware, in 2016 the Remuneration Tribunal abolished the MLA communication allowance and rolled an equivalent amount of money into the base salaries of MLAs. At that time the amount was around \$15,000. As a result of this decision, MLAs made their own arrangements when undertaking routine communications with their constituents using their own salary.

This transition, however, has created two significant unintended consequences: firstly, the MLA communications budget was never intended to be used for electioneering yet under the current system, there is no clear oversight to ensure that that money, which now forms part of MLAs' salary, is not being used for this purpose. Secondly, from 1 January 2020 any money MLAs spend on routine communication with their constituents is very likely to fall under the definition of "electoral expenditure" under the Electoral Act and therefore will be subject to election-year spending caps.

As part of their ordinary duties MLAs should be able to routinely communicate with their constituents about their work. This is not electioneering. However, under the current legislative framework it is clear that some routine communication is being classified as electoral expenditure and therefore considered as electioneering.

These issues were identified in the report of the Select Committee on the 2016 ACT Election and Electoral Act. Recommendation 7 called for an update of all rules and regulations governing the use of the communications allowance to ensure that MLAs can adequately carry out their functions, including during an election period.

The bill I am introducing this morning establishes a new communications budget known as the communications allowance for MLAs to be able to communicate with their constituents in their capacity as elected members. I wish to be clear about this: this is being done on a budget-neutral basis and is not about providing additional or more funds to MLAs to communicate with their constituents. The amount for communications will simply be administered in a slightly different way. I will go into this in more detail shortly.

The bill also provides a legal basis for the payment of the new budget and makes clear that its purpose is to assist MLAs to be able to communicate with their constituents. It also makes clear that the budget is not for electioneering purposes and is not subject to annual spending caps or reporting requirements under the Electoral Act.

The rules governing how the communications budget can be spent and its total value will be determined by a continuing resolution of the Assembly passed prior to 1 January 2020. It is the government's intent to conduct cross-party consultations between now and then to establish a model that, if possible, has the tripartisan support of the whole Assembly. At this stage the intention is for the continuing resolution to be prepared and consultations completed in time for debate on the bill in the November 2019 sitting, subject of course to the views of the Assembly.

That said, the government has certain expectations about the administration and oversight of the new budget to ensure that it meets public expectations for appropriate MLA expenditure and remuneration. Funds for the new budget would be provided to the Office of the Legislative Assembly via a budgetary appropriation. While the scope and administrative aspects will be dealt with under the continuing resolution, it is likely that MLAs would be reimbursed after provision of appropriate receipts or an arrangement where the invoice for expenditure by an MLA is paid by the Office of the Legislative Assembly. This would be a similar process to the former discretionary office allowance.

It is proposed that any unspent money at the end of the financial year would revert to consolidated revenue. This is appropriate as the funds are for routine communication with constituents and not for building up until a certain point in time.

To ensure proper governance and transparency for the new budget the Office of the Legislative Assembly would provide a regular, possibly a quarterly, report to the

Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure which would then review expenditure and table a report in the Assembly to be made available to the public and the media. Again, the purpose of this bill is to increase transparency in the use of communications budgets.

The bill also contains several explicit exclusions for how the budget can be used. It cannot be used for: one, soliciting a vote for a person; two, soliciting subscriptions or other financial or non-financial support, other than volunteering, for a member, political party or candidate; three, soliciting applications for or renewals of membership in a political party; four, providing instruction on how to complete a ballot paper; five, producing or distributing any material that includes an advertisement pursuing a commercial purpose of the member or another person; or six, producing or distributing material that refers to the performance of a member, former member, political party, candidate or group of candidates, the government or opposition or a previous government or opposition except if the member is referring to their own performance as a member of the Assembly, their own position on a particular policy issue, their own political party's performance including the performance of other members within their own political party or the performance as a member of the executive including any work with other members of the executive.

These provisions have been included in the bill to ensure that public expectation about what constitutes routine communication between an MLA and their constituents is maintained. However, given the broad definition of electoral matter for the purposes of the Electoral Act, this bill also recognises that some routine communication may still fall within this definition. As such, the bill does not exempt materials produced with the new budget from the Electoral Act's campaigning offence provisions where material produced falls within the electoral matter definition. In practice, this means that some materials may still require authorisations under sections 292 and 306 of the act.

As I mentioned earlier, further limitations or acceptable use guidelines will be contained in the continuing resolution determined through cross-party negotiations. The content of the continuing resolution must and will be available on the public record. As I also mentioned earlier, this new communications budget will be revenue neutral. It is the government's view that it cannot come at the expense of taxpayers. As such I have sent a letter to the Remuneration Tribunal outlining the government's position that a reduction in MLA salaries equal to the amount of the communications budget as determined by the continuing resolution of the Assembly is appropriate. This is of course subject to the negotiations with MLAs on the continuing resolution.

I have indicated to the Remuneration Tribunal that I intend to formally request that they reduce MLA salaries from 1 January 2020 following the passage of the continuing resolution and these legislative amendments. This is the right and proper course.

In relation to the technical elements of the bill, section 4 amends the Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012 by inserting a new section 19B to establish the legal framework for payment of the new budget and the explicit examples of electioneering expenditure for which the budget cannot be used.

Sections 5 and 6 amend the Electoral Act to make clear that the new budget is not electoral expenditure and is not subject to annual reporting requirements.

I thank those who have worked on this bill, in particular the Parliamentary Counsel's Office and legislation, policy and programs in the Justice And Community Safety Directorate, and workforce capability and governance area within the Chief Minister's directorate.

We will be working with MLAs over the coming weeks on the continuing resolution and of course with the Clerk and the Office of the Legislative Assembly on the associated arrangements and potential resource and budget implications for the OLA. A practical example of where I believe this communications allowance can be put to good use by members would be to highlight the work that members can do in their own constituencies in relation to using the allowance to hire meeting rooms to enable them to meet directly with their constituents in their electorates rather than requiring constituents to come into the city into this building for meetings. That is one practical example of where this allowance would assist members in their capacity as local MLAs.

We will continue discussions with all members in the coming weeks as we work towards a continuing resolution, but I think this is an appropriate solution to the issues that have been identified in the standing committee's report. I commend this legislation to the Assembly.

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

Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (No 2)

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (10.57): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

With this bill the government is acting on its commitment in the 2019-20 budget to address unintended consequences for newly built properties arising from land tax amendments that commenced from 1 July 2018. The Land Tax Amendment Act 2018 extended land tax to all residential land except for principal places of residence and other specified scenarios. Newly built properties would be exempt as unfit for occupation until a certificate of occupancy and use is issued.

Under current law land tax is imposed in situations where a certificate of occupancy is issued in one quarter and settlement of the sale occurs in the next. This can result in

the property developer being liable for one quarter of land tax and then passing on this cost to the purchaser.

The government has acknowledged this is an unintended consequence of the law and has provided more than 400 waivers and act of grace payments totalling around \$270,000 to property buyers affected by the current situation. This bill extends the unfit for occupation exemption by an additional quarter after a certificate of occupancy is issued.

The extra time provided should address the vast majority of cases. This is evident from the waivers and refunds already provided by the government and through consultation with the Master Builders Association and the planning directorate on the timing of handover arrangements. Only rare and exceptional cases are expected to fall outside this period and these will be managed on a case-by-case basis.

The bill also makes minor and more technical amendments to taxation legislation to improve, clarify and simplify tax law and its administration. The ability to grant a land tax exemption for compassionate cases will be extended from one year up to two years. The bill also makes other land tax changes to: better facilitate operational requirements for the notification of a change in circumstances; clarify the meaning of the common terms of “rent” and “dwelling”; and clarify the operation of the exemption for owners moving into a principal place of residence.

The bill provides a power for the minister to make arrangements for deferral of duty via a statutory instrument to enhance the ability for timely implementation of government decisions for duty deferrals. Amendments will also allow for the internal review by the Commissioner for ACT Revenue of decisions to not remit interest for unpaid land rent, consistent with other taxation acts. This will provide an avenue for tax payers to have their objections to the imposition of land rent interest considered.

The bill provides greater flexibility for collecting lesser amounts of money in garnishee action to better respond to differing taxpayer circumstances. Debt recovery powers related to mortgagees introduced with the Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 will be extended to land rent debts.

The bill will further clarify and simplify tax administration with a range of technical amendments such as addressing consequential matters arising from the homebuyer concession scheme and rates deferral changes at 1 July 2019 and removing a requirement to notify payroll tax grouping exclusion by disallowable instrument.

Through this bill we are meeting our public commitments to address land tax operational concerns and continuing to ensure that the territory’s tax system is fit for purpose. The Revenue Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 (No 2) supports the functioning of government and provision of services to the benefit of all Canberrans. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Heritage Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (11.02): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Heritage Amendment Bill 2019. The Canberra community is passionate about our shared heritage and has been calling for more effective ways to deal with breaches of the Heritage Act. We have listened to these calls and we are now answering with a responsive system of heritage directions and compliance notification. The purpose of this bill is to make a range of amendments to strengthen the way damage to heritage places and objects can be dealt with both to deter people from doing damage in the first place and to make them responsible for repairing any damage to heritage places or objects.

This important bill seeks to improve heritage compliance tools resulting from the investigations of the unauthorised removal of two Aboriginal scar trees in recent years. First, I would like to state that I recognise the importance of Aboriginal scar trees to our region's heritage and I share the significant disappointment in the loss of these two important trees. The loss of these trees has been felt strongly by all of us here today, even more so for our local Aboriginal community. The removal of these trees is a significant loss of an important connection to their culture and their past.

These recent heritage compliance matters have highlighted that the current deterrent system in place for heritage offences is not as effective as it could be. A key recommendation resulting from the investigation of one of the removed trees was that consideration be given to expanding the range of available heritage enforcement tools currently available. So I asked the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate to explore the introduction of an on-the-spot fine system and repair orders. This bill seeks to do just that.

The bill will give the Heritage Council the power to issue repair damage directions to people to repair damage they have done to heritage places and objects, if they can be repaired. The bill establishes an offence, incurring substantial penalties, if a repair damage direction is contravened. A maximum penalty of 500 penalty units is proposed for this offence, equating to a monetary value of \$80,000 for an individual and \$405,000 for a corporation.

If the territory has to carry out the requirements of a heritage direction, costs can be recovered from the person the direction was given to. The giving of a repair damage

direction and refusal by the Heritage Council to give an extension of time to comply with a repair damage direction will become reviewable decisions in the ACAT.

The bill will also establish, in line with current defined offence provisions relating to damage of heritage places or objects, that the failure to comply with a repair damage direction can be grounds for a heritage order made by the Supreme Court. The bill will also give the Heritage Council authority to issue a section 62 direction where there is imminent threat to the heritage significance of a place or object.

The current threshold wording of “serious” will be removed so that heritage directions will be able to be issued for minor to moderate offences. The bill does not propose to change the offence for not complying with a section 62 heritage direction. Substantial penalties of 1,000 penalty units will remain for this offence. This equates to \$160,000 for an individual and \$810,000 for a corporation.

High penalty units are necessary in a heritage context to provide a genuine disincentive to protect these often rare and unique places and objects—once these places are lost, they are lost forever—and to send a strong message to the community that disregard for the law should not be seen as a mere cost of doing business. If penalty units are set too low, the cost of penalties to be paid may in some cases simply be viewed as the effective cost of redeveloping a site to its maximum potential to achieve a desired development outcome resulting in significant commercial advantage.

As such, penalty units for damage to heritage places and objects must be significant enough to deter such thinking to protect these important places and objects. A clear message must be sent that wilful and illegal destruction of our heritage will not be tolerated. The ACT government plays a critical and public role in safeguarding the ACT’s heritage assets for current and future generations. It is important that the government lead by example in the way that it cares for, and maintains and protects, these assets.

This includes robust, efficient and effective regulatory and compliance legislation. While not part of this bill, the government will also introduce an infringement notice scheme where compliance officers can issue an immediate \$1,000 fine to an individual and \$5,000 fine to a corporation for minor damage to a heritage place, regardless of whether it can be repaired.

The infringements are primarily aimed at conduct on the less serious side of the criminal spectrum. The maximum penalty is usually limited to a monetary penalty of a maximum of 50 penalty units. However, the Heritage Act establishes strict liability offences for damage to a heritage place or object as 100 penalty units, and this is not proposed for amendment.

On-the-spot fines will act as a deterrent to discourage people from causing damage deliberately or accidentally. The amendments will enable immediate action when a heritage place or object is damaged. There are limitations in the use of heritage directions for the protection of heritage places and objects.

Currently, heritage directions can only be issued for places “at serious and imminent threat” which does not generally allow for “repair” directions to be issued after damage to a heritage place has occurred, such as in the case of unapproved works. Additionally, heritage directions are unable to be used for minor to moderate offences due to the threshold wording of “serious”.

Due to the current limitations in issuing heritage directions, offences cannot be dealt with simply. There is no mechanism to direct that the damage be repaired and instead the offence must be prosecuted through the courts. As you can see, Madam Assistant Speaker, new processes are urgently needed to cut red tape and to give the Heritage Council more flexibility in dealing with problems, thus allowing quicker, more appropriate outcomes.

The bill will also bring the ACT into line with other jurisdictions where repair damage directions are a common regulatory feature. Once heritage places are lost, they, and all they represent, are permanently lost to future generations. To help protect heritage places and objects, the Heritage Act establishes a number of offences. This legislative protection both penalises those who breach the act and aims to provide an essential deterrent to anyone wanting to damage the ACT’s heritage.

However, in the past people have got away with minor damage because we have only had the big stick of prosecution, which is a costly, drawn out and inflexible way to deal with small issues. Limitations in the legislation have meant that the Heritage Council has not been able to insist on repairs. These amendments will let us take immediate action when a heritage place or object is damaged and, because we can deal with matters quickly and issue on-the-spot fines, should discourage people from committing an offence in the first place.

The increased enforcement tools and options will better protect the ACT’s heritage, influence the attitude and behaviour of persons whose actions may have adverse heritage impacts, and deter others from committing similar breaches into the future. The new laws will apply to anyone who causes damage to a heritage place or object. This may include an owner, occupier, custodian of an object, or a person whose work affects the place or object, such as a tradesperson.

The laws apply to both government and private owners and occupiers. The proposed amendments do not impose appreciable regulatory impacts or costs on the community and will not affect most heritage owners, the vast majority of whom appropriately manage heritage assets under the act.

Repair damage directions are a common regulatory provision under heritage legislation in all Australian jurisdictions. Additionally, similar provisions such as stop orders, protect, repair and rectification directions and orders are common under other similar ACT legislation such as the Planning and Development Act 2007, the Building Act 2004, the Nature Conservation Act 2014, the Environment Protection Act 1997 and the Tree Protection Act 2005.

Like any regulatory regime, the optimal outcome for the protection of heritage places and objects is voluntary compliance. Education has a key role to play in maximising compliance, of course. A heritage compliance policy will be released once the new laws are made to guide the Heritage Council and compliance officers on which compliance tool they should use—a direction, infringement notice and/or prosecution—or whether to use more than one. Current options for prosecution will remain for serious damage.

The policy will be based on best practice in other jurisdictions and other ACT government compliance and enforcement policies. The heritage compliance policy will apply a risk-based compliance approach to enable the targeting of resources to those areas where they are most needed and will be most effective.

This policy will explain how the heritage compliance priorities are set. It will also guide the decision-making process so that decisions are legally robust, credible and consistent. The policy aims to encourage owners and managers of heritage places and objects to comply with the Heritage Act.

The Canberra community has told us that they want more effective and flexible ways to deal with breaches of the Heritage Act and damage to heritage places and objects. This government has listened, shares the values of the Canberra community, and is committed to conserving heritage places and objects for current and future generations.

The changes this bill seeks to enact will lead to positive heritage outcomes, will have no significant financial impact to the territory, and are in direct response to concerns raised by the community. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Crimes (Disrupting Criminal Gangs) Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (11.14): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

This government is committed to evidence-based measures to target, to disrupt and to prosecute criminal groups in the ACT. The bill that I am introducing today supports this commitment by making amendments that will focus on individual involvement in organised crime.

While other governments have hastily introduced laws targeting organised criminal groups with limited success, the ACT government approach has ensured that law enforcement have the tools available to them to best target illegal activity of these groups. The purpose of the bill is to disrupt the activities of criminal organisations and their members, including by discouraging people from joining or remaining involved in criminal groups.

The amendments in this bill are not being introduced in isolation. The government has committed significant resources to boost law enforcement's ability to target organised crime, including \$980,000 in 2018 to the ACT Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to boost its ability to seize criminal assets; a further \$1.6 million over four years in the 2018-19 budget to Taskforce Nemesis; and \$2.8 million over four years for the ACT to address serious and organised crime, including to strip criminals of their criminal profits.

In addition, Dr Terry Goldsworthy is currently undertaking a review of the effectiveness of ACT police powers and crime scene powers. The findings of the review, which will be available this year, will help inform future approaches to organised crime in this territory. The amendments proposed today sit alongside this important work by providing additional tools for law enforcement to target organised crime.

The bill introduces tiered offences of affray to address serious incidents of public disorder. The amendments complement the existing offence of affray, which carries a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment. The new offences provide for a maximum of five years imprisonment where the violent conduct involves two or more people and a maximum of 10 years imprisonment where the violent conduct involves five or more people.

The key purpose of these amendments is to acknowledge and respond to the increased danger that is caused to the public by more serious incidents of violence involving multiple people. Offences such as affray impact innocent witnesses, who are often frightened, distressed and unable to go about their lawful activities. The bill reflects that the larger the public disorder incident is, the more severe the effect is on bystanders. As a government, we take this issue seriously and we need to ensure that law-abiding citizens are protected from this kind of behaviour. The maximum penalties for offences of fighting and offensive behaviour will be increased to better align with the new tiered offences of affray.

The bill also introduces a new sentencing regime for offences committed in connection with or while a person is associated with a criminal group. The amendments increase the maximum penalty for a range of offences which are likely to be committed by people involved in organised crime, including those involving violence, drugs, firearms, and financial matters such as money laundering. These increased penalties reflect that gang members view themselves as above the law and free to commit offences with impunity.

The purpose of these amendments is to appropriately punish, at the sentencing stage, those criminals who have some connection with criminal groups. The provisions

come into play post conviction, as the individual will already have been found guilty of a relevant offence. At this stage, the Director of Public Prosecutions can make an application for a sentencing court to consider if there is some form of criminal group connection.

The court needs to be satisfied beyond a reasonable doubt that the criminal group factor exists. If the court finds that the offence was committed in connection with a criminal group, the maximum penalty available increases by 25 per cent. If satisfied that the offence was committed while the person was associated with a criminal group, the maximum penalty available increases by 10 per cent. The resulting sentence is, as always, a matter for the court.

This approach ensures that the focus is on deterring the individual from being involved in criminal gangs. The provisions have been carefully drafted in a way that is consistent with human rights to ensure that they do not involve guilt by association or criminalise relationships. “Declaration laws”, such as consorting laws and control orders, fail on a values test and have been ineffective in other jurisdictions. For this reason, the bill targets the individual who is participating in organised crime as a method of disrupting criminal activity and discouraging involvement in criminal gangs.

A further public order aspect included in the bill is the exclusion order scheme. The bill will insert a new mechanism in the Liquor Act 2010 to allow the Chief Police Officer to apply to the Magistrates Court to exclude a person from prescribed licensed premises. The effect of the exclusion order is that the person must not enter, attempt to enter or remain on certain licensed premises for up to 12 months. The offence is punishable by a penalty of 100 penalty units and/or 12 months imprisonment.

Before making an exclusion order, the Magistrates Court must be satisfied that the person has, in the 12 months before the application, participated in one or more incidents of violent conduct on or in the immediate vicinity of licensed premises while in the company of others and poses a risk to public safety.

The order can be tailored to allow a person to go to specific premises if they are able to demonstrate a genuine need to be there and allowing them at that premises would not pose a risk to public safety. In addition, there will be an ability to apply for variation or revocation in appropriate circumstances.

The bill also reforms the territory’s liquor and construction regulatory schemes to create an important tool for targeting and disrupting organised crime. The amendments provide an opportunity to ensure that the safety of the public is protected by ensuring that the wrong sort of people are not involved in these industries.

The bill amends the Liquor Act and the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act to provide the Chief Police Officer with mechanisms to apply to the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal for the cancellation of a liquor licence or permit, or construction licence, on the basis of a person’s criminal activity. The ACAT can only make an order if it is satisfied that the licensee presents an unacceptable risk to community safety due to their criminal activities. This is a high threshold. When

making the decision, ACAT may consider the need to minimise the possibility of criminal activity in these industries; whether the licensee has been previously found guilty or convicted of a relevant offence; and non-conviction information about the licensee.

These amendments deal with matters which raise significant public safety issues. The threshold for cancellation and the relevant offences mean that the provisions are targeted at offending that presents an unacceptable risk to community safety. These provisions are not aimed at a licensed builder or electrician who has committed a minor offence; an unacceptable risk to public safety needs to exist for these powers to be exercised.

Cancellation of a licence will result in a person not being a suitable person to hold a licence for five years unless the cancellation order is revoked earlier on the basis that the person is no longer involved in criminal activity that presents an unacceptable risk to community safety.

Madam Assistant Speaker, this bill contains a range of measures to target and disrupt organised crime and to ensure public order. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (11.24): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2019. This bill continues the series of amendments to building and related laws started in 2013 and furthers the government's reforms under the existing improving the ACT building regulatory system reform program. The amendments in the bill are aimed at making sure the public protections in the laws can operate effectively and people involved in construction licences, including those working as part of a corporation, are accountable for work associated with their licence.

The main aspects of the bill include provisions that allow disciplinary and rectification actions to be taken in relation to a director of a licensed corporation, provisions to make directors liable for amounts owed by their licensed corporation in certain circumstances and a mechanism for enforceable undertakings relating to rectification work. The most significant of the new powers in the bill are those

provisions to give effect to director liability in relation to disciplinary and rectification powers and for amounts owed by their licensed corporation.

The Licensing Act and operational acts provide sanctions and penalties for contraventions of requirements for carrying out construction services. In some circumstances, such as for occupational discipline and rectification orders, actions may be taken against former licensees as well as current licensees. It is difficult for an individual to avoid their liabilities.

Unfortunately, however, as recent matters have shown, some corporations have responded to rectification orders or civil cases brought by owners by winding up the corporation. While an advantage of the corporate form is to limit personal and corporate liability, it is anathema to the principles of corporations law to use a corporate vehicle for personal gain, only to end that vehicle in order to avoid liabilities or remedies that other parties are entitled to under the law. The provisions prevent the actions of directors undermining the intent and the operations of the building regulatory system. The amendments extend the power to make rectification orders and to take occupational discipline to directors. They also make directors liable for any financial penalties and costs that are owed to the territory if they become overdue.

Occupational discipline and rectification actions can be taken in relation to a director concurrently with the actions in relation to the corporation or separately. The provisions do not affect the time in which an action can be taken or review and appeal rights but, importantly, actions may be taken in relation to a director regardless of whether the corporation still exists.

Another important provision of the bill is the introduction of powers for enforceable undertakings in relation to rectifying construction work. The bill includes provisions in the Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act for licensees to enter into enforceable rectification undertakings for rectification works. These provisions are similar to those in other ACT laws such as the Environmental Protection Act or the Work Health and Safety Act. The main difference is that rectification undertakings must include actions that will result in the rectification of non-compliant work. The powers are also linked to the rectification order powers in part 4 of the Licensing Act.

A submission in relation to a notice of intention to issue a rectification order may include a rectification undertaking. A failure to comply with an enforceable undertaking following a notice of intention process would be taken as a failure to comply with a rectification order and would trigger the power for the registrar to issue a rectification order or to authorise another person to do the rectification work without having to issue a further notice of intention.

The registrar may also apply to the Magistrates Court for an order in relation to the enforceable undertaking. The bill introduces an offence for failing to comply with a court order, with a maximum penalty of 2,000 penalty units. This is the same penalty as for the existing offence for intentionally failing to comply with a rectification order. If necessary or desirable to protect the public or if not complied with, details of

enforceable undertakings will also be able to be published on the public licence register.

A person could give an undertaking in relation to a contravention that occurred before the commencement of the provisions, including in relation to a notice of intention issued before commencement. However, the provisions do not affect rectification orders that have been issued before the commencement of the provisions.

Other proposed amendments to construction licensing laws include provisions that allow for the Construction Occupations Registrar to issue a rectification order if made aware of the relevant breach of construction legislation within six months before the 10-year period within which the order can be issued expires if the rectification order is made within one year of the registrar becoming aware of the contravention; clarify that the registrar does not need to prescribe how work must be undertaken to achieve compliance with a rectification order; revise powers in relation to automatic suspension grounds so that if after three months the grounds for the suspension still exist the registrar can make a reviewable decision to cancel the licence; include provision that a licensed corporation or partnership must have policies and procedures for the effective management and supervision of their nominees and construction services under the licence, including arrangements for regular communication with nominees; clarify provisions in relation to mandatory qualifications, being both academic and non-academic qualifications.

The proposed amendments to the Building Act will improve the operation and the administration of that act. This includes provisions that expand the powers of government inspectors to direct builders and landowners in relation to unsafe or non-compliant work, consistent with the existing powers of electrical, gas fitting and plumbing inspectors in other construction laws. This will give building inspectors an additional option when a stop notice or other power may not be appropriate but work must be made safe or compliant. Other amendments give the registrar powers to display signs and public information in relation to stop notices.

There is a range of reasons for issuing a stop notice, and not all the reasons for issuing a stop notice necessarily relate to a failure of the licensed builder carrying out the work. While it may not always be appropriate to publicise a stop notice there may be public safety and public protection implications in relation to some stop notices. In these cases it is important to be able to inform the public regarding a stop notice. These provisions require the registrar to keep a register of stop notices and allow the registrar, once certain tests have been met, to display a sign, on or near a parcel of land that a stop notice has been issued in relation to, stating that a stop notice has been issued and to make available to the public information about a stop notice.

The bill also includes amendments that provide for building certifiers to request a broader range of certificates from qualified engineers in relation to matters of safety, health and amenity that may affect whether a building is fit for occupation and use. While many certifiers already require certification from suitably qualified engineers, this amendment confirms the certifier's right to do so where it is necessary.

Other changes help users of the act understand the intent of the law in relation to the appointment of a certifier. The provisions clarify that, unless work is exempt, owners must appoint a building certifier to undertake building certifier functions in relation to the work. They further clarify that, if a building approval is required, building work cannot be undertaken without approved plans and must be done in accordance with the approved plans.

Another minor amendment to the Building Act will improve access to building plans for owners corporations. This amendment is aimed at facilitating the effective functioning of the owners corporation and supports both the government's building and strata reforms.

The bill also amends the Architects Act to expand existing delegation powers for the Architects Board and to provide for members attendance at meetings of the Architects Board otherwise than in person. These amendments facilitate flexibility in the administration and the governance of the Architects Board.

The bill also includes an amendment to the Building and Construction Industry (Security of Payment) Act that responds to recommendation 77 of the national review of security of payment laws which is aimed at providing the regulator with such information as reasonably requested to enable the regulator to monitor the operation of the legislation and the activities of the authorised nominating authorities and adjudicators. The amendments are described in detail in the explanatory statement to the bill.

Except for the provisions relating to the period in which a rectification order can be issued, which provides for orders to be issued after the existing period in limited circumstances, nothing in this bill changes existing liability periods or statutes of limitations. This means that buildings for which the statute has expired, for example for issuing a rectification order, are not re-enlivened by the provisions of the bill.

The bill includes new offences in relation to the public display of stop notice information, failing to comply with a direction given by a building inspector, offences against licensees' notification requirements and failing to comply with a court order in relation to an enforceable rectification undertaking.

Contravention of the ACT's building and construction laws can lead to people suffering preventable, detrimental impacts to their safety, their health and their amenity. These penalties reflect the relative seriousness of the particular offences and the level of responsibility carried by the people failing in their obligation.

The government's improving the ACT building regulatory system reform program targets many issues throughout the design and construction process, including improving administrative and compliance actions to better prevent the occurrence and severity of defects and reducing the impact of insolvencies, bankruptcies and financial management issues and improving security of payments. The bill continues our reform program and the government's work in strengthening the regulation and integrity of the ACT building system so that Canberra's buildings are of high quality.

We have been listening to the community. They have told us that they expect us to hold builders to account. They have told us that they do not want people to use business structures to allow them to build poorly and then get away with it. They have told us that they want more information about stop notices. They have told us that they want the regulator to have a wide range of powers to fix issues big and small.

We have listened to the community and we are making changes, changes to protect the community from dodgy builders, changes to increase the amount of information available to consumers, and changes to hold builders to account. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Economic Development and Tourism—Standing Committee Reference

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

That the Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2019 be referred to the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Tourism for inquiry, with a reporting date back to the Assembly on, or before, 26 November 2019.

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2019

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

Title read by Clerk.

MS ORR (Yerrabi—Minister for Community Services and Facilities, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety and Minister for Government Services and Procurement) (11.39): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to present the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2019, which is being introduced to better protect workers' entitlements to long service leave under the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act 2009.

The Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act 2009 provides portable long service leave entitlements for ACT workers in four industries, namely building and construction, contract cleaning, security, and the community sector. The portability of long service leave entitlements for these industries allows workers to accumulate long service leave based on their length of service in a particular industry rather than their length of service with a single employer.

The nature of the four covered industries is such that workers are prone to move from employer to employer. Portable long service leave for service within these industries encourages workers to continue to contribute their skills and experience within the industry and provides them with employment security.

Portable long service leave not only benefits workers; it benefits employers by attracting and retaining workers within these industries and by fostering sustainability and worker productivity. The amendments contained in this bill will improve the operation of the portable long service leave schemes. They are the product of extensive consultation with stakeholders, including industry, employers and their unions.

Specifically, the amendments contained in this bill would modernise and enhance compliance and enforcement activities and address minor technical omissions and inconsistencies within the legislation.

One minor but important amendment within the bill is an amendment to the definition of the childcare industry. The bill would update child care to “education and care services” to reflect the change of terminology within the early childhood education and care industry and acknowledge the important role these educators play in the lives of young people.

While most employers do the right thing by their workers, it is an unfortunate reality that some employers do not. One way in which some employers have sought to avoid their obligations under the portable schemes legislation is by phoenix activity. This is where a new company is created to continue the business of a company that has been deliberately liquidated to avoid paying its debts, taxes, creditors or workers’ entitlements.

While there may be genuine reasons why businesses fail, this is not one of them. Phoenix activity impacts businesses, workers, contractors, government and the wider ACT community. According to the Australian Tax Office, illegal phoenix activity in Australia is particularly prevalent in a handful of industries. Two of these are covered under the portable schemes legislation: construction and security services.

Other instances of non-compliance with the act have involved the non-lodgement or late lodgement of quarterly employer returns identifying numbers of workers and their relevant service for the purposes of portable long service leave.

In addition, the payment of levies is an area where non-compliance is experienced. Levies to support the payment of portable long service leave are collected from employers. When an employer does not pay their fair share, other employers must support the financial stability of the scheme. It is not right that employers who meet their obligations foot the bill for those who do not.

With this in mind, the bill will introduce a number of mechanisms to enhance compliance and enforcement under the legislation. Specifically, the bill would give the authority the power to recover outstanding debts from the director or directors of a company involved in phoenix activity. By providing the authority with the power to

pursue a director of a company personally, those who previously hid behind company structures to avoid their obligations will no longer be able to do so.

The bill also introduces an interest regime for the late payment, non-payment or underpayment of levies. Interest would be payable from the first day the levy is due until it is paid and will, as a result, apply a proportionate penalty to the late payment of levy amounts. Interest will be determined by the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety in consultation with the governing board of the Long Service Leave Authority.

The bill also acknowledges that late payment, non-payment and underpayment of levies may not always be the fault of the employer. The bill will allow the Long Service Leave Registrar to waive all or part of the interest payable if satisfied that it would be unfair or unreasonable to charge interest under particular circumstances.

The bill will also modernise enforcement provisions for inspectors by allowing inspectors to provide a notice to request and receive information without the need to physically enter a work premise. This will result in a more efficient use of an inspector's time to undertake other important regulatory functions. It will also minimise any possible disruption to business which may occur as a result of inspectors entering premises to request or obtain information.

The bill makes technical amendments to the portable schemes act to enhance its practical application and ensure it does not inadvertently disadvantage those it intends to support. This includes amending the legislative time frames for which the registrar can credit service for workers who have unrecorded leave.

While the registrar can credit unrecorded service for a worker of up to four years in certain circumstances, this time frame has proven to be restrictive in some cases. Where a levy can be paid, this bill would give the registrar the ability to credit an unlimited amount of service if satisfied that a worker has worked in a covered industry for that period. This will ensure that employees are not unfairly disadvantaged by arbitrary legislative time frames.

In addition to enhancing enforcement mechanisms under the legislation, a new infringement notice scheme will be introduced under the Magistrates Court Act 2003 to better encourage employer compliance under the portable schemes legislation.

As I am sure everyone in the Assembly will agree, access to long service leave is an important workplace entitlement. It is important for workers to be able to take leave that recognises their contribution over an extended period of time. It is also important for employers in ensuring the health and wellbeing of their workforce. I commend the Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Amendment Bill 2019 to the Assembly.

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

Annual and financial reports 2018-2019

Reference to standing committees

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

That:

- (1) the annual and financial reports for the financial year 2018-2019 and for the calendar year 2018 presented to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* stand referred to the standing committees, on presentation, in accordance with the schedule below:
- (2) the annual report of ACT Policing stands referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety;
- (3) notwithstanding standing order 229, only one standing committee may meet for the consideration of the inquiry into the calendar year 2018 and financial year 2018-2019 annual and financial reports at any given time;
- (4) standing committees are to report to the Assembly on financial year reports by the last sitting day in March 2020, and on calendar year reports for 2018 by the last sitting day in March 2020; and
- (5) the foregoing provisions of this resolution have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|--|-----------------------|--|---|
| ACT Auditor-General | | Officer of the ACT Legislative Assembly | Public Accounts |
| ACT Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority | | Minister for Tertiary Education | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| ACT Electoral Commission | | Officer of the ACT Legislative Assembly | Justice and Community Safety |
| ACT Gambling and Racing Commission | | Minister for Business and Regulatory Services | Justice and Community Safety |
| ACT Human Rights Commission | | Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety | Justice and Community Safety |
| ACT Insurance Authority | | Minister for Government Services and Procurement | Public Accounts |
| ACT Long Service Leave Authority | | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| ACT Ombudsman | | Officer of the ACT Legislative Assembly | Public Accounts |
| ACT Policing | | Minister for Police and Emergency Services | Justice and Community Safety |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|--|--|---|
| Canberra Institute of Technology (2018) | | Minister for Tertiary Education | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Executive | Chief Minister | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Architects Board | Minister for Building Quality Improvement | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Compulsory Third Party Insurance Regulator | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Lifetime Care and Support Fund | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Default Insurance Fund | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Construction Occupations | Minister for Business and Regulatory Services | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Public Sector Workers Compensation Fund | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | ACT Government Procurement Board | Minister for Government Services and Procurement | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Director of Territory Records | Chief Minister | Public Accounts |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|--|---|---|
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Environment Protection Authority | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Office of the Nominal Defendant of the ACT | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | State of the Service Report | Chief Minister | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Government Policy Reform | Chief Minister | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Workforce, Capability and Governance | Chief Minister | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Coordinated Communication and Community Engagement | Chief Minister | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Digital Strategy | Chief Minister | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Access Canberra | Minister for Business and Regulatory Services | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Innovate, Trade and Investment | Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | VisitCanberra | Minister for Tourism and Special Events | Economic Development and Tourism |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|---|--|---|
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Sport and Recreation | Minister for Sport and Recreation | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Events | Minister for Tourism and Special Events | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Arts Engagement | Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Higher Education, Training and Research | Minister for Tertiary Education | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Superannuation Provision Account | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Territory Banking Account | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Economic Management | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Financial Management | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Workforce Injury Management and Industrial Relations Policy | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Revenue Management | Treasurer | Public Accounts |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Shared Services | Minister for Government Services and Procurement | Public Accounts |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Infrastructure Finance and Capital Works | Treasurer | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Property Services | Minister for Government Services and Procurement | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Venues | Treasurer | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Goods and Services Procurement | Minister for Government Services and Procurement | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate | Community Facilities – including property services and charging policy | Minister for Community Services and Facilities | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Community Services Directorate | NDIS Implementation | Minister for Disability | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Inclusion and Participation | Minister for Community Services and Facilities | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Office for Disability | Minister for Disability | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Strategic Policy | Minister for Children, Youth and Families | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Strategic Policy | Minister for Community Services and Facilities | Health, Ageing and Community Services |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|--|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Community Services Directorate | Quality, Complaints and Regulation Matters pertaining to Senior Practitioner for Restrictive Practices; Human Services Registrar – Disability Services, OV for Disability Services, NDIS Quality Safe Guards | Minister for Disability | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Quality, Complaints and Regulation Matters pertaining to Human Services Registrar – Care and Protection Organisations, Child Death Review Committee, Child and Youth Protection Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee | Minister for Children, Youth and Families | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Quality, Complaints and Regulation Matters pertaining to Human Services Registrar – Community Housing agencies | Minister for Housing | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Quality, Complaints and Regulation Matters pertaining to WWVP Act | Minister for Community Services and Facilities | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Safer Families | Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Child and Family Centres | Minister for Children, Youth and Families | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Child Development Service | Minister for Children, Youth and Families | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Child and Youth Protection Services | Minister for Children, Youth and Families | Health, Ageing and Community Services |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|--|---|---|---|
| Community Services Directorate | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs | Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Multicultural Affairs | Minister for Multicultural Affairs | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Women | Minister for Women | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Seniors and Veterans | Minister for Seniors and Veterans | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Housing ACT | Minister for Housing and Suburban Development | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Community Services Directorate | Family Safety Coordinator-General | Minister for the Prevention of the Domestic and Family Violence | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Cultural Facilities Corporation | | Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events | Economic Development and Tourism |
| Director of Public Prosecutions | | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Education Directorate | ACT Teacher Quality Institute | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Education Directorate | Board of Senior Secondary Studies | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Education Directorate | Public Primary School Education | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Education Directorate | Public High School Education | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Education Directorate | Public Secondary College Education | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|--|--|---|
| Education Directorate | Disability Education in Schools | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Education Directorate | Non-Government School Education | Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Conservator of Flora and Fauna | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | ACT Heritage Council | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment | | Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Energy Efficiency (Cost of Living) Improvement Administrator | Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Climate Change Council | Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Planning Delivery | Minister for Planning and Land Management | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Planning and Building Policy | Minister for Planning and Land Management | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Planning and Building Policy | Minister for Building Quality Improvement | Economic Development and Tourism |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|---|--|---|
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Environment | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Conservation and Land Management | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Heritage | Minister for the Environment and Heritage | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Climate Change and Sustainability | Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Land Strategy | Minister for Planning and Land Management | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Urban Renewal | Minister for Urban Renewal | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | City Renewal Authority | Chief Minister | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Suburban Land Agency | Minister for Housing and Suburban Development | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Suburban Land Agency - relating to urban renewal sites including Kingston Arts Precinct and Canberra Brickworks | Minister for Urban Renewal | Planning and Urban Renewal |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|---|---|---|---------------------------------------|
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate | Public Housing Renewal | Minister for Housing and Suburban Development | Planning and Urban Renewal |
| ACT Health Directorate | ACT Care Coordinator | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Calvary Health Care Ltd | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Chief Psychiatrist | Minister for Mental Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Human Research Ethics Committee | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Office for Mental Health and wellbeing | Minister for Mental Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Radiation Council | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | ACT Local Hospital Network | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | Population Health | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| ACT Health Directorate | ACT Health Directorate | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Acute Services | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Mental Health | Minister for Mental Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Justice Health | Minister for Corrections and Justice Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Alcohol and Drug Services | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Cancer Services | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Canberra Health Services | Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Care | Minister for Health | Health, Ageing and Community Services |
| Icon Water Limited | | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission | | Treasurer | Public Accounts |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Sentence Administration Board | Minister for Corrections and Justice Health | Justice and Community Safety |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|--|---|--|---|
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Policy Advice and Justice Programs | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Legal Services to Government | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Legislative Drafting and Publishing Services | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Gaming Policy | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Protection of Rights Consumer Affairs and Road Safety | Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Community Safety Corrective Services | Minister for Corrections and Justice Health | Justice and Community Safety |
| Inspector of Correctional Services | | Minister for Corrections and Justice Health | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Courts and Tribunals | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Emergency Services | Minister for Police and Emergency Services | Justice and Community Safety |
| Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Parliamentary Counsel | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Legal Aid Commission (ACT) | | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Office of the Legislative Assembly | | Speaker of the ACT Legislative Assembly | Public Accounts |
| Public Trustee and Guardian | | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Solicitor-General for the ACT | | Attorney-General | Justice and Community Safety |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | ACT Public Cemeteries Authority | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Animal Welfare Authority | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |

| Annual Report (in alphabetical order) | Reporting area | Ministerial Portfolio(s) | Standing Committee |
|--|-------------------------------|--|---|
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Transport Canberra | Minister for Transport | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | City Services | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Roads and Infrastructure | Minister for Roads and Active Travel | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Libraries | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Waste and Recycling | Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | City Maintenance and Services | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Sports Grounds | Minister for Sport and Recreation | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate | Capital Linen Service | Minister for City Services | Environment and Transport and City Services |
| University of Canberra | | Minister for Tertiary Education | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |
| Worksafe Commissioner | | Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety | Education, Employment and Youth Affairs |

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Reference

MR WALL (Brindabella) (11.45): I move that:

- (1) the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services inquire into and report on the supply of water to the Tharwa community, with particular reference to:
 - (a) the direction and progress of the “Non-Potable Water Supply at Tharwa for Firefighting project”;
 - (b) the recommendations of the 2018 Tharwa Village Plan;
 - (c) the historic issues surrounding the supply of potable and non-potable water to Tharwa Village;
 - (d) the projected growth of Tharwa Village; and

- (e) any other relevant matter; and
- (2) the inquiry reports to the Assembly on the matter no later than the conclusion of the March 2020 sitting week.

I bring this motion here today with a view to bringing a positive and effective outcome on the water supply issue that is affecting an iconic part of the ACT and the Canberrans who reside there. The motion before us today is one that seeks to ensure that thorough scrutiny and attention is placed on the Tharwa community and their ongoing need for a secure and reliable water supply, in terms of both their potable and non-potable water needs.

Most of us who live in the suburbs can quite easily take advantage of the water supply that is reticulated through Canberra suburbs. The water supply to Tharwa has been a problem for a long time. In the past this problem has largely been solved by the community itself through various self-funded options. The fact that any attention is now being paid to this issue is welcomed by residents.

In 2015 a study was completed by the Environment and Planning Directorate regarding options for a non-potable water supply for Tharwa. This report recommended a solution for both firefighting and non-potable needs. The report resulted in ACT government funding for the project in the 2016-17 budget.

We are all aware of the situation faced by Tharwa in the 2003 fight that was waged against the unrelenting firestorm that hit Canberra. Tharwa residents held their own and prevailed against a formidable fire front. Every summer, rural residents of the territory wait for the next bushfire. Their firefighting needs are a very real and prevalent issue. The proposed water works seek to primarily support urban firefighting needs in the village; they also will service the rural fire units based there, and others, in the event of another bushfire.

The residents of Tharwa are pleased, for the most part, that this funding for firefighting needs has been appropriated and that there has been some attention paid to their future water requirements. There is still, however, a great deal of concern among the community about what exactly is being proposed in terms of the non-potable water supply at Tharwa for a firefighting project and how effective it will be in achieving the desired outcomes.

There are also concerns around the value for money the government is getting out of this project as the current proposals stand and about the direction the current planning is heading in. Aspects of this project, including location, effectiveness and value for money, have been brought into question by residents, volunteers at the fire brigade down there and other interested landholders. I believe that this issue warrants further investigation by the Assembly.

Last year, the Tharwa village plan was finalised. Again, that was a move that was welcomed by Tharwa residents. The plan contained many recommendations, all aimed at preserving the rural character of Tharwa village and its place in Canberra's history.

It is worth noting that the population of Tharwa is on the move, with five blocks of land slated for release in the government's 2020-21 land release program and potential further releases in the future. This requires some forward thinking in terms of the provision of an effective water supply, in terms of both rural and urban firefighting needs, but also in accordance with the needs of what is a growing community.

I seek members' support for a tripartisan resolution for this community. I believe that sending this issue to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services for inquiry can resolve the issue, place greater transparency around the decision-making process, and allow the community's views as to what the ideal outcome would be to be heard. I commend my motion to the Assembly.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.50): The Greens will be supporting this motion. From what we have heard, this is a significant issue of concern in the Tharwa community. An Assembly inquiry would seem to be a reasonable approach to dealing with it.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Statement by chair

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (11.51): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services relating to the inquiry into nature in our city. The committee is currently in the process of drafting its report on the inquiry. During the inquiry the committee received 71 submissions and heard from 69 witnesses at seven public hearings.

The evidence received by the committee is substantive, detailed and complex, and touches on a wide array of matters affecting nature in our city. The subject matter of the inquiry deals with issues that are at the heart of Canberra's identity as the bush capital and that have significant ramifications for the amenity of the city, its liveability, its resilience to climate change, and the character of its urban environment and surrounding nature reserves.

The committee wishes to ensure that the report deals with these important matters carefully and is produced to a high standard. Having given further consideration to the volume and complexity of the evidence as the report takes shape, the committee has decided to delay the tabling of its report on this inquiry until the first quarter of next year. This will allow the committee enough time to give due consideration to all the issues raised by contributors.

Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee Statement by chair

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.52): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning

and Urban Renewal relating to petitions Nos 25-18 and 15-19. The petitions were received by the Assembly on 4 June 2019 and referred to the committee under standing order 99A. The petitions requested the Assembly to call on the ACT government to limit the height of construction at block 13 section 81 on Easty Street, Woden; change the zoning of block 17 section 156 on Easty Street, Woden; and rehabilitate and preserve the open green space at Arabanoo Park, Woden.

The committee notes that the minister's response to the petitions under standing order 100 makes reference to the Woden town centre master plan and the planning and urban renewal committee's inquiry into draft variation 344 undertaken in 2017. The minister indicated that as part of the planning process for the Woden town centre there was:

... extensive ongoing consultation with the community, traders and other key stakeholders.

He also stated:

Both the Master Plan and Territory Plan variation have been rigorously discussed and reviewed by the community, ACT Government directorates, the Legislative Assembly and the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal.

In addressing petitioner concerns, the minister made note of some of the specific planning considerations for the developments on Easty Street and efforts to connect Arabanoo Park to the town centre. He stated:

The Master Plan and subsequent variation to the Territory Plan provides the necessary planning and design guidance to promote a scale of development that is appropriate within the town centre context, while maintaining amenity along the town centre streets and public spaces.

As the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal has already undertaken an inquiry into planning rules and criteria for the Woden town centre, the committee has determined that it will not be holding an additional inquiry into matters raised in these petitions at this time.

Statement by chair

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.55): Pursuant to standing order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal relating to petitions Nos 19-19 and 22-19. The petitions were received by the Assembly on 30 July 2019 and referred to the committee under standing order 99A.

The petitions requested the Assembly to call on the ACT government to oversee thorough and inclusive community engagement on any proposed development of a fast food chain outlet in Chisholm Village and for this engagement to allow for consideration of other options for the site, the impact on the health and wellbeing of the community, parking and traffic management, and the impact on existing small businesses, cafes and food outlets.

The committee notes that the minister's response to the petition under standing order 100 made reference to development application 201935300, which consists of a proposal for a new fast food outlet for Chisholm shops. The minister indicated that the DA in question has been subject to major notification under the Planning and Development Act 2007, with 116 representations having been made by the close of the notification period on 6 September 2019. The minister also stated that the Planning and Land Authority would:

... consider all representations made during the notification period and assess the DA against the requirements of the act and Territory Plan.

Following consideration of the petition and the minister's response, the committee has determined that it will not be holding an inquiry into the matter at this time.

Sitting suspended from 11.57 am to 2.00 pm.

Reflection on the chair

Statement by Speaker

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, I would like to make a statement. Yesterday in debate a point of order was raised by Mr Gentleman concerning comments made by Miss Candice Burch about the recent actions of the chair in making a ruling concerning the same question rule. Miss Candice Burch is quoted in yesterday's uncorrected proof copy of Hansard as saying:

When I tried to raise these issues again last sitting week, the Canberra Liberals were silenced by the Speaker who thinks that we have spent enough time in this place talking about the disaster that is Network19. Ms Cody obviously did not get that memo.

I consider those remarks made by Candice Burch to be a reflection on the chair. I refer members to page 74 of the *Companion to the Standing Orders* where it makes reference to criticisms of actions and conduct of the Speaker. The *Companion* points out that reflections on the chair should only be made by way of substantive motion as to do otherwise is to undermine the authority of the house as vested in the Speaker of the day and runs the substantial risk of drawing the institution of the Assembly into disrepute.

I believe it to be a substantial duty of the Speaker to intervene in cases like this to protect the institution. I also draw members' attention to the members code of conduct, which requires that members should promote and support the principles by leadership and example in order to maintain and support public trust and confidence in the integrity of the Assembly and the conduct by its members of public business.

I also remind members that it is not in order to criticise the actions of the Speaker outside the chamber. The *Companion* lists numerous occasions when my predecessors have taken action in relation to such comments. I ask Miss Candice Burch to withdraw any reflection on the chair.

Miss C Burch: Madam Speaker, I withdraw.

MADAM SPEAKER: With that, we will move to questions without notice.

Questions without notice Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, why has the government made the decision on the location of SPIRE 2 before the Canberra Hospital master plan has been completed?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Coe for the question. I am always happy to talk about the SPIRE project, the biggest investment in health infrastructure since the establishment of the ACT government, a project that will deliver additional operating theatres, additional emergency spaces and additional ICU spaces, including additional paediatrics.

As I stated in a letter I wrote to the Garran residents association, the president of Garran Primary School and Woden Community Council yesterday, the site decision was made following extensive consultation with clinicians, and the decision was also made in the context of the space available on the campus for the new facility and the need for it to connect with other buildings on the site. As Mr Coe has indicated, we are also in the process of developing a Canberra Hospital master plan, which will take account of this decision, but this decision was based on very significant consultation and technical work to understand the best location for the SPIRE project on the site.

We know that the Canberra Liberals do not support the establishment of walk-in centres. It appears that they are doing their best to now oppose and delay the SPIRE project, a very important project for delivering health care to Canberrans and the people of southern New South Wales.

MR COE: Minister, when will the Canberra Hospital master plan be completed, or will this be delayed again just like your SPIRE project?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Coe for the supplementary. I think I have probably responded to this before in terms of exact dates, but I am expecting the master plan to be completed in the next few months, and it will, of course, take into account the impact of the SPIRE project. This is a very critical project for the Canberra Hospital, and the people of the ACT and the surrounding region, delivering expanded emergency department capability and new operating theatres—

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: a 40,000 square metre state-of-the-art health facility to serve the people of the ACT and the surrounding region. It is a very exciting project.

Mr Hanson interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, that is enough.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The Chief Minister and I were at an industry briefing at lunchtime which is still ongoing, enabling a large number of representatives of the sector to participate in early conversations about the main procurement process for this very exciting facility for the future of Canberra, the biggest investment in health infrastructure since self-government.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, how do you know that the now twice relocated SPIRE will integrate well into the rest of the hospital complex in the absence of a master plan?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for the supplementary question. As I have said before in this place, the fact that a thing called a Canberra Hospital master plan has not been completed at this point does not mean that there has not been planning on the Canberra Hospital site and for the Canberra Hospital site over many years.

As I said in response to the first question that I was asked, a site decision was made following extensive consultation with clinicians. The decision was also made in the context of the space available on the campus for the new facility and the need for it to connect with other buildings on the site. The decision was also made in relation to the need to ensure that clinical operations could continue on the Canberra Hospital site while this really exciting new facility is being built: a new, expanded emergency department, new operating theatres, a new ICU, a facility of 40,000 square metres, a state-of-the-art facility that will service Canberrans and the people of surrounding New South Wales for the next decade and beyond.

Animals—racehorses

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the Minister for City Services and relates to the welfare of ex-racehorses from the ACT. Since the recent revelations of abuse of retired racehorses in abattoirs and knackeries, the Queensland government has initiated an inquiry into cruelty violations and Racing New South Wales has called for the implementation of a national register. Is the ACT government aware of any apparent violations of current ACT horseracing retirement policies which have led to retired ACT racehorses being abused and slaughtered interstate and, if so, what have you done to contact the relevant jurisdiction's government?

MR STEEL: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. Like other members of the community, I was appalled to see the footage of the horses at the abattoir facility in Queensland and since then Gordon Ramsay, the Attorney-General, and I have written to the President of the Canberra Racing Club to seek assurances that Canberra racehorses were not involved in that process. I have also separately written to the Animal Welfare Advisory Council asking them to take another look at our code of practice with regard to dealing with racehorses so that it can be reviewed in light of the footage that we have seen through the ABC's program.

MS LE COUTEUR: Minister, given the difficulties of rehoming, do you think it is possible for us to ensure the enforcement of existing welfare standards for retired racehorses?

MR STEEL: We are one of the only jurisdictions that has a racing club with a specific rule prohibiting horses from being sent to a knackery or abattoir when they retire from the ACT thoroughbred racing industry. Rules are in place and we are seeking assurances from the industry that appropriate processes are being followed to ensure the welfare of animals that are racing in the ACT.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Health. SPIRE 2 provides entry to the emergency department via Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent, and is located opposite the junior play area of Garran Primary School. Minister, how many of the Canberra Hospital's peer hospitals have entry to their emergency departments via suburban streets?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lee for her question. For the interest of members I will table the letter that I sent to Garran Residents Association, Garran Primary School and the Woden Valley Community Council yesterday, which does run through some of these issues. I present the following paper:

The Canberra Hospital—SPIRE Project—Traffic impacts on Gilmore Crescent and Palmer Street, Garran—Copy of correspondence from the Minister for Health to the Garran Residents' Association.

I indicate that while substantial progress is being made on developing the SPIRE project, and as I said earlier, we have an industry briefing going on right now as the first stage of this main works procurement process—

Mrs Dunne: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, resume your seat, please.

Mrs Dunne: The standing orders require that the minister be directly relevant to the question, and the question was: how many of the Canberra Hospital's peer hospitals have entry to their emergency departments via suburban streets? I think that is a number; or, if the minister does not know, she can take it on notice.

MADAM SPEAKER: Thank you. I think the minister has time to respond to the question.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As I was saying, substantial progress has been made on developing the project, but it is still in the early stages of design. We are very pleased to get feedback from the community in relation to the matters of concern. We are at that early stage of community engagement. I would note that a number of peer hospitals in major cities are in suburban locations, where people have to drive to the hospital down fairly suburban streets.

Mr Ramsay: St George Hospital.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: St George Hospital; thank you for your assistance, Attorney-General. However, there is legitimately an issue around how people, under their own steam, access the emergency department, and that is something we are continuing to look into in the design of the project.

MS LEE: Minister, how many of Canberra Hospital's peer hospitals have primary schools across the road from the emergency department?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lee for the supplementary question but obviously I will need to take it on notice. I am not entirely sure why the back of a building being across the road from a primary school playground is—

Mrs Dunne: It's the front door.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: The front door of the building is on Hospital Road; it is right across the road from the main entry to Canberra Hospital. That is the front door of the SPIRE building as it is currently preliminarily designed. The Liberals may want to delay this project, object to the project and raise every concern about this project—the biggest investment in health infrastructure since self-government—but that is their only mode of operation: negative, negative, negative. They have not got a single positive thing to say about the future of our city.

MRS JONES: Minister, what is your plan to ensure that vehicle access to SPIRE 2's ED will not present any safety risk for school students and the local community?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I will just read from the letter that I have written to the Garran residents association that was sent yesterday evening, although I understand it had to be redirected this morning to a different email address:

The ACT Government is mindful of traffic pressures within the precinct and is keen to work with the community, including Garran Primary School and local residents, to address these as part of the broader planning process. Importantly, we understand that traffic pressures already exist in the area, particularly during school drop-off and pick-up times.

The current facilities at the north-eastern part of the Canberra Hospital campus already generate traffic flow from Gilmore Cres and Palmer Street throughout the day, including a short-stay car park that is almost always full. These uses will be relocated with the development of the SPIRE project and traffic flow will therefore be directed to other parts of the Canberra Hospital campus, which are less likely to be accessed from Gilmore Crescent. Our current expectation is that relocation of those facilities will offset other traffic movements associated with the SPIRE project.

In order to gain a better understanding of traffic movements associated with the SPIRE project and related traffic matters, traffic analysis work is currently underway. This will be shared with the community at the earliest opportunity

upon its completion. One issue that will be specifically considered in the design of the project is the most appropriate way for people who are self-presenting at the Emergency Department in a motor vehicle to access the Canberra Hospital site.

Madam Speaker, in my brief time as health minister, I have travelled to Canberra Hospital on multiple occasions and I have parked in that very car park behind building 5 and building 24. I have seen multiple cars coming and going via Gilmore Crescent throughout the day. We do recognise that how people get to emergency is a very important issue.

As I have said repeatedly, while substantial progress is being made in developing this project, it is still in the early stages of detailed design. I am very happy to meet with the Garran residents association and to meet with Garran Primary School representatives. I have made that offer in my letter to them. *(Time expired.)*

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. Minister, when SPIRE 2 is operational, what route will be taken by ambulances taking patients to the emergency department from areas to the north of Canberra Hospital, what will be the route taken from areas to the south, and what will be the route for ambulances departing the emergency department? Do you know?

MR GENTLEMAN: That would be an operational planning matter that our ACTAS area organises. I am happy to take the question on notice, see whether they have done that work and come back to the chamber.

MRS JONES: Minister, what traffic studies and modelling have been undertaken as to the time differences for ambulances reaching SPIRE 2 compared to the time taken to reach the current emergency department, given the lights?

MR GENTLEMAN: Again, I am not privy to the details of the work that has been done by ACTAS but I am happy to take that on notice.

MR HANSON: Minister, what analysis has been done to assess the risks to patients when ambulances take longer to reach the emergency department drop-off zone?

MR GENTLEMAN: I am not aware that it is going to take any longer to reach the new drop-off zone but, again, the details of this work are with ACTAS. I am happy to take that on notice.

Housing—social housing infrastructure

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, how is the government investing in social housing infrastructure in the ACT?

MS BERRY: This government has a long and proud history of investing in social housing infrastructure in Canberra. Much like public transport, healthcare services and public education, social housing enhances social outcomes and wellbeing in the community while also contributing to our economic growth. The ACT housing strategy outlines the government's continuing commitment to achieving real, tangible outcomes for our community by strengthening social housing infrastructure.

Building on the public renewal program, which has delivered 1,288 new homes for tenants over the past five years, the ACT government will build another 1,200 new homes, including an additional 200 dwellings to be added to the public housing stock. This will provide homes for 200 more households who most need it.

The ACT government recognises the importance of public housing in well-located areas. When renewing assets, Housing ACT will look to redevelop the areas that provide good access to public transport, shops, schools, health and other community services. By focusing investment in priority locations, and having the right mix of accessible social infrastructure, the ACT government can provide the most vulnerable members of our community with housing stability that enables people to participate in our community.

The government is investing in public housing as important social infrastructure that will provide Canberrans who need it with more long-term, affordable housing.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how will the growth and renewal of these homes improve life for people accessing public housing?

MS BERRY: The ACT government recognises that public housing is a vehicle for better lives, social participation and stronger communities. Public housing is a public asset, providing people with a stable home and the chance of a happy and fulfilling life.

The new growth and renewal program, which will deliver 1,200 new homes, will target older, no longer fit-for-purpose properties and replace them with new, efficient and secure homes. As a result of our building more efficient properties, designing out costly maintenance issues, incorporating passive design elements and using high quality materials, public housing tenants will experience reduced heating and cooling costs and their homes will require less maintenance.

The new program will consist primarily of properties to be built to class C adaptable and livable housing Australia gold standards. Adaptable housing ensures that people of a range of ages and abilities can stay in their homes which can be easily adapted to meet household needs. This allows for more flexible allocation of properties and reduces moving costs. It will also allow residents to age in place with the house changing around them so they will benefit from established relationships and longer term connections to the local community.

By continuing to grow and renew the ACT public housing portfolio the forward program will allow Housing ACT to provide more homes for those who need them.

Having the right mix of social infrastructure means that we are better equipped to provide vulnerable members of our community with the housing stability they need both now and into the future.

MS CODY: Minister, how is the ACT leading Australian states and territories in delivering social housing?

MS BERRY: Over the 10 years to 2024 the ACT government will have invested more than a billion dollars in public housing and renewed approximately 20 per cent of our public housing portfolio. This is the largest investment and commitment to public housing of any government in Australia. If you compare our \$100 million investment, on a per capita basis, to other jurisdictions, New South Wales would need to invest nearly \$2 billion and Victoria would need to invest \$1.5 billion in public housing. Our approach in the ACT is different to that of other jurisdictions where large-scale selloffs and transfers of public housing are happening.

I am hopeful of more investment in public housing from a federal level, particularly in the form of a waiver of the ACT's historical housing debt that the Chief Minister has been pursuing on the ACT's behalf. Regardless, the ACT is leading the country in terms of support for growth and renewal of public housing. This unprecedented investment in public housing demonstrates the government's commitment to support low income and vulnerable Canberrans by providing more homes in this progressive and inclusive city that supports all members of our community.

Canberra Health Services—workplace culture

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Health, just to continue on a theme. Minister, the CPSU raised serious allegations in the media on 23 October this year about continuing poor culture in Canberra Health Services. The CPSU claimed that there were instances of physical intimidation and at least one instance where staff were called into a room and asked to tell another staff member why they hated them. The union claims that Canberra Health Services decided against referring this matter to the professional standards unit for an independent investigation. Minister, will you ensure that these allegations are referred to the professional standards unit for an independent investigation? If not, why is that not appropriate?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Obviously I am not in a position to talk about individual investigations in relation to individual matters. What I can say is that Canberra Health Services takes all reports of poor culture seriously and there are processes in place to address these issues which are in accordance with legislation.

CHS has introduced a case management approach to identify areas where bullying and harassment occur. Through those strategies, a culture diagnosis is undertaken which can identify a number of issues occurring in the workplace. There is a clear understanding within the culture review oversight group, which met on 4 September, that getting to the underlying cause of some of the cultural issues in particular areas requires a thorough approach. This was reinforced in a detailed discussion with the CEO of Canberra Health Services at the culture review oversight group that took the group through each of the areas identified for further work within CHS.

When cultural issues become as bad as they are alleged to be in this part of Canberra Health Services, it is often the case that individuals involved will have different perspectives and concerns. Simply investigating one person in a situation is not likely to resolve longstanding issues or help to identify the underlying cause. Whatever the process, I also indicate and reinforce that the public service is obligated to follow due process and to provide procedural fairness. I am sure that any union would object if one of its members was denied procedural fairness, no matter how egregious their behaviour was alleged to have been. But I can assure members in this place that relevant areas have customised interventions developed to address the specific issues in the area, recognising that there is no one-size-fits-all approach when it comes to workplace culture improvements.

MR WALL: Minister, did the letter from the chair of the independent culture review panel to the CEO of Canberra Health Services refer to the area or areas associated with the CPSU's allegations of harassment in this instance?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I have indicated, as did Minister Fitzharris before me, that we would not be releasing the list of areas that were identified. This is something that is supported by staff and, I understand, by Mr Reid and the culture review team, with an understanding of each of these areas—

Mr Wall: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat, minister.

Mr Wall: It is on relevance. The question did not ask for the list or the detailed specifics of the area. It asked if the area was referred to in the letter from the independent chair of the culture review panel to the CEO of Canberra Health Services. A simple yes or no would suffice.

Mrs Dunne: Can you do a yes-no answer?

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, I am not directing a minister to provide a yes-no answer, and I will have no more interjections.

Mrs Dunne: I'm asking for one, though.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you are warned. Can we put on record that Mrs Dunne is warned. You have the floor, minister.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I recognise that Mr Wall has not identified the particular area, but I believe it was identified in the article in the *Canberra Times*, so I am sticking by the decision that has been made that the areas identified in the culture review will not be publicly talked about.

Once that comprehensive work has been done, and once the customised interventions have been developed and implemented, we will be talking publicly about the work that has been done and the improvements in culture within Canberra Health Services.

But it does not help anybody to identify particular areas of Canberra Health Services while that detailed work is going on. It does not help staff to have the area that they work in dragged through the mud publicly when the vast majority of staff in any of these areas are doing absolutely fantastic work, are not responsible for creating this culture and are working to try to resolve the underlying cultural issues that they are facing. *(Time expired.)*

MRS DUNNE: Minister, are you conflicted as a member of the CPSU in relation to these allegations? What are you going to do to ensure that instances such as people being brought into a room and told to tell a staff member why they hate them are, one, investigated and, two, not repeated?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for the supplementary. I can assure her that these matters that have been raised by staff and by the CPSU are, indeed, being investigated—

Mrs Jones: Apparently not.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Mrs Jones can say that they are not all she likes and if she wants to continue to provide incorrect information across the chamber, that is up to her. As I have indicated, CHS has introduced a case management approach in these areas that have been identified where bullying and harassment have been occurring and a culture diagnosis undertaken to address the number of issues occurring in the workplace.

As I have said, a one-size-fits-all approach does not result in workplace culture improvements. CHS is working closely with staff and with the employee assistance program to ensure that support is provided to all parties involved in any of these matters. CHS continues to deliver the respect at work program to educate staff on the consequences of poor culture or behaviours and preliminary assessment training for managers to ensure that they meet their legal obligations to manage workforce issues. But, as I have indicated, sometimes when a preliminary assessment is undertaken, the people involved have different perspectives.

I would also like to indicate that the time frame in relation to which these particular behaviours are alleged to have occurred has not been indicated. My understanding is that some of these allegations are not about recent behaviour. If I am incorrect in that I will correct the record, but that is my understanding. Of course, the government more broadly has reaffirmed its steadfast commitment to the implementation of all 20 recommendations of the culture review. I was pleased to read in the media the president of the AMA acknowledging my commitment and that of the CEO of Canberra Health Services to delivering culture change.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Health. In 2012 the ACT government commissioned a concept design for the redevelopment of buildings 2 and 3 of the Canberra Hospital. The work produced very detailed designs which were revised four times in 2014 and included a new emergency department with direct

ambulance access off Yamba Drive. Minister, how much did the government pay for all of this work?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I refer Mr Hanson to annual reports, if that information is available there, but I will take the question on notice. I was not a member of this Assembly when that work was done let alone a member of cabinet, so I will take that question on notice and come back if that is possible.

MR HANSON: Minister, why did the government abandon the design concepts and all the work, and was all this money wasted?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Hanson for the question. In any major project there is an ongoing process of design development and, indeed, I spoke earlier about the site decision in relation to the SPIRE project, the biggest investment in health infrastructure since self-government, a major investment of 40,000 square metres of state-of-the-art facility that will deliver increased emergency, ICU and operating theatre capacity at the Canberra Hospital campus.

A site decision was changed, and that was done following extensive consultation with clinicians and made in the context of the space available for the new facility and the need for it to connect with other buildings on the campus. These things are always evolving as design develops and as you have further conversations with clinicians and with technical specialists.

MRS JONES: Minister, what are the government's current plans for the future of buildings 2 and 3 at the Canberra Hospital?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: In responding to Mrs Jones, I can answer an earlier question that I took on notice. I can say that the final phase of the master plan project for Canberra Hospital is expected to be finalised—

Mrs Jones: A point of order. I want a bit of clarification. In the answer to a question, can we have the answer to another question?

MADAM SPEAKER: It may be relevant to what you are asking, Mrs Jones, so I would have provided a bit more than 15 seconds.

Mr Steel: I think that 2 and 3 are part of the master plan?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yes, I think Mr Steel understood where I was going with this matter. The final phase of the master plan development is expected in June 2020. When that is completed, Mrs Jones will have her answer as to what the future plans are for the remainder of the Canberra Hospital campus.

Health—nurse-led walk-in centres

MS CODY: My question is also to the Minister for Health, because she is so amazing. Minister, can you update the Assembly of the rollout of the walk-in centres across Canberra?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her question, her gratuitous compliment and her interest in our walk-in centres across our city. There are currently three walk-in centres—or WiCs as they are affectionately known by Canberra Health Services and Health Directorate staff—in Belconnen, Gungahlin and Tuggeranong. The walk-in centres continue to be a stand-out success for the ACT as evidenced by the numbers of presentations as well as what I hear from members of the community in their feedback.

Open from 7.30 am until 10 pm every day of the year, walk-in centres provide local, fast and, importantly for many of the most vulnerable in our community, free access to health care for one-off issues. The three centres are well visited with a fourth centre due to open at Weston Creek in December and next year the network will expand further with a fifth centre in the inner north.

In 2018-19 there were more than 61,000 presentations across the three existing centres, noting that Gungahlin only opened in September 2018. At the same time category 5 presentations at our emergency departments fell by 10 per cent. Correlation may not be proof of causation, but anecdotal evidence certainly suggests that Canberrans are attending walk-in centres as an alternative to the ED.

Presentations to the walk-in centres continue to increase with the busiest weeks seen to date occurring in August and September 2019 with 1400 presentations a week across the three centres. The level of presentations at our walk-in centres is an outstanding vote of confidence by ACT consumers in the excellent, accessible care and treatment provided by the expertly skilled nurses at the centres, and it also provides welcome relief to our busy emergency departments.

I encourage all Canberrans to download the ACT Health app, which provides real-time average wait times for both the walk-in centres and Canberra Hospital and Calvary emergency departments, helping consumers get the right health care when and where they need it.

MS CODY: Minister, how is construction going on the grouse Weston Creek walk-in centre?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her supplementary question and her particular interest in health infrastructure in Weston Creek, in her electorate of Murrumbidgee.

I share Ms Cody's excitement in regard to the upcoming opening of the Weston Creek walk-in centre, which is due to open in mid-December this year. As I have said, this will be Canberra's fourth walk-in centre and will provide the community in Weston Creek, Molonglo and Woden Valley access to more convenient care for minor injuries and illness. The location of the new Weston Creek walk-in centre, adjacent to Cooleman Court, will ensure the provision of local, fast and free access to health care for one-off issues for the local community, who would otherwise need to travel to the walk-in centres in Tuggeranong, Belconnen or Gungahlin, or perhaps even visit the emergency department at Canberra Hospital.

Importantly, the location of the walk-in centre is close to public transport links, as well as to parking. The walk-in centre will be situated within the Weston Creek community health centre and will support a range of community health services appropriate to the demands of the growing Weston Creek and Molonglo community. The community health centre has been designed to provide the flexibility to share facilities, including reception and waiting areas and treatment and education spaces, to ensure that the Weston Creek walk-in centre will form an integral part of the community health services available in the region.

I look forward to opening the Weston Creek walk-in centre towards the end of this year and look forward to its being as well utilised and highly regarded as the other walk-in centres across the city. I look forward to seeing the response of the members for Murrumbidgee on the other side of the chamber when the walk-in centre opens, whether they welcome it or whether they criticise it, as they have continued to do our network of walk-in centres, which are so beloved by Canberrans for helping them access the right care at the right time, when and where they need it.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, could you update the Assembly on the future of Canberra's walk-in centres?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question and her interest in the future of Canberra's walk-in centres. As I outlined earlier, the fifth walk-in centre will be in the inner north, in the electorate of Kurrajong that the Chief Minister and I are so proud to represent.

Early designs have been completed and the centre will be located within the Dickson community health centre, not far from the Dickson interchange for the light rail stop. The design will provide multi-use treatment rooms that may be utilised as either walk-in centre treatment spaces or for community health centre services similar to the Weston Creek walk-in centre. Construction will commence early next year and will be completed by the end of 2020.

The Dickson walk-in centre and community health centre, again, will offer a range of health services aimed at assisting clients to better manage their health conditions in the community and closer to home. The Dickson community health centre will continue to offer podiatry and foot care services for adults who hold a Centrelink pension or healthcare card. It will also continue to offer maternal and child health services, including one-on-one appointments with nurses and group education sessions.

The delivery of a fifth walk-in centre will deliver on ACT Labor's 2016 election commitment to provide a network of five nurse-led walk-in centres across the five geographic regions of our city.

We are constantly reviewing the health data as part of territory-wide planning to inform the needs of the community for the delivery of future health services, and Canberrans can be assured that our ACT Labor government will continue to deliver better health services where and when Canberrans need them. Of course we are still waiting for any positive health announcements from those opposite.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, why didn't you attend the public consultation meeting on SPIRE 2 with Garran residents on 26 September 2019 or send a representative?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: On the evening of 26 September I was in Sydney, having just met with the New South Wales minister for health in preparing for a meeting the following day.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, why did you choose not to send a representative to this public meeting?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Milligan for the question. This meeting was an introductory meeting that I understand had been organised by Major Projects Canberra, following a meeting with the Garran Primary School. This was a meeting to introduce the project to the community. As I have said a number of times today, the project is in the early detailed design stage. This meeting was really about introducing the project to the community and introducing the people from the public service who are working on the project.

I said to the community in my letter that was sent yesterday and redirected again this morning that I apologised if community members had felt their concerns had not been addressed to date, and I assured them that it was the intention of all of those representing the ACT government to gather those concerns and work through them. But this was an early community engagement process that had the intention of introducing Major Projects Canberra and introducing the project. Obviously, that meeting did not go as well as we would have hoped, and raised some community concerns.

I have said—and I am on the record in a speech that I gave to the Property Council last year in my role as Minister for Urban Renewal—that I believe all developers should be good neighbours. That includes the ACT government. I am absolutely committed, as I am across all of my portfolios, to ensuring that our community engagement is positive and that community members are listened to.

MR HANSON: Minister, will any of the consultation actually make any difference to your plans for emergency vehicle access to SPIRE 2? If so, how?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Hanson for the supplementary question. Of course I do not want to pre-empt the outcome of those consultations. But, yes, of course they will. That is the purpose of consulting with the community, to understand everybody's concerns, to understand all of the implications. As I have said multiple times, while a lot of work has gone into the project and we have made substantial progress in developing this largest investment in health infrastructure in the history of ACT government to date, it is still in the early stages of detailed design.

We are currently in the process of the very first stage of the main works procurement process. We will be working with design experts and with the community to understand all of the implications of this incredible facility that will deliver 40,000 square metres of state-of-the-art acute health services for ACT residents and those from the surrounding New South Wales region. Of course we want to get this right. That involves talking with and listening to the community.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, building 5 is to be demolished to make way for construction of the SPIRE project. Building 5 includes accommodation facilities for interstate patients and their carers. Consultation sessions were held recently with regional New South Wales residents, and an online survey was developed about the proposed closure of the accommodation service. Minister, how many people attended each of the consultation sessions, how many completed the online survey, and what were the outcomes?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for the question. My understanding is that the online survey is still open. CHS has undertaken regional engagement in Goulburn, Bega and Batemans Bay. Some 60 consumers and carers, and referral and support organisations, attended the workshop sessions. That enabled participants to be heard, to discuss their needs when using the service while staying in Canberra, and then to make suggestions for alternative options for accommodation services based on those needs.

If people are hearing concerns from members of the community, particularly in the surrounding region of New South Wales, I would certainly encourage them to encourage those people to do the survey online or to get in touch with me or with Major Projects Canberra. There is information online in relation to this project.

We are very conscious of the fact that our \$500 million investment in a new state-of-the-art emergency, surgical and critical healthcare facility at the hospital campus will require the demolition of building 5, which is valued by those in the community, but we are very committed to working with those who use that accommodation to ensure that appropriate alternatives will be available at the time that that building is required to be decanted.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, why has the government made no announcements about future accommodation services given that the current service will continue for only a few more months?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Because we are consulting with the community.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, building 5 also houses the Canberra sexual health centre. Are you able to give us any information about what might happen there?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cheyne for the supplementary question. Of course, there has been a lot of work going into where the services in building 5 and

building 24 would be relocated. There was a lot of consultation with the staff at the sexual health centre about that. A number of options were explored and the outcome is that the sexual health centre will be relocated into a new demountable building that will be built on the site of the current building 8 at the Canberra Hospital campus. That will be a high quality demountable building.

Obviously, the design of the internal part of that building will be done in consultation with the staff at the sexual health centre and with consumers to ensure that the really fantastic services that the sexual health centre provides can continue to be provided on the Canberra Hospital campus.

I know that Ms Cheyne is a huge advocate for the sexual health centre. I have used the services myself. It is a really fantastic service. It has just celebrated its 40th anniversary. Ms Cheyne and I went along and spoke to some of the original doctors that established that really excellent service. I am really looking forward to it being relocated to a state-of-the-art location as well.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine and the Australasian Health Infrastructure Alliance have issued guidelines on planning, building and equipping hospital emergency departments. Minister, does the design of the SPIRE 2 emergency department fully embrace these guidelines? If not, to what extent do they not embrace them?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Parton for the question. Obviously, as I have said multiple times, this project is still in the early stages of detailed design. But there is ongoing engagement with clinicians in relation to this matter. In fact there are 10 clinical groups that are engaged specifically in consultation on this matter, as well as a consumer advisory group that has recently been established to support this. Any guidelines that relate to the provision of health infrastructure that are relevant to the delivery of the SPIRE project will, of course, be part of the consideration of the further detailed design work.

MR PARTON: Minister, does the SPIRE 2 emergency department being located on Palmer Street in Garran embrace the college's and alliance's guidelines; if not, why not?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Parton for the question, but I emphasise that the current design, which is an early stage of the detailed design, does not have the emergency department located on Palmer Street. That is not an accurate description. It currently has the ambulance entry coming off Palmer Street, but if you look at the pictures of the design it is very clear that they then come down to an entry that is closer to Hospital Road. The current design has other people entering the emergency and the big emergency sign on Hospital Road. I am not sure what the Canberra Liberals are thinking about here, but I assure them and anyone in the chamber and anyone in the general public who might be interested that any guidelines in relation to the development of new facilities will be taken into account. We have very close clinician engagement.

The development of a new emergency department that will have 114 treatment spaces when SPIRE is completed, along with the expansion of Calvary, means that we will have expanded emergency department treatment spaces by 50 per cent across the ACT in the space of five years. That provides us with an opportunity to redesign our ED in the most up-to-date way to ensure that patients get the absolute best treatment, including while waiting for treatment. All of this will be done with very close engagement with both clinicians and consumers and will be based on the best expert advice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, why are we still in the very early stages of planning? Considering that this was a policy commitment that you took to the 2016 election, why is it the case that you have not got the planning underway?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: That was not what I said, so I thank Mrs Dunne for the question but also for verballing me. What I said was “an early stage of detailed design”. There has been a lot of planning to get to this point, including the consultation with clinicians and the technical work that was undertaken to determine the proposed SPIRE site that is currently being worked on. There is a lot of work underway. Ms Cheyne asked about the work with the sexual health centre, and there has also been work with the child at risk health unit on where they will be decanted to. There is work currently underway to build the modular buildings for the relocation of the administrative services that are currently located in building 24. The Chief Minister and I, as I have said, were at an industry briefing that represents the first stage of the main works procurement process, which will get underway with an expression of interest in the next few weeks.

So, Mrs Dunne’s characterisation of where we are at is completely false and, many times today, in addition to “early stages of detailed design”, I have said that substantial progress has also been made in developing the project. We will have more say about that in the next few weeks.

Planning—infrastructure plan

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, how is good planning helping to deliver the infrastructure needs for our growing city?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question and her interest in planning for the future of Canberra. I commend the Chief Minister on the release of the ACT infrastructure plan. It demonstrates this government’s long-term planning for Canberra’s future and supports the aims of the ACT planning strategy. I would like to take this opportunity to outline how the infrastructure plan complements the work being done in my portfolios.

As the city grows, an important focus of our infrastructure planning will be balancing the need for investment in new suburbs and centres with maintaining and upgrading existing assets in more established suburbs. We want to ensure that all Canberrans have access to great city services and reliable utilities.

The planning work supported by the infrastructure plan includes the land use along light rail stage 2, the city to Woden light rail corridor; the east-west arterial connection of Molonglo to the Tuggeranong Parkway; Molonglo 3, suburbs 2 and 3, trunk infrastructure investigation and feasibility, including the Bindubi Street extension; Molonglo 2 and 3 sewer odour control; securing the ACT's electricity supply; the eastern broadacre employment-generating land extension of trunk infrastructure; and the Kenny residential development trunk infrastructure. Much of this is foundational work that will ensure that we can continue to supply current and future Canberrans with housing in new suburbs in greenfield areas.

The infrastructure plan sets out a long-term strategic approach to both urban infill and greenfield development, both of which are important for providing for Canberra's future.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how is the government protecting the environment as it undertakes delivery of the infrastructure plan as it relates to planning?

MR GENTLEMAN: The ACT Labor government recognises that infrastructure is not just made up of bricks and mortar. We also know that living infrastructure is a critical part of what makes Canberra such a livable city, and our natural landscape is part of what attracts so many new residents to Canberra each year.

The ACT planning strategy outlines how careful planning will help Canberra become a more sustainable city. This is complemented by the living infrastructure plan, released earlier this year. Investing in our living infrastructure will protect our natural assets to promote sustainability. Specific investments funded through the infrastructure plan to boost sustainability include the healthy waterways projects, natural resource management, and the parks and conservation service. Our public nature park assets such as trails, lookouts and public amenities all contribute to the wellbeing of community and are made possible by government investment.

Protecting our waterways and our natural landscapes are what will maintain Canberra as a sustainable and livable city into the future. It will also be an efficient city, with growth concentrated around our town centres and major transport corridors. The government believes that a mix of housing options, including new suburbs as well as urban infill, will deliver a sustainable and efficient city. Alternative planning proposals that focus on bulldozing our forests and natural landscape are a threat to Canberra's biodiversity and sustainability.

MR GUPTA: Minister, how does the infrastructure plan help to deliver on the 2018 ACT planning strategy?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Gupta for his supplementary. As Canberra grows towards a population of 500,000 by 2030, the ACT government is investing in infrastructure to support that growth and maintain the livability that Canberra is well known for. Canberra is a great place to live, work and raise your family, and I want to make sure it keeps getting better.

The government will achieve this through strategic infrastructure planning, practical investment and timely, cost-effective delivery of infrastructure. Investment in greenfield, infill and urban renewal areas will include engineering infrastructure, living infrastructure and social infrastructure all working towards the overarching directions set out in the planning strategy.

The government has shown through our infrastructure plan and planning strategy that it is focused on Canberra's future. We are looking ahead to the challenges that we will face, such as population growth and climate change. We want to be prepared for those tests and not be in denial about whether they will happen.

My focus will continue to be on supporting sustainable growth and infrastructure investment in our city and on the delivery of planning services and environmental management, making Canberra the best place to live in Australia.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, where will the HAZMAT facilities be housed in the SPIRE 2 emergency department? Has there been any detailed planning and consultation with industry on this?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: There has been engagement with specialists and experts across all of the areas that will be incorporated into the SPIRE facility, again, I note, the largest investment in health infrastructure since self-government. It is a great new facility that the opposition can only talk down. They have only one mode of operation at the moment: negative, negative, negative. They have no positive plans for the future of Canberra.

I can assure Miss C Burch that experts and clinicians are being consulted throughout this process. As I said, while substantial progress has been made, and I have just detailed some of that, the detailed design process is underway. We are planning to break ground on this project in early 2021. This is the way that infrastructure projects work. They require a lot of planning before you actually start building. This work is ongoing. It is an iterative process. We will continue to conduct that process in collaboration with experts, clinicians and consumers.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, what is the risk assessment for hazardous materials impacting on the health and safety of Garran's local residents and the students and staff of Garran primary?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: That is a rather pre-emptive question. To make any assumption that there will be any additional risk to local residents let alone primary school students from the location of this site is absolutely pre-emptive and is scaremongering of the worst kind. That is part of the Canberra Liberals' strategy: negative scaremongering. They do not have any positive vision for the future of this city. All they can do is nip, nip, nip and scaremonger among the community. They never reassure anybody, they never seek facts and they never try to put facts on the table. That is why Canberrans understand that the Canberra Liberals are completely out of touch with their values.

Mrs Dunne interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you have been warned.

Mrs Jones interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Jones, enough.

Mrs Jones interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Oh, Mrs Jones, please, don't. Mrs Dunne, you are on your feet for a supplementary?

MRS DUNNE: Minister, will you table by close of business today all the documentation that was presented to the industry consultation?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I understand that all of that documentation will be going up on the Major Projects Canberra website. I will see if it is possible to get copies of that to table in the Assembly, but media were present throughout the presentation to industry. This is public information that was presented to the industry briefing.

Mrs Dunne: Excellent. So is that a yes?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yes, absolutely, Madam Speaker. I have a strong record of transparency and I intend to continue that.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MS LAWDER: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, when SPIRE 2 becomes operational, how will the risks for Garran Primary School be mitigated when managing the aftermath of a mass casualty incident such as a bushfire or a terrorist incident?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lawder for the question but I have to say that I am rather struggling to work out what her connection is. Garran Primary School is already next door to Canberra Hospital. If she could explain why she holds additional concerns in relation to the relocation of the emergency department and some additional—

Ms Lawder: I am happy to elaborate; I am happy to rephrase the question, if it would help the minister in her answer.

MADAM SPEAKER: Are you on your feet for a point of order?

Ms Lawder: No, the minister was just saying she wanted to know more information.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: You have a supplementary, Ms Lawder.

MS LAWDER: I do have a supplementary. Minister, how many streets in the vicinity of SPIRE 2 would have to be locked down to manage a mass casualty incident? Do you understand the question?

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Lawder, you just ask a question; there is no need to add a disrespectful comment.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Lawder for the much clearer question that she was able to ask in her supplementary.

Opposition members interjecting—

Mrs Dunne: Well, she didn't understand the previous one.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Dunne, you are named. I warned you. I have brought it to your attention again. You are named. Your interjections and the level of disrespect from across the floor: you are named.

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

That Mrs Dunne be suspended from the service of the Assembly.

Mrs Dunne was suspended at 3.02 pm for three sitting hours in accordance with standing order 204, and she accordingly withdrew from the chamber.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As Ms Lawder would be aware, emergency planning is, again, an ongoing and continuous process. Until we have made final decisions in relation to the detailed design and context of the SPIRE facility—and I mentioned earlier that we recognise that access to the emergency department both for emergency vehicles but particularly for people arriving under their own steam will be a matter for further consideration; under even the current proposed design and access routes there are multiple access routes to the site of the new SPIRE project—that emergency planning will take place, as is always the case, on an ongoing basis and obviously it will depend—(*Time expired.*)

MR HANSON: Minister, why have you and your colleagues been laughing and dismissing the legitimate concerns of Garran residents, particularly those of the Garran school?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I have not. I reject the assertion that I or my colleagues have been laughing at the concerns of Garran residents. Again, I have tabled my letter to Garran residents. We do occasionally laugh at the antics of those opposite. I understand, Madam Speaker, that you would probably prefer it if we kept a straight face in relation to these matters.

I take very seriously the concerns of the neighbours of Canberra Hospital and Garran Primary School. I have written to them outlining where this project is up to, providing some further information around the traffic modelling that will be further undertaken

and the context of the development, including the fact that it is a development that will occur on a brownfield site where there are existing activities that generate significant traffic movement.

I have also offered to meet with the Garran residents association, with the Garran Primary School and with the Woden Valley Community Council. I understand that the chair of the Woden Valley Community Council has already been in contact with my office to take up that offer. I have also expressed in my letter an apology if community members have felt that their concerns have not been addressed to date. But I have also highlighted that we are at the early stages of the community engagement process as we proceed with detailed design in relation to this project.

Mr Hanson: New question, Madam Speaker.

Mr Barr: He has already asked one.

Mr Wall: There is no restriction on the number of questions a member may ask.

Mr Barr: Every other member has to have asked a question.

Mr Wall: No. Question time continues until all non-executive members have asked a question.

MADAM SPEAKER: Can we please just all settle down.

Mr Wall: If you are going to hold the rules up and wave them around, know the rules.

MADAM SPEAKER: We have had a testy afternoon. Do not add to my irritation, Mr Wall.

Economy—performance

MR GUPTA: Chief Minister, can you update the Assembly on the performance of the ACT economy?

MR BARR: I am very pleased to provide the Assembly with some good news to end question time this afternoon. The ACT continues its nation-leading economic growth. In the June quarter 2019, state final demand grew by 0.8 per cent. That was the equal highest in the nation and more than double the national rate. Our gross state product grew by four per cent in the 2017-18 financial year.

Strong economic growth is important because it means more jobs and better jobs for Canberrans. Our labour market is the strongest in the nation. We have the lowest unemployment rate in Australia at 3.5 per cent. I am pleased to say that we also have the lowest youth unemployment rate in the country. Over the past year 7,600 new jobs were created in the territory, the majority of which were full time. There are now 235,000 Canberrans in employment.

We have seen employment growth of 3.3 per cent in the past year, the strongest in the nation. There are now 8,600 job vacancies in the territory. We now have more job vacancies at 8,600 than we have people looking for work at 8,400. This is the only jurisdiction in Australia where we have more job vacancies than unemployed people.

New housing finance commitments grew by 4.1 per cent in the territory but they fell five per cent nationally. People are moving to Canberra to take up these employment opportunities. The ACT government's abolition of stamp duty for first homebuyers is having a very positive impact on these results and, indeed, on the broader housing market.

Our economy is outperforming Australia on a range of economic and social measures, and the outlook is for continued strong growth, job vacancies being a very strong early indicator of the future strength of our labour market.

MR GUPTA: Chief Minister, what action is the government taking to ensure continued economic diversification and growth?

MR BARR: Earlier this week, KPMG noted that the ACT was the most resilient jurisdiction in Australia to economic, social and community shocks. We have a strong public sector base and the government is building on that by taking decisive policy action to diversify our economy. We were very pleased to welcome nearly 5½ million visitors to our city in 2018-19, which generated \$2.82 billion for our local economy.

Our continued efforts to make it cheaper and easier to get to Canberra, to attract new domestic and international visitors through domestic and international flights and to promote Canberra as a diverse and attractive destination are clearly bearing fruit for our city's tourism industry. This is also stimulating record investment in tourism infrastructure, with new hotels, restaurants, bars and the like establishing and growing, resulting in more new jobs for Canberrans.

Beyond tourism, the government continues to invest in Canberra as an innovation and knowledge leader. We account for around 1.6 per cent of Australia's population but we are now delivering 16 per cent—10 times our population share—of the nation's research and development exports. That is testament to the strength of our knowledge economy.

International education exports rose from \$555 million in 2014 to over \$1 billion in 2018—an increase of 81 per cent—and we continue to attract new education investment, as we have seen at the ANU, the University of Canberra and through the new UNSW Canberra campus proposal. Through study Canberra and our international engagement strategy, we continue to diversify our international student base with a particular focus on attracting enrolments from places like India, Indonesia and Malaysia. *(Time expired.)*

MR PETTERSSON: Chief Minister, what does this performance mean for our city's infrastructure requirements?

MR BARR: With our very good jobs and strong employment growth, our clean environment and our welcoming and cohesive community, it is no surprise that people want to live in Canberra, to come here to work and to raise their families. Within a decade, our city will reach a population of half a million. To remain Australia's most livable city, our growing population needs to be able to continue to access ongoing quality health care, which we have been discussing today, world-class education, reliable roads and public transport, active transport options, and community arts and sporting infrastructure, all of which are set out in the government's long-term infrastructure plan.

Our pipeline is not just focused on city-defining projects like the expansion of the Canberra Hospital campus, the CIT campus redevelopment program and the rollout of the light rail network. It also includes regional, local and suburban projects, new sporting facilities, new nurse-led walk-in centres, better cultural and community facilities, upgrades to public infrastructure, better roads, and renewed arts and cultural facilities. Right across every area of local and territory government responsibility, the infrastructure plan shows how we will shape and manage Canberra's growth for years to come. I thank members for their interest in the infrastructure plan.

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

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—lockdowns

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Today in question time I was asked about the consultation in relation to residential accommodation services currently located in building 5. I indicated that I understood that the survey was still open; that is not the case. The online survey has in fact closed. The survey had around 1,200 responses and will provide quantitative and qualitative data on needs and suggestions. If members are aware of people who did not have an opportunity to complete the survey they can email ihss@act.gov.au with their feedback or they can always get in touch with me or my office and we will pass that on.

I also take the opportunity to respond to some of the matters that were raised in question time yesterday in relation to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. I am afraid this is a relatively long statement, but it is important to put these matters on the record, given today's media coverage.

I am committed to transparency and I understand the community interest in Bimberi Youth Justice Centre. On 17 September 2019 I tabled the executive summary of Peter Muir's interim report into the incident that occurred on 26 August 2019. As Mr Muir put it in his interim report, the 26 August incident was at the more serious end of what you would expect to see in a youth justice centre.

As I stated in the Assembly, based on the evidence examined by Mr Muir to date, he does not find that there were any precursors which the centre management or staff should have responded to above the systems and actions that were already in place.

Further, Mr Muir has not found any significant failings in the systems of behaviour management over the young people involved in this incident. Mr Muir also acknowledged that the staff involved in the incident acted with a high degree of professionalism, courage and teamwork.

Yesterday I was asked a series of questions in relation to lockdowns. I want to emphasise that an operational lockdown at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is where a decision is made to secure all or some young people in their cabins for a period of time. Lockdowns occur for the minimum amount of time possible to ensure the safe operation of the centre.

This action is taken to ensure the safety of young people and staff of the centre, and is determined based on a number of factors, including the number of young people in the centre at the time; cohorts of young people and their risk classification; co-offenders; gender; age; victims and social dynamics; the activities and appointments of young people in the centre; and the number of staff on site to accommodate the number of young people in the centre.

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

Since the major incident on 26 August 2019 there have been lockdowns ranging in length from one hour to 10 hours. It is important to note, however, that lockdowns occur on a rotational basis, meaning that in a 10-hour lockdown period an individual young person will be in their cabin for half of the total lockdown period, generally in one or two-hour blocks of time. To be clear, no young person has been confined to their cabin for 10 hours as a result of a lockdown.

I was also asked about visits. Every young person in Bimberi may have a visit by a family member or significant person each week. Bimberi prioritises visits with family and significant others, given the importance of maintaining family connection for young people while they are in Bimberi. There have been 272 visits by family and friends between July and September 2019.

A small number of approved visits have been rescheduled due to operational requirements. Bimberi has minimised any disruptions to family visits to the greatest extent possible. For example, prior to the incident there were 101 family and friends visits in July and in September 92 family and friends visits occurred.

After the incident on 26 August the centre was required to be secured on 27 August 2019, as per emergency operating procedures, while staff worked to restore operations. Since then there has been a need to postpone or reschedule some visits on five days. On these occasions approved visits were postponed or rescheduled as a result of staff needing to respond to codes at the time of the scheduled visit, because the visitor was not an approved visitor, or because of the need to induct a new arrival at the centre.

On two occasions visits were postponed or rescheduled as a result of the available staff needing to maintain the operations of the centre. On one of these days the morning visits progressed and the rescheduling was limited to those visits planned for the afternoon. The decision to reschedule or postpone visits is not taken lightly and every effort is made to accommodate them as planned. Where this cannot occur, visits are rescheduled to the soonest available opportunity.

I was also asked about education. Prior to 26 August 2019, young people had been attending the Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre every day. After the major incident, the centre was required to be secured on 27 August, as per emergency operating procedures, as I have previously mentioned. Young people did not attend school on this day.

Bimberi and the Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre have worked constructively to maximise young people's engagement in education since the incident. There have been occasions where the centre or units of the centre have received their education within the Murrumbidgee Education and Training Centre, contrary to reporting which would indicate that the METC has been closed for the duration. However, education provisions have had to be managed to ensure the security of the centre and the safety of young people and staff.

When it is not possible for young people to receive their education at the METC, young people are provided with education packs and supported by METC staff and Bimberi staff to complete their work in their units. I also note that there have been two weeks of school holidays since the incident. During the holidays recreational programs occurred, with the PCYC attending on four occasions, two sessions of hip-hop workshops, two full days of graffiti art sessions and access to the pool, gym and resource room for Xbox and movies.

I acknowledge the impact on young people of this disruption to the educational facilities at Bimberi as a result of these activities, but Bimberi staff and management are working hard with the partners of the centre to minimise the impact for young people.

As I mentioned, I talked yesterday about the current recruitment processes underway. They are very important part of ensuring that the centre will continue to be staffed appropriately into the future. I again place on record my thanks to the staff of Bimberi who work incredibly hard every day to support the most complex young people in our community.

Canberra Hospital—SPIRE project

MR GENTLEMAN: In question time today I took on notice questions from Mrs Jones and Mr Hanson about the SPIRE project. I am advised by ESA that they are currently in the early stages of consultation, including in relation to traffic flow for ambulances in and out of the proposed SPIRE. These and other matters will be considered as part of the feasibility study and planning stages. All aspects around response times and patient safety will feature prominently.

Housing ACT—complaints

MR PARTON: I want to put on the record my gratitude to the minister for housing in regard to some matters that were discussed in question time yesterday. The minister personally visited my office and followed up on a number of those matters. Granted, there are still some questions on notice that I will be expecting some more detailed answers for, but the minister was not under any obligation to visit my office and pass on the information that she did today. At the risk of interrupting the flow of vitriol and angst and catcalling, I want to put on the record my gratitude to the minister for her refreshing actions.

Papers

Mr Assistant Speaker (Mr Pettersson) presented the following paper:

Estimates 2019-2020—Select Committee—Answer to question on notice E19-489—Correction—Copy of letter from the Deputy Chief Minister to the Speaker, dated 22 October 2019.

Mr Gentleman presented the following papers:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act, pursuant to subsection 10B(3)—ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—Report on the outcomes of the ATSIEB Hearings 2019—Ninth Report to the ACT Government.

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual report 2018-2019—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (2 volumes) (incorporating the ACT Public Cemeteries Authority)—Corrigendum.

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(1)—Auditor-General's Report No 7/2019—Referral processes for the support of vulnerable children—Government response.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(5)—Reports of Coroner—Inquests into the deaths of—

Luke Newsome, dated 27 March 2019.

Michael Richard Hall, dated 21 February 2019.

Government response, dated October 2019.

Inspector of Correctional Services Act, pursuant to subsection 30(2)—Reports of Reviews of Critical Incidents by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Assaults of detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre—Government responses—

16 December 2018.

1 January and 15 April 2019.

National Education and Care Services Freedom of Information Commissioner, Privacy Commissioner & Ombudsman—Annual report—1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Statement of leases granted for the period 1 July to 30 September 2019.

Priority Investment Program—Funding Guidelines: Building collaboration to attract investment into Canberra’s knowledge economy, dated October 2019.

Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—Progress report 2019.

Transport Action Plan—Quarterly update—Number 1, dated October 2019.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—report on the outcomes of the ATSIEB hearings 2019

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.21): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act, pursuant to subsection 10B(3)—ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body—Report on the outcomes of the ATSIEB Hearings 2019—Ninth Report to the ACT Government.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (3.21): I am pleased to have the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body report on the outcomes of the ATSIEB hearings on 28 and 29 March 2019 tabled in the Assembly today. I welcome this report, the ninth prepared by the elected body, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community’s voice to the Assembly and the ACT government. I thank the chair and members of the elected body for their hard work in preparing this report on behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

One of the most important roles of the elected body is the hearings process, where elected body members directly ask questions to senior government officials and directors-general. Modelled on the estimates process used by the Legislative Assembly and the Australian Senate, this provides for direct accountability to the democratically elected representatives of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Over time, the elected body hearings have proved to be a successful method of bringing the concerns and issues of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to the attention of the ACT government. Prior to the hearings, elected body members reach out to the community to see if there are any questions or issues people want raised. The hearings are driving real improvements to service delivery and policy development and better life outcomes as a result. The ninth report to the ACT government follows hearings held on 28 and 29 March 2019. The report contains seven whole-of-government recommendations and 17 recommendations for specific directorates.

The ACT government is now working through these recommendations. The chair of the elected body, Ms Katrina Fanning, has acknowledged in the report that progress has been made in a number of areas, which include the reopening of Boomanulla Oval for community use; finalisation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander procurement policy to include business and human services contract deliverables; the finalised design and development work on stage 2 and site selection and initial designs for stage 3 of the older persons housing project; continued commitment to the Our Booris, Our Way review and its recommendations; a review of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm; and a focus on increasing the cultural competence of staff across the ACT public service. This is in addition to the signing of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2019-28 just a few weeks before the hearings. The agreement, and the government, recognises that more needs to be done.

I thank the elected body for its ongoing commitment to working with the ACT government to progress many actions identified in focus area action plans under the agreement. The agreement's action plans provide measurable objectives and realistic targets to achieve equitable life outcomes for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans. I have no doubt that progress against the agreement and its action plans will be the subject of much discussion at the next elected body hearings. Following next year's elected body elections, we will then begin working through the next phase of the action plans.

Another important part of the elected body's work is its facilitation of community conversations and engagement with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The outcomes from these conversations provide continued guidance to the ACT government as we implement the agreement. Elected body led conversations are now underway on the closing the gap refresh, to get community feedback on the priority reform areas being proposed, such as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led decision-making, growth of the community-controlled sector, and improving mainstream services' ability to deliver appropriate responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The elected body held one forum on 17 October 2019, with another scheduled for 28 October 2019. The elected body continues to provide a strong voice for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. On behalf of the government, I thank its members for their tireless work and ongoing commitment to their community.

A whole-of-government response to the recommendations of the elected body's ninth report will be prepared and tabled in accordance with the provisions of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008. I look forward to continuing the government's positive and productive engagement with the elected body. I greatly appreciate the advice I receive on addressing the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Auditor-General's report No 7 of 2019—referral processes for the support of vulnerable children

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.26): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(1)—Auditor-General's Report No 7/2019—Referral processes for the support of vulnerable children—Government response.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (3.26): Thank you for the opportunity to table the government response to the ACT Auditor-General's report on the referral processes for the support of vulnerable children, report No 7 of 2019.

The ACT Auditor-General tabled the report on 27 June 2019. The ACT government response addresses the report's findings and recommendations about referral processes, including monitoring and reporting, for vulnerable children across a select number of early childhood services provided by the Community Services Directorate and Canberra Health Services.

As members may be aware, the report contains the results of an audit into the referral processes for vulnerable children through the Maternal and Child Health—MACH—Service, child and family centres and child development services, as examples of accessible and universal ACT government contact points for families, with the capacity to identify potentially vulnerable children and their needs for support.

It aimed to examine the effectiveness of the processes in place utilised by these agencies to identify vulnerable children and to enable appropriate supports that address their developmental and other needs. The report also acknowledges the rich evidence of a range of services and supports put in place by the agencies for the children and families to address their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

Recommendations are provided on how referral processes could be strengthened by improving the take-up of some of the services, as well as improving administrative and procedural guidance, public reporting and accountability for the delivery of services to vulnerable children and their families. Opportunities to improve the effectiveness of these referral processes are critical to ensuring that vulnerable children and their families receive the support they need.

The insights provided by the report help to identify current strengths and highlight opportunities for improvement for the services and referral pathways explored in the audit. For example, improving the take-up of the MACH first home visit may be possible through the identification of further opportunities for engagement with other

programs and services that come into contact with this vulnerable cohort. To this end, MACH will continue to work with birthing services across the ACT and will continue to monitor reasons for non-take-up to identify any barriers to access.

Of the six recommendations, five are agreed and one is agreed in principle. Where the government position is agreement in principle, the government supports the policy intent of the recommendation but recognises that important contextual information and resourcing constraints must be considered in ensuring that responses are effective and targeted to vulnerable children and families.

I would like to highlight that since the beginning of the audit the government has progressed reforms and reviews that will give rise to system-wide changes which will contribute to improved services and referral pathways for vulnerable children and families. The MACH service has undergone significant service review and redesign, including restructuring of the MACH service model to allow for local follow-up; a workforce strategy to maintain service capacity; and relocation of clinical services to meet community need.

Canberra Health Services is currently undertaking the early family support initiative to review and respond to identified gaps in services for families experiencing vulnerabilities. This will include opportunities to trial multidisciplinary sustained nurse home visiting programs.

Early support by design is a human services wide reform to shift the system from a crisis-focused response to one that enables early support and wellbeing. Key components of early support by design are intended to enhance system, practice and service responses for vulnerable families, including service responses that work with children in the context of their families and are co-produced in partnership with people with lived experience in order to minimise barriers to access and engagement.

A key component of the broader early support work is the development of the first 1,000 days strategy. This will drive a collective and coherent approach that ensures Canberra's children have the best start in life. The importance of the first 1,000 days of life, from conception to the age of two years, is now well understood as critical in establishing strong foundations that have benefits over the life course. Getting it right in this time period, and supporting families and communities to do so, is the surest way of setting children, families and communities up for success and positive outcomes. The first 1,000 days strategy will draw on an extensive evidence base, bringing together what the ACT is currently doing to support this stage of life and identifying opportunities to further strengthen these supports. I look forward to providing more updates as this strategy is further developed over the coming months.

Furthermore, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement 2019-28 incorporates 10 action plans developed around core and significant focus areas, one of which is children and young people. This area has a specific commitment to achieving the outcomes of delivering quality services that support the positive development, health, and wellbeing of children and young people, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children growing up safely in their families and communities.

In conclusion, implementing the proposed government response will assist us to continue to focus our effort on these agreed government commitments and reform directions to effect system-wide change that will have a further positive influence on the services and referral pathways explored in the report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Transport action plan—quarterly update

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.32): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Transport Action Plan—Quarterly Update—Number 1, dated October 2019.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for City Services, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction, Minister for Roads and Active Travel and Minister for Transport) (3.32): On 17 September 2019 I released the government's transport action plan to improve the reliability of weekend bus services. This plan sets out the 10 actions the government is taking to ensure that Canberrans have a reliable public transport system on weekends.

The implementation of the interim weekend timetable on 28 September has resulted in significant improvements to the reliability of weekend bus services for Canberrans. I am pleased to advise that Transport Canberra has met its reliability target on three of the four weekends since the interim timetable was introduced, with a reliability of 99.8 per cent on these weekends.

Today I am tabling the first quarterly update on the government's progress against the plan. Work has commenced on nine of the 10 actions and overall it is progressing well. The 10 actions of the plan sit under five themes: bus driver recruitment, improving information for customers, improving workforce planning, improving operational business practices and the weekend timetable update. In fact, two actions are already complete. These are action 9, implement an interim weekend timetable to improve reliability, and action 6, increased use of standby drivers.

However, the government recognises that an interim weekend timetable is not a long-term solution. Our goal is to deliver not just reliable weekend services but also more frequent services right across our city. No single action alone is likely to deliver frequent and reliable weekend bus services for Canberrans, and that is why we have identified a range of actions in our transport action plan. The new interim weekend timetable includes provision of six standby drivers across the course of each day at each of Transport Canberra's depots. These standby drivers offer an immediate backup solution to maintaining service reliability for our customers in the event of unplanned disruptions and driver availability.

Recruiting and training more bus drivers is another key action and I can inform members that Transport Canberra has made real progress in stepping up recruitment of drivers. During a recent recruitment round, from 11 July to 27 September, Transport Canberra received 458 applications to become a bus driver. Transport Canberra is now working through these applications, with assessments taking place twice a month and up to 45 interviews being held each week with potential drivers. I am advised that a further recruitment round is due to commence on 28 October to ensure that Transport Canberra has a steady stream of suitable candidates.

As part of this new, continuous recruitment model, Transport Canberra is also prioritising applicants interested in weekend work, fast-tracking candidates who meet several eligibility requirements and partnering with the Australian government's veterans employment program to attract candidates with suitable experience and qualifications such as heavy vehicle licences.

Transport Canberra is also preparing a new workforce development plan that reflects staffing requirements for delivering current services, as well as services planned for areas of population growth, a future bus depot at Woden and other future transport plans. I look forward to providing a further update to the Assembly in January 2020 on the government's progress in improving the reliability of weekend bus services. I commend this report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Coroner's report—inquest into the death of Luke Newsome

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.35): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(5)—Report of Coroner—Inquest into the death of Luke Newsome.

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) (3.35): The report of Coroner Cook into the tragic death of Mr Luke Newsome was tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Coroners Act. I start by offering my sincere condolences to the deceased's family and friends who lost a loved one in such tragic circumstances.

Coroner Cook handed down his findings, following an inquest into the death of Mr Newsome, on 27 March 2019. He determined that the cause of death was severe head injury arising from a fall. Coroner Cook found that a matter of public safety arose but acknowledged that this was addressed by the Summernats organisers.

Since the tragic incident, the terms and conditions for entrants in events at Summernats have been amended to explicitly prohibit persons being seated in or on vehicles without being seated in a seat that is engineered for use in that vehicle and that persons seated in that seat must be wearing a seatbelt. The organisers also restated that burnouts were prohibited within the event, with the exception of certain specific events. I thank Coroner Cook for considering this matter.

The ACT government has a long history of supporting Summernats and is committed to working with the organiser and police to protect those attending and participating in the event. Each year the Summernats organiser is required to submit a risk management and safety plan which is reviewed by the ACT government to ensure that a high level of safety for participants, attendees and the public is maintained. The ACT government is committed to monitoring the arrangements for Summernats and will respond as appropriate to make any changes required to protect the community and participants during the event. I once again express my sympathies to the family and friends of Mr Newsome.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Coroner's report—inquest into the death of Michael Richard Hall—report and government response

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.37): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following papers:

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(5)—Report of Coroner—Inquest into the death of Michael Richard Hall—

Report.

Government response.

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) (3.37): The government response and the report of Coroner Boss into the tragic death of Mr Michael Richard Hall were tabled in accordance with the requirements of the Coroners Act. I firstly offer my sincere condolences to Mr Hall's family and friends who lost a loved one in such tragic circumstances. Mr Hall was a well-known and successful competitive endurance cyclist and people all over the world were affected by his untimely and tragic death.

Coroner Boss made a number of recommendations relating to the infrastructure and speed limits at the intersection where this tragic accident occurred and the current requirements relating to bicycle lighting. I thank Coroner Boss for considering this matter.

The ACT government is committed to a safe systems approach which takes a holistic approach to road safety improvement, focusing on safe speeds, safe roads and roadsides, safe vehicles, as well as safe people and safe behaviours. An essential element of the safe systems approach is the design of roads to reduce the risk of crashes and to reduce the harm to people if a crash happens.

The Transport and City Services Directorate commissioned a safe systems infrastructure assessment and road safety audit at the intersection where this tragic accident occurred. The report found that the existing speed limits on the major intersections along the ACT section of the Monaro Highway are acceptable. The report made a number of findings in relation to improvements to the physical road infrastructure at that location, and these are being actioned through the territory's road maintenance program and future capital works program.

As more Canberrans choose to walk and cycle across our city, we need to ensure that our road transport system provides safe and accessible infrastructure to support active transport. The Minister for Transport and I are committed to improving our infrastructure for the safety of all road users.

Coroner Boss recommended changes to road rules relating to the types of lights required for cyclists. Cyclists in the ACT currently have a choice about whether they fit steady or flashing rear lights on their bicycles when riding at night or in hazardous weather conditions causing reduced visibility. They also have the choice about whether they fit separate rear reflectors and rear lights or whether they have them integrated into one unit. The ACT government encourages cyclists to use their judgement regarding additional circumstances when using lights would provide them with greater visibility of the road environment and provide greater visibility of them to other road users.

The current framework covers most situations, providing cyclists with the option of choosing the safest lighting option for the road environment they are travelling on, including the times when the light is to be used and the lighting configuration with which they are most comfortable. As such, the government's response to the coroner's report proposes no change to the rules regarding lighting, which also keeps them in line with other jurisdictions in Australia.

Any death on our roads is tragic. Under the vision zero approach we take to road safety it is also preventable. Vision zero aims for zero death or serious injuries on our roads. It also acknowledges that people make mistakes and demands that the road traffic environment is designed in a way that accommodates these mistakes and protects people. We will continue to strive for vision zero and to learn from the tragic circumstances of Mr Hall's death. I reiterate my sympathy to the family and friends of Mr Hall.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Property crime prevention strategy—progress report

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and

Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.41): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—Progress report 2019.

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) (3.41): The property crime prevention strategy 2016-20 includes a commitment for me to table progress reports in the ACT Legislative Assembly. This report provides an update on progress against the targets in the strategy and the government's achievements against the actions. I am pleased to inform the Assembly that overall the number of property offences in the ACT has been decreasing over the last three years since the strategy was introduced.

In 2018-19 there were 19,637 recorded property offences, which is 2,033 less than three years ago in 2015-16. Within the property offence category, the strategy has five targets aimed at keeping crime rates low in the following areas: unlawful entry with intent, motor vehicle theft, other theft, bicycle theft and property damage. The good news is that we are exceeding two of the five targets. We continue to be well below the national average for unlawful entry with intent, sitting at 521 victims per 100,000 people in 2018, compared to 672 nationally. The rate of other thefts continues to decrease, with 153 offences per 100,000 people, compared to 221 in 2015-16.

However, while the ACT benefits from relatively low property crime and we are tracking well overall, there is no room for complacency because property crime can still affect anyone at any time. Remaining vigilant is essential to keeping property crime rates down and we still have work to do in this space. We do face some challenges related to the remaining three targets around property damage, bicycle theft and motor vehicle theft. The property damage rate did increase by five incidents in 2018-19, after decreasing in the previous financial year. While this is a small increase, the government will work with ACT Policing to continue to identify ways to address property damage across the territory.

The bicycle theft rate per 100,000 people also increased by five. We know that sometimes a bicycle is the main mode of transport a person has and/or the key to staying active. So having a bike stolen can be devastating. Over the next 12 months, we will ramp up efforts to remind people to remain vigilant through continuing to promote the "lock it or lose it" message.

The main challenge for the ACT in relation to property crime continues to be motor vehicle theft. While it is encouraging that motor vehicle theft decreased in the ACT in 2018-19, we have not yet achieved our target and remain above the national rate. This is a key issue, because often stolen vehicles are used in other crimes, such as failing to stop for police, ram raids and burglaries. Preventing motor vehicle theft could help curb other offences and will be a major focus going forward.

What we do know about motor vehicle theft is that while older cars without engine immobilisers are still easy to steal, thieves are resorting to breaking into houses to

steal the keys for newer cars that cannot be hot-wired. In response to this, a key piece of work under the strategy is a property crime prevention awareness campaign. JACS and ACT Policing have been working collaboratively on this campaign, which aims at improving community awareness about what people can do to safeguard their property.

I will be launching this with the minister for police in the coming weeks, with the first area of focus being motor vehicle theft. I look forward to highlighting this important issue. The campaign will also focus on several other key areas over the next 12 to 18 months, including theft from cars, home security, theft from apartment buildings, tradie tool theft and small business security.

I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of the great work that has occurred across government, driven by the objectives of the strategy. Community and neighbourhood connections were strengthened through the government's continued support for national Neighbour Day. In 2019 we had 368 registered Neighbour Day events take place, with 15,111 participants across the ACT.

Improvements are being made so that data and information about property crime are more available and user friendly for the community. This includes enhancements to ACT Policing's website statistics. In addition, a strategic review of the ACT criminal justice statistical profile is underway and will result in further improvements for how and when property crime data is published.

We have seen some great collaborative responses to address crime trends, including a new network made up of JACS, Housing ACT, ACT Health and ACT Policing to address antisocial and criminal behaviours in some of our high-density housing areas. Those who are more vulnerable to property crime continue to be supported, with the government providing recurrent funding in the 2018-19 budget to continue and expand the strong connected neighbourhoods initiative to Illawarra Court at Belconnen. In 2018-19, through the HomeSafe program, 182 home safety assessments were provided free of charge for people vulnerable to property crime, and minor modifications were carried out on 37 properties to increase home security.

The quality of data and intelligence to improve crime prevention activities continues to be a priority for ACT Policing. In 2017 the crime disruption team was established, with a primary focus on recidivist offending, and has had successes in the areas of disrupting robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT. These are just a few examples of the great work being carried out under this strategy. The government will continue to play our role in making places more difficult and less appealing for criminal activity, raising awareness and empowering the community to safeguard their property.

It would be nice if people did not have to take steps to safeguard their property. I wish we could stamp out crime altogether. In reality, property crime needs to be everybody's business. Government, police, community organisations and individuals all have a role to play in preventing property crime. Although Canberra is one of the safest places to live and we experience lower crime rates than other jurisdictions, we do face some challenges and need to ensure that we do not become complacent. I look

forward to working with the community and our stakeholders to keep property crime down and to minimise the number of people who become victim to property crime.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Report of a review of a critical incident by the Inspector of Correctional Services—assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.48): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Inspector of Correctional Services Act—Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 16 December 2018—Government response.

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) (3.48): I am pleased to table the government's response to the Inspector of Correctional Services' report of a review of a critical incident, *Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 16 December 2018*. As members are aware, on 5 June 2019 the Inspector of Correctional Services tabled this report, the third review the office has completed of a critical incident. The review was conducted at the inspector's own initiative, following an assault and the subsequent hospitalisation of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

The report found that the incident was not reasonably foreseeable by ACT Corrective Services. It makes four findings that provide the ACT community with assurance that ACT Corrective Services responded to this critical incident efficiently. Two findings identify areas for improvement in practice in relation to ensuring that internal incident review practices align with written procedure and timely updating of detainee records relating to next of kin. The report also makes one recommendation: that ACT Corrective Services ensures that those involved in traumatic events are offered support after the event and that these offers are documented.

ACT Corrective Services continues to strive to maintain correctional facilities where detainee and staff safety is paramount, detainees are treated with respect and dignity, and human rights are maintained at all times. However, within all correctional centres there remains risk for conflict amongst detainees. In order to manage this risk, ACT Corrective Services has bolstered its security operations and is constantly evolving its security practices to align with international best practice in corrections management. The positive findings of this report are evidence that this work is progressing well.

I would like to thank the office of the Inspector of Correctional Services for this report that will continue to inform best practice in the care, treatment and safety of all detainees in the ACT's correctional facilities.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Report of a review of a critical incident by the Inspector of Correctional Services—assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Manager of Government Business, Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (3.51): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Inspector of Correctional Services Act—Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 1 January and 15 April 2019—Government response.

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) (3.51): This is my last tabling statement for the afternoon. I am pleased to table the government's response to two critical incident reviews of the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services. As members are aware, on 30 July 2019 the inspector tabled the report of a review of a critical incident, *Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 1 January 2019*. On 22 August 2019 the inspector tabled a further report of a review of a critical incident, *Assault of a detainee at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 15 April 2019*.

Both of these reviews were conducted on the inspector's own initiative, following two separate assaults and the subsequent hospitalisation of the victims, who were detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. This government response addresses the findings and recommendations contained in both reports. They provide transparency to the ACT community and identify areas for continuous improvement in the ACT's corrections environment.

The review of the incident that occurred on 1 January 2019 found that, overall, the assault was not reasonably foreseeable by ACT Corrective Services and that the actions of staff were appropriate in the circumstances. However, it made three recommendations for improvement in policy and practice at the AMC.

Recommendation 1 made in the report relates to the review of policy to require that risk assessments occur for every accommodation placement decision. This recommendation is agreed and will be actioned when the shared cell policy is notified by the end of the year. The new policy establishes the requirement for risk assessments to take place for accommodation placement decisions and dictates the type of documentation to be completed.

Two recommendations relate to policies and practices related to segregation. Since the inspector initiated the review into this critical incident, ACT Corrective Services has notified the management of segregation and separate confinement policy. This new policy establishes clear requirements for correctional centres to manage the segregation and separate confinement of detainees in a safe, secure, decent and humane manner. Forms related to separate confinement have also been updated that require an explanation for the reasons that the detainee has been placed in segregation and the authority to segregate the detainee under the Corrections Management Act 2007.

ACT Corrective Services recognises the significant impact that segregation regimes can have on the mental health of a detainee and is committed to ensuring that such impacts are minimised as far as is practicable. Investigative segregation is not used by ACT Corrective Services, to provide time for ACT Policing to conduct an investigation or to conduct initial interviews regarding the incident.

ACT Corrective Services accepts that the reasons noted on the detainee segregation form were not in accordance with Corrective Services policy. Corrective Services manages segregation in accordance with the newly notified management of segregation and separate confinement policy. It articulates that investigative segregation is necessary after an incident to avoid the opportunity for the detainee to associate with anyone else. Association with the general AMC population could create, or may create, a risk of harm or threatened harm to any person for perverting or attempting to pervert an investigation or undermining the security and good order at a correctional centre.

The review of the incident that occurred on 15 April 2019 identifies five findings. These provide the ACT community with assurance that ACT Corrective Services responded to this critical incident efficiently. I would like to thank the office of the Inspector of Correctional Services for this report that will continue to inform best practice in the care, treatment and safety of all detainees in the ACT's correctional facilities.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

City-wide light rail

Discussion of matter of public importance

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

The importance of planning and committing to a city-wide light rail network.

MR GUPTA (Yerrabi) (3.55): I am pleased to rise today to speak on the importance of planning and committing to a city-wide light rail network. Light rail is a project

that looks towards the future, to the second half of the 2020s and beyond. Light rail has been a transformative project in my electorate of Yerrabi and has been the catalyst for growth on the northern side of Canberra. I am excited to see it extend to other areas of our city so that we can share the benefits of light rail with other parts of our city. Our ACT Labor government has plans to bring light rail to Commonwealth Park, then onwards to Woden. Connections to Mawson and Tuggeranong will follow after that.

Our ACT Labor government is working to ensure that we are delivering the public facilities and services that a growing city needs, through the ACT infrastructure plan that we released this month. The key priority in shaping the ACT infrastructure plan is to provide a high standard of service to the community across all sectors, and transport is one of those key sectors. Transport is the way that we move through our city. Transport connects us to our homes, workplaces and local community. Our government is committed to ensuring that we can all move around our city as it continues to grow. Canberra's light rail network will keep our city moving.

I am incredibly proud to represent the electorate of Yerrabi. The ACT government has invested significantly in new infrastructure in Canberra's north in recent years to support the growth of communities there, including delivering stage 1 of light rail. The first six months of light rail have been a success, with passenger numbers at levels not expected until 2021. Over 2.2 million trips have been recorded since the service began, and I am happy to report that light rail has a 90 per cent approval rating. In the six months since we opened it, light rail has transformed travel from Gungahlin to Civic. It has tackled congestion, and the buses it replaced have gone to other parts of Canberra.

I sometime drive to work from my home suburb in Gungahlin. When I am stuck in traffic and I see multiple red flashes of light rail pass my window, I realise how efficient and convenient the light rail is and I wish I was on one of them. For example, the other day it took me over 50 minutes to drive to work. When I took the light rail to work last week, I left my home at around 8.30 and I was at my office desk before 9 am.

I frequently visit residents in their homes and hold regular mobile offices to listen to any concerns and suggestions in the local community. I am pleased to report that I have received overwhelmingly positive feedback about the light rail on the ground. I recently met a woman in Gungahlin who told me that she absolutely loves the light rail and she uses the service every day to get to work. She told me that light rail made Canberra feel like a modern and mature city and she wanted to convey her appreciation to the ACT government for advocating for a transformative project. It turns out that kids like it too. I frequently give out cardboard cut-outs of light rail for children to assemble at home. The other day at my mobile office a young boy took a cardboard cut-out of the light rail and a few minutes later came back and asked if he could have one more for his mate next door.

The debate on light rail has truly been won. I know that residents in my electorate are feeling the benefits of light rail every single day, and it is improving the quality of life of many Canberrans. Rail infrastructure brings unique opportunities and growth that

other forms of transport do not. Rail infrastructure contributes to increased productivity, which leads to economic growth and job creation. Stage 1 of light rail from Gungahlin to the city has created public-private partnerships and brought new skills and capability into the territory. Small and local businesses along the light rail corridor are benefiting as customers and patrons are able to come into town via light rail and do not have to worry about where they park.

Our ACT government is ensuring that we have the necessary infrastructure to capitalise on Canberra's current opportunities in addressing emerging challenges as our city grows. It is incredibly important to ensure that our city grows and we are getting growth right. It is essential that, as we grow, we are being responsible and laying the foundations for the next generation and for a sustainable city.

Canberra is already using 100 per cent renewable electricity, which means that transport now represents the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions, at 60 per cent. To achieve the ACT's ambitious target of net zero emissions by 2045, there will need to be a community-wide shift to more environmentally friendly modes of transport and reduced use of private cars. Light rail is one example of how we will support this shift: the network will be fully powered by renewable electricity for fast, convenient and emission-free transport between the CBD and major town centres.

During the 2016 election campaign I passionately campaigned for light rail. As we all know, the Canberra Liberals promised not to build the light rail if they were successful in the election. Thankfully, our ACT Labor government delivered on our promise to deliver light rail, and it has transformed our region. It was wonderful to see our shadow minister for transport, Miss Candice Burch MLA, proudly posing with her MyWay at a light rail stop when it opened—after campaigning on a “no trams” platform. It is interesting to see that even the Canberra Liberals have come around to the benefits of light rail, even though they have been suspiciously quiet about their position. I suppose there is not a lot they can say, since Canberrans love the light rail.

Light rail has transformed the Gungahlin region and has improved the lives of Canberrans. Our ACT Labor government is committed to ensuring that the benefits are shared across Canberra and that we are laying the foundations for our growing and successful city.

MR STEEL (Murrumbidgee—Minister for Community Services and Facilities, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Transport and City Services) (4.02): I am delighted to be able to speak today about the importance of planning and committing to a city-wide light rail network across Canberra. We only have to look at the remarkable success of light rail stage 1 to understand the benefits that the rest of Canberra can expect when all of our town centres are linked by light rail.

Light rail is a valuable transport and planning tool that we are using to deliver infrastructure growth in a planned way. Right down Northbourne Avenue we are seeing an unprecedented construction boom, driven by light rail, and as the new tree canopy planted around the light rail starts to take shape the grand entrance to Canberra that has always been planned will finally exist.

Light rail is a success story for investment in infrastructure, coming in under budget, and a success story for public transport. In the six months that light rail stage 1 has been operating from Gungahlin, down the Northbourne corridor to Civic, it has moved over one million people, roughly 15,000 people a day. That is 15,000 people a day who do not have to drive a car to work or uni. That is 15,000 people a day not looking for a car park. It is 15,000 people a day from Gungahlin and north Canberra who appreciate that light rail has given them a better transport option than sitting in road congestion waiting for the light to turn green.

Although light rail stage 1 is only 12 kilometres long, it carries 20 per cent of our integrated transport network passengers. This is a figure that was not expected for several years and has prompted demands that we buy extra light rail vehicles to offer more services and provide more capacity on just this first stage. This remarkable success in encouraging new construction and economic growth, lifting public transport patronage and reducing road congestion is the model that we want to apply to the rest of Canberra. We want to extend the benefits and success that we have seen with light rail stage 1 down to Woden and then to Belconnen and Tuggeranong.

As the infrastructure plan released shows, our city is growing and there is strong demand for both places to work and places to live. This government is committed to providing options to people who want to live in an apartment, in a town centre, along a transport corridor, in a standalone house in the suburbs or in a small complex of townhouses in suburban neighbourhoods.

We do not want residents to continue to be victims of car dependency due to the poor planning that we inherited in a large, spread-out city; we want them to have better options. We can provide that by ensuring that active travel and public transport are planned and funded appropriately, not just between the town centres but in suburban neighbourhoods. This is important because our government recognises that the way people move around our city every day matters to them. That is why we have invested in infrastructure that supports people's choices. With a city-wide light rail network as the backbone of an integrated transport network, Canberrans will have more transport options.

Our integrated public transport network features 10 rapid routes, with nine rapid bus routes and one light rail route. As we continue to grow the light rail network, the ability to integrate buses and light rail will deliver more benefits to those that choose to use public transport. Buses will always be a major part of our city's transport options. More buses mean more local routes, greater frequency and better integration with rapid routes, be they light rail or bus rapids.

The new roads that we have planned and are building right now—even the roads that the Liberals and Greens did not support yesterday in Ms Cody's motion—are also important. Better roads that allow for safe and efficient travel mean less congestion, less driving and more time with our families. This government recognises that cars, trucks and buses will remain an important part of people's transport choices, and we have planned and invested in road infrastructure at the same time as we are investing in light rail infrastructure. We can do both, and we must do both.

It is no secret that we want people to drive less, not just for transport and lifestyle reasons but as a way that we can all reduce transport emissions. Reducing emissions through changes in transport behaviours helps us to contribute to combating climate change.

Light rail is the best technology we have for moving people from where they live to where they work or go to school. It is the best technology available now for achieving that with zero emissions and 100 per cent renewable electricity. Although that is something we aspire to in our bus fleet, it may take some time to transition from a diesel fleet to a zero-emissions bus fleet. But we are doing that planning work as well. These are just some of the reasons our government is planning and committing to a city-wide light rail network across Canberra. The success of light rail stage 1 shows us a way forward.

You will never hear the Canberra Liberals talking about light rail anymore. The reason is that people love it. People love light rail, and they want us to build light rail stage 2 to Woden, stage 3 to Belconnen and stage 4 to Tuggeranong, and then to build it to the rest of Canberra and potentially even to our interstate colleagues across the border in Queanbeyan. We heard Mr Barilaro talking up a potential extension to Queanbeyan. Wouldn't that be fantastic? Wouldn't it be great to have the New South Wales government's contribution?

We hear silence from those opposite. Why won't the Liberals support light rail? Why are they adamantly opposed to letting the rest of Canberra benefit from a city-wide light rail network? Why do they think that the people in the south of Canberra do not deserve the benefits that those in the north are experiencing right now? The opposition have no plan. They have no plan for light rail, they have no plan for public transport, and they have no plan for reducing emissions. They have no plan for infrastructure in our city, which will be a city of half a million people by 2029. They have no plan to govern.

Our government has delivered on its promise with light rail stage 1. We look forward to building future stages of light rail to the rest of Canberra. The question in this debate is this: given that the Canberra Liberals have an opportunity, through the matter of public importance that Mr Gupta has brought to us this afternoon, will they give their support for the extension of light rail to Woden, Tuggeranong and Belconnen?

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (4.09): I thank Mr Gupta for bringing this MPI forward today, no doubt at the behest of the transport minister, who is eager to gloss over the six months of network 19 failures his government has presided over. I will start by recalling some of Ms Cody's comments yesterday. Her motion stated that Canberrans' livelihoods are dependent on good access to various transport modes, depending on their commitments and circumstances. The keyword here is "various" because committing to city-wide light rail at the expense of other transport options and at the expense of Canberrans flies directly in the face of this statement.

As we have constantly heard Canberrans asking over the past six months, why is it that a 12-kilometre stretch of tram line from Gungahlin to the city which cost

\$700 million has resulted in the loss of bus services across our city? Dedicated school services have been cut. Xpresso services have been cut. Suburban services have been cut. Weekend services have been cut. Some 750 bus stops have been cut. This is the real cost of light rail for thousands of Canberrans, a cost they were not previously aware of.

Good transport planning, not to mention good government, relies on transparency and being up-front with Canberrans. Good transport planning means being open to new and emerging technologies and changing the scope and design of the network where appropriate. But we have seen none of this from the government since light rail stage 1 was announced. From the superficial consultation with Gungahlin businesses affected by light rail construction to the refusal to release the indicative costs of stage 2, this government remains hell-bent on delivering light rail at any cost.

If the government was committed to good planning of the light rail network the minister would have recognised the challenges associated with moving the project through the parliamentary corridor and perhaps reconsidered the scope of stage 2. After months of pressure from the opposition and the wider community the government finally released the business case for stage 2A, which we now know has a benefit-cost ratio of 0.4, with stage 2B coming in marginally better at 0.6.

Those opposite still refuse to release even indicative costs for stage 2B and future stages. Essentially the minister is asking Canberrans to blindly trust him, when we all know that this ACT Labor-Greens government has shown very little respect for Canberrans' money in the past. It shows how little this government thinks of Canberrans when it pursues a project like this, which represents such little value for money, while refusing to tell Canberrans how much it is going to cost them.

The government also continues to fail to properly address issues of overhead wires through the parliamentary triangle. The NCA, the federal government and local community advocates have made it clear that overhead wires are not acceptable, and yet this government continues to bury its head in the sand and include overhead wires in its proposal, refusing to address the environmental and planning implications this will have.

Instead of considering alternative approaches such as the Belconnen to the airport route, the government has remained stubbornly committed to a route that may not end up being approved and one that it has demonstrated does not represent good value for money. I challenge the minister to release the full costs of stage 2A and 2B; release the indicative costs for stages 3 and 4; show Canberrans that these business cases stack up; and advise Canberrans exactly how much of their money the government is asking them to commit. That would finally constitute good planning.

This government and the Minister for Transport love to claim that they are committed to innovative and accessible transport solutions. The minister is so committed to innovation that on the ABC just days ago he flatly ruled out ever trialling trackless trams! To use Ms Cody's words from yesterday, Mr Steel is truly a transport minister looking in the rear-view mirror.

We do not have to look far to see what real leadership and innovative transport solutions look like. In western Sydney the New South Wales Liberal government is looking into new and more efficient public transport options to link the new airport at Badgerys Creek and the growing Paramatta CBD by trialling trackless trams. In Queensland innovation in public transport has been pioneered by the Liberal Brisbane City Council, which is rolling out Brisbane metro across the city.

Transport more generally is an area currently subject to significant technological advancement, which any sensible government would be keeping an open mind about. We have seen remarkable strides in the field of autonomous vehicles and laser-guided technology, and these technologies will only become cheaper and more accessible as they become more mainstream. Instead, this government has approached public transport with its characteristic pig-headedness and chosen to condemn the territory to 1950s technology at a massive cost and lengthy construction disruption for the next decade and beyond.

If Mr Gupta had listened to the tomfoolery of Ms Cody's motion yesterday perhaps he would have amended his MPI to read, "The importance of planning and committing to a city-wide public transport network instead of one that reflects the tunnel-visioned approach of this transport minister and government". By bringing this MPI before us today Mr Gupta and his Labor colleagues are effectively saying to schoolkids, working mums and dads and weekend employees, "You don't matter." And to the people of Tuggeranong they are saying, "You don't matter now, but just maybe ACT Labor will finally start to care about you in 2040."

Keep in mind that even this time frame is contingent on the government actually delivering each stage of this project on time, something they could not do with light rail stage 1. If—and this is a big if—the government delivers each stage on time, Canberrans in the west and south will still be waiting another decade, if not two, before they reap the benefits of light rail.

The minister still has not explained to Canberrans across the territory who have had Xpresso services cut, dedicated school services cut, weekend services cut and 750 bus stops cut how these cuts are justified. He says today that he is trying to reduce the car dependency of our city, and yet the government has increased car dependency for thousands of Canberrans over the last six months.

I thank Mr Gupta for bringing this MPI before the Assembly today, as it allows me to again highlight this government's dismal track record on planning, consultation and delivering a public transport network for all Canberrans. Ensuring that Canberrans can rely on a well-planned public transport network is a fundamental tenet for good government and one this minister is yet to grasp after three months in the job.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (4.16): I thank Mr Gupta for bringing this matter of public importance to the Assembly. The Greens completely agree that it is important to plan and commit to a city-wide light rail network, as the MPI suggests. In fact, that is essentially the wording of ACT Greens policy, which we have been advocating at every opportunity for many years, including at the previous two elections.

To quote from our transport policy at the 2016 election, the ACT Greens vision for light rail has always been for an integrated network across Canberra. Members will also remember that our 2012 parliamentary agreement with the Labor Party required progress on light rail, the completion of stage 1, and also the development of a Canberra-wide light rail network master plan.

That work was done and has led to the progress we are now seeing: the extension of light rail to Woden and the planning for further future stages. This planning of a city-wide light rail network is a very important issue, because it is about the long-term transport and development future of Canberra. It goes to questions like: how do we want people to travel in Canberra in the future? How do we want our city to develop as it grows? Do we want it to be sprawling and car-dominated or do we want it to be more compact, clean and green, with sustainable transport options like light rail as the dominant mode? These are very important questions.

The Greens support a long-term plan for Canberra that will see it grow into a city of world-leading, sustainable day-to-day operation. This means it is based around sustainable transport like public transport, walking and cycling. It is more compact. It is zero emissions. It is resilient to climate change. It is highly livable and convenient. It is a city that has overcome the pitfalls of car dominance, so it is more convenient, does not suffer from congestion, has cleaner air and is more community oriented.

Consistent with this vision, light rail has been a key issue for the ACT Greens. It is an issue we have spent a lot of time advocating on, taking to elections, putting into parliamentary agreements and supporting in this place, despite the concerted efforts of the Canberra Liberals, who, last election, despite the fact that the contracts had been signed and the work was underway, went to the election promising to tear up the contracts.

In the last 10 years, with the Greens holding the balance of power in the ACT Assembly, things have changed a lot on the issue of light rail. It has been a great success story, as was highlighted earlier this week when Minister Steel released the figures for the first six months of light rail.

We now have the first stage of light rail built and operating. As members no doubt know, it is going very well. Patronage is exceeding expectations. The community is very positive about the project, and that critical Northbourne Avenue corridor, the entryway to Canberra, is slowly reshaping and undergoing positive urban renewal. That is a far cry from the future that Northbourne was otherwise destined for, which was a slow and congested traffic jam.

Light rail is an excellent transport mode to build as a high quality, convenient and zero emissions public transport spine right across Canberra. It is what we need to help shift us to a sustainable, convenient and zero emissions city. Historically light rail is better at attracting passengers than buses, and we need to attract more people to public transport. It is a well-proven technology. It is quiet, it runs on renewable electricity and it has beneficial city-shaping qualities. Because of its fixed and permanent nature, it helps create transport corridors of density, which assists the city to grow in a more compact and ultimately more efficient way.

The Greens support light rail extending south of the lake, creating a north-south spine stretching from Gungahlin to Woden. From there, many options are opened up to extend further to Mawson and Tuggeranong, and to extend light rail west to Weston Creek and Molonglo. An intersecting route connecting Belconnen to the city, Russell and the airport is also an option that has been identified for the future.

I mentioned earlier that if we build a sustainable city for the future, we also build a highly livable and convenient city. That is because livability and convenience are the natural results of building a sustainable city. It is a beautiful coincidence. To become a sustainable city, we take actions like using renewable electricity, prioritising light rail and other zero-emissions transport, becoming more compact and planting more trees. There are also more actions that the community support. It makes their lives better and it makes the community a great place to live. It avoids the kinds of problems that people hate: congestion, pollution, inconvenience, costs.

In contrast, if we take a myopic view and continue to casually entrench car dominance, we do not end up with a livable city; we end up with the opposite. The Greens have said this repeatedly and we will continue to argue this point. There are plenty of experts—planners, climate scientists, sociologists and others—who support this view.

If we want to have a livable city in the future and if we want to have a genuine response to climate change and emissions in this city, then we need to take a more prudent and reluctant approach to road building. That is where light rail plays a really important role. By giving the community good alternatives, we make a different future possible for our community. That is what we want to do. We want to make people's lives convenient. We want to have good quality of life for residents of this city, and light rail as a key transport mode is a really important contributor to that.

It would be remiss of me not to touch on a few of the remarks made by Miss C Burch. A number of them warrant exploration. She is critical of the government for not releasing the anticipated costs of stage 2A. Miss Burch was not here in the previous Assembly when the government became the first and only government in Australia to release the full business case for light rail stage 1. I think that demonstrates an excellent record of transparency, and an unprecedented record of transparency compared to other Australian governments, when it comes to how we have shared information with the community on this project. But in terms of releasing the expected price for light rail 2A, it makes no sense from a negotiating point of view for the government to condition the market to what price we are willing to pay. We need to make sure that the government goes into this with a competitive approach.

If Miss Burch was about to go and buy a house and it was up for auction, would she go in there and tell everyone at the auction, "Hey, everybody, I'm prepared to pay \$600,000"? She is not going to do that. She is not going to signal how much she is willing to pay. She is going to have a strategy and she is going to be trying to get it for the best possible price she can. That is what this government is doing. It is making sure that we get light rail stage 2A at the best, most competitive price we can for our community whilst at the same time getting a high quality project and meeting the requirements of the commonwealth government and the designated land issues that arise in the areas that stage 2A will be required to travel through.

I noted her observations around the fact that stage 1 was a little late. That has not been a secret. What it was was under budget. I think that is something that the Canberra community is very pleased about and reflects well on the project execution by the government and the many staff in ACT government who worked incredibly hard to make sure that the project met those goals.

She talked a lot about the New South Wales Liberal government. She did not mention how far behind Sydney light rail was. That inconvenient truth was left out of her commentary on the various governments. I am sure she just ran out of time. I am sure she was dying to tell us more detail about that one.

The other thing Miss Burch drew together was correlating a whole lot of the issues that she is raising about the bus network with light rail. I think it is fair to say that those two things are unrelated. There was a new timetable that coincided, but a lot of the changes to the bus network actually reflect what the community consultation said people wanted. They wanted more direct routes. They wanted more rapid routes. They are the sorts of things that have been forwarded in the bus network, and that is why we have seen patronage increase on some of those key routes across the city.

That does not mean there does not need to be further thinking and further work on the bus network. I think the government has been up-front about that in acknowledging that work is ongoing. But Miss Burch's characterisation of the new bus network and the way she has sought to link it to light rail is disingenuous at best. That is the case. I think she needs to recognise that people are appreciating elements of the new network and we have seen patronage increasing in places.

In terms of Mr Gupta's MPI, I thank him for bringing it forward today. It is important that we talk about both planning of and commitment to a city-wide light rail network. This is a long-term project. It has been the Greens-Labor partnership that has got it moving. After a century of talking about it, we have delivered it for this city. We have got something underway that our community is proud of and that they are using in great numbers, and we are now in a situation where people are saying, "Can you get it to the rest of the city faster, because we really want this for our part of town." That is what we are working on.

Discussion concluded.

Crossbench executive members' business

Ordered that crossbench executive members' business be called on.

Homelessness—housing

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (4.26): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness are amongst the most socially and economically disadvantaged people in Canberra and across the nation;
 - (b) the Australian Bureau of Statistics defines homelessness as "... when a person does not have suitable accommodation alternatives, they are considered homeless if their current living arrangement:
 - (i) is in a dwelling that is inadequate;
 - (ii) has no tenure, or if their initial tenure is short and not extendable; or
 - (iii) does not allow them to have control of, and access to space for social relations"; and
 - (c) homelessness can profoundly affect a person's general wellbeing and their ability to fully participate in society, including impacting on their mental and physical health, their education and employment opportunities and ability to maintain a stable life, and their ability to adequately care for their children;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) that the cost impacts to government and society of not providing housing are broad and can also be felt in other services, such as the health system, including mental health; emergency services; the education system; social services; and child protection systems;
 - (b) the number of long-term homeless people in Finland has fallen by more than 35 percent in a decade due to their policy of unconditionally giving people homes as soon as they need them;
 - (c) an evaluation of Common Ground in Brisbane undertaken by Queensland University's Institute for Social Science Research found that the community saved \$13 100 annually per tenant by providing them with access to supportive housing;
 - (d) research from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute published in 2016 noted that "Economic analysis indicates that the health sector bears much of the cost and consequences of recurring homelessness in Australia". Focusing only on savings to the health system, the same research found that "Direct calculable government health care cost savings associated with reduced health service use following public housing entry was \$4846 per client"; and
 - (e) in the ACT, the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has developed a cost model which shows that significant savings can be made by investing in programs that prevent or minimise contact with the criminal justice system when compared to the costs of incarceration and other criminal justice processes; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) undertake economic analysis to determine ACT Government and community savings by providing supportive housing to people experiencing homelessness. This cost impact modelling should include analysis of:
 - (i) the short and long-term cost impacts on ACT Government-provided and ACT Government-funded services for these cohorts;

- (ii) financial and other benefits of providing immediate or timely access to social housing or support into the private rental market; and
 - (iii) assess the cost benefits of housing first models, including Common Ground ACT; and
- (b) provide the report on this work to the Assembly by the first sitting day in August 2020.

This motion calls for the ACT government to undertake a cost-benefit analysis of tackling homelessness because I believe this work can highlight the benefits of providing safe accommodation to all people requiring a roof over their heads, as a starting point, before providing supports to assist people who are homeless to get their lives back on track. The benefits to individuals and to the community will be obvious, but this analysis should also highlight the economic savings that are generated through such an approach: not just better social outcomes and better quality of life issues but the potential for economic savings for the government and the community as a whole.

To be clear, I am not saying the ACT government has done nothing in regard to homelessness. In fact, there are a number of items in the parliamentary agreement that have been achieved during this term of the Assembly, such as the development of the housing strategy, the creation of an innovation fund to support new approaches to affordable housing such as the HomeGround real estate model and strengthening the specialist homelessness and housing support services for vulnerable groups. Those are just a few examples of the extensive effort made by ACT government, both through the direct service provision and the funding of community partners, to tackle the very concerning and, I think for many people in the community, distressing issue of homelessness.

But I remain concerned that there is still a need to increase the number of crisis and supported accommodation beds available to people experiencing homelessness. Early intervention and prevention is important and it is great that we have a single point of entry for these services, OneLink, and organisations such as Woden Community Service and Northside Community Service funded to provide advice and assistance to respond when somebody is in housing crisis or to help avoid one. We need to continue to ensure that there is a continuum of service responses, including secure and appropriate housing.

In my role as justice and corrections minister I have spent time and effort promoting a justice reinvestment approach because the evidence tells us that this is the way to reduce engagement with the criminal justice system and this is the way to reduce spending. It is also a way to achieve better outcomes for people. Put simply, a justice reinvestment approach redirects funding from the crisis responses—adult prison and youth detention—to preventative, diversionary and community development initiatives that address the underlying causes of crime.

This motion is somewhat informed by the concept of justice reinvestment insofar as examining what savings and benefits can be found if we invest in the front end by providing a roof over someone's head before they have to increase their reliance on

other services. Certainly the cost model developed by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate showed very clearly the savings that can be made by investing in resolving people's difficulties earlier rather than later. This is an approach that holds appeal for not just those interested in a just society but also the economists and treasury—not to suggest that you cannot be both.

As the motion before you notes, the number of people in Finland who experience long-term homelessness has dropped by more than 35 per cent in a decade, due in large part to their policy of unconditionally giving someone a home as soon as it is needed. Many homelessness policies and programs work on the premise that the person who is homeless has to sort out other issues in their lives such as substance misuse or their mental health problems or participation in education before they can get permanent accommodation. At the very least, they are likely to live in emergency or transitional accommodation for some time before they are able to access longer term housing. But Finland does the opposite. It gives people a home first, which gives them the opportunity to work on resolving those issues from a safe and secure starting point.

It is worth looking more closely at what Finland has done in order to understand why this reduction has occurred. They are not alone. There are other jurisdictions across the globe that have successfully reduced their number of people who are homeless. This includes numerous cities in the United States and across Canada.

Preventing and reducing homelessness requires special focus and requires coordinated approaches. There is no one-size-fits-all solution. Obviously, simply providing a roof over someone's head is not sufficient in and of itself. Coordinated supports also need to be put in place, particularly if the person is experiencing severe mental health issues or drug and alcohol issues, as is often the case, or if they are escaping family violence and have experienced trauma.

As is also noted in the motion before you, colleagues, Common Ground in Brisbane undertook an evaluation which showed that governments can save \$13,000 per person per year if they provide people who are chronically homeless with access to secure, long-term housing and relevant support services. The Common Ground model was, of course, included in the parliamentary agreement for the Eighth Assembly as something that the Greens had put forward. The government is now committed to building a second Common Ground in Dickson.

The Queensland Common Ground evaluation report showed that people who suffer from chronic homelessness often have complex needs relating to health, disabilities, abuse and addiction, resulting in high costs associated with emergency medical and policing resources. Supporting people experiencing homelessness through accommodation, safe housing and targeted services, as provided by the Brisbane Common Ground, resulted in a significant reduction in the number of other services that needed to be provided, delivering high-value savings to the community.

We hope to see similar savings generated by the model in the ACT. Certainly it would have to be cheaper than providing motel accommodation for six to eight weeks, which

is at times what the Domestic Violence Crisis Service has to resort to in order to provide safe accommodation to those leaving violence.

This motion calls for more than an evaluation of the current Common Ground or any single model. It calls for economic analysis of providing accommodation whether support is required or not for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness, as opposed to doing nothing that directly responds to their need for affordable and long-term housing.

The Canadians are among the first to develop housing-first models and have done significant work on the cost analysis of homelessness. Their research explores the cost of housing someone in jail, hospitals or the shelter system and compares this to housing them in social or supportive housing. The difference is quite illuminating. For example, they found that in 2013 homelessness cost the Canadian economy just over \$7 billion annually. This includes the provision of emergency shelters and community supports but also accounts for the increased costs of emergency services, including fire, police and ambulance, health care, the criminal justice system and others.

The analysis found that the average monthly cost of housing someone while homeless was \$1,932 for a shelter bed, \$4,333 for incarceration, \$10,900 for a hospital bed, \$701 to provide rental supplement and \$200 for social housing. This cost analysis did not look at the social and human costs, but it found that not only is putting someone in housing cheaper; it is also much more humane. The longer someone remains homeless, the greater likelihood that their physical and mental health will deteriorate and there is an increased chance of an early death.

Provision of housing first is an essential component of any strategy to successfully end homelessness. There is no better evidenced or developed service model, and the outcomes recorded for people who have experienced homelessness exceed any comparable approaches. It is a rights-based intervention that, when delivered at scale, also has the potential to reframe our understanding and approaches to homelessness itself, seeing that everyone is ready and entitled to a stable home in the first instance.

Locally, the 2016 census tells us that 1,596 Canberrans were experiencing homelessness and that Canberra is leading the country in decreasing homelessness, despite a growing population. However, the ACT recorded the biggest percentage rise in rough sleepers, with a 74.2 per cent increase. There was a 73 per cent increase in the number of people in overcrowded dwellings in the ACT and New South Wales between 2011 and 2016. One in 102 people in the ACT received homelessness assistance and the top three causes of homelessness in Canberra are housing crisis, relationship or family breakdown and financial difficulties.

As of March 2019 the average wait time for placement in accommodation through OneLink was 30.3 days, which shows that demand for accommodation is exceeding supply. I note that most of those waiting for accommodation will be provided with referrals or access to supports. However, without accommodation, I am sure we can all appreciate, it is difficult to get your life back on track, regardless of what led you into homelessness.

The last few years have seen an upsurge in street homelessness or rough sleeping in Australia's major cities. The homeless population includes more than just rough sleepers, however. It is generally accepted that homelessness exists when a person is experiencing insecure or unsafe accommodation and ranges from situations of sleeping rough to staying in guest or boarding houses or couch surfing with family and friends.

Accordingly, homelessness encompasses a spectrum of severity that may last only a short time for most individuals while others may experience many years of deprivation. Whether short or long term, homelessness is one of the most severe forms of disadvantage and social exclusion that a person can experience.

As the Minister for Mental Health, I have a vested interest in ensuring that there is enough support available to those who struggle with mental illness. We know that people with severe and persistent mental illness are disproportionately represented in the population of homeless people.

Recent studies of adult homelessness found that more than 80 per cent of Australian adults experiencing homelessness reported at least one diagnosed mental health condition. The prevalence of mental illness, particularly severe and persistent disorders such as bipolar, schizoid-type and personality disorders, is higher in the homeless population than it is in the general Australian population.

I acknowledge that, as both justice and corrections minister and Minister for Mental Health, I have a role to play and have a responsibility to ensure that there are joined-up services and systems to assist people who come into contact with mental health services and the criminal justice system. It is obvious that Housing ACT has a significant role to play but, equally, we must focus on the intersecting services system such as health and mental health services, domestic and family violence services, out of home care and care and protection services.

I note that there are federal government policies that currently contribute to the risk of homelessness, such as the woefully inadequate rate of the Newstart allowance. That does not mean we should not do what we can as a territory government nor that there might be significant savings to the territory in adopting a housing-first approach. While the ACT is in a relatively better position than other jurisdictions, I think we can do better and I believe that an economic analysis of the cost of homelessness will assist us to develop policy in the future, to gain new insights and to help us improve our service models and our approaches here in the territory. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

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) (4.38): I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this important motion before the Assembly.

Fortunately, here in the ACT we are bucking the trend when it comes to homelessness. Nationally, homelessness figures rose by 13.7 per cent between the 2011 and 2016

census periods. In the ACT, though, it declined by eight per cent. We were the only jurisdiction in the nation to see a decline, and this decline occurred at the same time as our population grew by 11 per cent. Our rate of homelessness per capita also declined, from around 49 people per 10,000 in 2011 to around 40 people per 10,000 in 2016. These are good outcomes. However, we must also acknowledge that over the same period the number of Canberrans sleeping rough increased to around 50. This shows that there is still more work to be done.

Much of Canberra's success in reducing homelessness can be attributed to our focus on intervening early before a person reaches crisis point. We work with homelessness services and the broader sector to prioritise people at risk of becoming homeless as well as providing crisis responses for those who are experiencing homelessness. We have a central intake model, which means that we do not turn people away but instead prioritise their need and connect them with services. We provide more than 300 accommodation places for the specialist homelessness sector. The government funds services ranging from crisis accommodation to preventative and early intervention tenancy support and services such as counselling, financial management and living skills.

The contribution to an individual's life outcomes of having a stable home cannot be overstated. We know that secure and affordable housing is fundamental for people to be included and participate in our community.

In October last year we launched the ACT housing strategy. Goal 2 of this strategy commits the ACT government to reducing homelessness by building strong ACT government and community sector partnerships to effectively address homelessness in the territory; intervening early and reducing intergenerational impacts of homelessness; addressing gaps in our services system and responding to new and emerging groups vulnerable to homelessness; improving pathways out of homelessness; developing a strong and sustainable homelessness services sector to support and enhance the workforce and organisational capability within the sector; and establishing an integrated and coordinated human services system across the territory government. The strategy also sets out an implementation plan, with actions over the next decade to achieve these goals, and provides a mechanism to monitor and report on our progress.

I would like to take the opportunity this afternoon to acknowledge the advocacy work being undertaken by the Council of Capital City Lord Mayors to reduce homelessness in our capital cities. Earlier this year the CCCLM, of which Canberra is a member, met with several commonwealth ministers to discuss how the different levels of government in our nation could work together to address homelessness. I was in Melbourne earlier this month for the CCCLM annual general meeting and homelessness summit, which was hosted by the Melbourne Lord Mayor, Sally Capp, at which we heard from experts from across Australia. If we are to reduce homelessness across our nation, it is clear that all levels of government must work together.

Of course, there is one way that we can make almost immediate inroads into our homelessness figures. I was very pleased to hear the recent announcement that the

commonwealth is taking a step down this path by waiving Tasmania's historical housing debt, with the proceeds to be used for programs to increase access to social housing, reduce homelessness and improve the housing supply. I welcome this first step. We do need to increase the supply of affordable housing in the nation. One very practical way to do that is for the commonwealth to move beyond this first step with Tasmania and put in place a similar program for each Australian state and territory. This is the right thing to do.

To give a context for the ACT situation, we currently have a historical housing debt to the commonwealth of \$115 million, which was inherited at the time of transition to self-government. In 2019-20 this debt will incur a repayment amount of \$13.4 million, which includes \$5.2 million in interest. The interest rates that were struck may well have been competitive at the time, at 12.5 and 14.5 per cent, but in light of recent ACT government refinancing of our own bonds at 1.16 per cent, and around 1.8 per cent for our long-term bond, we are being fleeced on these amounts. The release of the territory from this debt would enable new money, up to \$13.4 million annually, to be redirected to the provision of much-needed social and affordable housing for Canberrans.

In this context, I have personally raised the issue with and written to the Prime Minister and the Treasurer, Mr Morrison and Mr Frydenberg. I raised the issue with Mr Frydenberg in four different ways over four different events in the last month, requesting the same deal for the ACT. I think I might have finally got some traction when I pointed out that we were paying 12½ per cent interest on one of those loans.

I would also like to acknowledge that this matter has come up in Senate estimates this week. In an exchange between the ACT's two senators, with Senator Gallagher asking questions of Senator Seselja, it was a little surprising to read that Senator Seselja laughed off the suggestion that he could seek or push through a similar debt waiver for the ACT. I would observe that it is an odd state of affairs when a crossbench senator from Tasmania can achieve more through a Liberal government than an ACT Liberal senator who is a member of the government executive as an assistant minister, Senator Seselja.

Nevertheless, we will continue to pursue the ACT's case with the commonwealth in relation to the waiver of these historical debts, as I understand every other state and territory is doing.

Investing in social housing acknowledges that, by providing long-term affordable housing for those in our community who need it most, we are contributing to reducing homelessness. Any waiver of our commonwealth debts would add to our already historically high investment in public housing renewal under the ACT housing strategy. I have publicly said that any debt waiver, any refinancing or any additional money that we can attract through a rearrangement or a waiver of those historical debts will be devoted to additional social housing investment.

Under our existing strategy, a \$100 million strategy—which is, as the Deputy Chief Minister indicated, the greatest contribution per capita of any state or territory to increase and renew social housing—we are already starting work to deliver 1,200 new

public housing homes, including an additional 200 to grow the territory's public housing portfolio. Minister Berry will, I am sure, be saying more about this in her contribution to this motion shortly.

I would like to conclude by welcoming Minister Rattenbury's call for the analysis detailed in the motion, which I am happy to support. The government will get that underway. I foreshadow, in relation to Mr Parton's amendment, that I will move a small amendment to his amendment seeking to extend the land tax exemption process. That is consistent with what the Assembly has already voted for. I will discuss how the scheme has performed to date when I speak on Mr Parton's amendment later in the debate.

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (4.48): It is always fascinating to see what motions Mr Rattenbury places on the notice paper and then to come into this place and listen to what he has to say. It is fascinating because almost always he is calling on the government to fix a problem which he and his Greens colleague have a major responsibility for causing. Today is not much different. It is not quite a chapter in the fake divorce, because I think we are all on the same page in terms of seeking data, but I get the impression that we are seeing this fake divorce being played out between two lovers, the Labor Party and the Greens. Each will tell us that the other is to blame for all the stuff that they do not like while they split their assets and take credit for all the things they do like.

Having said that, let me say that we will be supporting this motion.

Paragraph 1(a) in Mr Rattenbury's motion says:

... people experiencing homelessness, and those at risk of homelessness are amongst the most socially and economically disadvantaged people in Canberra and across the nation...

It is interesting that Mr Barr has just spoken about long-term loans. If Mr Rattenbury and Mr Barr were prepared to put their money where their mouths are, they would have spoken about this when the Barr government put an end to the agreement with CHC and called in the \$50 million loan.

Mr Rattenbury and the Greens want to lay claim to social housing in this fake divorce from Mr Barr and the Labor Party. They want to stand outside this place and wax lyrical about how they want to see a better approach to social housing. But a lot of things have gone down that Mr Rattenbury should be somewhat ashamed of. There are a number of examples of Mr Rattenbury telling people one thing and doing or saying another.

I also want to point out that, additionally, this government, of which Mr Rattenbury is a member, continues to put enormous pressure on the private rental market, which is shrinking as a consequence of a number of policy directions in recent years. The biggest threat to the private rental market is the ever-increasing rates and land tax charges, which continue to shrink rental yield, and in many cases have shrunk it to a

point where many investors are leaving the market because they are not making any money out of it.

The Better Renting site reposted a comment of mine along those lines recently, but they did not attribute it to me; they just said that some evil conservative guy said that investors are not making money out of their rental properties in Canberra. That was a silly thing to say. The reality of the market is that if people are not making money out of their rental investments, they are not going to continue with them. This is about the market providing accommodation for people.

Additionally, the changes to rental tenancy law have become the final straw for quite a number of landlords, who have chosen to sell their properties and reinvest in something in another jurisdiction.

Mr Barr: Then someone buys that house.

MR PARTON: Most of those former rental properties, as Mr Barr points out, are being purchased by owner-occupiers, according to my people in real estate. That is fine, but it further diminishes the rental market. Those opposite, including Mr Rattenbury, can continue to ignore this reality, but the reality is that our private rental market is at a tipping point, and the biggest losers out of this mess are those at the lower end of that market who cannot afford—who cannot afford, I would say to Mr Barr—to purchase these homes that are coming onto the market. They cannot afford to. All they are looking for is a rental property, and they are being squeezed out of it. This places even more pressure on the housing providers and the housing models that are spoken of in this motion.

Exactly a year ago, I introduced a measure, albeit a small one, to the Assembly to encourage private property owners to lease their properties through a community housing provider. We got there eventually, some months later. The Canberra Liberals will not just pay lip-service to community housing; we will actively support the sector to do what they do best: provide low cost housing to those at the edge of the market.

I seek leave to move my two amendments together.

Leave granted.

MR PARTON: I move:

(1) Insert new paragraph (2)(f):

“(f) that this Assembly agreed, in a motion on 18 September, to the extension of the pilot land tax concessions program for property owners who make properties available at less than 75 percent of the current market rate;”.

(2) After paragraph (3)(a), insert:

“(b) give certainty to the community housing sector by removing the expiration of the land tax exemption for land provided for affordable community housing as soon as it is practically possible and clearly signalling this to the sector;”.

I applaud the Greens—yes, I said that—for bringing an amendment to this chamber last month, which was carried, in regard to the end of the trial period for the land tax rebate, but I hold a fear, as do the various community housing organisations in this town, that this scheme will be ineffective unless it becomes more of a permanent arrangement now—not in three months time, not in six months time, not at the end of the trial, but now. The change is needed. When landlords set up rental arrangements, they do not set them up for short blocks of time like the 12 months or so that remain on the current pilot arrangement. One of the reasons, interestingly, that this is the case, is that landlords actually wish to provide security of tenure to those that are living under their roof.

The land tax rebate was designed to change the mathematics of rent for a number of properties so as to allow the landlord to take those properties to the market as affordable rentals. Anyone who signs up now to this program will only have a year-long period to offer that property as an affordable rental before the rug is pulled out from underneath them. Granted, it is possible that the rug will not be pulled out from underneath them, but there is no certainty, so these affordable rental providers cannot go to the market and promise certainty.

The Community Housing Industry Association met yesterday, and this was at the forefront of their discussions. CHI ACT will release a policy recommendation in coming days. I have it in front of me now. The Community Housing Industry Association will recommend this:

Extend the two-year pilot of the provision of land tax exemptions for private landlords for properties being managed by Community Housing Providers.

The pilot was welcomed by CHIA ACT and private property owners are engaging in the scheme through CHC ACT's Homeground and YWCA Canberra's Rentwell. However, the short-term nature of the scheme is deterring some landlords from being engaged in the pilot as they are concerned that it may cease at the end of the two year period.

CHIA ACT is calling for the two-year pilot to be extended to encourage more private landlords to be engaged and provide an assurance to landlords that the scheme will continue.

So while I welcome Mr Rattenbury's motion in regard to seeking more of the very important economic analysis that will help all of us in this policy space, I cannot let this opportunity pass by without amending the motion in this way.

The Greens have said to me privately, "Hang on a second, Parto, this has nothing to do with the original motion." Well, welcome to our world, brothers and sisters. Welcome to our world. The number of times that we put up a motion and it is amended removing all words after "to move that this Assembly" is absolutely staggering. Of course, I have not done anything of the sort here. I have left your motion exactly as it is and tacked on what I think are very important amendments because they may well lead to positive outcomes.

In regard to the Greens saying, as I think they have said to me, “This very thing was before the chamber last month, so we shouldn’t be debating it again,” I dare say that means we will never see another climate change motion before the chamber, because we have already debated it. This is important stuff. Climate change is important to this chamber and this change is also a very important change, so it does not mean that at all.

In closing, I will read out a number of the outcomes from the YWCA Rentwell scheme. The Chief Minister may be touching on some of these as well. The outcomes I have here are real outcomes. We are talking about individuals here.

Single mother with primary school age child. Escaped DV, from non-English speaking background.

She has been a beneficiary of this scheme.

Single older woman from non-English-speaking background in casual employment.

Older single woman in a one-bedroom flat part of the next door program.

Single mother with one school aged child and 18-month-old. Escaping domestic abuse. They had been staying with good friends, the 3 of them all shared a queen-sized bed.

And this is something that has come to me from the sector. They have said this scheme has actually rescued people from homelessness. Granted, the numbers are quite small at this stage, but when I brought this land tax rebate in its original form to the chamber I think I was saying that if 30 properties get taken to the market as affordable rentals through this scheme, to me that is an enormous win. We are probably a bit over halfway to that point. But for every single individual and every single family, this is enormous. I think it does strike at the heart of a lot of the stuff that Mr Rattenbury has brought to the chamber in regard to the homelessness problem. I commend the amendment.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.58): I thank Minister Rattenbury for tabling his motion. Hopefully I will have a little bit of time to talk to Mr Parton’s as well. I have spoken about the chronic lack of social and affordable housing in Canberra on many occasions in this place. I spoke about the land tax exemption, which Mr Parton was speaking about, back in the Seventh Assembly, because it was part of our agreement with the government. I regret that it has taken so long to come about, but it has and I am very pleased about that. Mr Parton, you do not have to convince me that it is a useful thing to do.

Clearly, living with housing costs means reducing spending on other essentials. Housing is not a discretionary cost and it is not easy to reduce it. You enter into an agreement for a year. Moving takes a lot of money and time. Living in overcrowded, insecure or unsafe housing makes participating in school or work more difficult. Someone’s housing circumstances can just make life more difficult.

We know that lack of housing is a social issue; we know that there is a lack of social and affordable rental housing, that rents are high and vacancies are low in the private rental market—all the things that Mr Parton talked about. We do not need to rehash the things that we already know, although I guess we do that many times. But what this motion is trying to do is something different: to come at this issue from a different perspective and better establish the actual financial costs of homelessness to the territory government, because it could be that if we look at this we will find it easier to take a different, more compassionate approach.

The cost of homelessness was given international prominence by a *New Yorker* article in 2006 titled “Million-Dollar Murray”. It reported on Murray Barr, who is no relation, I understand, to our Chief Minister. He is in fact an ex-marine who lives in Reno, Nevada. A police officer who knew Murray, as well as other rough sleepers in Reno, took an interest in these men and possible solutions to their problems. He ended up concluding that it was going to cost a million dollars to not help Murray.

A significant body of work of research and financial modelling has examined this question. Most of it has been done overseas but some of it has been done in Australia. The first thing to note is that people who are homeless tend to be heavy users of government services, particularly health and justice services, and of course these are services provided by the ACT government. The appallingly low rate of Newstart, inadequate commonwealth investment in the national housing and homelessness agreement, and the historic housing debt carried by the ACT are federal issues. There is not much we can do about them. But we do have the capacity to spend our money on other things, and we do have a strong interest and responsibility in providing health and justice services.

Health is the biggest single line item in the ACT budget, so clearly anything that we can do to reduce these costs should be looked at. That is why my colleague Mr Rattenbury has adopted a justice reinvestment approach within his ministerial portfolio. Research in 2008 by researchers from the University of WA found that the healthcare costs of people entering a housing program, the Michael project, were 10 times greater than the rest of the population. A 2007 evaluation of the housing and accommodation support initiative in New South Wales, which provided housing support for people with mental health conditions, found a reduction in hospital costs of \$35,000 per person per year, vastly offsetting the costs of running the program.

The largest single attempt conducted by Australian researchers to quantify cost savings to government for the provision of permanent supportive housing with opt-in services to keep people housed was conducted in 2013 in WA by academics from a number of universities. They looked at 204 clients from 47 homelessness services. They looked at the difference, depending on the cohorts of people, and it varied from a saving of \$877 for people who are just participating in day programs through to \$22,824 savings per year for single men.

This research was built on and followed up in 2016. This time the researchers looked at the health, social and economic benefits of providing public housing and support to formerly homeless people. It found savings to the public health system of nearly

\$5,000 per person per year for people who commenced a public housing tenancy after being homeless. The figure was much higher for people who had been users of specialist homeless services. The savings to the health budget for these people were over \$13,000 per year. Both of these figures are net of the cost of providing public housing. So for these people it was cheaper, as well as being more compassionate and more humane. If the figures in the ACT are the same as in WA, it could be cheaper to house these people.

Looking at Brisbane, which had the most recent evaluation done, in 2016 the Brisbane Common Ground was looked at by the Institute for Social Science Research. They compared the cost of the people living in Common Ground versus people who were chronically homeless for 12 months. They found that it actually saved the Brisbane City Council \$13,100 per tenant per year to house them. It would be really great if we adopted an approach like that and we had a better outcome for the people on the ground and saved the ACT government money. It is a win-win. A housing-first approach has been adopted in many cities and jurisdictions around the world, including across all of Finland. They have really reduced homelessness, and it has saved the government there 9,600 euros per person per year.

Currently we have a range of ad hoc services, projects, pilots, programs and all sorts of things operating in the ACT, and I am sure all of them are doing an excellent and much-needed job. But, based on available evidence, it appears clear that providing a home to people experiencing homelessness ultimately saves the government money, even when the cost of that home is factored into the equation. I am hopeful that the analysis that will be provided as a result of this will give us an idea as to how the ACT government can best respond to homelessness in a more compassionate, effective and cost-effective way. I would like to think that the economist in Mr Barr would agree with such an approach. I am fairly hopeful, because I understand that the Labor Party is going to vote for this.

Talking briefly about Mr Parton's amendment, it is well known that I strongly support the land tax exemption for affordably rented houses and I would like to see that extended.

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) (5.07): I am happy to have the chance to talk about housing and homelessness and the work the ACT government is doing in this space to support people who have experienced homelessness in the ACT. The ACT government is committed to reducing homelessness and working with the specialist homelessness sector to intervene early to prevent people from falling into crisis.

Members will know that last year I released the ACT's housing strategy, which outlined the government's ongoing commitment to early intervention, addressing gaps, improving pathways out of homelessness and reducing the intergenerational impacts of homelessness. The ACT is well placed to act and reduce homelessness further. While homelessness across Australia increased by 14 per cent between the 2011 and

2016 censuses, the ACT has bucked the national trend, with homelessness reducing in the community even as the population has grown.

Each person experiencing homelessness has a story, and while some of it comes from a sudden event, for others a long process could have led to the outcome. There could be one reason or many—a breakdown in the family, domestic violence, financial difficulty, physical or mental health issues or a combination of all of these.

Last year the ACT government commissioned a study to better understand the specialist care, support and accommodation requirements of people with high and complex needs. The findings of this study provided invaluable insights about people experiencing chronic homelessness. The study identified emerging cohorts at risk of homelessness, such as older women who are in financial stress and struggling to sustain their existing housing.

The study verifies the commitments in the ACT housing strategy, such as addressing gaps in service systems; directing resourcing towards new and emerging needs with a focus on flexibility, early support and prevention; implementing a model of support that draws upon the principles of housing first; establishing a diverse range of support and housing models for people who require permanent supported housing; developing a holistic and client-centred model of social housing; building a second Common Ground; and establishing a strategic vision and plan for the growth and renewal of public housing.

Two of these initiatives were funded in this year's budget. That demonstrates the government's commitment to reducing housing and homelessness. The ACT government strongly supports the Common Ground model, based on housing-first principles, a proven approach that connects people experiencing homelessness with safe, permanent and affordable housing as quickly as possible and without preconditions.

Canberra's first Common Ground in Gungahlin has been providing long-term, secure, affordable housing with on-site support to people in our community who most need it. Building on this success, the ACT government is delivering a second Common Ground in Dickson. This new development will include 40 units with a mix of one, two and three-bedroom dwellings, as well as community and open spaces. The proposed cohort of Common Ground Dickson has been extended to include older women, single parents and families with children. Addressing the needs of these cohorts is a key action of the ACT housing strategy as they represent new and emerging groups vulnerable to homelessness.

Concept designs for Common Ground Dickson are currently open for community feedback. As with Common Ground Gungahlin, the Common Ground board is asking for local builders, businesses and community groups to support and contribute to the delivery of this important project.

I am glad the Chief Minister referred to the many times he has asked for a waiver on the ACT's historical housing debt, and I have backed him up by writing a letter of my own. I am hoping the number of asks will lead to some quick action for the ACT to

continue its great work in growing and renewing public housing and providing housing for people who need it. This new growth and renewal program will deliver 1,200 new homes over the next five years, including growth in the public housing portfolio by at least 200 additional homes.

Public housing is critical to ensuring that people on low incomes can have a safe, secure, affordable place to call home. Our housing strategy represents the biggest per capita investment in public housing anywhere in the country. The ACT government is delivering more support and services for people experiencing homelessness and increasing support for people in need of public housing to provide long-term, affordable accommodation. I acknowledge Mr Rattenbury's call for additional modelling and analysis of these types of homelessness and housing services, and the government is happy to support those.

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) (5.12): As I foreshadowed, I have an amendment to Mr Parton's amendment and I therefore move:

Omit "removing the expiration of", substitute "extending".

That means the action item from this motion would read:

... to give certainty to the community housing sector by extending the land tax exemption for land provided for affordable community housing as soon as it is practically possible and clearly signalling this to the sector.

I note in the commentary that Mr Parton read the call from one of the stakeholder groups for this exemption to be extended. It is a pilot and there are nine users of the scheme at the moment. Whilst this is nine more than would have been the case otherwise—they are nine important and personal stories about differences that have been made in the lives of individuals—I hope today's debate and the level of community interest that may be generated from it might see that number increase.

The government, as we indicated in our response to the Assembly motion in September, are looking at extending the land tax exemption. I will not pre-empt decisions of the budget cabinet, but I indicate to members that I have such an extension proposal on the agenda of a forthcoming budget cabinet meeting. I am confident that there will be support for such a proposal. I will make some further announcements when the cabinet has concluded its deliberations on budget matters. Clearly, our support of the motion in September and the amendment I have moved today send a pretty clear signal of our intent to extend the program.

We will need to undertake an evaluation of the effectiveness. We put in place an initial cap of 100 properties. Obviously, at the number of nine we are not at that cap and we will certainly seek to work with those partners who are actively promoting this opportunity to grow that number into the future. I look forward to that happening. We will then evaluate this, and if changes could be made to make the program more effective into the future we will definitely look at those with an open mind.

I note the strong support across this chamber for this. There are not many issues on which the Liberal Party, the Greens and the Labor Party can find agreement.

Mr Parton interjecting—

MR BARR: As I said, I do not think you are evil, Mr Parton; I think you are conservative, but you know that.

Ms Berry: He is wearing a red tie today.

MR BARR: Indeed, he is sporting a very Corbyn red tie this afternoon; or it could be a Trump red tie. But I digress, Madam Speaker. I am very happy to support the rest of Mr Parton's amendment if my amendment is supported by the Assembly. I commend it to everyone.

Mr Barr's amendment to **Mr Parton's** proposed amendments agreed to.

Mr Parton's amendments, as amended, agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2019

Debate resumed from 19 September 2019, on motion by **Mr Rattenbury**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (5.17): I start this debate by acknowledging an important milestone of the ACT achieving our target of 100 per cent renewable electricity on 1 October this year. One of the key elements of the ACT's success in achieving this target has been the support of all parties. I take this opportunity to thank our hardworking ACT public servants who were instrumental in bringing this about.

Another important element in our success has been through the strategically timed feed-in tariff scheme. Our reverse auctions have been acknowledged in a number of arenas. To give credit where it is due, I acknowledge the drivers of these initiatives. I am sure that other jurisdictions are seeing the opportunities of such a scheme.

Earlier this year, the Canberra Liberals, through my colleague Nicole Lawder, who was the acting shadow minister for the environment whilst I was on maternity leave, supported the government's bill to maintain 100 per cent renewable electricity beyond 2020. The purpose of this bill is to increase our renewable electricity capacity to ensure that the ACT is able to continue to maintain that target. In that regard, I have an amendment that I will move at the detail stage, but I will speak to the bill and the amendment together.

The bill before the Assembly is not very long. As a matter of fact, there is only one section of the act which the government seeks to amend. The government is seeking to allow the feed-in tariff capacity to be set through a disallowable instrument. This is because the maximum capacity of 650 megawatts is currently set out in the act itself. Given that we are currently at, as I understand it, 641 megawatts, if we continue to remain at 100 per cent, this maximum needs to be lifted.

In the briefing on this bill that we received last Thursday, I asked why the target of 650 megawatts was set in the act, as is currently the situation, to which I was advised that the intention was to create both certainty in the renewables market and to highlight that our collective goal was to achieve and maintain 100 per cent renewable electricity. My follow-up question was: if the intention of this bill is to increase that capacity, what is the government's new capacity target and how did it come to that number?

The minister's staff in the directorate were very clear that over the coming decade the anticipated demand would grow to approximately 900 megawatts and that target would be set by disallowable instrument immediately after the passage of this bill. A feature of a disallowable instrument is that the executive is able to quickly set rules and regulations in far greater detail than the legislature can accommodate and that a disallowable instrument can be enacted far faster than legislation.

Changing the feed-in tariff capacity is not complex. It is a matter of changing the digits in a single section of the act. Surely even humble parliamentarians can comprehend that. Making such a change is hardly going to take countless hours of a parliamentary draftsman's time. It is also important to remember that this act has already been amended four times over the course of this term alone.

In his presentation speech, the minister stated that he intends to set the feed-in tariff capacity to 900 megawatts and that this is to anticipate, and accommodate, our energy consumption over the next decade. So on the measure of complexity, drafting difficulty and the need for flexibility to change it by way of a disallowable instrument, the argument for delegation does not stack up.

I acknowledge that in some circumstances it is appropriate to allow regulation rather than legislation, but this simply is not one of them. As a matter of fact, the minister, earlier this year, stated that enshrining the commitments in primary legislation was a clear signal of the importance of renewable electricity targets and helped to provide certainty about policy direction to the renewable electric sector.

On a policy issue as important as this one, particularly one that has the support of all parties in the chamber, it is important that we continue on this path together. This means that proposals for these targets should come back to the Assembly for scrutiny, for debate and for decision. I commend my amendment to the Assembly and implore all members to support it.

The minister did me the courtesy of letting me know that the Greens or the government—either way, the result is the same—will be supporting my amendment.

If the minister is serious about wanting unanimous support on renewables, he surely must see, and clearly has seen, that my amendment is sensible, appropriate and the right way forward. The necessary legislative parliamentary oversight by all members of this chamber on an issue that is as important as this to our future is something that all Canberrans deserve.

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) (5.22): I will comment briefly in relation to the principal issues that we are debating. Obviously, in the detail stage the Labor Party and the Greens will support the amendment that Ms Lee has put forward. I do not believe that is an issue of any great substance in the grand scheme of things. The greater achievement is actually procuring the renewable energy and electricity for our city. That has been a significant journey for this jurisdiction but one that has been done utilising, I think, a very innovative and best practice procurement methodology.

I am certainly encouraged by both the success of the ACT scheme and, indeed, its application now in other jurisdictions in this nation and the international interest in the way the ACT has approached this particular task. I think it highlights the excellent work commenced by former minister Simon Corbell and continued by Minister Rattenbury. It shows a level of maturity for this place that Ms Lee can come in and give a broadly supportive speech of the policy intent in relation to an issue that has been contested, and heavily politically contested, across this nation through this decade.

I like to take the opportunity from time to time to highlight where this chamber shows other parliaments up for their lack of maturity. Although we are only 30 years old, this parliament often leads this nation, and occasionally the world, in taking important steps in public policy development. This is one such example.

What we will seek to do, once this legislation passes, is to undertake further procurement of renewable electricity to meet our city's ongoing needs and anticipated transition away from gas and from other non-renewable forms of energy generation in anticipation of a significant switch over the coming decades to electric vehicles—personal in terms of e-scooters, bikes and the like—and also electric cars, buses and other forms of transportation. The passage of this legislation today positions the ACT very well for the transition that we know is coming.

In light of what has been a bipartisan position on renewable electricity, it was somewhat disappointing to see the response to some other elements about forward plans for climate change adaptation, mitigation and response that were the feature of a debate in this place in the last month. Unfortunately, we deviated from what had been a tripartisan position in responding to climate change to a position that would appear to mirror some of the worst aspects of parliamentary behaviour and political party positioning that we have seen in other parliaments. This relates particularly to things like the transition away from natural gas over several decades, an anticipated transition in vehicle fuel types over several decades and, indeed, perhaps most disappointingly, the way that certain new initiatives in relation to trialling car-free areas and car-free days, for example, were so wilfully misrepresented.

Whilst I acknowledge the support of the opposition on this particular issue, I think it is appropriate to highlight that this approach is not tripartisan in regard to all matters in responding to climate change. I think it is important to call that out whilst also acknowledging the level of maturity in relation to this particular issue, Madam Speaker. In indicating the Labor Party's support for this particular piece of legislation today, we also acknowledge that there is much more that we will need to do as a community on a range of other issues as we respond collectively to climate change.

An incident having occurred in the gallery—

MADAM SPEAKER: Order! Whilst we enjoy your enthusiasm, we ask the gallery to remain silent. Thank you, sir.

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) (5.27), in reply: To close the debate, I thank members for their support for the Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2019. As has been discussed, the bill will enable the ACT government to continue to deliver its legislated 100 per cent renewable electricity target on an ongoing basis post 2020. The Assembly recently passed the Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction (Renewable Electricity Target) Amendment Act, which legislated an ongoing 100 per cent renewable electricity target post-2020, thus ensuring that we will maintain delivery of 100 per cent renewable electricity in perpetuity.

The renewable electricity delivered under this program is critical for the ACT's greenhouse gas emissions reduction target or net zero emissions by 2045, as well as for the interim targets for 2020 onwards. Once the ACT reaches 100 per cent renewable electricity, which will be on and from 1 January 2020, our future greenhouse gas reduction targets will require a decarbonisation of natural gas and transport fuel consumption.

The ACT government is preparing for forecasts that suggest that a significant portion of this decarbonisation effort will take place through change to electric alternatives, such as reverse-cycle heaters, electric vehicles and electric or induction cooktops, which will lead to increases in electricity demand.

The ACT's population also continues to grow quickly, increasing the amount of electricity demand. To maintain 100 per cent renewable electricity into the next decade, and therefore maintain zero emissions from electricity, the ACT government has announced a new renewable electricity auction to procure more renewable electricity supply as required to deliver on legislated targets. This auction will be held later in 2019 and into early 2020 and will secure our zero carbon electricity supply well into the next decade.

The Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Act 2011 currently imposes a 650-megawatt limit on feed-in tariff entitlements that may be held. To date, 641 megawatts of entitlements have been awarded to 10 large generators

through four reverse auctions and to a community solar farm. This leaves only nine megawatts of entitlements that may be provided within the current limit. The 650-megawatt limit has allowed the ACT government to sign deeds of entitlement to deliver on the target of 100 per cent electricity by 2020 but it is not sufficient to meet the legislated 100 per cent renewable electricity target on an ongoing basis.

An increase to the limit is required to continue to deliver 100 per cent renewable electricity on that ongoing basis. The recently announced auction is unlikely to be the last auction ever required if population continues to grow and if electricity continues to replace natural gas and transport fuels. Additionally, the current contracts for renewable electricity will expire in the 2030s, requiring additional capacity releases to replace them. That may be some distance in the future, but that is one of the things that future assemblies will need to contemplate. However, by legislating to allow increases to the maximum capacity, the bill will allow the ACT government to deliver the target in perpetuity. This arrangement will continue to provide the Assembly with appropriate oversight on the limit on capacity.

Let me touch on that point briefly. Ms Lee has flagged her intention to move an amendment. The government is happy to agree to that. My view was that a disallowable instrument gives the Assembly a degree of oversight and scrutiny in the sense that if the instrument is egregious to the Assembly, it can be disallowed. Ms Lee's preference is to put this in legislation. I do not have a strong view either way. I think each mechanism offers the Assembly a way to oversee future changes in this space in different ways.

Given the opposition's preference, I am happy to support that. It is not a significant difference either way, so that will be fine. Upon passage of the bill, I intend to immediately publish a limit on capacity. In fact, forgive me; I will not need to do that anymore if we accept that amendment. But what we will do is release that additional capacity in the coming future auction.

Overall, this bill will enable us to continue to meet this achievement that has been very well received in our community. It has been delivered in a way that has been affordable for our community. It has delivered significant new economic investment to the ACT. Estimates are that it will generate at least \$500 million of new investment in the ACT over the 20-year life of the agreements that have been let out so far.

The new auction will contain further measures to drive further investment in the ACT. What we have seen is that through this process the ACT has become recognised as a centre of renewable energy excellence that is generating new opportunities, new partnerships and the like. It has led to new jobs in the territory, with windfarms being operated all over Australia and, in fact, across the Southern Hemisphere from locations up and down Marcus Clarke Street.

These are the sort of things that Canberra is increasingly being known for. These are providing new job opportunities for this city, new economic opportunities, whilst at the same time meeting the very significant obligations we have to reduce our greenhouse gas emissions. I thank members of the Assembly for their support for this bill.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Detail stage

Clauses 1 to 3, by leave, taken together and agreed to.

Clause 4.

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (5.33): I seek leave to move an amendment to this bill which has not been considered or reported on by the scrutiny committee.

Leave granted.

MS LEE: I move amendment No 1 circulated in my name [*see schedule 1 at page 4427*]. As members can see, and as I discussed in the in-principle stage of the debate, the change is minor and continues to achieve the goal of providing the ACT with a 100 per cent renewable electricity supply for the coming decade. Importantly, it keeps the core role of this Assembly in the process, ensuring that this goal is entrenched and visible, to allow greater certainty to the renewables sector and to the public. Both the Chief Minister and Mr Rattenbury have stated that there is support for my amendment. I thank members for that.

Amendment agreed to.

Clause 4, as amended, agreed to.

Remainder of bill, by leave, taken as a whole and agreed to.

Bill, as amended, agreed to.

Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 2019

Debate resumed from 24 September 2019, on motion by **Mr Ramsay**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (5.35): The Canberra Liberals will support this bill. The changes arise from recommendations made to the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. They include the introduction of ground rules hearings, which are a pre-hearing process where the court takes into consideration the communication, special support or other needs of a witness and sets ground rules accordingly. They also include the introduction of witness intermediaries. A witness intermediary is defined as:

... an independent communication specialist whose role is to assist a person with communication difficulties to communicate their best evidence to police and to the Court.

Together, they allow the court to be made fully aware of the communication needs of the witness and for the court to make any adjustments needed.

Both of these changes are about improving access to justice, especially overcoming some of the entrenched issues that were highlighted by the royal commission. As stated by the minister:

... children must be able to give a comprehensible account of what has happened, understand the questions being asked of them and provide a comprehensible response ... Without this, evidence of any criminal acts perpetrated against them cannot be heard and considered by the criminal justice system. Consequently, the abuse remains unheard and unaddressed.

We also note that the bill provides the court with a broad discretion to order a ground rules hearing or appoint an intermediary for any witness with a communication difficulty, including an accused person. This is an important extra tool for our courts to use in criminal matters.

Mr Ken Archer, a prominent local barrister who members would be aware of, has written a detailed and considered submission raising several concerns. From briefings, I understand that the directorate has made amendments to respond to some, but not all, of the issues raised by Mr Archer. As ever, we will maintain a watching brief. I would like to thank Mr Archer, the Law Society, the Bar Association and Adele Banks from the Attorney-General's office for their input to this legislation.

On balance, given the nature of the crimes and the problems facing victims and witnesses, our view is that these amendments support the justice system. We will support the bill.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (5.38): I am very pleased to stand in support of this amendment bill. The bill responds to recommendations from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and adds to several recommendations the ACT government has already adopted.

As the attorney said when he tabled this amendment bill, this is the fourth legislative implementation of reforms arising from the royal commission and adds to the work already being done in this jurisdiction to ensure that children are kept safe and that offenders are held accountable. I commend the government for its proactive stance on these issues.

When it comes to child sexual abuse, I have no doubt that everybody here wants to see perpetrators of this heinous and destructive crime held accountable. I have been reassured by the various reforms that have occurred.

I want to particularly mention and acknowledge the contribution of Heidi Yates, the Victims of Crime Commissioner, who, upon first commencing in that role, made this her absolute priority. She brought experts from New South Wales to talk to the government and assisted in educating the community about the benefits of intermediary schemes. I have no doubt that this advocacy has assisted in advancing the development of this bill.

For too long we have not listened to children when they have spoken out about being subjected to sexual abuse. That was a clear theme in the evidence provided to the royal commission. But also the problem has been that, even when children were believed, the criminal justice process was often too inaccessible and inappropriate for them to be able to provide evidence in a way that enabled the carriage of justice.

The same, of course, can be said for vulnerable adults. We already know that women with disabilities are particularly at risk of sexual violence. The rate of sexual violence against women with intellectual disability has been reported to be as high as 90 per cent. Think about that. Ninety per cent! That is almost all of them. That is nine out of 10. For men with intellectual disability, it is almost as bad. The rate is about 60 per cent, six out of 10.

All too often, adults with intellectual disabilities have struggled to be believed. Even then, if they are believed, they struggle to provide evidence in a way that will allow a trial to proceed. Adults with a disability, but particularly intellectual disability, are easily exploited and abused because of their vulnerability. Often, just like children, they have communication difficulties which prevent them from even telling anyone what is going on, let alone the ability to give clear and strong evidence that would hold up in court. Intermediaries in such instances would assist enormously.

I am aware that the ACT government already provides assistance to vulnerable witnesses, including victims of sexual assault, by special measures, such as using recordings of police interviews as best evidence in court and providing a remote witness facility for vulnerable witnesses. The introduction of intermediaries builds on this and allows for all people with communication difficulties, be they child or adult, whether victim, witness or alleged offender, to be assisted to communicate in a safe way that is heard and understood.

Depending on the needs of individual witnesses, intermediaries may advise the police, lawyers and the court on such issues as frequencies of breaks, developmentally appropriate vocabulary, question construction, comprehension, speech, sound, intelligibility, non-verbal communication issues, the use of models and aids, and how cultural norms may affect the witness's communication of evidence to the police and in court.

Importantly, an intermediary's paramount duty will be to the court. Their role is to impartially assess vulnerable witnesses' communication capacity and advise them on how to ensure communication in the contexts of criminal investigative interview and when giving evidence at trial.

I support the introduction of ground rules hearings, which will be used to set parameters for communication. Ground rules hearings will contribute to improving the trial process for everyone involved and will ensure that people who need support to communicate are given that support. It will be necessary for such hearings to occur where there are communication difficulties. I am pleased to see that the courts can request such a hearing on a case-by-case basis if communication difficulties are being experienced by an adult.

I am even more pleased to see that there must be a ground rules hearing as a matter of course when there is a child victim or witness. In this way, there is the default entitlement to an intermediary, and a guarantee that children who are the most vulnerable do not miss out on the assistance they need to provide an accurate and reliable account of what was done to them or what they say.

Obviously, obtaining clear, accurate testimony improves the criminal justice system's ability to deliver justice. We know that the rates of conviction for sexual abuse and sexual violence are lower than for average crime. We know that only a small minority of victims and witnesses will ever see their offender serve jail time.

We can hope that more perpetrators of these crimes will be held accountable by these amendments. It will help improve access to justice. Not only will it uphold the human right of a child or person with disability to be protected from torture and cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment; it may even contribute to lessening the profound and lifelong impacts that survivors experience, because at least they will feel they have been heard.

The bill also upholds the human right to a fair trial, which includes the interests of the victim or witness and their family, the interests of the accused, and the interests of the general public. I am hopeful this will lead to more convictions and more just convictions. For these reasons, the Greens support the bill.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (5.44): I am pleased to speak in support of the Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 2019. As Canberrans, we expect to be able to participate in our community and live our lives in safety. We also rightly expect that individuals and institutions will not cause us harm and, where illegal behaviour occurs, justice will be done. However, through the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse the community has come to hear and acknowledge the fundamental wrongs that have been committed in the past. These wrongs have caused great trauma and lasting damage to many people in our community. The government understands how important the findings of the royal commission have been and will continue to be as we seek to prevent any repeat of the enormous breach of trust perpetrated against children.

The royal commission spoke with 8,000 survivors in private sessions; received 1,000 written accounts; held 57 public hearings, during which it heard evidence about child sexual abuse within institutions from 1,200 witness over 400 days of hearings across all Australian capital cities and in several regional areas; published 59 research reports; conducted 35 policy roundtables; received extensive written submissions from stakeholders; and reviewed allegations of sexual abuse in more than 4,000 institutions.

For victims and survivors, telling their stories required great courage and determination. A number of ACT survivors gave evidence. For example, the royal commission heard evidence from the family of a six-year-old boy who was abused by

a respite care worker, and from students of Marist College who were abused by Brothers Chute and Sutton. Today the ACT government honours the bravery of survivors of sexual abuse by introducing these significant reforms and sending a strong message that they are heard and we are acting. This bill establishes the legal framework for the use of intermediaries and ground rules hearings in the ACT, as others have said. In doing so it implements some of the central recommendations made in the royal commission's criminal justice report.

An intermediary is an independent communications specialist whose role is to assist a person with communication difficulties to communicate their best evidence to police and to the court. The royal commission recommended that states and territories establish intermediary schemes because without them many complainants would struggle to participate in the criminal justice process.

We know that in other jurisdictions where intermediary schemes have been operating for some time the availability of the intermediary has sometimes been the reason that a prosecution case has been able to proceed at all. In one of the case studies examined by the royal commission a child victim of sexual assault in the ACT told his mother he felt like it was his fault that the accused was acquitted because of his struggle to communicate with the court. The then Director of Public Prosecutions noted in relation to the case that an intermediary would have made a significant difference. He said the defence in that case had used a common tactic—repeating a series of propositions until the witness accedes to the proposition. With this style of cross-examination children particularly can tire, lose energy and effectively start agreeing with the propositions put to them in order to end the cross-examination.

The cross-examination also involved closed questions and language beyond the understanding of the victim. Had an intermediary been available to the complainant in that case, they may have been able to let the court know when the complainant was having difficulty understanding and help the defence to communicate with the complainant in ways that facilitated the provision of the best, most accurate testimony.

The bill also introduces the practice of ground rules hearings in the ACT, another practice recommended by the royal commission to improve the capacity of complainants to engage in the criminal justice process. A ground rules hearing is a pre-hearing process where a court takes into consideration the communication, support and other needs of the witness and sets ground rules accordingly.

The royal commission describes in its criminal justice report a number of cases in which ground rules hearings have been effective in helping complainants to participate in the court process. In one case, a child was quite anxious giving evidence and one thing that calmed her anxiety was the use of her dog, so the court allowed the dog to be present with her while she was giving evidence.

The introduction of intermediaries and ground rules hearings will have significant benefits for many victims of child sexual offences, children and young people, people with disabilities, and other vulnerable members of our community with communication difficulties. These reforms are part of our commitment to ensuring that the voices of vulnerable members in our society can be heard in the justice system.

I want to take a moment to thank the Victims of Crime Commissioner, Heidi Yates, for her tireless advocacy in relation to the establishment of an intermediary scheme and for the work she did in helping ministers and MLAs to understand the benefits of intermediary schemes, including bringing people in from other jurisdictions to talk to us about the experiences there. That gave us a really deep understanding of the very real impact intermediaries can make in ensuring that children and people with disabilities can give the very best evidence to the court in these very sensitive and difficult matters.

The amendments in this bill send a clear signal that the ACT government is committed to taking action to ensure our society is safer for children and responds appropriately to those who have experienced violence. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (5.50): For the past three years it has been my privilege to speak in defence of the rights of children. I am grateful for the opportunity to do so again today. Only a few months after becoming a member of the Legislative Assembly I raised concerns about whether the government's Family and Personal Violence Legislation Amendment Bill adequately protected kids. Between then and now I have repeatedly advocated for the right to have care and protection decisions involving children subject to external merits review.

Multiple times I have stated that kids in ACT schools have the right to be safe. I have called on the government to work with accredited organisations to provide new parents with better information about preventing and responding to child sexual abuse. I have raised concerns about kids in the territory's out of home care system. I strongly supported legislative changes designed to make it harder for people to hide the abuse of children. I have unashamedly defended the rights of children in our youth detention centre. In all cases I have advocated for the voices of kids to be heard.

Just last month I specifically called on the government to tell us how children and young people's voices have been included in ongoing consultations. Today I rise to support young people's voices once again. The Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse heard many examples of the difficulties and traumas faced by child victims and witnesses within the criminal justice system. The clear recommendation was to introduce intermediaries tasked with making sure that kids both understand questions and are heard clearly. This bill establishes the legislative framework that will make this happen, and I am deeply satisfied to be able to support it.

One of the concerns I had when I first learnt of this proposal was that it might be too limited in application. I am pleased, therefore, that the bill we are debating today prescribes the appointment of intermediaries for child complainants in sexual offence proceedings and for children who have witnessed a homicide and also allows the appointment of intermediaries for any others who may struggle to be heard and understood by police officers, magistrates and/or juries.

We know there are families in Canberra whose experiences with the criminal justice system would have been much easier if this scheme had been in place. I am grateful to know that any future victims in this territory will be far better served because of the changes this bill introduces. I join with the rest of the Canberra Liberals in endorsing these amendments.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (5.53), in reply: I start by thanking members for their contributions to this debate and the support for this important piece of legislation. I also place on record my thanks to the members of the community, in particular the legal profession and specifically the Bar Association, the Law Society and Legal Aid, for their input which has helped to refine the bill in its development.

I place on record my profound thanks to the team at JACS who have been working so positively and often so tirelessly on the many recommendations that have arisen from the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. That team has brought great skill, expertise and energy to this and has helped make Canberra a safer place and a stronger place for our children.

The Evidence (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Bill 2019 is the latest in the series of bills that have been prepared through that team in JACS to implement the recommendations made in the criminal justice report of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. As has been mentioned, the bill will establish the legal framework for the use of intermediaries and ground rules hearings in the ACT.

The royal commission heard examples of many child complainants breaking down during cross-examination due to the stress and the trauma associated with giving evidence. The criminal justice report told us that vulnerable witnesses often do not have the language to describe what happened, and even if they can articulate that something has happened they struggle to disclose this accurately to strangers, especially in unfamiliar settings. Communication barriers may also make it difficult for children to disclose the abuse with enough detail to assist further investigation and therefore the laying of charges.

At the most fundamental of levels, in order to participate in the criminal justice process children must be able to give an understandable account of what has happened, to understand the questions being asked of them and to provide that response to those questions. Without this the evidence of criminal acts perpetrated against them cannot be heard and considered. Intermediaries can ensure questions are phrased in ways that witnesses understand and then respond to.

This bill requires intermediaries to be appointed for all child complainants in sexual offence proceedings and all child witnesses to homicide proceedings subject to some exceptions. The bill provides the court with a discretion to appoint intermediaries for other witnesses, including defendants, who have a communication difficulty. We

know the scheme will be well administered by the Victims of Crime Commissioner within the ACT Human Rights Commission.

The evidence that exists from jurisdictions that have already implemented intermediary schemes tells us that the adoption of an intermediary scheme in the ACT will make a significant difference in helping vulnerable witnesses to be heard by the criminal justice system. Where an intermediary has been appointed, ground rules hearings allow the intermediary to inform the court of the communication needs of the witnesses and for the court to make any adjustments in the interest of justice. That is why it is important that this bill also establishes the legal framework for the use of ground rules hearings in the ACT.

These hearings may include rules about how a witness can be questioned, whether breaks are required, directions about support animals or other directions. Some examples from other jurisdictions include a court limiting cross-examination to 45 minutes; precluding the defence from putting the case to the complainant; and vetting a proposed list of questions to remove repetitious or unnecessary questions. Ground rules hearings provide an important opportunity for the complainant to have their needs considered and for adjustments to be made to the trial process to help them give evidence.

Perhaps one of the most important benefits of this bill is that the introduction of both intermediaries and ground rules will bring about a cultural shift in our justice system. The royal commission noted in its report that in other jurisdictions intermediaries and ground rules hearings had encouraged cultural change amongst the legal profession. These schemes demonstrated to the legal profession that eliciting evidence from vulnerable witnesses requires skill and planning and that traditional approaches have prevented some vulnerable witnesses from providing evidence effectively or even at all. Intermediaries and ground rules hearings have been a very valuable resource, showing the legal profession in those jurisdictions better ways of eliciting evidence from vulnerable witnesses. I certainly hope the interaction of these reforms in the ACT will yield similar benefits.

While this bill addresses cultural change in the specific context of the courtroom, the government maintains its commitment to ensuring the lessons of the royal commission are learnt at a society-wide level. That is why we have already passed three other bills progressing the royal commission's criminal recommendations. This bill is the fourth bill; however, it will not be the last in our set of reforms. We will continue to progress further reforms, legislative and non-legislative, to ensure the lessons from the royal commission have been learnt and that our community makes children's safety an absolute priority. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Statute Law Amendment Bill 2019

Debate resumed from 19 September 2019, on motion by **Mr Ramsay**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR HANSON (Murrumbidgee) (6.00): The Canberra Liberals will support this bill, but we do so noting one area of concern. The bill covers a very wide range of minor and technical amendments across many portfolio areas. The Attorney-General has outlined these both in speeches and in the explanatory statement, and there is no need to repeat them. They all appear to be genuine technical amendments, exactly as a SLAB is intended to be. That is good; it has not always been the case in this place.

Occasionally, a seemingly small change can potentially have more serious consequences. The devil often is in the detail. There is one area in this bill that has been raised as worth noting in this regard. That concern relates to the definitional change of “private medical examiner” in the Motor Accident Injuries Act. The legal profession has raised with us that it could be an attempt to limit the choice of doctors who may be engaged to provide a second opinion on whole person impairment assessment. I make two points. First, if this does in fact lead to less choice and a more limited range of options, it would be worth revisiting. Second, these changes are being made before this scheme has actually started. It is potentially bad process and poor policy to do so. I raise these concerns with the Assembly.

As I said, the bill covers a wide range of areas, but, as we have understood the bill, we agree with the government that these are technical changes. As I said, this is what a SLAB is supposed to be—technical, minor updates—even if the amendments do cover a vast array of bills. With the concerns that I noted with regard to the motor accident insurance area, we will not be opposing this bill.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (6.02): The Greens are also happy to support this statute amendment bill, or SLAB. These bills regularly come up. Like this one, they make a range of minor and technical amendments across the statute book. These amendments appear basically to be non-controversial, essentially making laws clearer and correcting minor errors, as is needed from time to time.

I note one amendment which relates to the Motor Accident Injuries Bill that the Assembly passed earlier this year. The amendment relates to a change that was proposed to the Motor Accident Injuries Bill by the Greens and was passed by the Assembly. That amendment ensures that when an injured person’s income is assessed, for the purpose of income replacement payments, the superannuation payments paid by their employer are also taken into account. That struck us as only fair.

Acknowledging that superannuation is not included in schemes in other jurisdictions, and also acknowledging that it will be somewhat tricky to administer, the amendment that passed only applied the superannuation element to people on lower incomes. That was a reasonable amendment—the whole amendment was a good amendment for superannuation—and I was pleased that the Assembly supported it. It makes the

scheme fairer and more generous for injured people who potentially were already struggling.

I was very interested in how the bill before us was going to change that part of the Motor Accident Injuries Act. I am pleased to say that I have met with the government about the change that is proposed in the bill and I have clarified that this does not impact in any negative way on the superannuation amendment that the Assembly supported. It is merely a technical amendment to ensure that the calculation of superannuation payments for low income people can work effectively. With that amendment clarified, I am happy to support the bill today.

MR RAMSAY (Ginninderra—Attorney-General, Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, Minister for Building Quality Improvement, Minister for Business and Regulatory Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans) (6.04), in reply: I thank members for their support and for their speeches. The Statute Law Amendment Bill is a further step in the government's measures to develop a simpler, more coherent and accessible statute book for the territory. It makes technical but important improvements to legislation. This program is an efficient mechanism to take care of non-controversial, minor and technical amendments to a range of territory legislation. It ensures that the ACT legislation maintains its high quality and it conserves the resources that would otherwise be needed if each amendment was considered individually.

As the statute book has been created from various jurisdictional sources over a long period, it reflects the various drafting practices and different language usages, printing formats and styles throughout the years. It is important to maintain a minimum consistent standard in presentation and cohesion in legislation coming from different sources at different times. The amendments have been fully outlined in my earlier speech and the explanatory statement. Because of that, and the time of the day and the state of my voice, I will not be going through them in any further detail.

Schedule 1 of the bill makes minor amendments to the function of a series of acts. Schedule 3 makes common-sense corrections and updates to reflect the evolving nature of our laws. Continued societal and technological developments mean that our laws need to keep pace; this is one of the ways that the government efficiently makes sure that we do precisely that.

Madam Speaker, it may well be that in a SLAB the amendments do not have you on the edge of your seat, but they make a real difference for the individuals that rely on the legislation day to day. They ensure that we avoid outdated provisions causing potentially harmful confusion for years to come. I express my appreciation for members' support and again affirm that this is another way of the government striving for the best and leading the way with a modern, high quality, up-to-date and easily accessible statute book. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Adjournment

Motion (by **Ms Berry**) proposed:

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

YWCA Canberra

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (6.07): I take this opportunity to put on the record my congratulations to YWCA Canberra which celebrated its 90th anniversary last week. Ninety years old. The organisation celebrated at the National Museum of Australia and it was the perfect time to reflect on how the YWCA has grown and evolved over the past nine decades.

The YWCA movement has provided community services and represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929. Over the decades YWCA Canberra has made a significant contribution across a range of areas, including: advocating for better wages and working conditions; supporting migrants and Indigenous families; providing early childhood services and community development activities; supporting our youth; connecting women with affordable housing; and addressing violence against women.

Today the feminist organisation continues to help empower women and girls to lead in their organisations, communities and their families. It continues to work towards equality and towards social justice. And it continues to empower women and to build their resilience, independence and wellbeing. After all, its vision is girls and women thriving.

I am pleased to have met many amazing and hardworking women who have contributed to the YWCA's mission and vision over the years. Today YWCA Canberra employs more than 350 people working across early childhood education and care, affordable housing and homelessness services, community development, youth engagement, training and education and, of course, women's leadership and advocacy.

In the past financial year YWCA Canberra provided school-age care for 2,500 children and crisis accommodation and outreach support to 161 clients, and it helped 259 people obtain affordable and secure homes. Programs include but are not limited to the Lanyon Food Hub, the Circles of Support counselling service, Rentwell, the She Leads initiative, and the Great Ydeas small grants program. Our current ACT Young Australian of the Year, Hannah Wandel, won that award for her work with Country to Canberra, which was spawned from a Great Ydeas grant.

I want to draw particular attention to YWCA Canberra's work to support women and children impacted by domestic and family violence. Domestic and family violence is a

leading cause of homelessness for women and children and costs Australia \$22 billion annually. Women in the ACT are three times more likely to experience domestic and family violence than men. YWCA Canberra continues to empower victims, to encourage bystanders to speak up and educate the broader community.

I think YWCA Canberra's future looks pretty bright. As a part of its 90th birthday celebrations it announced a new guide for the development of board traineeship programs to improve diversity on boards and \$90,000 over the next 10 years for the Great Ydeas small grants program, to support even more local women, including female identifying and non-binary people, to pursue professional development opportunities, pilot a project, get a business idea off the ground or address a need in the community.

I take this opportunity to thank the YWCA Canberra for supporting women and girls in our community so tirelessly. Ninety years is an incredible achievement and I have no doubt that countless women and girls are better for it. Their organisation really is priceless. Here's to another 90 years of girls and women thriving.

Before concluding I note that this speech was written by Michiko Mujizatya who has been joining my office over the past few weeks as part of the Australia-Indonesia youth exchange program. It has been a pleasure to have her presence and her contribution.

Jasiri Australia—girls take over parliament program

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (6.11): I rise to speak about the girls take over parliament program run by Jasiri Australia. Although we have touched on this topic in previous years and a number of members have spoken about their experience this year, I cannot stress how important this program is in helping to empower young women to reach their goals and create the opportunity of becoming involved in politics. Australia is a diverse nation. As a result I think we would all like to see more women of all cultures become engaged in politics, to voice their opinions and to speak up for what they believe. There are six elected women in this parliamentary team and a number of others across the parliament. I am proud to say that I work alongside all of these amazing women.

I congratulate Caitlin and Ashleigh for their hard work in building the girls take over parliament program and making it possible for young women across Australia to take part in the program and to work alongside some incredible politicians, and I guess some pretty ordinary ones, as well.

This week my office has been taken over by one of the participants whom I have had a great time mentoring. Aamena Alizai joined our team on Monday when we put her to work. She had the chance of meeting some inspirational people such as Alistair Coe and others as well including Ginger Gorman and Margaret Reid. She was involved in a lot of activities in the Parton office. She is a very enthusiastic, driven and positive young individual, and it is not over yet. She gets the chance to join us to listen to the great man, Mr Coe, deliver an address at the National Press Club tomorrow and she is helping me cook a barbeque at Theodore shops. So what more can you ask for.

I will take time to read some of what Aamena has written for us:

I want to take a moment to express how lucky I am to have had the chance of partaking in the Girls Take Over Parliament program, which is run by Jasiri. Taking part in this program has allowed me to further my knowledge of politics and provided me with many opportunities to establish well-known connections with some incredible people.

This week I've had the pleasure of taking over Mark Parton's office. It has been a fantastic experience to gain first-hand knowledge on a day-to-day insight into the life of a MLA. I have gained a lot of knowledge about the Legislative Assembly as well as the work that is done every day.

I find it amazing to see first-hand the work that goes into building a better future for Canberra. Being from a diverse background and migrating to Canberra, I have found that there are many extraordinary opportunities for people like me and as well as local Canberrans. I want to express my kindest regards to Mark and his team for welcoming me to their office and making me feel part of the team.

And I would also like to say a massive thank you to Caitlin and her team at Jasiri for making this opportunity possible for us. I also would strongly encourage all the young women out there who have dreams or want to make a change to take part in this program. You will be provided with many excellent possibilities and gain a lot of knowledge and experience throughout the entire program.

With the skills I have gained, I have now been able to apply them already in my everyday life. So I would like to thank my mentors and everyone I have worked alongside to help me reach my goals. It has been amazing to have met likeminded people and form friendships that I hope to last for a long time. Without them, I would not be here today. I can't express enough how lucky I am to have taken part in this program and how it has helped me become confident and to stand up for what I believe in and make a change to the future of our nation.

Aamena is not here today only because she had some uni commitments.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—domestic and family violence

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (6.15): I rise today to speak about a forum I recently attended, hosted by Beryl Women, to continue the NAIDOC theme of "Voice, treaty, truth". The forum focused on how these themes resonate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women subjected to a risk of domestic and family violence. The panel of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women included magistrate Louise Taylor; Robyn Martin, who is the CEO of Beryl; Kim Davison, CEO of Gugan Gulwan; Leah House, case manager for Mulleun Mura at the Women's Legal Centre; and Karen Parter from the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Women's Alliance, also a Beryl board member.

I am aware that what they had to say was not new news for many, but for some, including me, the reality is still shocking. We know that Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander women suffer from higher rates of violence, have 32 times higher hospitalisation rates and are 11 times more likely to die from family violence related incidents than non-Aboriginal women.

Issues about care and protection were discussed at length. Aboriginal women living with violence are in a double bind. According to Kym Davison, in 90 per cent of cases the children are removed from the family home because it is not safe. Often the mother is blamed for not providing protection yet she herself is the victim of violence. She is at risk of escalated violence and/or homelessness if she leaves, and very often does not want to report the perpetrator of the violence, due to the longstanding and shameful history of black deaths in custody.

Unsurprisingly, the women just want the violence to stop. They do not unnecessarily want to end their relationships. Their help-seeking from the justice system is confounded by profound feelings of responsibility for their families and communities. They want help for their men, who often feel powerless in a society which has historically excluded them and discriminated against them. They are impacted by intergenerational and transgenerational post-traumatic stress caused by colonisation and forced dispossession of lands, culture and language.

Whilst this is a complex issue, some of the solutions are simpler. They can, should and must be developed and implemented by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As was said at the forum, "Nothing can be done for us without us."

Mainstream organisations need to listen and learn to become more responsive to and informed by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and their families. Removing children is not the answer. Healing families is and healing whole communities is. Responding to domestic and family violence for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities means resourcing the community to respond as they see fit, not us dictating how it should be done.

Consultation after consultation has been done, report after report has been written, recommendations have been made, yet still we seek the views and advice of the Indigenous community. It is just insulting for us to continue to seek guidance from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members without actually setting about implementing and resourcing the recommendations that they have already made. This means really listening and listening sooner; not waiting 10 years, for example, as we did for the government's response to the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report, which was delivered earlier this week after 10 years.

Whilst there is an intention to increase access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community controlled targeted early support and prevention services for victims, perpetrators and families in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agreement, until we see real action in this area they are empty words. It is no wonder that community members are becoming apathetic and dispirited. If we are not careful, there is a risk they will become silent. We, the powerbrokers, will then be complicit, with many others, in the systematic denial of their reality.

We need to invest more in Indigenous traineeships, more in support for Indigenous workers in the sector who do not just work 9 to 5, and more in support for Aboriginal led and controlled organisations, for a start. We must genuinely engage in the NAIDOC theme of “Voice, treaty, truth” and we must do better.

Government—infrastructure plan

MR GUPTA (Yerrabi) (6.20): Today I would like to speak about the recently announced ACT infrastructure plan, which will bring great benefit to my electorate of Yerrabi and to Canberra as a whole.

As you all know Canberra is one of the world’s most livable cities. It is a great place to live, work, start a business and raise a family. That is why more and more people are moving to our city. By 2030, it is expected that Canberra will have a population of half a million. Gungahlin alone recorded growth of around 24,000 people between the 2011 and 2016 census takings, making it the second fastest growing community in Australia.

As our population continues to grow, our infrastructure needs to grow too. The ACT government understands that. The ACT infrastructure plan outlines over \$14 billion worth of investment in infrastructure projects across Canberra. The investment will bring about significant and long-lasting benefits.

The Labor Government is delivering the public facilities and services that a growing city needs: free health care in our suburbs, more public schools, a bigger public transport network, new community centres and meeting spaces and the city services people want. New schools will be built and existing schools will be upgraded. Canberra Hospital will be expanded and health centres in our suburbs will be enhanced. Our public transport network will be bigger and better as our streets, parks and facilities will get the investment they need to continue to serve our growing community. Labor will build what we need at the right time.

Gungahlin is our city’s youngest region, and much of the growth is made up of young families who are buying their first home. I personally understand the joy, excitement, sweat and tears of raising a young family and the very exciting event that it is buying your first home. You are investing in a property that you and your family turn into a home and create beautiful memories in. Having local services nearby impacts greatly upon the quality of that experience.

One of my priorities as a local member of Yerrabi is to work for families. I want to support local Canberrans. One of the best ways to do that is to ensure that when people move to Canberra there is a good local school to send their children to, that there is an accessible health clinic, that there is a local park, and that there are local shops in the vicinity for that Sunday morning coffee or for shopping for the kids’ school lunch.

Our government has a plan to ensure that these new families have access to these services they need in their region, such as excellent schools, quality education and

local services. The ACT government has invested significantly in the new infrastructure plan in Canberra's north in recent years to support the growth of the community there, including delivering stage 1 of light rail, building and expanding eight schools, mending major roads like Gundaroo Drive and Horse Park Drive and upgrading community facilities in Gungahlin town centre. We are now further building upon this work.

The ACT infrastructure plan will deliver a new primary school in Throsby and the expansion of Franklin Early Childhood School and Gold Creek School. The government will continue to support growth in enrolments across Gungahlin by expanding capacity at Amaroo, Gold Creek and Neville Bonner for a further 500 students. A new high school in Kenny will also be opened to provide places for around 1,000 students in years 7 to 10. The new high school will help provide more capacity as the Gungahlin community grows. It will open in 2023. The plan also presents major intersection improvements and a new community centre in Gungahlin.

The ACT government recognises that with Canberra's population shifting to the north, further investment is needed in local hospital and healthcare facilities. The new University of Canberra Hospital opened in 2018 as Canberra's first specialist rehabilitation hospital, and we have also invested significantly to upgrade Calvary Public Hospital in recent years. This has included expanding the emergency department and investing more in theatre and surgery so that Calvary can help meet increased targets for elective surgery delivery across the ACT health system.

As north Canberra grows, we are also prioritising essential infrastructure works in the growing suburbs of Taylor, Jacka and Kenny in this plan to ensure that those suburbs are ready for existing and new residents.

Canberra is a wonderfully unique place to live, and it is important that we get growth right. The ACT government is working to ensure that we have the infrastructure that we need in the city. I will be working to ensure that we maintain Canberra's unique lifestyle and character in that process. *(Time expired.)*

Walk the Border fundraiser

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (6.25): On the slightly overcast morning of 5 October, Mr Rattenbury, Mr Gupta, Ms Le Couteur, Miss C Burch and I joined 27 dedicated walkers and friends to wish Rod Griffiths, the president of the Conservation Council, well on his second Walk the Border fundraiser. The walk is to raise funds for the Conservation Council to support the dedicated work of its staff and volunteers, with participants asked to get sponsors to support them with \$1 for each kilometre walked.

My colleagues and I were invited to attend any stage of the walk over the following three weeks, so Josh in my office managed to convince me to come along on the five kilometre CEO loop walk 18 weeks after having given birth to my daughter. "Don't worry," he said. "It's comparatively flat," he said. With the walk starting at Mulligans Flat, I guess we were all lulled into a sense of security.

I do remember thinking when we were walking up the rocky slope on the side of Oak Hill that I would have to ask Josh to explain to me exactly what he meant by “comparatively flat”. I guess in comparison to a sheer vertical cliff that may have been the case. I was just grateful I had decided not to strap Mia to my chest, as I am not sure that I would have made it.

I am sure my colleagues here will know that, aside from a number of constitutional requirements, the ACT border was specifically marked to protect the water catchment of the then Federal Capital Territory. This means that the exact path of the border follows the watershed and is designed to ensure water security for the territory.

From the cliff face of Mount Coree to the grasslands of Jerrabomberra to the wetlands of Mount Ginini, Rod’s self-professed moment of madness to decide to walk the border draws attention to the ACT’s unique environment and the numerous ecosystems the border crosses. Only a few people have walked the entire 306 kilometre length of the border. After completing the 21-day journey today, Rod may well be the only person to have done it twice.

Hats off to Rod, not only for his endurance but for his passion and dedication to conserving and protecting our environment and his commitment to the Conservation Council and its work. This year, Rod’s trip has raised a total of about \$6,500, and that is just so far; their goal is to reach \$10,000. This money will go toward the core functions of the Conservation Council and will allow them to continue to campaign for improved outcomes for our environment.

I thank the Conservation Council for inviting me along for a tiny part of the border, a great excuse to dust off my walking shoes and see another great part of the territory and observe my electorate from afar. I hope that Rod has another moment of madness in 2020 and decides to walk the border for a third time.

Standing orders—suspension

Motion (by **Ms Stephen-Smith**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the adjournment debate being extended by 15 minutes.

Health—sexual health

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Health and Minister for Urban Renewal) (6.29): Yesterday Eleanor Hickey took over my office and social media as part of the girls take over parliament program. I note that yesterday, Madam Speaker, you also presented a speech prepared by Eleanor, on the subject of climate change, to which I listened with interest. As part of the takeover, I also asked Eleanor to prepare a speech on an issue that, given the opportunity, she would want to speak about in this place. Eleanor spoke with me about her interest in promoting sexual health and wellbeing and prepared this speech for me to deliver.

Sexual health is of vital importance to people's health and wellbeing and, accordingly, a significant issue for the ACT government and our health system. The ACT has a range of programs and services targeted at improving the sexual health of ACT residents. The Canberra Sexual Health Centre, for example, provides free testing for sexually transmissible infections and bloodborne viruses and HIV outpatient care. This centre is the region's largest HIV outpatient service. The centre also provides outreach activities like education and testing in a range of locations and contexts.

Critical partners such as Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, the AIDS Action Council and Hepatitis ACT also provide sexual health services across our community. Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT do great work in our community, providing reproductive and sexual health clinical care and counselling, including STI testing and treatment.

We know that we need to continue to work together to deliver a comprehensive range of services that ensure affected individuals receive the appropriate care, management and support. We must work to eliminate stigma and discrimination and encourage the conversation in the community about the importance of sexual health, and work to overcome the stigma that exists around this issue. Sexual health services must be available to everyone. That is why it is critical to ensure that services are appropriate for individuals in diverse relationships, from different cultural backgrounds and from communities where topics of sexual health are still taboo.

The ACT government has committed to initiatives like Sexual Health Week, which works to normalise discussions of sexual health. Removing the stigma around sexual health will make all Canberrans more likely to access the services they need without fear of judgment from others.

Sadly, part of sexual health awareness means acknowledging rapes and sexual assault and the health services the ACT provides in response. This has been a major issue on university campuses across the country and is one that Eleanor is passionate about.

There are 200 sexual assaults every week at Australian universities, an average of 30 a day. The Australian Human Rights Commission's 2017 report "Change the Course: National Report on Sexual Assault and Sexual harassment at Australian Universities" notes:

Of students who were sexually assaulted in a university setting, 87% did not make a formal report or complaint to anyone at the university and 79% did not seek support or assistance from their university following the most recent incident.

This means that many survivors are left without support.

Eleanor spoke to me about the fact that, within our own city, ANU is reported to have a rate of sexual assault that is double the national average. Eleanor reflected to me the views of students who have been vocal about their concerns about the university's response to the issue of sexual assault.

Earlier this year there was significant media attention about changes to reporting processes and the burden placed on peers to receive reports of assaults within residential colleges. Eleanor talked to me about wait times for counselling services on campus and the fact that students have to continue living with the perpetrator in halls, even if they report the result. I commend the students' response to this issue. Student-led initiatives such as the STOP campaign are aiming to raise awareness about these issues and ultimately stop assault.

It is important that we support the services and programs for those in our community who have experienced sexual assault. Everything from immediate crisis responses and health care to long-term mental health services can be crucial to helping a survivor.

The ACT provides many resources for survivors. Canberra Hospital offers forensic and medical sexual assault care, which assists people immediately following sexual assault and refers patients for counselling. The Canberra Rape Crisis Centre's crisis line is an independent call line that can also assist in counselling. I am also pleased to say that the ACT is one of the only states in Australia to have a service specifically for male survivors of sexual assault.

It was an absolute pleasure to have Eleanor in my office and to have the opportunity to speak about the critical issues of sexual health and how we can work to address and prevent sexual assaults in our community. I thank Eleanor for providing this speech and Jasiri Australia for establishing the girls take over parliament program.

Youth—mental health

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (6.33): Last week was National Mental Health Week, and yesterday we received a report that gives us some sense of what young people in our territory are facing. For example, of the 351 young Canberrans surveyed, a quarter reported experiencing psychological distress. Figures were higher for females, at 33 per cent, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, at 43 per cent.

I worry about the wellbeing of these youths and want to see them receive whatever help they need. Unfortunately this can be difficult in the ACT. Seeing a counsellor at Headspace or even at school often requires months on the waiting list. The adolescent and young adult mental health inpatient unit that Labor promised would be up and running by 2016 has not been delivered at all. I have previously spoken about parents needing to take their children to Sydney and even to Melbourne in order to access specialist mental health services. These gaps in service provision, and long waiting lists, can discourage youth from seeking help.

But today I want to encourage young people not to give up. I know that it can be difficult to open up and tell someone what you are feeling, but it is important to do so. You may be worried that people will judge you. I cannot promise that some will not, but I am confident that there are more people all around you who will not. Talk to a trusted friend. Talk to a parent or other family member. Talk to a teacher at school, to a youth leader or to a faith leader at your church, temple, mosque or synagogue. If you do not find the right person to confide in at first, do not give up. You are valuable. Keep looking. Keep reaching out. There will be someone who will listen to you.

Even when you have the courage, it can be difficult to start the conversation. Just tell someone that you are not feeling okay and want to talk about it. You may lack the words to accurately describe what you are feeling. That is normal. Your own understanding of the situation will often improve and become much clearer as you start discussing it. That happens to everybody. You will learn more about yourself as you go.

Remember, too, that you are not alone. As I mentioned earlier, a quarter of all young people aged 15 to 19 in the ACT report experiencing psychological distress. For some age groups the figure is closer to half. It can be really scary to think that no-one else is experiencing what you are, that there is something uniquely wrong with you. I want to assure you that you are normal. Many of your peers are experiencing the same things right now, and many of us adults have experienced and/or still experience them too.

In addition, I ask that all young people, regardless of their personal situation, try to be a friend. Be the sort of friend someone else can trust. If someone starts talking to you about a problem, do not panic. You do not need to know what to say. Just listen and be kind. Treat the other person the way you would wish to be treated. If you need advice about how to help a friend, ask for it. We are all in this together.

I look forward to seeing the youth aware of mental health program being introduced into Canberra schools in 2020. The federal Liberal government is making this program available as part of its \$500 million commitment to young Australians and their families. This program will teach you how to better help yourselves and each other. Please take it seriously. In the meantime, please do not be discouraged. Speak up, seek help and, when you can, be the help that someone else needs. You are important to us.

Schools—reconciliation action plan

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) (6.37): I take this opportunity to congratulate the ACT council of P&Cs on the launch of their reconciliation action plan.

Earlier this week I launched the ACT council of P&Cs' plan. They are the first peak body of P&Cs in the country to develop a reconciliation action plan. I am proud that the ACT public school parents are leading the way. Their reconciliation action plan is a fantastic example of the work they are doing to take action. It shows their commitment to representing the voice of all ACT public school parents, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The council started this journey when they were invited by the Auditor-General to talk about reconciliation and realised they were not doing enough to understand and include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history. This sparked the council's drive to better understand and recognise their role in reconciliation. Members of the council executive then completed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait

Islander cultural competence course run by the Centre for Cultural Competence Australia and facilitated by the Education Directorate. Members of the executive also attended the rediscovering history symposium run by the Education Directorate, and an Indigenous language workshop. This work helped the P&C Council to ask better questions, like how to make P&Cs inclusive and culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

This reconciliation plan is not a declaration of understanding but a recognition that there is a lot to learn and a lot to reflect on, and it is a commitment to do that work. In their reconciliation action plan the P&Cs commit to continuing their reconciliation journey. They commit to action under four themes: relationships, respect, opportunities and governance.

Some of the highlights of the reconciliation plan are their commitments to establishing and strengthening relationships with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations; celebrating National Reconciliation Week and NAIDOC week; increasing understanding, value and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture, histories, knowledge and rights through cultural learning; increasing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and procurement; encouraging diversity in all P&Cs; and continuing their reconciliation journey by being accountable to their reconciliation action plan and building towards their next reconciliation action plan.

The P&C should be very proud about taking these important steps on their reconciliation journey. While this work has been driven by the P&C council, all public school P&C associations will be able to benefit and learn from this reconciliation action plan.

I would particularly like to recognise the council's president, Kirsty McGovern-Hooley; and the RAP working group: Crystal Cox, Vivian Pearce, Jane Koitka and Bonnie Roppola. Congratulations to all of you on this important first step on your reconciliation journey.

The ACT council of P&Cs is a tireless advocate for public school parents. I know that ACT public schools and their communities really appreciate the support of the P&Cs and their peak body.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 6.40 pm until Tuesday, 26 November 2019, at 10 am.

Schedules of amendments

Schedule 1

Electricity Feed-in (Large-scale Renewable Energy Generation) Amendment Bill 2019

Amendment moved by Ms Lee

1

Clause 4

Proposed new section 9

Page 2, line 13—

omit proposed new section 9, substitute

9

FiT capacity

The total capacity of the generating systems of large renewable energy generators in relation to which FiT entitlements may be held under this Act (the ***FiT capacity***) is 900MW.

Answers to questions

Public housing—hot water systems (Question No 2621)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 2 August 2019:

- (1) How many public housing dwellings have solar hot water systems.
- (2) When these solar hot water systems reach the end of their expected operating lifetimes are they replaced with new solar hot water systems or with a different type of hot water service.
- (3) Is there a policy to remove these systems and replace them with electric or gas hot water systems.
- (4) What are the Housing ACT's policies (a) regarding hot water systems and (b) the decision making process used when determining what type of system to install in new properties or when replacing an existing system.

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

1. Housing ACT does not currently have this level of detail across the portfolio. To address this under the Total Facilities Management contract with Programmed FM, all properties will receive a condition assessment over the next three years that will build a comprehensive library of not only the condition of the property, but also the condition and type of major components including hot water systems.
2. When hot water systems reach the end of their useful life, Housing ACT replaces them with appliances that have been sourced to be cost effective and fit for purpose. The current Housing ACT design brief and the range of products does not include solar hot water units.
3. Where existing hot water systems fail, or are determined to be beyond economical repair, they are replaced with appliances that are cost effective and fit for purpose.
4. Housing ACT's policies are:
 - a. To replace existing hot water systems that fail or are determined to be beyond economical repair with appliances that are cost effective and fit for purpose.
 - b. In October 2018, Housing ACT discontinued the installation of natural gas and appliances fuelled by non-renewable energy sources in all new properties that it builds. All new Housing ACT detached homes and townhouses utilise high efficiency electric heat-pump hot water systems, and all new multi-unit sites utilise instantaneous electric hot water systems.

When replacing existing systems, Housing ACT uses appliances that are cost effective and fit for purpose.

The ACT Government has funded a program under the Energy Efficiency Improvement Scheme to remove and replace inefficient gas and electric heaters

and hot water systems in Housing ACT properties with highly efficient electric appliances. This program aligns with the climate change strategy in aiming to reduce the use of gas in Canberra and increase the affordability for low income earning Canberrans. This program will achieve the outcome of further updating the Housing ACT portfolio. As at 18 September 2019, the program has replaced 621 inefficient systems.

**Canberra Hospital—emergency department bypass
(Question No 2672)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 23 August 2019
(*redirected to the Acting Minister for Health*):

- (1) In relation to the hospital bypass on 14 August 2019, what time was the decision taken and who took the decision.
- (2) Who was consulted before the decision to implement a bypass was taken.
- (3) When were the (a) Minister for Health and (b) CEO of Canberra Health Services, consulted or advised.
- (4) What factors led to the decision to implement a hospital bypass on 14 August 2019.
- (5) How many patients were discharged as a result of the hospital bypass and when were they discharged.
- (6) How many patients were transferred to private hospitals and (a) which private hospitals where they transferred to, (b) when were these patients transferred and (c) what was the cost of the transfers.
- (7) When was the decision made to end the bypass arrangements and who made the decision.
- (8) Who was consulted before the decision to end the bypass arrangement.
- (9) What factors led to the end of the bypass arrangement.

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

- (1) The decision was made by the Canberra Hospital (CH) Commander at 10pm.
- (2) CH Commander, CH Emergency Department Admitting Officer, CH Director of Nursing Patient Flow, relevant CH management positions involved in patient flow, ACT Ambulance Service and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- (3) a) As advised during Question Time on 20 August, the CEO telephoned the Minister at approximately 11pm.
b) Immediately prior to the Code Yellow being called.
- (4) There was no obvious cause for the surge in admissions other than usual seasonal fluctuations.

- (5) It is not possible to separate hospital bypass discharges from business as usual discharges.
- (6) (a) Eight patients were transferred to National Capital Private Hospital (NCPH) via the corridor link and of those, six were transfers from the Emergency Department.
(b) 3.30pm (14 August 2019) to 4.06am (15 August 2019).
(c) There are no costs to transfer patients to NCPH.
- (7) 2am – CH Commander.
- (8) CH Commander, CH Emergency Department Admitting Officer, CH Director of Nursing Patient Flow, relevant CH management positions involved in patient flow and ACT Ambulance Service, Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.
- (9) Hospital capacity returned to manageable activity.

Municipal services—street furniture (Question No 2673)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 August 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for City Services*):

- (1) Is there selection criteria for public furniture in areas such as Garema Place, Latin America Plaza, and Lonsdale Street; if yes, can the Minister provide details.
- (2) Has any assessment been given to furniture that is made from fully recycled material.
- (3) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of recycled furniture being used at sites such as Latin America Plaza, and Lonsdale Street.
- (4) Does the Government have a policy preference for furniture that is made from sustainable/recycled materials and sourced from sustainable businesses.

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

- (1) The responsibility for the installation of street furniture in the public realm rests with Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS). TCCS considers a range of criteria to ensure seating is fit for purpose (robust, attractive and user-friendly) and value for money on a whole-of-life basis (durability, ease of maintenance, sustainability). Replacements or augmentation of public furniture in established locations also considers the need to maintain a cohesive look and feel and as a result, the options for replacement seating may be limited to items with the same or similar materials and design. In relation to furniture in the City and Braddon, the City Renewal Authority (CRA) does, within its area of responsibility install additional items as part of its activation strategy. In doing so CRA selects furniture that is robust, well made and long-lasting. It also selects materials that are low maintenance, suitable for public use. Public space research identifies that timber furniture has the highest public satisfaction rating. CRA has made a conscious decision to move away from fixed furniture to moveable settings. As such the selection criteria used by CRA are quality, attractiveness, robustness, fitness for purpose, portability, timber options and longevity.

- (2) Furniture made from fully recycled plastic has been used in Canberra since 2004. As technology improves and new products become available new trials are run to determine suitability. In late 2018 CRA established a Sustainability Strategy to guide its obligation to coordinate cohesive urban renewal that is design-led, people focussed and sustainable. A theme in the strategy is 'sustainable use of resources' and this includes the adaptive re-use of buildings, structures or landscapes where appropriate, to help create a sense of place and reduce emissions embodied in construction. CRA advocates for waste minimisation, recycling and reuse in its procurement. The selection of timber furniture is based on the resource being a renewable resource which has longevity and can be easily maintained. CRA will continue to research new products using recycled materials, such as plastic, as they come onto the market.
- (3) None of the furniture installed by CRA is made from recycled material. The timber benches are manufactured with sustainably sourced Australian hardwood (Spotted Gum).
- (4) TCCS has a working group that is investigating opportunities to increase the usage of recycled materials. The Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate oversees policy directions such as the 2015 Sustainable Procurement policy available on the web:
https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1345887/Sustainable-Procurement-Policy.pdf

Waste—recycling (Question No 2676)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 23 August 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction*):

- (1) How is the fate of recycled items from the ACT's waste streams monitored, including (a) kerbside collection, (b) deposit-paid bottle collections, (c) industrial waste, and (d) other collections at landfill and recycling plants such as engine oils, vehicle tyres and batteries.
- (2) Did plastics and packaging industries and businesses contribute to the development of the container deposit scheme; if so, how.
- (3) Do plastics and packaging industries and businesses contribute to the ongoing operation of the container deposit scheme; if so, how.
- (4) Are there specific targets for recycling different waste streams and, in particular, the various varieties of plastics, and are these targets monitored and reported on; if yes, what are the results to date.
- (5) What steps are being taken or planned to improve the performance of the various recycling processes.
- (6) What is the cost of establishing and operating kerbside recycling in Canberra.
- (7) How do these costs compare with the costs of sending waste to landfill.

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

- (1) All waste activities conducted in the ACT are regulated under the *Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act 2016* (Waste Act). All waste facilities operating in the ACT are required under the Waste Act to report details of waste collected, and where it was sent for further downstream processing.
- (2) No.
- (3) Beverage suppliers fund the Container Deposit Scheme. The amount paid by the suppliers is set by the ACT CDS Scheme Coordinator, Exchange for Change; and is based on their assessment of the number of containers expected to be supplied into the ACT, and the number of containers expected to be redeemed, each month.

(4) Commingled Recycling

Recycling targets exist under the current contract with the operators of the Hume Materials Recovery Facility. These include a target of 90% for all recyclables to be sent to market and a target of ensuring waste going to landfill is below 12% of total materials received.

Green bin collections have a target of 0.5% contamination. Currently achieving 0.01% contamination.

Recycling in the construction industry

The *Development Control Code for Waste Management 2019* (Section 6.4) contains targets for the reuse or recycling of demolition, excavation and construction waste in accordance with the following requirements:

- Demolition: A minimum of 90 per cent of all demolition waste generated on a development must be reused or recycled, or both;
 - Excavation: A minimum of 90 per cent of all excavated waste generated on a development must be reused where appropriate; and
 - Construction: A minimum of 75 per cent of all construction waste generated on a development must be reused or recycled, or both
- <https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/recycling-and-waste/drop-off/building-waste>.

- (5) The Hume Materials Recovery Facility (MRF) will be upgraded over the next 12-24 months to improve safety and efficiency. In addition, TCCS will be investigating how best to manage co-mingled recycling in the ACT in the short, medium and long-term. This advice will include reviewing, analysing and providing exercisable options, infrastructure and business improvement recommendations on the following matters:
 - Markets – The forces and issues impacting comingled recycling in the ACT and region, including the impact of the import restrictions imposed by China;
 - Source separation and collection on how to achieve increased yield, reduce gross and cross contamination;
 - Supporting and enabling programs (including education and compliance);
 - Government policies initiatives that support, facilitate and enhance recycling of household waste;
 - Modelling of the comingled, commercial and Container Deposit Scheme streams, volumes and financial impacts of options over 20 years; and
 - Services and infrastructure improvement requirements of the existing MRF site and possibly a new site within the Hume Resource Recovery Estate.

- (6) What is the cost of establishing and operating kerbside recycling in Canberra.
- The Hume MRF was built in 2003, and in 2016 the facility was upgraded by the facility operator, Re.Group, investing \$8m in new plant and machinery and building upgrades.
 - In the 2019-20 budget \$5.7m was allocated to MRF infrastructure improvements to increase product storage requirements, upgrade stormwater and fire services and provide an area for the transfer of commingled and Container Deposit Scheme material in the event the MRF is inoperable due to an emergency or shutdown.
 - Full cost of operating the MRF is at the cost of Re.Group.
 - It costs the Territory \$0.4m per year to process yellow bin material and material from recycling drop off centres at the MRF.
 - In 2018-19, 31,081 tonnes of yellow bin waste were collected. The collection of this yellow bin material cost the Territory \$4.9m.
- (7) How do these costs compare with the costs of sending waste to landfill.
- \$25m was provided in the 2017-18 budget for construction of additional landfill capacity at the Mugga Lane landfill. The increase of landfill capacity will take the ACT's expected volume of waste until approximately 2030.
 - In 2018-19 the operating cost of Mugga Lane landfill was \$4.3m to landfill 242,908 tonnes of waste.
 - In 2018-19, 74,235 tonnes of red bin waste were collected. The collection of this red bin material cost the Territory \$8.8m.

Housing—demonstration housing project (Question No 2677)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Urban Renewal, upon notice, on 23 August 2019 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) In relation to the Demonstration Housing Project, which land is being investigated or set aside for projects without sites.
- (2) What is the expected timing of the next steps for projects without sites.

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

- (1) There are a range of potential sites across the Territory that are being investigated for successful stage 1 Demonstration Housing projects that do not have sites. These include sites on the Indicative Land Release Program. Sites will be identified to meet the requirements outlined by proponents in their stage 1 Expressions of Interest, where possible.

These sites should not be considered 'set aside' for Demonstration Housing projects. All successful stage 1 proponents need to be successful in the stage 2 Request for Tender, which will require them to pass a rigorous financial capacity check, including the ability to purchase the sites from the Territory at market value, as well as meeting additional evaluation criteria relating to their demonstration housing concept, excellence in design and build quality, and community engagement. Once the proponents have been evaluated as successful in the stage 2 Request for Tender, the

sites will be announced and proponents will be required to undertake community engagement on their proposals.

- (2) Further detailed investigations and due diligence are being undertaken by EPSDD on potential sites to confirm their suitability. When these are complete, and the sites approved for release, the Requests for Tenders (RFTs) will be issued for projects without sites. These will be issued to Proponents as the site work is complete. It is anticipated that the first RFTs will be issued before the end of the year.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—staffing (Question No 2685)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, upon notice, on 23 August 2019 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Children, Youth and Families*):

- (1) How many recruitment rounds for staff have been undertaken since June 2018 for Bimberi Youth Justice Centre and (a) when did they occur, (b) how many applicants were received for each recruitment round, and (c) how many applicants were successful for a position at Bimberi for each recruitment round.
- (2) How many staff left their positions after being trained.
- (3) What staff positions have been recruited for since June 2018.
- (4) What staff positions are currently vacant and awaiting recruitment.
- (5) What types of employees are sought for each staff position i.e. full time, part time, casual etc.
- (6) How many staff are currently employed at Bimberi.

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

1. The answers provided for Question 1 refer to youth worker positions. Other positions recruited to are addressed at Question 3.

Since June 2018, Bimberi has commenced two recruitment processes for youth workers. The induction of new youth workers, recruited through a round which commenced in March and was finalised in May 2018, was completed in July 2018.

- a. The first youth worker recruitment round occurred in January 2019 and the second youth worker recruitment round commenced on 21 June 2019.
- b. In the first recruitment round there were a total of 145 applications received. In the second recruitment round there were a total of 135 applications received.
- c. The first youth worker recruitment round of January 2019, 10 applicants were found suitable for permanent and temporary positions.

The second youth worker recruitment round is still in progress with interviews occurring on 10, 11 and 12 September 2019.

2. No staff have resigned from the youth worker recruitment round which was held in January 2019, four of the 10 applicants withdrew before the induction training commenced. The youth worker recruitment process of 21 June 2019 is currently ongoing.
3. Since June 2018, the following positions have been permanently or temporarily recruited to:
 - Youth worker – recruitment occurred on 6 January 2019 and 21 June 2019
 - Cook – recruitment occurred on 22 March 2019
 - Family Engagement Officer – recruitment occurred on 22 May 2019
 - Narrabundah House Manager – recruitment occurred on 9 May 2019
 - Deputy Senior Manager – recruitment occurred on 13 September 2018
 - Unit Manager – recruitment occurred on 14 January 2019
 - Team Leader – recruitment occurred on 3 April 2019
4. There are temporary and permanent positions available for recruitment at Bimberi. The current actual vacancies include one unit manager, three team leaders and five youth worker positions. Recruitment for the unit manager and team leader positions will occur following the finalisation of the youth worker recruitment round.
5. Bimberi seeks permanent, temporary and casual staff for youth worker positions.
6. As at 4 September 2019, Bimberi had a total of 76 employees. This includes seven casual staff, six temporary staff and 63 permanent staff. These positions are made up of youth workers, team leaders, unit managers, administration staff, facilities staff, cooks and management.

Housing ACT—budget (Question No 2690)

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total revenue divided into (i) controlled recurrent payments, (ii) the rent received from public housing tenants component of user charges, (iii) other use charges, (iv) other revenue not specified above, and (v) total revenue for each year summed from the above equaling the totals in relevant annual financial statements.
- (2) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total expenses divided into employee and superannuation expenses split into (i) head office, corporate and administrative management functions, (ii) management of housing services, (iii) oversight of the facilities management contract (separate out if included in part (2)(ii)), (iv) management of housing procurements and disposals (including contract management), (v) management of housing construction activity (including associated contract management if applicable), (vi) development and management of capital programs associated with parts (2)(iv) and (2)(v) and (vii) employee expenses for other purposes.

- (3) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the supplies and services divided into (i) contractor and consultants' payments, (ii) repairs and maintenance separated into that for public housing and that expended for other purposes, (iii) other payments to Programmed Facility Management (or Spotless its predecessor as applicable), (iv) major public housing refurbishments funded from expenses (not from capita), (v) other supplies and services.
- (4) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total expenses divided into (i) grants and purchased services, (ii) interest expenses, (iii) other expenses, (iv) depreciation and amortisation and (v) total expenses for each year summed from the above equalling the totals in relevant annual financial statements.
- (5) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total actual FTE for each year and that estimated for the 2019-20 Budget split into (i) head office, corporate and administrative management functions, (ii) management of housing services, (iii) oversight of the facilities management contract, (iv) management of housing procurements and disposals (including contract management), (v) management of housing construction activity (including contract management), (vi) development and management of capital programs associated with parts (ii) and (iii) and (vii) FTE for other purposes.
- (6) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total number of consultants and contractors expressed in FTE terms.
- (7) In relation to the Housing ACT budget Operating Statement published in the Budget Paper G series, can the Minister provide a table for actuals for the years (a) 2015-16, (b) 2016-17, (c) 2017-18, (d) 2018-19 and the (e) 2019-20, Budget Estimates for the total actual housing stock for each year as published in Budget Paper G including that estimated for 2019-20 divided into (i) vacant properties for each year and (ii) occupied properties.

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

1.
 - a. Information can be found in the 2015-16 annual report at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2015-2016>
 - b. Information can be found in the 2016-17 annual report at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2016-2017>
 - c. Information can be found in the 2017-18 annual report at <https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2017-2018/home>

- d. Information can be found in the 2018-19 annual report at
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/publications/annual-reports>
- e. Information can be found in the 2019-20 Budget Paper G at
https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1369790/G-Community-Services-Directorate.pdf.

2.

| | | i Head Office & Admin | ii Housing Services | iii Contract Management | iv Purchase and Disposal & v construction | vi capital program development | vi other | Total |
|-------------------------|-----------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|---|--------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| Employees | 2015-2016 | 7,387,453 | 10,875,221 | 2,440,866 | 2,109,465 | 116,474 | 889,845 | 23,819,324 |
| Superannuation Expenses | 2015-2016 | 929,270 | 1,456,735 | 340,119 | 304,606 | 2,358 | 126,517 | 3,159,605 |
| Employees | 2016-2017 | 7,654,941 | 11,887,931 | 2,425,970 | 1,365,102 | 144,261 | 1,080,439 | 24,558,645 |
| Superannuation Expenses | 2016-2017 | 1,112,583 | 1,515,825 | 351,366 | 248,714 | 15,804 | 138,493 | 3,382,785 |
| Employees | 2017-2018 | 8,597,246 | 11,932,784 | 2,268,457 | 1,337,821 | 153,645 | 1,023,429 | 25,313,383 |
| Superannuation Expenses | 2017-2018 | 1,236,480 | 1,473,202 | 366,226 | 258,456 | 19,278 | 136,915 | 3,490,557 |
| Employees | 2018-2019 | 10,380,363 | 12,452,405 | 2,423,645 | 944,822 | 888,568 | 721,703 | 27,811,507 |
| Superannuation Expenses | 2018-2019 | 1,279,052 | 1,566,271 | 338,533 | 167,639 | 100,323 | 102,925 | 3,554,743 |
| Employees | 2019-2020 | 8,054,964 | 14,134,842 | 1,894,562 | 1,754,457 | 1,824,963 | 1,043,212 | 28,707,000 |
| Superannuation Expenses | 2019-2020 | 1,080,512 | 1,919,608 | 257,401 | 238,600 | 248,088 | 141,791 | 3,886,000 |

3.

| | 2015-2016 | 2016-2017 | 2017-2018 | 2018-2019 | 2019-2020 |
|--|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| | Actual | Actual | Actual | Actual | Original Budget |
| Contractors and Consultant Payments (i) | 705,308 | 1,059,440 | 683,315 | 896,780 | 3,199,500 |
| Repair and Maintenance Public Housing (ii) | 40,855,549 | 39,657,672 | 41,062,100 | 41,179,635 | 41,426,000 |
| Repair and Maintenance Non-housing (Long Stay Park) (ii) | 344,191 | 658,265 | 320,798 | 297,114 | 320,000 |
| Other Supplies and Services (v) | 46,662,826 | 48,188,905 | 51,124,711 | 53,724,504 | 60,622,500 |
| Total Supplies and Services | 88,567,873 | 89,564,282 | 93,190,924 | 96,098,033 | 105,568,000 |

(iii) There is no other payment to the Total Facilities Manager other than management fees payable under the contract which is part of the public housing repair and maintenance expenditure.

(iv) All public housing major refurbishment and upgrades are funding through the capital program.

4.

- a. Information can be found in the 2015-16 annual report at
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2015-2016>
- b. Information can be found in the 2016-17 annual report at
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2016-2017>
- c. Information can be found in the 2017-18 annual report at
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/home/publications/annual-reports/2017-2018/home>
- d. Information can be found in the 2018-19 annual report at
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/publications/annual-reports>

- e. Information can be found in the 2019-20 Budget Paper G at https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1369790/G-Community-Services-Directorate.pdf

5. Historical financial data only records aggregate FTE records. As such an accurate breakdown reflective of the required services indicated below is difficult to construct retrospectively.

| | I Head Office & Admin | Ii Housing Services | Iii Contract Management | Iv Purchase and Disposal v Construction | Vi Capital program development | Vi Other | Total |
|----------------|-----------------------|---------------------|-------------------------|--|--------------------------------|----------|-------|
| 2015-16 Actual | | | | | | | 244 |
| 2016-17 Actual | | | | | | | 250 |
| 2017-18 Actual | | | | | | | 243 |
| 2018-19 Actual | 83 | 126 | 25 | 9 | 8 | 8 | 259 |
| 2019-20 Budget | 67 | 145 | 18 | 14 | 15 | 9 | 268 |

* FTE numbers are sourced from Budget Statements G for each financial year

6. Contractors and consultants are engaged on a fee for service or deliverable basis and are not considered part of Housing ACT FTE numbers. Information on contractors and consultants is publicly available on the ACT Government Procurement website at <https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/>. Primarily Housing ACT engages contractors, providing Housing Service functions, to fill temporarily vacant positions, pending permanent recruitment.

| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Total no. contractors / consultants | 10 | 17 | 18 | 16 | 16* |

* Data is provided as at 30 June each financial year, other than 2019-20 which is at 30 September

- 7.

| | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|---------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Vacant properties | 256 | 478 | 651 | 432 | na |
| Occupied properties | 11,432 | 11,343 | 11,252 | 11,150 | na |
| Total Properties | 11,688 | 11,821 | 11,903 | 11,582 | 11,770 |

Planning—development applications (Question No 2691)

Mr Parton to ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to the total cost of processing Development Applications and associated management, for the years (a) 2018-19 (actuals) and (b) 2019-20 (budget), what were the total direct expenses incurred by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) in terms of (i) employee expenses, (ii) superannuation expenses, (iii) other operating expenses such as supplies and services and (iv) payments for contractors and consultants.
- (2) In relation to the total cost of processing Development Applications and associated management, for the years (a) 2018-19 (actuals) and (b) 2019-20 (budget), what were

the total indirect expenses and overheads in terms of (i) employee expenses, (ii) superannuation expenses, (iii) other operating expenses such as supplies and services and (iv) other Directorate overheads and oncosts.

- (3) What was the amount of user charges received for Development Applications' lodgement and processing in 2018-19 and that budgeted for 2019-20.
- (4) What is the number of Development Applications expected to be processed in 2019-20 commensurate with the user charges receipts budgeted for 2019-20.
- (5) In relation to staff allocated by the EPSDD for Development Application processing and management, for the years (a) 2018-19 (actuals) and (b) 2019-20 (budget), what were (or are) the (i) number of FTE directly employed, (ii) number of indirect FTE performing administrative support or other overhead functions and (iii) number of contractors and consultants employed.

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

I have been advised by my directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from other priorities for the purposes of answering the Member's question.

Planning—development applications (Question No 2692)

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to Development Applications processing, what (a) was the total number of applications completed in 2018-19 and (b) is the number of Development Applications that are expected to be completed in 2019-20.
- (2) In 2018-19, what were the number of Development Applications completed in each range (a) \$1 - \$400 000, (b) \$400 001 - \$2 000 000, (c) \$2 000 001 - \$5 000 000, (d) \$5 000 001 - \$15 000 000, (e) \$15 000 001 - \$100 000 000, (f) \$100 000 001 - \$250 000 000 and (g) greater than \$250 000 000.

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

- (1) Last financial year, the planning and land authority determined 1083 merit track development applications (DAs). The authority also determined a further 909 minor single dwelling applications ('exemption declarations') and 252 amendments to DAs.

This financial year (as at 25 September 2019), the authority has received 212 merit track DAs and determined 230. Whilst trends throughout the year can be difficult to predict, the authority expects to receive a similar number of applications to last financial year (1080).

- (2) A breakdown of the 1083 merit track DAs determined last financial year by cost of works is as follows:

| Cost of works | DA's |
|-------------------------------|------|
| \$0-\$400,000 | 673 |
| \$400,001 - \$2,000,000 | 323 |
| \$2,000,001 - \$5,000,000 | 34 |
| \$5,000,001 - \$15,000,000 | 27 |
| \$15,000,001 - \$100,000,000 | 26 |
| \$100,000,001 - \$250,000,000 | 0 |
| greater than \$250,000,000 | 0 |

Two DAs over \$100 million lodged in the 2018-19 financial year are currently under assessment by the authority.

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—
staffing
(Question No 2693)**

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

In relation to the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's output 1.1 planning delivery, output 1.2 planning and building policy, output 4.1 land strategy, output 4.2 urban renewal and output 6.1 Public Housing Renewal Taskforce, can the Minister provide a table showing for each of these the (a) actual FTE for 2018-19 and that planned for the 2019-20 budget, (b) employee and superannuation expenses for 2018-19 and the 2019-20 budget, (c) number of contract and consultant staff used in 2018-19 and budgeted for 2019-20 and (d) cost of contract and consultant staff in part (1)(c) for each output.

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

I have been advised by my directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and that to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable diversion of resources.

In this instance, I do not believe that it would be appropriate to divert resources from other priorities for the purposes of answering the Member's question.

**Public housing—renewal program
(Question No 2694)**

Mr Parton asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to new public housing developments under the Public Housing Renewal Program, for completed dwellings, what have been the number of apartments, town houses and houses (specify each category and number) (a) constructed by suburb and location e.g. Goldstein Crescent, Chisholm or Block 3, Section 39, Colbung Street, Coombs or Block 1, Section 45, Chapman etc. and (b) purchased by suburb and location (as in part (1)(a).

- (2) In relation to new public housing developments undertaken by Housing ACT separate from the Public Housing Renewal Program, for completed dwellings, what have been the number of apartments, town houses and houses (specify each category and number) (a) constructed by suburb and location e.g. Goldstein Crescent, Chisholm or Block 3, Section 39, Colbung Street, Coombs or Block 1, Section 45, Chapman etc. and (b) purchased by suburb and location (as in part (2)(a)).

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

- (1) The requested information has been reported at district level to reflect the requirements of the *Government Agencies (Land Acquisition Reporting) Act 2018*, which stipulates that the only identifying particulars of public housing that may be included in reports or statements are in districts in which the acquired land is located and that any other identifying particulars of the land must be removed from any document attached to said reports or statements.

It should also be noted that purchases indicated below includes both established dwellings and off the plan or house and land purchase arrangements.

a. Public Housing Renewal Program construction:

| District | Houses | Townhouses | Apartments | Total |
|--------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Belconnen | 0 | 0 | 12 | 12 |
| Gungahlin | 91 | 43 | 252 | 386 |
| Molonglo | 24 | 0 | 200 | 224 |
| Tuggeranong | 0 | 49 | 57 | 106 |
| Weston Creek | 0 | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Woden | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| Total | 115 | 136 | 521 | 772 |

b. Public Housing Renewal Program purchases:

| District | Houses | Townhouses | Apartments | Total |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Belconnen | 6 | 27 | 49 | 82 |
| Gungahlin | 13 | 66 | 66 | 145 |
| Inner North | 1 | 6 | 210 | 217 |
| Inner South | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Molonglo | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Tuggeranong | 0 | 38 | 29 | 67 |
| Woden | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 20 | 137 | 359 | 516 |

- (2) As per above, the requested information has been reported at district level to reflect the requirements of the *Government Agencies (Land Acquisition Reporting) Act 2018*, which stipulates that the only identifying particulars of public housing that may be included in reports or statements are the districts in which the acquired land is located and that any other identifying particulars of the land must be removed from any document attached to said reports or statements.

a. Housing ACT Construction 2015-16 to 2018-19

| District | Houses | Townhouses | Apartments | Total |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Inner North | 7 | 21 | 35 | 63 |
| Inner South | 5 | 17 | 0 | 22 |
| Belconnen | 14 | 17 | 76 | 107 |
| Tuggeranong | 10 | 16 | 0 | 26 |
| Woden | 11 | 0 | 0 | 11 |
| Weston Creek | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 |
| Gungahlin | 3 | 5 | 12 | 20 |
| Molonglo | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 |
| Total | 57 | 76 | 123 | 256 |

b. Housing ACT Purchases 2015-16 to 2018-19

| District | Houses | Townhouses | Apartments | Total |
|--------------|-----------|------------|------------|------------|
| Inner North | 7 | 8 | 5 | 20 |
| Inner South | 1 | 0 | 1 | 2 |
| Belconnen | 24 | 5 | 3 | 32 |
| Tuggeranong | 18 | 6 | 0 | 24 |
| Woden | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 |
| Weston Creek | 2 | 1 | 0 | 3 |
| Gungahlin | 34 | 3 | 1 | 38 |
| Molonglo | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Total | 87 | 23 | 11 | 121 |

Domestic animal services—capacity (Question No 2695)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) How many (a) dogs and (b) cats, can be held at the Domestic Animal Services (DAS) pound at Symonston.
- (2) Can any other domestic animals be kept at the DAS in Symonston; if so, (a) what sorts of domestic animals are they, (b) has the capacity of the pound ever been reached; if so how often, (c) where are animals housed if capacity is reached, (d) does the Government pay for this service, (e) how much does this cost per animal per 24 hours, and (f) how much has this cost in the past three financial years.
- (3) In relation to (a) dogs and (b) cats, (i) has the capacity of the pound ever been reached; if so how often, (ii) where are animals housed if capacity is reached, (iii) does the Government pay for this service, (iv) how much does this cost per animal per 24 hours, and (v) how much has this cost in the past three financial years.

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

- (1) (a) 63.
 (b) 12.
- (2) (a) Yes. Domesticated pigs, sheep, ferrets and chickens.
 (b) No.
 (c) RSPCA.
 (d) Yes.
 (e) Rates vary depending on the animal and circumstances.
 (f) The Service Funding Agreement with the RSPCA (for a number of services) was:

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| 2018-2019 | \$748,470.00 |
| 2017-2018 | \$732,000.00 |
| 2016-2017 | \$744,950.00 |

- (3) (a) In relation to dogs.
 (i) Yes.
 (ii) RSPCA.
 (iii) Yes.
 (iv) Rates vary depending on the animal and circumstances, but generally are between \$26.00 - \$101.00 per day (24hrs).
 (v) Please see response above regarding the Service Funding Agreement with the RSPCA.
- (b) In relation to cats.
 (i) No.
 (ii) RSPCA.
 (iii) Yes.
 (iv) Rates vary depending on the animal and circumstances.
 (v) See response above regarding the Service Funding Agreement with the RSPCA.

Transport Canberra—bus fleet (Question No 2697)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown, by route, of the total number of kilometres travelled by the entire bus fleet that can be attributed to “dead running” from (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20 to date.
- (2) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total costs attributed to “dead running” of the bus fleet from (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20 to date.

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

- (1) Dead running kilometres are not attributed to individual routes and are reported at a network level.

The scheduled dead running kilometres for the years requested are:

| | |
|-------------|-------------|
| 2017-18 | 5,470,752km |
| 2018-19 | 5,433,904km |
| 2019-20 YTD | 1,382,607km |

(2) The costs attributed to dead running for the periods requested are:

| | |
|-------------|--------------|
| 2017-18 | \$30,526,794 |
| 2018-19 | \$30,810,233 |
| 2019-20 YTD | \$7,604,339 |

Planning—Belconnen (Question No 2698)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) Have any businesses already expressed interest in buying the block 45 section 54, Belconnen site; if so, what are their names.
- (2) How many tenders have been submitted for this site.
- (3) Is there already a buyer who has committed to buy this site.
- (4) Will the successful buyer of this site be legally compelled to ensure that they replace whatever parking is lost in the redevelopment of this site, without increasing whatever parking fees are already in place.
- (5) Is there a current development application for this site.
- (6) Is there a plan to build a playground in Margaret Timpson Park.
- (7) Will the carpark behind the old Belconnen Health Centre be included in the sale of this site; if not (a) will the carpark remain in operation as a carpark and (b) are there any plans to sell the carpark area; if so, when.

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

- (1) No businesses have approached the Suburban Land Agency or the Direct Sales team with an expression of interest in purchasing Block 45 Section 54 Belconnen. The site was identified by a Demonstration Housing proponent to deliver a 'build to rent' model in the Stage 1 Expression of Interest. The details of the proponent will be announced if they are found successful in the Stage 2 Request for Tender (RFT).
- (2) No Tenders have been sought at this stage. A restricted class RFT will be released to the Demonstration Housing proponent shortly.
- (3) The Demonstration Housing proponent will purchase the site at market value if found successful in the Stage 2 RFT.

- (4) There is currently no intention to require public parking on the site.
 - (5) There is no current design Development Application for this site.
 - (6) There are no current plans to build a playground in Margaret Timpson Park.
 - (7) The carpark behind the old Belconnen Health Centre will be included in the sale of the Health Centre site.
-

**Parking—Belconnen
(Question No 2699)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) Is the Republic apartment building in Belconnen expected to be providing publicly available car parking; if so, how many spaces will be provided; if not, why not.
- (2) Are there any contractually binding obligations for the Republic to provide publicly available car parking.
- (3) Who will be responsible for maintaining the carpark and setting the parking fees.
- (4) Is there an existing fee structure for the carpark already; if so, what is it.

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

- (1) Development approval provides for at least 300 of the spaces on-site to be made publicly available.
 - (2) Yes, a Deed of Agreement between the independent planning and land authority and the developer is in place containing a requirement for publicly available car parking on the site.
 - (3) The car park will be privately owned, and maintenance arrangements and fees are to be determined by the operator.
 - (4) The former car park on the site being developed was a Territory owned and managed car park, with fees determined by disallowable instrument under the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999*. The new car parking arrangements will be privately operated and fees are to be determined by the operator.
-

**Planning—Belconnen
(Question No 2700)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Urban Renewal*):

- (1) Which businesses have already expressed interest in buying the block 17, section 152, Belconnen site.

- (2) How many tenders have been submitted for this site.
- (3) Is there already a buyer who has committed to buy this site.
- (4) Will the successful buyer of this site be legally compelled to ensure that they replace whatever parking is lost in the redevelopment of this site, without increasing whatever parking fees are already in place.
- (5) Is there a current development application for this site.
- (6) How will the Park and Ride facilities along Swanson Circuit be replaced.

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

- (1) This site is on the Indicative Land Release Program for the 2019-20 financial year. The Suburban Land Agency is currently preparing site investigation studies to form part of the land sale documentation. Once finalised, the site will be released for sale to the open market via a competitive sales process. There have been no expressions of interest received by the Suburban Land Agency as the site has not been released.
- (2) Refer to Answer 1.
- (3) Refer to Answer 1.
- (4) The future development of the site will be required to provide public parking commensurate with the utilisation of the existing car park.
- (5) There is no development application for the development of the site.
- (6) Replacement of Park and Ride facilities will be considered and assessed by the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

**Child care—fees
(Question No 2701)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) Has the ACT Government ever conducted or commissioned a formal review or study to determine the economic and/or other drivers behind the Territory having the most expensive childcare fees in the nation.
- (2) Besides promising to incrementally introduce universal preschool to three-year-olds, what other steps has the ACT Government taken or considered to decrease the pressure for childcare fees to continue increasing in Canberra.
- (3) Does the Minister have economic analysis or modelling to indicate what impact expanding preschool will have on childcare fees across the board; if so, what is the predicted impact.
- (4) What evidence does the Minister have that expanding universal preschool will not contribute to and/or worsen understaffing issues in the Territory's childcare sector.

- (5) Are childcare centre policies or contracts subject to oversight or regulation; if so, which aspects and by whom.
- (6) Are childcare centre policies required to be available to customers and/or to the public; if not, why not.
- (7) Has the ACT Government changed their policy as of 2017, in relation to not naming childcare providers found to be in breach of regulations, to align with the Commonwealth Government policy that publicly names childcare providers that have had their funding cancelled or suspended; if not, (a) why not and (b) how are parents to make informed decisions without this information.
- (8) What is the rectification process when a childcare provider is found to be in breach and what happens to a provider repeatedly found to be in breach.
- (9) For providers that operate both in the ACT and interstate, does the ACT Government keep track of breaches interstate; If not, why not; if so, (a) what is the impact of such breaches and (b) are parents able to access this information in any way.
- (10) What happens to the interest accumulated for bonds when bonds that are kept in a trust to generate interest are returned upon termination.

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

- (1) In February 2016, the ACT Government conducted an internal analysis of cost, access and quality issues related to non-government education and care services in the ACT. The Education Directorate's report *Early Childhood Education and Care: non-government centre based services in the ACT* available on its website at www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/early-childhood-reports.
- (2) The ACT Early Childhood Strategy will outline measures the ACT Government will explore to address the costs of early childhood education and care in the ACT.
- (3) The government is undertaking modelling to inform implementation of quality early childhood education for three year old children in the ACT.
- (4) The ACT Early Childhood Strategy will include a focus on developing a valued and professional early childhood educator workforce in the ACT.
- (5) Early childhood education and care services are regulated under the *Education and Care Services National Law (ACT) Act 2011* (National Law) and the Education and Care Services National Regulations. The National Law sets a national standard for children's education and care across Australia and provides for a range of operational requirements.

The National Law is focused on the health, safety and wellbeing of children, their developmental outcomes and the quality of service provision. State and territory Regulatory Authorities monitor compliance with the National Law. When complaints are received by a Regulatory Authority they are assessed for non-compliance under the National Law.

Complaints about fees or contracts between consumers and providers are outside of the scope of the National Law.

Early childhood education and care providers are required to develop and maintain specified policies outlined in the National Law (Regulation 168). The content of these policies is determined by the provider, however, they must not be in conflict with the National Law. If a provider does not abide by their policy, a Regulatory Authority can take compliance action.

- (6) Early childhood education and care services are required to develop and maintain specified policies outlined in the National Law and Regulations (Regulation 168). Services are also required to ensure that current copies of these policies and procedures *“are available for inspection at the education and care service premises at all times that the service is educating and caring for children or otherwise on request”* (Regulation 171(2)).
- (7) Under the National Law, Regulatory Authorities may exercise an option to publish certain regulatory decisions. Information about services and providers that may be made publicly available is stipulated in Section 270 of the National Law and Regulations 227 and 228.
 - a) States and Territory Regulatory Authorities are responsible under the National Law, not the Commonwealth.
 - b) Families can make informed decisions about the education and care of children using information including the quality ratings of a service. Quality rating information is available online at both the Australian Government’s Child Care Finder website <https://www.childcarefinder.gov.au/> and the Australian Children’s Education and Care Quality Authority (ACECQA) website at <https://www.startingblocks.gov.au/find-child-care/>.
- (8) If an early childhood education and care service is found to be in contravention of the National Law the Regulatory Authority has the authority to undertake a range of compliance actions, depending on the seriousness of the incident, the level of harm or risk of harm to children, the nature of the contravention and any other circumstances. Compliance history is taken into consideration when making these decisions. More information about Regulatory Authority powers under the National Law can be found at the ACECQA website: <https://www.acecqa.gov.au/>.
- (9) The ACT Children’s Education and Care Assurance works with Regulatory Authorities in other jurisdictions to ensure that relevant information about providers operating across borders is known. Information about all providers and services is held on a national database which is accessible to Regulatory Authority staff. This national data base assists Regulatory Authorities in sharing relevant information as outlined in Section 271 of the National Law.
 - a) Compliance history of providers is taken into consideration when issuing new service or provider approvals, as well as for the ongoing regulatory function of the ACT Children’s Education and Care Assurance.
 - b) Under the National Law a provider must make available on premises their provider approval, service approval, the quality rating of the service and any service waivers or temporary waivers held by the service.
- (10) There are no legal obligations within the National Law about the management of interest accrued from bonds.

Australian Consumer Law generally provides protection for consumers in the Territory. Complaints about potential breaches of the Australian Consumer Law can be made to Access Canberra.

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—workers compensation (Question No 2702)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety*):

- (1) For each of the years (a) 2014–15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18 and (e) 2018–19, how many staff employed at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre made a workers compensation claim.
- (2) In each year referenced in parts (1) (a)-(e), how many of these claims resulted in entitlements in the areas of (a) total incapacity, (b) partial incapacity, (c) medical treatment and related expenses, (d) permanent injuries, (e) proportionate loss of use and (f) death.
- (3) For each of the years (a) 2014–15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18 and (e) 2018–19, what was the (i) total value of benefits awarded as a consequence of successful workers compensation claims and (ii) direct cost to the ACT Government for these workers compensation claims.
- (4) For each of the years (a) 2014–15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18 and (e) 2018–19, how many workers compensation claims were denied; of these, how many were awarded benefits after either conciliation or arbitration.
- (5) For each of the years (a) 2014–15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18 and (e) 2018–19, what was the direct cost to the ACT Government of all workers compensation-related (i) conciliation and (ii) arbitration.
- (6) Have any workers compensation claims in the years (a) 2014–15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18 and (e) 2018–19, required engagement with the judicial system; if so, what has been the direct cost to the ACT Government.

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

Workers' compensation claims data relating to staff employed at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is set out in the following table.

| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|--|---------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| 1. Total number of workers' compensation claims made | n.p* | 14 | 7 | 19 | 12 |
| 2 (a & b) Claims with incapacity payments^ | n.p* | 9 | 6 | 14 | n.p* |
| 2 (c) Claims with medical treatment and related expenses | n.p* | 11 | 6 | 17 | 10 |
| 2 (d) Claims with permanent injury payments | n.p* | n.p* | 0 | 0 | 0 |

| | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|---|---------|-------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| 2 (e) Claims with proportionate loss of use payments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 (f) Claims with death payments | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| 3. Total value of benefits awarded in accepted claims | n.p.* | \$1,140,435 | \$550,813 | \$646,314 | \$272,492 |
| 4. Number of workers' compensation claims denied^^ | 10 | | | | |
| 5. Costs to ACT Government of conciliation and arbitration of workers compensation claims | \$n.p.* | \$35,222 | \$27,555 | \$36,820 | \$3,229 |
| 6. Claims involving the judicial system | Nil** | | | | |

* n.p. relates to data that cannot be provided as the claim count is less than five and could be identifiable if disclosed, particularly given the specific nature and the size of the Bimberi workforce.

^ Total and partial incapacity payments are not able to be disaggregated.

^^ The number of claims denied cannot be disaggregated by financial year due to the small number of claims involved in each financial year. In addition, the number of claims initially denied that were awarded benefits following conciliation or arbitration is too low to report without disclosing information that could be identifiable.

** The ACT Government did not incur any costs as a result of court proceedings as no claims proceeded through the judicial system.

Children and young people—out of home care (Question No 2703)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Children, Youth and Families*):

- (1) Were any residential care homes in the ACT operated directly by Barnardos before 14 August 2019; if so (a) how many and why and (b) how many children and young people were resident in these homes.
- (2) How many residential care homes in the ACT were operated by Premier Youthworks before 14 August 2019 and how many children and young people were resident in these homes.
- (3) How many residential care homes are currently operating in the ACT and how many children and young people are currently resident in these homes.
- (4) Were any employees of Barnardos working as staff for residential care homes in the ACT before 14 August 2019; if so, (a) how many and (b) how many were in managerial positions.
- (5) How many staff did Premier Youthworks employ in residential care homes in the ACT before 14 August 2019 and how many of these were managers.
- (6) How many of total employees were (a) permanent fulltime, (b) permanent part-time and (c) casual.

- (7) How many former Premier Youthworks staff have been offered employment with Barnardos in providing residential care services; of these, how many have taken up that offer.
- (8) How many new employees has Barnardos engaged since 25 July 2019 to provide residential care services.
- (9) How many former Premier Youthworks employees have taken redundancy payments and what has been the total cost of these payments to date.
- (10) Have any former Premier Youthworks employees who have taken redundancy payments subsequently been employed by Barnardos to provide residential care services in the ACT; if so, how many.

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

1.
 - (a) As at 12 August 2019, a total of 10 properties were managed by Barnardos. This includes two residential care properties and eight properties utilised for the purpose of the Community Adolescent Program. The Community Adolescent Program supports young people in out of home care transition to independent living. Barnardos is required to provide, as part of the Service Funding Agreement, placements for children and young people.
 - (b) A total of 12 children and young people were residing at the 10 properties identified at 1(a).
2. As at 12 August 2019, a total of 17 properties were managed by Premier Youthworks, with a total of 32 children and young people residing at these properties.
3. As at 24 September 2019, a total of 46 children and young people were residing in 27 residential care properties across the ACT.
4.
 - (a) Barnardos has advised that prior to 14 August 2019, 12 Barnardos staff were working in residential care properties to support children and young people in out of home care.
 - (b) Two staff held managerial positions.
5. The specific information being sought is not held by Community Services Directorate.
6. The specific information being sought is not held by Community Services Directorate.
7. Barnardos has advised that 115 former Premier Youthworks staff have been offered employment with Barnardos to provide residential care services. Of these, 85 have accepted the offer.
8. Barnardos has advised that nine new employees have been engaged since 25 July 2019 to provide residential care services.
9. The specific information being sought is not held by Community Services Directorate.

10. Barnardos has advised that no former Premier Youthworks employees who have taken redundancy payments have subsequently been employed by Barnardos to provide residential care services.

**Children and young people—care and protection
(Question No 2704)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Children, Youth and Families, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) For each of the financial years (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13, (e) 2013-14, (f) 2014-15, (g) 2015-16, (h) 2016-17, (i) 2017-18 and (j) 2018-19, how many applications for amendment or revocation of a care and protection order were filed with the Children's Court by a party to the order.
- (2) How many of the applications in part (1) were filed (a) in conjunction with an annual review and (b) outside of the annual review process in the case of special circumstances.
- (3) How many applications to amend or revoke in each year referred to in part (1) were unsuccessful.
- (4) How many unsuccessful applications were appealed by a party to the order and how many of these appeals were successful.
- (5) How many applications to amend or revoke in each year referred to in part (1) were successful; of these successful applications, how many were then appealed by the ACT Government; of those appealed by the ACT Government, how many were eventually reversed.
- (6) For each of the financial years (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13, (e) 2013-14, (f) 2014-15, (g) 2015-16, (h) 2016-17, (i) 2017-18 and (j) 2018-19, how much in total did the ACT Government spend on defending care and protection orders subject to an application for amendment or revocation.
- (7) How much did the Government spend on engaging outside legal experts or others to assist with the defences as referred to in part (6).
- (8) For each of the financial years (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13, (e) 2013-14, (f) 2014-15, (g) 2015-16, (h) 2016-17, (i) 2017-18 and (j) 2018-19, how much in total did the ACT Government spend on appealing successful applications to amend or revoke a care and protection order.
- (9) How much did the Government spend on engaging outside legal experts or others to assist with the appeals as referred to in part (8).
- (10) For each of the financial years (a) 2009-10, (b) 2010-11, (c) 2011-12, (d) 2012-13, (e) 2013-14, (f) 2014-15, (g) 2015-16, (h) 2016-17, (i) 2017-18 and (j) 2018-19, how much did the ACT Government spend on cost orders – whether mandated by a magistrate or volunteered – for those who (i) applied for a care and protection order to be amended or revoked and (ii) were involved in a Government decision to appeal the outcome of an application to amend or revoke a care and protection order.

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

- 1) The ACT Courts and Tribunal case management system does not capture this information. In order to provide this information paper files would need to be identified, retrieved from archives and reviewed manually. The time and cost of such an exercise would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 2) The ACT Government Solicitor (ACTGS) has reviewed each of the questions and associated parts of Question No. 2704 to ascertain whether the data held by the office is able to be provided in the form and detail sought in relation to representation provided by ACTGS. The data held by the ACTGS in relation to care and protection applications is recorded based on work type. ACTGS has identified approximately 533 matters in the child welfare litigation work type for the financial years covered by the question in relation to which the ACTGS provided representation.

To the extent that legal representation in these matters has been provided by ACTGS, the work type does not categorise activity by applications made by or against the Territory, mediations and other activity. These are not separately identified or categorised by outcome. To respond to the various parts of the questions would require detailed manual checking of a number of the files in the 533 matters identified for the period.

To the extent that legal representation has been provided, without significant manual recall and review of matters ACTGS is unable to identify how many of the matters relate to initial application, defence or appeal of care and protection orders or applications for amendment or revocation. Both the length of period for which the information is sought and the nature of the matters, means that other than manual review of all physical file records ACTGS is unable to provide the detail sought. To go beyond the initial identification of ACTGS matters would involve a significant manual search and review to identify action and outcomes. The time and cost of such a review would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- 3) The ACT Courts and Tribunal case management system does not capture this information. In order to provide this information paper files would need to be identified, retrieved from archives and reviewed manually. The time and cost of such an exercise would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

ACTGS has reviewed each of the questions and associated parts of Question No. 2704 to ascertain whether the data held by the office is able to be provided in the form and detail sought in relation to representation provided by ACTGS. The data held by the ACTGS in relation to care and protection applications is recorded based on work type. ACTGS has identified approximately 533 matters in the child welfare litigation work type for the financial years covered by the question in relation to which the ACTGS provided representation.

To the extent that legal representation in these matters has been provided by ACTGS, the work type does not categorise activity by applications made by or against the Territory, mediations and other activity. These are not separately identified or categorised by outcome. To respond to the various parts of the questions would require detailed manual checking of a number of the files in the 533 matters identified for the period.

To the extent that legal representation has been provided, without significant manual recall and review of matters ACTGS is unable to identify how many of the matters relate to initial application, defence or appeal of care and protection orders or applications for amendment or revocation. Both the length of period for which the information is sought and the nature of the matters, means that other than manual review of all physical file records ACTGS is unable to provide the detail sought. To go beyond the initial identification of ACTGS matters would involve a significant manual search and review to identify action and outcomes. The time and cost of such a review would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- 4) The ACT Courts and Tribunal case management system does not capture this information. In order to provide this information paper files would need to be identified, retrieved from archives and reviewed manually. The time and cost of such an exercise would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

To respond to this question would require detailed manual checking of the files in the 533 matters identified for the period. ACTGS is accordingly not able to determine how many unsuccessful applications were appealed by a party to the order or whether the appeal was successful. The time and cost of such a review would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

- 5) The ACT Courts and Tribunal case management system does not capture this information. In order to provide this information paper files would need to be identified, retrieved from archives and reviewed manually. The time and cost of such an exercise would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.

ACTGS does not hold data specifically in relation to application type or outcome to enable a response to this question.

- 6) To the extent that legal representation has been provided, ACTGS is unable to identify how many of the matters relate to initial application, defence or appeal of care and protection orders or applications for amendment or revocation, without the manual recall and search of paper records for the 533 files. The time and cost of such a review would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 7) ACTGS holds records of expenditure related to use of counsel on behalf of the Territory however as indicated, the matter data by work type does not differentiate between the types of activity for example application, variation, defence or revocation. The expenditure on counsel related to the child welfare work type has been reported in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report for the preceding two financial years (Page 428 of the 2017-18 Report, and Page 415 of the 2018-19 Report). This data has not been captured in prior years.
- 8) As indicated, data regarding activity is recorded by work type only. Without significant manual review of each matter to determine the nature of the application, the resources applied cannot readily be assessed. To respond to this question would require detailed manual checking of the files in the 533 matters identified for the period. The time and cost of such a review would be an unreasonable diversion of resources.
- 9) The ACTGS holds records of expenditure related to use of counsel on behalf of the Territory however as indicated, the matter data by work type does not differentiate between the types of activity for example application, variation, defence or revocation as sought. The expenditure on counsel related to child welfare work type has been

reported in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate Annual Report for the preceding two financial years. This data has not been captured in prior years.

- 10) There are few, if any, instances of cost orders being made by a Magistrate in care and protection matters. Without undertaking a manual search, we are unable to determine whether any orders were made by a Magistrate. ACTGS is otherwise unaware of such an order being made.

Community Services Directorate—staffing (Question No 2705)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Community Services and Facilities, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent level staff employed by each of the divisions within the Community Services Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) classification and (d) band level within classification, for (i) during 2018-19 and (ii) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within the Community Services Directorate (CSD).

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there were no staff at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| CHILDREN, YTH & FAMILIES | 122 | 113.78 | 137 | 127.58 |
| CORPORATE | 28 | 27.42 | 34 | 32.70 |
| FAMILY SAFETY | 6 | 6 | 8 | 7.6 |
| HOUSING ACT | 61 | 59.82 | 73 | 72 |
| INCLUSION & PARTICIPATION | 26 | 25.23 | 26 | 24.9 |
| OFF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL | 26 | 24.87 | 29 | 27.99 |
| STRATEGIC POLICY | 23 | 21.85 | 34 | 32.92 |
| CSD Total | 292 | 278.97 | 341 | 325.69 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive | 22 | 22 | 26 | 25.89 |
| Director General | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer A | 40 | 39.5 | 43 | 42.20 |
| Senior Officer B | 37 | 35.27 | 46 | 44.51 |
| Senior Officer C | 122 | 117.38 | 144 | 136.74 |
| Senior Prof Officer B | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP4) | 0 | 0 | 48 | 43.66 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP5) | 0 | 0 | 14 | 13.62 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP6) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3 |
| Health Professional (HP04) | 52 | 46.37 | 12 | 11.27 |
| Health Professional (HP05) | 17 | 16.45 | 4 | 3.8 |
| CSD Total | 292 | 278.97 | 341 | 325.69 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive Band 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2.89 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 12 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer A.1 | 40 | 39.5 | 43 | 42.20 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 10 | 9.40 | 17 | 16.63 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 6 | 6 | 10 | 9.66 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 21 | 19.87 | 19 | 18.22 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 26 | 25.93 | 42 | 39.49 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 97 | 92.45 | 102 | 97.25 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP4) | 0 | 0 | 48 | 43.66 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP5) | 0 | 0 | 14 | 13.62 |
| Child, Youth Protection Professional (CYPP6) | 0 | 0 | 3 | 3.00 |
| Health Professional (HP04) | 52 | 46.37 | 12 | 11.27 |
| Health Professional (HP05) | 17 | 16.45 | 4 | 3.8 |
| CSD Total | 292 | 278.97 | 341 | 325.69 |

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate—staffing (Question No 2706)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent level staff employed by each of the divisions within the Transport Canberra

and City Services Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) classification and (d) band level within classification, for (i) during 2018-19 and (b) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCSD). 2019-20 figures include staff who have since moved to Major Projects Canberra.

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there were no staff at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | 49 | 48.61 | 53 | 52.78 |
| CITY SERVICES | 123 | 120.85 | 128 | 124.62 |
| FINANCE LEGAL & SUSTAIN | 25 | 24.57 | 23 | 21.66 |
| OFF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| TRANSPORT CANBERRA | 83 | 81.83 | 84 | 83.01 |
| TCCSD Total | 282 | 277.86 | 291 | 285.07 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive | 27 | 26.93 | 30 | 29.93 |
| Director General | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3 | 26 | 25.15 | 23 | 22.35 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4 | 21 | 21 | 24 | 24 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Officer A | 44 | 43.62 | 50 | 48.66 |
| Senior Officer B | 46 | 45.53 | 40 | 39.7 |
| Senior Officer C | 91 | 89.2 | 94 | 90.63 |
| Senior Prof Officer B | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Senior Prof Officer C | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Tech Officer B | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Tech Officer C | 7 | 6.43 | 6 | 5.8 |
| TCCSD Total | 282 | 277.86 | 291 | 285.07 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive Band 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 3 | 2.93 | 3 | 2.93 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 14 | 14 | 16 | 16 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 6 | 6 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 3 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.1 | 5 | 4.4 | 4 | 3.6 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.2 | 7 | 6.95 | 4 | 3.95 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.3 | 15 | 14.8 | 16 | 15.8 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.1 | 4 | 4 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.2 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.3 | 13 | 13 | 12 | 12 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer A | 44 | 43.62 | 50 | 48.66 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 10 | 9.8 | 5 | 4.88 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 6 | 5.73 | 6 | 5.82 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 29 | 29 | 29 | 29 |
| Senior Officer Technical B.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 26 | 25.9 | 23 | 23.00 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 67 | 65.3 | 72 | 68.63 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0.8 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.2 - ACTION | 2 | 2 | 3 | 3 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 | 1 | 0.43 | 0 | 0 |
| TCCSD Total | 282 | 277.86 | 291 | 285.07 |

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—
staffing
(Question No 2707)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for the Environment and Heritage, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent level staff employed by each of the divisions within the Environment, Planning

and Sustainable Development Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) classification and (d) band level within classification, for (i) during 2018-19 and (ii) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD). It should be noted that the data includes the Suburban Land Agency and City Renewal Authority, collectively known as the EPSDD Portfolio rather than EPSD Directorate.

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there were no staff at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER | 38 | 36.76 | 37 | 36.76 |
| CITY RENEWAL AUTHORITY | 20 | 19.55 | 17 | 16.35 |
| ENGAGEMENT & EXEC SUPPORT | 19 | 16.77 | 15 | 13.2 |
| ENVIRONMENT | 72 | 68.26 | 68 | 65.95 |
| LAND SUPPLY & POLICY | 16 | 15.8 | 0 | 0 |
| OFF COMM SUSTAIN & ENVI | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| OFF DDG LAND STRAT & ENV | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| OFF DDG SUS & BUILT ENVI | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| OFF THE DIRECTOR GENERAL | 2 | 2 | 2 | 1.82 |
| PLANNING DELIVERY | 39 | 38.39 | 40 | 38.92 |
| PLANNING POLICY | 23 | 21.24 | 0 | 0 |
| PLANNING, LAND & BLD POL | 12 | 10.51 | 48 | 44.72 |
| SUBURBAN LAND AGENCY | 70 | 69.58 | 68 | 67.38 |
| SUSTAIN & CLIMATE CHANGE | 38 | 36.66 | 36 | 35 |
| URBAN RENEWAL | 31 | 30.18 | 32 | 31.29 |
| EPSDD Total | 388 | 373.70 | 370 | 358.39 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Chief Executive | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive | 25 | 24.94 | 21 | 21 |
| Director General | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 4 | 3.8 | 5 | 4.8 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist3 | 11 | 10.67 | 9 | 9 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3 | 21 | 20.4 | 19 | 18.6 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4 | 15 | 14.63 | 16 | 15.74 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 7 | 6.95 | 6 | 5.95 |
| Senior Officer A | 28 | 27.02 | 30 | 28.16 |
| Senior Officer B | 79 | 74.91 | 73 | 70.03 |
| Senior Officer C | 157 | 150.07 | 151 | 145.47 |
| Senior Prof Officer A | 10 | 9.8 | 9 | 9 |
| Senior Prof Officer B | 6 | 5.87 | 6 | 5.87 |
| Senior Prof Officer C | 19 | 18.64 | 19 | 18.77 |
| EPSDD Total | 388 | 373.70 | 370 | 358.39 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive Band 1.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 11 | 10.94 | 9 | 9 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 5 | 5 | 5 | 5 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.3 | 3 | 3 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.2 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 5 | 4.8 | 5 | 4.8 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 3 | 9 | 8.68 | 8 | 8 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.1 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 4.8 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.3 | 16 | 15.4 | 13 | 12.8 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.3 | 12 | 11.63 | 13 | 12.74 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 5 | 4.95 | 6 | 5.95 |
| Senior Officer A.1 | 27 | 26.02 | 29 | 27.16 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 19 | 18.36 | 19 | 18.53 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 9 | 9 | 10 | 9.78 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 53 | 49.95 | 44 | 42.12 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 41 | 39.61 | 34 | 33.03 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 115 | 109.05 | 117 | 112.04 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Professional Officer A.1 | 9 | 8.8 | 9 | 9 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.3 | 4 | 3.87 | 4 | 3.87 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 | 17 | 16.64 | 17 | 16.77 |
| EPSDD Total | 388 | 373.70 | 370 | 358.39 |

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
staffing
(Question No 2708)**

Miss C Burch asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff employed by each of the divisions within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) ACT public service classification and (d) band level within each classification, during (i) 2018-19 and (ii) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Directorate (CMTEDD). 2019-20 figures include staff who have since moved to Major Projects Canberra.

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there were no staff at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| ACCESS CANBERRA | 130 | 126.84 | 129 | 125.03 |
| ACT INSURANCE AUTHORITY | 7 | 7 | 8 | 8 |
| CORPORATE | 34 | 33.02 | 32 | 31.02 |
| CULTURE & COMMUNICATIONS | 19 | 17.95 | 19 | 18.02 |
| ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| ECONOMICS & FINANCIAL GR | 29 | 28.05 | 32 | 30.86 |
| ENTERPRISE CANBERRA | 95 | 90.94 | 99 | 95.01 |
| FINANCE & BUDGET | 30 | 30 | 30 | 29.8 |
| INFRA FINANCE & CAP WORK | 98 | 96.88 | 98 | 94.84 |
| OFF CHIEF DIGITAL OFFICE | 12 | 11.87 | 13 | 13 |
| OFF DEP UNDER TREAS CSI | 4 | 3.97 | 4 | 3.97 |
| OFF DEP UNDER TREAS EBIR | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| OFF THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE | 4 | 3.68 | 3 | 3 |
| OFFICE UNDER TREASURER | 3 | 2.4 | 3 | 2.4 |
| POLICY & CABINET | 33 | 31.6 | 40 | 38.7 |
| PROPERTY & VENUES | 0 | 0 | 58 | 56.46 |
| PROPERTY PROCURE & VENUE | 85 | 83.52 | 29 | 27.93 |
| REVENUE MANAGEMENT | 26 | 25.16 | 26 | 25.56 |
| STRATEGIC FINANCE | 13 | 12.6 | 13 | 12.6 |
| WKFORCE CAPABILITY & GOV | 31 | 29.71 | 34 | 32.13 |
| WORKPLACE SAFETY & IR | 31 | 29.68 | 27 | 27 |
| SHARED SERVICES | 318 | 311.48 | 320 | 313.61 |
| CMTEDD Total | 1005 | 979.35 | 1019 | 990.94 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Building Trade Inspector Manager | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive | 81 | 80.55 | 84 | 83.87 |
| Head of Service | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 10 | 10 | 12 | 12 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3 | 12 | 11.74 | 10 | 8.67 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4 | 35 | 34.4 | 38 | 37.24 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Info Tech Off A | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Info Tech Off B | 18 | 18 | 19 | 19 |
| Senior Info Tech Off C | 76 | 74.64 | 81 | 80.02 |
| Senior Officer A | 133 | 129.58 | 140 | 135.08 |
| Senior Officer B | 217 | 210.3 | 216 | 209.13 |
| Senior Officer C | 392 | 379.34 | 390 | 377.93 |
| Senior Prof Officer A | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Prof Officer B | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Senior Prof Officer C | 13 | 12.8 | 12 | 11.6 |
| Senior Tech Officer C | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Under Treasurer | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Work Cover Manager C | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| CMTEDD Total | 1005 | 979.35 | 1019 | 990.94 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Building Trade Inspector Manager | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.2 | 2 | 2 | 4 | 4 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 8 | 8 | 9 | 9 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 47 | 46.87 | 46 | 45.87 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 10 | 9.68 | 10 | 10 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.3 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 3 | 3 | 5 | 5 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.3 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.4 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |

| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
|---------------------------------------|-------------|---------------|-------------|---------------|
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 10 | 10 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 2 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 11 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 3 | 4 | 4 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.1 | 2 | 1.8 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.2 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 2.8 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.3 | 8 | 7.94 | 0 | 0 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.1 | 5 | 5 | 7 | 5.87 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.2 | 8 | 7.8 | 6 | 6 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.3 | 22 | 21.6 | 8 | 7.64 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 3 | 3 | 24 | 23.6 |
| Principal Research Officer 1.2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer A | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B.1 | 2 | 2 | 5 | 5 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B.3 | 11 | 11 | 9 | 9 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer C.1 | 12 | 11.06 | 12 | 11.8 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer C.2 | 69 | 68.1 | 74 | 73.22 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B - AWA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer A | 133 | 129.58 | 140 | 135.08 |
| Senior Officer A - AWA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 39 | 37.6 | 36 | 34.13 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 33 | 31.55 | 36 | 35.07 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 147 | 143.15 | 145 | 140.93 |
| Senior Officer B - AWA | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer Technical B.2 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 73 | 70.9 | 0 | 0 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 316 | 305.92 | 69 | 68.46 |
| Senior Officer C.1 - CIT | 0 | 0 | 319 | 307.47 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Senior Officer Technical C.2 - ACTION | 0 | 0 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer A.1 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.1 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.1 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 0.4 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 | 11 | 10.8 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 - CIT | 0 | 0 | 10 | 9.6 |
| CMTEDD Total | 1005 | 979.35 | 1019 | 990.94 |

Education Directorate—staffing (Question No 2709)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff employed by each of the divisions within the ACT Education Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) ACT public service classification and (d) band level within each classification, during (i) 2018-19 and (ii) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within the ACT Education Directorate (ED).

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE); and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September – 2019 | |
| | (i) | | (ii) | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| DIRECTOR GENERAL | 5 | 5 | 2 | 1.71 |
| DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL | 4 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| BUSINESS SERVICES | 111 | 105.06 | 107 | 102.88 |
| SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT | 47 | 45.8 | 49 | 46.6 |
| SERVICE DESIGN & DELIVERY | 43 | 40.42 | 49 | 46.95 |
| SYSTEM POLICY & REFORM | 39 | 38.8 | 41 | 39.26 |
| Education Directorate Total | 249 | 239.08 | 251 | 240.39 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September – 2019 | |
| | (i) | | (ii) | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive | 15 | 15 | 16 | 16 |
| Director General | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4 | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Officer A | 26 | 24.50 | 27 | 24.31 |
| Senior Officer B | 77 | 74.67 | 76 | 73.20 |
| Senior Officer C | 111 | 104.91 | 113 | 107.88 |
| Senior Prof Officer A | 3 | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Senior Prof Officer B | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Prof Officer C | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Education Directorate Total | 249 | 239.08 | 251 | 240.39 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September – 2019 | |
| | (i) | | (ii) | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 8 | 8 | 10 | 10 |

| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
|------------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.2 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Mngr/Specialist 1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.2 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 3.3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Infrastructure Officer 4.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Infrastructure Officer 5 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| School Leader B.1 - EDU | 1 | 1 | | |
| Senior Officer A.1 | 27 | 25.50 | 28 | 25.31 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 26 | 24.71 | 25 | 23.88 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 9 | 9 | 12 | 11.92 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 41 | 39.96 | 39 | 37.4 |
| Senior Officer Technical B.2 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 28 | 25.91 | 35 | 32.68 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 83 | 79 | 78 | 75.20 |
| Senior Professional Officer A.1 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Professional Officer B.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Education Directorate Total | 249 | 239.08 | 251 | 240.39 |

Health Directorate—staffing (Question No 2710)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent level staff employed by each of the divisions within the Health Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount, (c) classification and (d) band level within classification, for (i) during 2018-19 and (ii) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below contain a breakdown of the total number of executive, senior officer or equivalent staff by division and by classification within the Health Directorate (HD).

The data was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there were no staff at a particular classification, the classification has not been listed.

Table 1 contains a summary by division and includes staff who were permanent, temporary or casual at an executive, senior officer or equivalent role as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019) by (a) full-time equivalent (FTE) and (b) headcount.

| Table 1 – Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Division - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Divisions | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Clinical Services | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Corporate Services | 129 | 126.01 | 136 | 131.42 |
| Health Systems, Policy and Research | 122 | 115.14 | 129 | 121.19 |
| Infrastructure Management and Maintenance | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Office of the Director General | 22 | 20.8 | 25 | 24.26 |
| Health Directorate Total | 275 | 263.95 | 290 | 276.87 |

Table 2 contains the breakdown by (c) ACT public service classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 2 – Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by Classification - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------------|-------------------------|---------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive | 25 | 24.4 | 25 | 24.4 |
| Director General | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Info Tech Off A | 1 | 1 | 4 | 4 |
| Senior Info Tech Off B | 8 | 8 | 9 | 8.21 |
| Senior Info Tech Off C | 20 | 19.21 | 22 | 21.8 |
| Senior Officer A | 37 | 36.04 | 34 | 32.95 |
| Senior Officer B | 86 | 83.62 | 93 | 87.17 |
| Senior Officer C | 96 | 89.68 | 101 | 96.34 |
| Senior Prof Officer C | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Health Directorate Total | 275 | 263.95 | 290 | 276.87 |

Table 3 contains the breakdown by (d) band level within each classification by FTE and headcount as at end June 2019 (pay period ending 26/6/2019) and as at end September 2019 (pay period ending 18/9/2019)

| Table 3 - Executives, Senior Officers & Equivalent - Headcount & FTE by band level - June 2019 & September 2019 | | | | |
|--|--------------------|------------|-------------------------|------------|
| | June – 2019 | | September - 2019 | |
| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
| Contract Executive Band 1.2 | 5 | 5 | 4 | 4 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 1.4 | 7 | 7 | 7 | 7 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.2 | 5 | 4.4 | 6 | 5.4 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 2.4 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Contract Executive Band 3.3 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Contract Executive Band 4.3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer A.1 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 2 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B.1 | 3 | 3 | 4 | 4 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer B.3 | 4 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Senior Info Technical Officer C.1 | 8 | 7.92 | 9 | 8.93 |

| Classification Band level | Headcount | FTE | Headcount | FTE |
|-----------------------------------|------------|---------------|------------|---------------|
| Senior Info Technical Officer C.2 | 11 | 10.86 | 11 | 10.87 |
| Senior Officer A.1 | 36 | 35.04 | 36 | 34.95 |
| Senior Officer B.1 | 15 | 14.72 | 14 | 13.17 |
| Senior Officer B.2 | 18 | 18 | 20 | 20 |
| Senior Officer B.3 | 54 | 52.08 | 58 | 53.18 |
| Senior Officer C.1 | 27 | 25.97 | 32 | 30.77 |
| Senior Officer C.2 | 71 | 64.96 | 72 | 68.39 |
| Senior Officer Technical B.1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 0.21 |
| Senior Professional Officer C.2 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Health Directorate Total | 275 | 263.95 | 290 | 276.87 |

Roads—cycle lanes (Question No 2711)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Roads and Active Travel*):

- (1) In relation to the Molonglo Cycle Highway feasibility study (a) when was the feasibility study completed, (b) which infrastructure identified in the feasibility study has been completed, (c) which infrastructure identified in the feasibility study is underway or scheduled for future construction, (d) has any other infrastructure identified in the feasibility study been incorporated into strategic cycle network planning; if so, which infrastructure and (e) how has the feasibility study been reflected in planning for future suburbs of the Molonglo Valley.
- (2) What plans, if any, does the Government have to fix the missing link in the sealed shared path network between the RSPCA and Annabelle View, Coombs.

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

- (1) (a) The Molonglo Cycle Highway Feasibility Study was completed in August 2014.
- (b) None of the infrastructure upgrades identified by the feasibility study have been completed to date.
- (c) As forward planning for the suburb of Molonglo is currently underway, with first land release occurring in 2021-22 consistent with the ACT Government Indicative Land Release Program 2019-20 to 2022-23 (June 2019), construction of the City-Molonglo cycle route is not scheduled at this time.
- (d) Future infrastructure identified in the feasibility study has been incorporated into the ACT Government's strategic cycle network planning. This includes a new four metre wide shared path to be provided alongside the future east-west arterial road between Tuggeranong Parkway and the future suburb of Molonglo, widening the existing Lake Burley Griffin Circuit path and providing a new path to provide a shorter link between Acton Peninsula and the City via Edinburgh Avenue.
- (e) The future City-Molonglo cycle route is identified in the draft Moving Canberra Transport Strategy and the Active Travel Practitioners Tool. These strategies will inform the current forward planning for the suburb of Molonglo as well as future infrastructure considerations.

- (2) The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is about to undertake feasibility work to identify options to complete the missing link in the sealed shared path network between the RSPCA site and Annabelle View, Coombs. This work is expected to be completed in the 2019 20 financial year.

**Planning—Watson
(Question No 2713)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment*):

- (1) What is the current status of this land release process for block 1, section 13, Watson (Canberra Technology Park).
- (2) What type of sale process is currently envisaged (e.g. direct sale, tender).
- (3) What is the next step of public consultation expected and when is it likely to occur.
- (4) When is the land sale process expected to commence.
- (5) Is the ACT Government currently in any negotiations with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment in regards to the future of the site.

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

- (1) In April 2019 after extensive community consultation, site investigations and careful consideration, the ACT Government made three key decisions about the future of Canberra Technology Park:
 - to demolish and remediate the buildings on the site, prior to the sale of land;
 - to retain responsibility for public green space, including any upgrade and ongoing maintenance as part of any sale process; and
 - to enter into direct negotiations with the Academy of Interactive Entertainment (AIE) with a view to reaching agreement on the terms for a direct sale of land to AIE.

Consistent with these decisions by Government, negotiations with AIE are currently underway. More detailed information the Government's decisions and next steps is available at <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/future-site-use-old-watson-high-school>

- (2) As per the response to Question 1, the proposed sale process, subject to the outcome of current negotiations with AIE, is a direct sale.
 - (3) Once negotiations with AIE are concluded the community will be updated on the outcome and next steps. Any future development on the site would be the subject of a detailed proposal and Development Application (DA) including pre-DA and DA community consultation.
 - (4) Negotiations with AIE for the direct sale of land are underway.
 - (5) Yes.
-

**Planning—public registers
(Question No 2714)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to the Public Register and Associated Documents for the purposes of Part 3.6 of the Planning and Development Act 2007, in what form is the public register currently kept.
- (2) By what means (a) is the public register currently available to the public and (b) are associated documents currently available to the public.
- (3) What fees, if any, are charged for public access to the register and associated documents.
- (4) What, if any, information in addition to the minimum requirements of the Act does the public register currently contain.

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

- (1) The public register and associated documents including development plans are contained within directorate's electronic filing system ('Objective') and eDevelopment.
- (2) When a development application (DA) is on public notification the documents/plans can be viewed on the planning website. Once the documents/plans come off the website any member of the public can request copies of the documentation on the public register and associated documents.
- (3) There is no fee for inspecting public register documents over the counter, however, fees apply for copies of documents.
- (4) The planning and land authority makes information available in accordance with the requirements of the *Planning and Development Act 2007*. Section 28 and Section 30 of the Act stipulates the information that must be included in the public register and associated documents and also what must not be included.

**Planning—footpaths
(Question No 2715)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Roads and Active Travel*):

- (1) What provision/s must be made for pedestrians and cyclists when existing footpaths, shared use paths, or road lanes are blocked because of construction activity.
- (2) Are there guidelines for how this must be done; if yes, can the Minister provide further details.

- (3) Has the Government considered implementing a policy that would retain access to footpaths, shared use paths, and road lanes adjacent to construction sites wherever possible, for example by requiring temporary site buildings to be placed on scaffolding above a footpath as is the practice in other Australian cities.

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

- (1) Anyone working on territory roads, including footpaths, shared use paths and road lanes are required to prepare a Temporary Traffic Management Plan (TTMP). The plan sets out the traffic control devices that will be used to safely and effectively manage all traffic during the construction period. The TTMP's primary purpose is to ensure that road users and construction workers remain safe.
- (2) Yes, guiding principles for the development of TTMP's are included on the Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) website within the 'temporary traffic management' section. The guidance includes the need for special attention to be given to active travel road users. Refer to:
https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0011/850493/Guiding-principles-temporary-traffic-management-Pedal-Power-comments-ver-1-1.pdf.
- (3) The Government works with developers to minimise the impacts of construction. However, within the most constrained parts of the city it is not always feasible to avoid partial road closures and footpath diversions, particularly where construction occurs up to the block boundary. The Government encourages (though does not mandate) the adoption of hording and gantries to keep footpaths and shared paths open, wherever this is safe and practical.

Municipal services—interstate library membership (Question No 2717)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) Is the Minister aware of issues raised by a visually impaired person living in Gundagai with regard to accessing audio books.
- (2) Are there provisions for the Minister to make any exception under the Libraries ACT Membership and Loans Policy with regards to extending membership to a person with special circumstances such as having a disability who lives outside the 50km surrounding region of the ACT.
- (3) What would the cost to ACT Government be if this person was granted membership to ACT Libraries.
- (4) Why won't the Minister grant this person membership of ACT Libraries.
- (5) What avenues for appeal exist for this person.
- (6) Is the Minister aware of the NSW Government's trial coach service, operating since April this year, linking Cootamundra, Junee, Wagga and Gundagai to Canberra, in recognition of Canberra's role as a large regional centre with facilities that do not exist in smaller NSW towns.

- (7) What arrangements have been made with relevant NSW authorities to facilitate access to ACT services for people using this coach service; if none exist, will the Minister commit to exploring such arrangements with the relevant NSW authorities.

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) There are no legislative provisions nor are there provisions in the Library's membership policy.
- (3) The cost is unknown.
- (4) This person does not meet the Libraries ACT membership policy of living, working or physically studying in the ACT. These criteria are standard across councils and states in Australia.
 - a. If Libraries ACT granted membership to this person, they would have to open membership to everyone in other jurisdictions and this would mean that resources paid for by the ACT community would not be available to them as and when they need them.
 - b. There are contractual limitations for access to electronic resources that require the ACT Government to only make these resources available to people in the ACT. If a library membership is provided to this person, they would have access to these electronic resources which would be against the conditions of the contracts supplying them.
- (5) There are no avenues to appeal the policy decision. Libraries ACT is willing to work with the person to assist them in accessing options within their own library network and through Vision Australia.
- (6) No
- (7) See above

**Transport Canberra—drug and alcohol testing
(Question No 2718)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) What is the current Transport Canberra and City Services policy on random drug and alcohol testing of bus drivers.
- (2) How many random (a) drug tests and (b) breath tests were administered on ACTION bus drivers in (i) 2017-18 and (ii) 2018-19.
- (3) Of those tested in part (2), how many ACTION bus drivers tested positive for (a) illicit drugs and (b) alcohol, in (i) 2017-18 and (ii) 2018-19.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra has zero tolerance for alcohol or drug use that affects job performance or public health and safety. This includes any prescribed medication that could affect work performance. Employees and contractors must have a zero blood alcohol content whilst on duty and must not take drugs that could affect their workplace performance. Transport Canberra does not currently conduct random drug or alcohol testing. Bus depots have self testing breathalyser machines in place.
- (2) Transport Canberra does not currently conduct random drug or alcohol testing. Employees must abide by Australian Road Traffic laws.
- (3) See above.

Light rail—passenger fines (Question No 2719)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) fines dealt to Light Rail passengers by month from the commencement of the Light Rail Network, to date, (b) where the revenue collected from Light Rail related fines is distributed to and (c) what mechanisms for disputing Light Rail related fines there are available to Canberrans.

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

- (a) Infringements issued to Light Rail passengers since commencement of the service are as follows:

| | |
|----------------|------------|
| June 2019 | 5 |
| July 2019 | 13 |
| August 2019 | 83 |
| September 2019 | 184 |
| TOTAL | 285 |

- (b) Revenue from Light Rail related fines is returned to consolidated revenue.

- (c) Mechanisms available for disputing Light Rail fines are as follows:

Once an infringement notice is issued passengers have 28 days from the date of service of the notice to do one of the following:

- 1. Pay the Infringement:** Details on how to pay are provided on the infringement notice.
- 2. Apply for an Infringement Notice Management Plan:** Apply to discharge the infringement notice penalty with an infringement notice management plan (to pay by instalments, or by completing an approved community work or social development program), passengers must complete the appropriate application form and mail it to Transport Canberra.
- 3. Apply for a waiver of the infringement notice penalty:** All applications for waiver of infringement notice penalties must be made in writing and will be considered on a case by case basis.

4. **Apply for withdrawal or submit an Infringement Notice Declaration:** All applications must be made in writing and will be considered on a case by case basis.
 5. **Dispute liability:** All applications to dispute liability for the infringement notice must be made in writing and provide the grounds that a passenger is relying on for disputing the infringement notice. **THE MATTER MAY BE REFERRED TO THE MAGISTRATES COURT.** If the matter goes to Court, and the Court finds against the passenger, the passenger may be convicted of the offence, ordered to pay a penalty and costs, and may be subject to other court orders.
 6. **Apply for an extension of time to take any of the actions above:** To apply for an extension of time to do any of the things mentioned above the passenger must apply in writing to Transport Canberra.
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Light rail—legal costs (Question No 2720)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) In relation to the answer to question on notice No 2597, relating to “a claim by Canberra Metro that additional costs associated with personnel, equipment and other resources were to be compensated by the Territory under the terms of the project Agreement”, can the Minister provide a breakdown of the additional costs associated with (a) personnel, (b) equipment and (c) other resources, by (i) cost per payment and (ii) description per payment made to Canberra Metro.
- (2) In relation to the answer to question on notice No 2597, relating to the “assessment and appointment of (a) legal costs associated with formally defending the claims that were avoided, (b) legal costs of Canberra Metro if Canberra Metro’s claims were successful, (c) costs of expert determination, (d) the costs of technical experts associated with the defending the claims that were avoided, and (e) associated agency costs avoided through the dispute resolution process” (i) can the Minister provide a breakdown of the “other avoided costs” associated with (a) legal costs associated with formally defending the claims that were avoided, (b) legal costs of Canberra Metro if Canberra Metro’s claims were successful, (c) costs of expert determination, (d) the costs of technical experts associated with the defending the claims that were avoided, and (e) associated agency costs avoided through the dispute resolution process buy (A) cost per payment and (B) description per payment.

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

As noted in the answer to Question No. 2597 and in section 7.4 of the *City to Gungahlin Light Rail Project Delivery Report*, in April 2019 the ACT Government and Canberra Metro reached a commercial agreement on matters relating to outstanding risk claims and modifications. As noted in section 7.3 of that report, Table 11 provides a breakdown of the Territory’s internal apportionment of the total payment to Canberra Metro against risks (and associated claims). In this respect:

- (1) The claim for additional costs included additional staff, supervision, subcontractor, traffic management and plant costs. The ACT Government does not propose to release the details of Canberra Metro’s claim, which was provided to the ACT Government on a ‘without prejudice’ and commercial in confidence basis.

- (2) An assessment of avoided costs was the subject of commercially sensitive legal advice received by the ACT Government. The ACT Government does not propose to release the details of that advice.
-

**Transport Canberra—bus breakdowns
(Question No 2721)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) What is the total number of ACTION bus breakdowns by model of bus for the financial years (a) 2017-18 and (b) 2018-19 to date.
- (2) What was the most common cause of breakdown by model of bus in the ACTION fleet for the financial years (a) 2017-18 and (b) 2018-19 to date.
- (3) What is the total amount spent on maintenance by model of bus during the financial year 2017-18 to date, broken down by (a) labour costs, (b) repairing existing parts and (c) procurement of new parts.
- (4) What is the total number of services that (a) were not completed due to a breakdown and (b) complete their services more than four minutes after the scheduled time after a breakdown in 2017-18 to date.
- (5) What is the number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak periods and (b) off-peak periods in 2017-18 to date.
- (6) What is the average cost per (a) kilometre and (b) hour, for the entire ACTION bus fleet for 2017-18 to date.
- (7) What is the total cost in terms of paid bus driver hours that can be attributed to breakdowns.

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

- (1) The details for this response are provided in the attached tables.
- (2) The most common cause of breakdowns in (a) the 2017-2018 (b) the 2018-2019 to date was electrical system faults.

Details of breakdowns by model type are provided in the attached tables.

- (3) The details for this response are provided in the attached tables. Labour costs are recorded for each vehicle type (a).

The repair of existing parts (b) and procurement of new parts (c) cannot be reported separately and is reported as the average parts costs per vehicle type.

- (4) The total number of services that were (a) not completed due to a break down in 2017-18 to date was 4,854.

Another 1,005 services that recorded a breakdown was then delivered by another driver through operations.

These services contribute to the overall on time performance metric, however, cannot be uniquely reported for on time performance.

- (5) The number of breakdowns that occurred during (a) peak periods was 2,781 and (b) off-peak periods was 3,078 in 2017-18 to date.
- (6) The average cost per kilometre for the Transport Canberra bus network has been:
- i. 2017/18 - \$5.58
 - ii. 2018/19 - \$5.67
 - iii. 2019/20 YTD - \$5.50
- (7) This is not reported as a separate metric. The overall network cost includes stand-by drivers to cover instances of in-service breakdowns, which is common industry practice.

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

ACT Health—organisational changes (Question No 2722)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 20 September 2019:

- (1) How much did it cost to separate Canberra Health Services from ACT Health in 2018 including (a) additional salaries, (b) accommodation including relocation, fit-out and leasing of premises, (c) new letterhead, (d) new signs on buildings, (e) new business cards, (f) fleet vehicle decals, (g) new badges, (h) staff meetings and consultation, (i) recruitment costs, (j) new employee costs and salaries, (k) contractor and consultant costs and (l) other related expenses.
- (2) How much of the expenditure in part (1) was incurred in (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20.

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

- (1) All cost incurred in the separation of the ACT Health Directorate were funded from within existing resources. The estimated costs were:

| | 2017-18 | 2018-19 | 2019-20 |
|--|-----------|------------|--------------------|
| | \$000's | \$000's | YTD Sep \$000's |
| | (a) | (b) | (c) |
| a) Additional Salaries | 93 | 126 | 0 |
| b) Accommodation including relocation, fit-out and leasing | 0 | 51 | 0 |
| c) New letterhead | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| d) New signs on buildings | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| e) New business cards | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| f) Fleet vehicle decals | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| g) New badges | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| h) Staff meetings and Consultation | 0 | 44 | 0 |
| i) Recruitment costs | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| j) New employee costs and salaries | 0 | 415 | 175 |
| k) Contractor and Consultant Costs | 0 | 67 | 0 |
| l) Other relates expenses | 0 | 11 | 0 |
| | 93 | 713 | 175 |

(2) See response to Question 1.

**Health—flu season
(Question No 2726)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 20 September 2019
(redirected to the Acting Minister for Health):

- (1) How many people in the ACT contracted the flu in the ACT in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019 to date (January 1 until 30 September).
- (2) How many people received flu vaccinations in the ACT in (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019 to date.
- (3) How many people has Canberra Health Services (or ACT Health) treated for flu during (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019 to date.
- (4) How many people have been hospitalised as a result of the flu or flu-like illnesses during (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019 to date.
- (5) How many people have died of influenza during (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019 to date.
- (6) Has 2019 been one of the worst flu seasons in the ACT's history; if so, where does it rank in terms of severity.
- (7) Of the deaths from the flu so far during 2019 to date, how many have been aged (a) 0-5, (b) 6-17, (c) 18-39, (d) 40-54, (e) 55-65, (f) 65-80 and (g) 80+.
- (8) When did the peak flu season start in the ACT during (a) 2015, (b) 2016, (c) 2017, (d) 2018 and (e) 2019.

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

- (1) Every year, the ACT Health Directorate monitors laboratory-confirmed cases of influenza; regular reports are available on the ACT Health website.

The number of influenza notifications in the ACT between 2015 and 30 September 2019 are provided below.

| Year | Number of influenza notifications |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (a) 2015 | 1,206 |
| (b) 2016 | 1,604 |
| (c) 2017 | 3,098 |
| (d) 2018 | 476 |
| (e) 2019 (to 30 September) | 3,846* |

**Data for recent weeks may be incomplete. Data for 2019 are subject to change as updates are received.*

- (2) The influenza vaccine can be accessed by Canberrans through the private market or government funded vaccine programs for people who are at high risk of influenza-related health complications.

In the ACT, the influenza vaccine is government funded for:

- Anyone 65 years of age and older;
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 6 months and over (from 2019);
- Children aged 6 months to under 5 years (from 2018);
- Pregnant women; and
- Anyone 6 months or older who have medical conditions associated with the highest risk of influenza-related complications (including heart conditions, asthma and other lung conditions, or impaired immunity).

The ACT Health Directorate collects data on the number of government funded vaccines distributed to immunisation providers in the ACT. This does not include data on vaccines available or administered in the private market, for which the Directorate is not responsible.

The number of government funded influenza vaccine distributed from 2015 to 2019 (to date) is below.

| Year | Number of Government funded vaccines distributed |
|---------------------------------|---|
| (a) 2015 | 52,663 |
| (b) 2016 | 54,818 |
| (c) 2017 | 59,980 |
| (d) 2018 | 102,579 |
| (e) 2019 (to 30 September 2019) | 111,389 |

- (3) The number of presentations to Walk-in Centres (WIC) and Emergency Department (ED, at both public hospitals) as a result of flu between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2019 is provided in the table below:

| Calendar Year | Number of WIC Presentations as a result of influenza | Number of ED Presentations as a result of influenza | Total number of presentations as a result of influenza |
|----------------------|---|--|---|
| (a) 2015 | 28 (from 1 July 2015) | 97 | 125 |
| (b) 2016 | 263 | 158 | 421 |
| (c) 2017 | 294 | 320 | 614 |
| (d) 2018 | 109 | 54 | 163 |
| (e) 2019* | 297 | 325 | 622 |

* Data for 2019 is up to and including 30 September 2019 only.

- (4) The number of admissions for flu at Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce between 1 January 2015 and 30 September 2019 is provided in the table below:

| Calendar Year | Number of admissions as a result of influenza |
|----------------------|--|
| (a) 2015 | 148 |
| (b) 2016 | 278 |

| | |
|-----------|-----|
| (c) 2017 | 537 |
| (d) 2018 | 101 |
| (e) 2019* | 432 |

* Data for 2019 is up to and including 30 September 2019 only.

- (5) The number of influenza-associated deaths in the ACT between 2015 and 30 September 2019 are provided in the table below.

| Year | Influenza-associated deaths |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| (a) 2015 | 7 |
| (b) 2016 | 13 |
| (c) 2017 | 24 |
| (d) 2018 | 1 |
| (e) 2019 (to 30 September 2019) | 12 |

- (6) Notifications in 2019 have surpassed the total number of notifications in the previous 5 years, noting that the 2019 influenza season began much earlier compared to previous seasons and influenza notifications have fluctuated above background levels since early 2019.

Clinical severity for the season to date, as measured through the proportion of patients admitted directly to ICU, and deaths attributed to influenza, is low.

- (7) There have been 12 influenza-associated deaths in the ACT in 2019.

| Age group (years) | Influenza-associated deaths in 2019 |
|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| (a-f) <80 | 4 |
| (g) 80+ | 8 |

*In order to maintain confidentiality and to minimise risk of identifying individuals, data on deaths have been aggregated, in line with the ACT Health Data Release Policy.

- (8) The influenza season commenced in the ACT during the following weeks in the previous 5 years:

| Year | Week | Dates |
|----------|---------|--------------------|
| (a) 2015 | Week 28 | 6 July - 12 July |
| (b) 2016 | Week 26 | 27 June -3 July |
| (c) 2017 | Week 26 | 26 June -2 July |
| (d) 2018 | Week 31 | 30 July - 5 August |
| (e) 2019 | Week 17 | 22 April -28 April |

Health—elective surgery (Question No 2727)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Health*):

- (1) How many patients on the elective surgery waiting list were (a) changed from Category 1 to Category 2, (b) changed from Category 2 to Category 3, (c) changed

from Category 1 to Category 3, (d) changed from Category 2 to Category 1, (e) changed from Category 3 to Category 2 and (f) changed from Category 3 to Category 1 during 2018-19.

- (2) What consultation occurs with the patients GP or specialist before a patient is reclassified and is consultation mandatory or discretionary.

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

- (1) The information sought is not available at this time. To collect, assemble and validate the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable diversion of resources.
- (2) Information regarding consultation and classification is outlined in the *Waiting Time and Elective Surgery Policy* at Attachment A, the policy is available on the ACT Health website.
(A copy of the attachment is available at the Chamber Support Office).

ACT Health—market research (Question No 2729)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 20 September 2019 (*redirected to the Acting Minister for Health*):

- (1) What market research has (a) ACT Health and (b) Canberra Health Services commissioned since 1 January 2019.
- (2) How much has each market research project commissioned by (a) ACT Health and (b) Canberra Health Services since 1 January cost.
- (3) Who has conducted the market research projects commissioned by (a) ACT Health and (b) Canberra Health Services since 1 January 2019.
- (4) What has the market research conducted by (a) ACT Health and (b) Canberra Health Services been used for.

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

- (1)–(4)
- (a) ACT Health Directorate commissioned market research in June 2019 to supplement current data from large internet-based surveys of sexual health amongst Australian youth with a more in-depth exploration of local factors influencing sexual health behaviours in the ACT. The research undertaken by Colmar Brunton Research Pty Ltd is to inform the development of a communication campaign to address increasing rates of sexually transmissible infections in the ACT. The total cost of the service was \$47,264.80 (GST Inclusive). The market research included testing a number of creative concepts and key messages.
- (b) Canberra Health Services commissioned consumer focus group testing of communication materials as part of the Maternity Options campaign. Findings from this research has been used to develop the overall look and feel of the

campaign, including: colours, the use of imagery, taglines and key messages. The total cost of the service was \$11,594.00 (GST Inclusive)

**Transport—car sharing
(Question No 2732)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) What is the current status of the car sharing pilot that commenced in 2016; if the pilot is complete, was an evaluation conducted and if so, by whom and when.
- (2) How are car sharing companies regulated.
- (3) What process do car sharing companies use to be allocated additional ACT Government parking spaces.
- (4) Are car sharing companies required to pay for car parking spaces; if so, how are charges calculated.

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

- (1) The car share trial concluded in April 2018. TCCS completed an evaluation of the trial period immediately upon conclusion. Following the evaluation, the trial conditions have remained in place to enable providers to continue to deliver the car share service. This ensures continuity of the service for those members of the community using it until formal operating arrangements are implemented.
 - (2) Car share companies are regulated by Access Canberra using a Car Share Commuter Permit.
 - (3) Car share companies are not currently allocated additional spaces. An ACT Car Share policy will be included as part of the Moving Canberra Transport Strategy, this will inform space allocation.
 - (4) As part of the car share trial car share providers were not required to pay for car share spaces. Fees and charges are being considered as part of the ACT Car Share policy.
-

**Government—infringement payments
(Question Nos 2733-2748)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Attorney-General; Minister for Building Quality Improvement; Minister for Business and Regulatory Services; Minister for City Services; Minister for Community Services and Facilities; Minister for Corrections and Justice Health; Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety; Minister for the Environment and Heritage; Minister for Housing and Suburban Development; Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety; Minister for Planning and Land Management; Minister for Police and Emergency Services; Minister for Roads and Active Travel; Minister for Recycling and Waste Reduction; Minister for Transport and the Treasurer, upon notice, on 27 September 2019 (*redirected to the Attorney-General*):

- (1) What strict liability offences exist within legislation that falls under the Minister's ministerial responsibilities that apply to individuals.
- (2) For each offence, what (a) infringements exist and (b) is the breakdown of infringement amounts for different levels of severity of a particular offence (if applicable).
- (3) For each offence, what are the options available for (a) waiving infringements, (b) extending payment times, (c) entering into payment plans, (d) offering a reduction in the infringement rate and (e) participate in community work or other activities in lieu of paying the infringement.
- (4) What are the number of infringements for the last three years that (a) have been waived, (b) have had payment times extended, (c) have had payment plans enacted, (d) have had a reduction in the infringement rate and (e) the offender participated in community work or other activities in lieu of paying the infringement.
- (5) Do any other alternatives exist to paying infringements that are not covered in parts (2) and (3); if so, what are they.

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

1. To provide all the information requested in response to questions 1, 2, 3 and 5, would require a comprehensive review of a significant volume of ACT legislation. As the information sought would need to be obtained through a largely manual process, this would amount to an unreasonable diversion of government resources. Many infringement notices are governed by publicly available Regulations to the *Magistrates Court Act 1930* or the *Road Transport (General) Act 1999*. If the scope of information sought could be narrowed to particular legislation, it may be possible to provide information without significant diversion of government resources. This would depend on the extent to which the scope of the request could be modified.
2. See answer 1.
3. See answer 1.
4. Access Canberra has the potential to issue infringements for over 70 Acts (and their subordinate laws). Access Canberra would need to do in some cases, manual searches of infringements issued in the areas of Fair Trading and Consumer legislation, Work Health and Safety, Environment Protection, Construction and Planning and Road Transport. In particular, in the Road Transport space, there are 396 pages of offences where an infringement can be issued. This includes infringements issued by Access Canberra staff, ACT Policing and the Heavy Vehicle National regulator as Access Canberra manages the administration of all road transport related infringement notices. Going back 3 years to obtain this information across the majority of branches within Access Canberra would be a huge task and will be highly resource intensive.
5. See answer 1.

**Schools—Chapman Primary
(Question No 2750)**

Mr Coe asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) What advice has the Government received regarding the ownership of the building at Chapman Primary used for Out of School Hours care (the building) and can the Minister provide the advice received.
- (2) What financial contribution was made by the (a) Chapman Parents and Citizens Association (P&C) and (b) ACT Government, to the construction of the building.
- (3) At what time does the Government consider itself to have become the owner of this building.
- (4) Can the Minister list the improvements made to the building, and provide (a) a cost breakdown for each improvement, (b) the proportion of the cost of each improvement borne by the Government, (c) the proportion of the cost of each improvement borne by the P&C and (d) what the approval process was for these improvements.
- (5) What compensation or reimbursement will be given to the Chapman Primary P&C for works and improvements made to that building by the P&C.
- (6) What insurance and has been taken out by the Government for this building, and when did such insurances begin.
- (7) What is the Government's intended future use of the building.
- (8) What communications or representations have been made by the Government to the P&C about the use and ownership of the building, including any conditions associated with the financial contributions made by the P&C.

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

- 1) The government has received confidential legal advice about the ownership of the building.
- 2)
 - a) The construction of the building was managed and funded by the P&C from their Out of School Care service program.
 - b) ACT Government provided no financial contribution.
- 3) Custodianship of the building has not yet been resolved.
- 4) The improvements to the building were managed by the P&C and the ACT Government does not hold a detailed list of each improvement.
 - a) Each improvement managed and funded by the P&C from their Out of School Care service program.
 - b) ACT Government provided no financial contribution.
 - c) Each improvement was funded by the P&C from their Out of School Care services program.
 - d) Any approvals were managed by the P&C and no approval was sought through ACT Government.

- 5) This is the subject of ongoing discussions with the P&C.
 - 6) The building is listed on the ACT Government assets valuation report and therefore insured by the Education Directorate.
 - 7) Subject to resolving ownership issues, the government proposes that the building remain dedicated as an Out of School Care Service space.
 - 8) The Education Directorate wrote to the P&C stating it believes the Directorate is the custodian of the building. Discussions relating to financial contributions have not yet occurred.
-

**Sport—ground maintenance
(Question No 2752)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) How many requests for exemptions were (a) received and (b) granted, for the 17-30 September ground closure period.
- (2) How many requests for exemptions were not approved for the 17-30 September ground closure period and what reasons were given.
- (3) What alternative options were provided for each request for exemption that was not approved, in relation to part (2).
- (4) Which grounds received seasonal maintenance during the ground closure period and on what dates were groundkeepers undertaking these works.
- (5) What additional maintenance is planned for outside of the ground closure period.

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

- 1) (a) One.
(b) One, however this request was subsequently withdrawn as the proposed sporting event was not progressed.
 - 2) Nil.
 - 3) Not applicable.
 - 4) All sportsgrounds were rested from formal sporting use and subject to site-specific maintenance activities as required during the period 18 to 30 September.
 - 5) Routine maintenance outside the shutdown period includes regular watering and mowing. Reactive maintenance is also undertaken as required, for example repairs to irrigation infrastructure.
-

**Crime—prosecutions
(Question No 2756)**

Mrs Jones asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) Can the Attorney-General provide the total number of criminal prosecutions for each of the last five financial years to date, broken down by type of crime.
- (2) Can the Attorney-General provide the total number of appeals submitted by the Director of Public Prosecutions on criminal matters for each of the last five financial years to date, broken down by type of crime.
- (3) Can the Attorney-General provide the total number of prosecutions for each of the last five financial years to date, broken down by the outcomes of (a) convictions, (b) pleas, (c) mistrials, (d) acquittals and (e) other relevant categories.
- (4) Can the Attorney-General provide for each of the last five financial years to date (a) average and median number of days taken to prepare cases, (b) average and median costs to prepare cases and (c) average number of days in court per case.
- (5) What procedures are in place to determine whether to prosecute a case or person and how are these procedures different for offenders under the age of eighteen.
- (6) What was the average number of days between a defendant being charged and a defendant's court date for each of the last five financial years to date.
- (7) What was the average number of days to commence a retrial after a mistrial for each of the last five financial years to date.

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

- (1) This information is published in the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions' (DPP) Annual Report each year, and more specifically, is located in Table 2.

Annual reports for the Office dating back to the 2009-2010 reporting period can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/publications/annual_reports

- (2) This information is published in the DPP's Annual Report each year, and more specifically, is located in Table 6. However, we are not able to break these figures down further into type of crime.

Annual reports for the Office dating back to the 2009-2010 reporting period can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/publications/annual_reports

- (3) This information is published in the DPP's Annual Report each year. We provide the number of charges finalised and do so in the Annual Report at Table 1.

The DPP further keeps figures on the number of matters committed to the Supreme Court, found at Table 3, broken down by matter type at Table 4. The actual number of trials and results are all listed at Table 5.

Annual reports for the Office dating back to the 2009-2010 reporting period can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/publications/annual_reports

- (4) The DPP does not keep statistics on the average or median number of days taken to prepare a case, or the average or median cost to prepare a case. The DPP does keep the statistics on the total number of trial days in the Supreme Court and publishes these in the Annual Report at Table 5, however, statistics for the average cost of the preparation of a case, or the number of days per court case in the Magistrates Court are not kept.

Given the ACT DPP appear matters ranging from parking infringements to murder across the Magistrates Court, Supreme Court, ACT Court of Appeal and High Court, these figures will vary significantly by matter type and the court of final disposition. The DPP reports quarterly on a KPI of the average cost per matter (JACS Accountability Indicator Output 1.4).

Annual reports for the Office dating back to the 2009-2010 reporting period can be accessed via the following link:

https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/publications/annual_reports

- (5) The question of whether or not to prosecute a case is one for the discretion of the DPP or delegate and is subject to the Prosecution Policy published on the DPP website. The Prosecution Policy can be accessed via the following link:

<https://www.dpp.act.gov.au/publications/statements-of-policy>

The Prosecution Policy of the ACT makes a distinction between a young person (a person who is 12 years or older, but not yet an adult) and a juvenile (a person who is under 12 years old). Factors particularly relevant to the decision to prosecute a young person include the youth, age, or vulnerability of the accused, a witness or a victim (paragraph 2.9(d) of the Policy), the need for general deterrence (2.9(l)) and whether or not the alleged offence is of public concern (2.9(n)).

In relation to the prosecution of juveniles, the Policy states this should be regarded as a severe step and generally a much stronger case can be made for methods of disposal which fall short of prosecution unless the seriousness of the alleged offence or circumstances dictate otherwise. As well as the general factors at 2.9 of the Policy relevant to whether or not the public interest warrants prosecution, there are a number of other factors that are also taken into account with juveniles. These include the age, maturity and mental capacity of the juvenile (2.13(b)), the available alternatives to prosecution (2.13(c)), the family circumstances (2.13(e)), the juvenile's antecedents including any previous cautions (2.13(f)) and whether a prosecution would be likely to have an unduly harsh effect on the juvenile (2.13(g)).

- (6) When a person is charged by police, they are either granted police bail to attend court at the next listing date, which is provided to police by the court, or if they are refused bail, they must appear before the court within 48 hours. The DPP does not keep data about the average listing period for people granted bail to a future court list.

- (7) The average time period between the actual date of the mistrial or jury discharge and the opening to the jury in the next trial is approximately 3 months. As a general rule there are four (4) trial periods each year (a 3–4 week trial period every 3 months), and where there is a mistrial in one trial period, it is almost always given priority and listed in the next trial period. The precise number of days will depend on the week in which the mistrial occurred and the actual week in the following trial period the matter was listed for re-trial.

**Taxation—rates
(Question No 2757)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) What was the total number of rateable properties in the ACT during the first six months of 2018 broken down by (a) houses, (b) residential unites, (c) rural blocks, (d) commercial blocks and (e) other standalone residential properties.
- (2) What is the value of the land tax revenue broken down by (a) commercial properties and (b) residential properties for each financial year since 2007-08 to date.
- (3) What is the total number of (a) commercial properties and (b) residential properties that were subject to land tax for each financial year since 2007-08 to date.

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

- (1) The total number of rateable properties in the ACT as at April 2018 were:

| Residential (non unit titled) | Residential (unit titled) | Rural | Commercial |
|--|--------------------------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| 113,307 | 48,570 | 170 | 6,146 |

- (2) and (3) See table below. Land Tax for commercial properties was abolished from 2012-13 onwards.

| Financial Year | Commercial Land Taxable Properties | Commercial Land Tax Revenue (\$m) | Residential Land Taxable Properties | Residential Land Tax Revenue (\$m) |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|---|
| 2007-08 | 5,157 | 35.9 | 29,844 | 35.9 |
| 2008-09 | 5,156 | 42.6 | 30,262 | 40.7 |
| 2009-10 | 5,297 | 48.4 | 30,565 | 45.4 |
| 2010-11 | 5,459 | 52.7 | 32,464 | 53.4 |
| 2011-12 | 5,691 | 52.2 | 34,782 | 61.1 |
| 2012-13 | N/A | N/A | 37,291 | 65.6 |
| 2013-14 | N/A | N/A | 39,738 | 71.9 |
| 2014-15 | N/A | N/A | 41,770 | 85.0 |
| 2015-16 | N/A | N/A | 44,064 | 89.9 |
| 2016-17 | N/A | N/A | 45,002 | 99.9 |
| 2017-18 | N/A | N/A | 46,920 | 119.2 |
| 2018-19 | N/A | N/A | 48,210 | 129.4 |

**Sport—international events
(Question No 2758)**

Mr Coe asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) Further to question on notice No 2609, what was the (a) cost of bidding for Women's T20 World Cup tournaments and (b) expected cost of bidding for Men's T20 World Cup tournaments.
- (2) In relation to part (1), how much was budgeted for the bidding and who made the determination it was too "cost prohibitive" to bid to secure content for both the Men's and Women's T20 World Cup tournaments.
- (3) Who made the determination that the ACT would only bid for the Women's T20 World Cup in 2020 and on what date, and what factors were considered as part of that decision.
- (4) Was there any difference in the expected economic or tourism outcomes associated with hosting Men's or Women's T20 World Cup 2020 events, such as attendance or profile; if so, what was the nature of the differences.
- (5) What is the status of the negotiations with Cricket Australia and the AFL to secure additional event content at Manuka Oval in 2019-20 and how many (a) men's and (b) women's matches are being considered for each code.
- (6) What additional (a) men's and (b) women's content for Manuka Oval outside of cricket and AFL is being considered or pursued by the ACT Government.

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

Q1

The bid cost for securing five Women's T20 World Cup group matches is considered commercial-in-confidence given the competitive nature of bidding for content against other states and territories.

Q2

The cost to bid for both the men's and women's tournaments is considered commercial-in-confidence given the competitive nature of bidding for content against other states and territories.

After consultation with the Minister for Sport and Recreation, in my capacity as Minister for Tourism and Major Events, I made the decision that it was cost prohibitive to bid for both the men's and women's tournaments.

Q3

After consultation with the Minister for Sport and Recreation, in my capacity as Minister for Tourism and Major Events, I made the decision on 26 July 2017 to bid for Women's T20 World Cup content only.

Increasing support for professional women's sport is a priority for this government, and a commitment made during the 2016 election. The ACT Government had already demonstrated a strong commitment to men's cricket and mimics a number of the elite content including through hosting matches as part of the ICC Cricket World Cup in 2015, One Day International (ODI) fixtures, Big Bash League (BBL) fixtures and through securing Canberra's inaugural Test Match.

Participation in the Women's T20 World Cup is an opportunity to showcase women's sport in Canberra and to foster female sports participation at elite and grassroots levels. Bidding for content in the women's tournament also presented the opportunity to host the Australian women's national team in Canberra.

Q4

Hosting five women's group matches in the ACT will see seven of the world's best women's teams coming to Canberra as part of a festival of cricket. These matches will be played across three consecutive days, which will increase overnight visitation.

While women's group matches may attract reduced levels of attendance and visitation when compared to men's content, the opportunity to secure a larger number of matches in Canberra and a larger number of international teams as part of the women's tournament means a greater opportunity to increase economic benefit, as well as community

It was also considered that hosting the popular and highly successful Australian women's national team in Canberra will also provide an attractive drawcard for local and visiting cricket fans.

Q5

This information is commercial in confidence.

Q6

Venues Canberra continues to look for opportunities to develop content with no specific opportunities currently identified, while always maintaining the venue for men's and women's local cricket and AFL content.

Sport—Canberra Olympic pool (Question No 2759)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) Can the Minister confirm the current status of the Canberra Olympic pool (COP) in terms of leaks and structural integrity.
- (2) What volume of water is leaking from the COP each day and how much does this cost.
- (3) How much has been spent on the COP facility over the last five financial years, and what is the split of this spending across expenses such as the (a) pool, (b) gym facility, (c) car park and (d) general maintenance.

- (4) What is the expected expenditure on maintenance and operations of the COP facility over the next forward period.
- (5) What measures have been put in place to address issues of night time COP user's safety.

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

- 1) Leaks continue to occur at the COP despite numerous attempts to repair them over the past five years. Each time a leak has been repaired a new leak arises, which is largely attributed to the age of the infrastructure.

ACT Property Group (ACTPG) is currently undertaking a temporary repair to ensure the dive pool is operational for the start of the summer season in November 2019.

- 2) In 2018-19, the leaks averaged approximately 50kL/day (increasing in summer and reducing in winter) costing the Territory \$115,000 in associated utility costs. The most recent leak (identified at the end of the 2018-19 summer season) was in the dive pool, with up to 50kL of water being lost per day from the failed expansion joints. ACTPG is currently carrying out a temporary repair to ensure the dive pool is operational for the summer season in November 2019.

- 3) ACTPG does not track the individual areas of repairs and maintenance. The general maintenance is carried out by the operator as part of their management contract. ACTPG does not manage the car park adjacent to COP therefore there is no expenditure on the car park. Expenditure on COP repairs and maintenance over last five years:

2015-16

- a. \$154,359
- b. Operator – combined with general maintenance
- c. Not part of COP
- d. \$85,565

2016-17

- a. \$104,497
- b. Operator – combined with general maintenance
- c. Not part of COP
- d. \$129,574

2017-18

- a. \$18,973
- b. Operator – combined with general maintenance
- c. Not part of COP
- d. \$107,083

2018-19

- a. \$66,847
- b. Operator – combined with general maintenance
- c. Not part of COP
- d. \$108,320

2019-20 (as at 31 August 2019)

- a. \$40,145
- b. Operator – combined with general maintenance
- c. Not part of COP
- d. \$15,833

4) This is yet to be determined.

5) The Territory is not aware of any issues regarding night-time COP users' safety.

**Litter—collection
(Question No 2760)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) How many Transport and City Services staff (full-time equivalent) are employed to maintain tidiness and collect litter on public land.
- (2) How often are the following roadside areas inspected and maintained, including collection of litter alongside (a) William Hovell Drive, (b) Belconnen Way and (c) Tuggeranong Parkway.

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

- 1) On any given day, the number of staff engaged in litter collection will vary depending on rostering, climatic conditions and work priorities. Staff working on other tasks may also undertake litter picking as well as their assigned task. For example, a mower operator will litter pick before mowing an area and a weed spray operator will remove litter before controlling the weeds under it.
- 2) a. William Hovell Drive – 4 times per year (January, April, July and October) plus when needed based on requests from the public;
b. Belconnen Way – 4 times a year (January, April, July and October) plus when needed based on requests from the public; and
c. Tuggeranong Parkway – 4 times a year (March, June, September and December) plus when needed based on requests from the public.

The Planned Street Sweeping schedule is available on the TCCS website:
https://www.tccs.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/421943/Annual-sweeping-program-August-2014.pdf

**Sport—outdoor fitness equipment
(Question No 2761)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

What was the total cost of installing outdoor fitness sites located on the roads (a) Beaufort Crescent, Holt and (b) Fullston Way, Holt.

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

- (a) The outdoor fitness equipment located near Beaurepaire Crescent was installed in 2010. Based on previous installations the current cost to install new equipment would be approximately \$5,000.
- (b) The playground and four pieces of fitness equipment installed near Fullston Way were not installed by Transport Canberra and City Services. This equipment was installed as part of Stage 2 – Ginninderra Estate in 2017.

**Macquarie—footpaths
(Question No 2763)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 27 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Roads and Active Travel*):

- (1) What is the total number of streets in the suburb of Macquarie, and how many have footpaths on at least one side of the street.
- (2) Out of the total length of streets in Macquarie, what percentage of streets have an adjacent footpath on (a) one side of the street and (b) both sides of the street.

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

- 1) 46. Approximately 35% of all streets/roads in Macquarie have footpaths – refer to Table 1 below.

Table 1: Footpath coverage (count) of streets in Macquarie by road classification (2019)

| Macquarie Streets/Roads | Count | With paths (count) | With paths (%) |
|-------------------------|-------|--------------------|----------------|
| Major boundary roads | 4 | 3 | 75% |
| Main roads | 6 | 6 | 100% |
| Minor roads | 36 | 7 | 19% |
| Total | 46 | 16 | 35% |

- 2) (a) Approximately 47% by length of all streets/roads in Macquarie have adjacent footpaths on at least one side of their length; (b) approximately 24% by length have footpaths on both sides – refer to Table 2 below.

Table 2: Footpath coverage (length) of streets in Macquarie by road classification (2019)

| Macquarie Streets/Roads | Length (m) | Path Length - at least one side (m) | Path Length – both sides (m) |
|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Major boundary roads | 5,730 | 3,410 | - |
| Main roads | 4,801 | 4,801 | 4,801 |
| Minor roads | 9,529 | 1,206 | - |
| Total | 20,060 | 9,417 | 4,801 |
| Percentage | | 47% | 24% |

Cook—footpaths (Question No 2764)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 27 September 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Roads and Active Travel*):

- (1) What is the total number of streets in the suburb of Cook, and how many have footpaths on at least one side of the street.
- (2) Out of the total length of streets in Cook, what percentage of streets have an adjacent footpath on (a) one side of the street and (b) both sides of the street.

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

- 1) 37. Approximately 27% of all streets/roads in Cook have footpaths – refer to Table 1 below.

Table 1: Footpath coverage (count) of streets in Cook by road classification (2019)

| Cook Streets/Roads | Count | With paths (count) | With paths (%) |
|---------------------------|--------------|---------------------------|-----------------------|
| Major boundary roads | 3 | 2 | 67% |
| Main roads | 3 | 3 | 100% |
| Minor roads | 31 | 5 | 16% |
| Total | 37 | 10 | 27% |

- 2) (a) Approximately 32% by length of all streets/roads in Cook have adjacent footpaths on at least one side of their length; (b) approximately 12% by length have footpaths on both sides – refer to Table 2 below.

Table 2: Footpath coverage (length) of streets in Cook by road classification (2019)

| Cook Streets/Roads | Length (m) | Path Length - at least one side (m) | Path Length – both sides (m) |
|---------------------------|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| Major boundary roads | 3,296 | 2,920 | - |
| Main roads | 2,311 | 2,311 | 2311 |
| Minor roads | 13,927 | 1,081 | - |
| Total | 19,534 | 6,312 | 2,311 |
| Percentage | | 32% | 12% |

Schools—public liability insurance (Question No 2765)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

What has been the total cost claimed by Lyneham High School under their public liability insurance policy for the years (a) 2018-19 and (b) 2019 to the date this question was published.

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

- 1) Nil for Public Liability claims for 2018-19 and 2019. The Directorate has incurred \$81,569 in property damage costs relating to Lyneham High School over the period.
-

**Roads—Ginninderra Drive
(Question No 2766)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Roads and Active Travel, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) What evidence has been collected by the ACT Government to suggest that there is currently no need for a road duplication of Ginninderra Drive due to a projected increase in traffic from the Ginninderry land development.
- (2) What results have been discovered by Transport and City Services when monitoring traffic flow in this area as the development progresses.

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

- 1) Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) utilises transport modelling to forecast future travel demand and to evaluate any impacts of strategic land use decisions on the transport network. Current modelling supports duplicating Ginninderra Drive between Florey Drive and Tillyard Drive beyond 2031 when West Belconnen is further developed. This connection is part of the proposed future off-site works for the Ginninderry development.
 - 2) As noted above, duplication of Ginninderra Drive between Florey Drive and Tillyard Drive is anticipated. TCCS will continue to monitor its operation as development is progressed.
-

**Children and young people—review of child protection decisions
(Question No 2768)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) How many children and young people have been directly consulted by the Justice and Community Safety led working group as part of the review process for the Review of Child Protection Decisions in the ACT and how many (a) of these took place in the first six months of 2019 and (b) took place thereafter.
- (2) How were these children and young people selected to participate.
- (3) What steps has the ACT Government taken to elicit input from children and young people as part of this review.
- (4) Have children and young people currently in out-of-home care been consulted as part of this review; if so, (a) how many and (b) how were they selected.
- (5) Have children and young people previously in out-of-home care been consulted as part of this review; if so, (a) how many and (b) how were they selected.

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

The *Review of child protection decisions in the ACT* discussion paper was released for public consultation on 6 May 2019. Following an extension of the consultation period, consultations closed on 28 June 2019. This was an open consultation process, targeted at those who provide support and advocacy for children and young people. Amongst the submissions received were submissions from individuals with lived experience of the care system.

The Minister for Children, Youth and Families will report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in March 2020 regarding: how the voices of children and young people have been included in the consultation process; the progress and outcomes of the review and the consultation processes; and what steps will follow.

As part of the consultation process, the Minister for Children, Youth and Families wrote to key stakeholders, inviting feedback on the issues raised in the discussion paper and offering them an opportunity to meet with the independent consultant.

Amongst the submissions received were submissions from individuals with lived experience of the care system. Submissions were also received from: the CREATE Foundation, the peak organisation representing the voices of children and young people with an out of home care experience; and the Children and Young People Commissioner, as part of the Human Rights Commission, who is an expert in engaging with and reflecting the voices of children and young people.

Further, CREATE Foundation staff and representatives of the CREATE Young Consultants program met with the independent consultant during the review period to provide their views on the issues raised in the discussion paper. CREATE Young Consultants are young people with a lived experience of out of home care in the ACT who work with CREATE Foundation to ensure that the voices of children and young people are heard, and their perspectives are included in decision-making.

This Review is just one way the ACT Government can engage with those individuals involved in the care system. Other mechanisms include direct engagement with organisations and forums such as: the Human Rights Commission including the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner; the ACT Youth Advisory Council; the Youth Coalition of the ACT; ACT Youth Assembly; CREATE Foundation; Carers ACT; local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations; and disability advocacy organisations.

Children and young people—reportable conduct (Question No 2770)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 27 September 2019:

- (1) How many adult Canberrans currently know about the new “failure to report” offence and what their obligations under this law are.
- (2) What steps did the ACT Government take to inform adult Canberrans of their obligations under this law before it went into effect.

- (3) What plans does the ACT Government have regarding community-wide information campaigns regarding this new offence.
- (4) What additional resources have been provided to (a) ACT Policing and (b) the Community Services Directorate, to deal with the increased reports that this new law has been predicted to generate.

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

- (1) The ACT Government has promoted information about the offence to the broad ACT community, and a wide range of relevant stakeholders. It is impossible to state the number of Canberrans who know about the new offence, including what their specific obligations are. This would require a comprehensive survey and analysis of the adult population of Canberra which is not an appropriate use of Government resources.
- (2) Materials to raise awareness of the new offence were published online. The materials were disseminated broadly – including to schools, hospitals, sporting clubs, childcare centres, entertainment precincts that attract children and families, community organisations, social welfare groups, religious organisations, and many other relevant organisations. The information is also prominent on the Access Canberra website.

Every single employee of the ACT Public Service—totalling over 24,000 people—has been made aware of the changes through whole of government messages and marketing materials. The Government also worked with peak bodies of industry and community groups to ensure their members received the information. I have personally presented the reforms to the Uniting Church, and the Justice and Community Safety Directorate has delivered presentations to other organisations. In addition, the reforms were widely publicised in print media and news coverage.

Information about the reforms is available online at <https://www.act.gov.au/childabuseroyalcommission>. The information has been developed in an easy to read and understand format to enable all Canberrans to understand their obligations.

Prior to the introduction of these reforms the Government undertook extensive consultation on this and other reforms recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, including through the Your Say website.

- (3) As described above, the Government has already engaged in an extensive community-wide information campaign. In addition to the work already undertaken, presentations will continue to be delivered to relevant organisations and community groups. The forthcoming issue of the Our Canberra which is delivered to all ACT households will also include information about the new laws, and officers of the Justice and Community Services Directorate are continuing to respond to any requests for further information or detail on the reforms from stakeholders.

The Government will continue to consider how best to inform the ACT community of the ongoing reforms arising from implementation of Royal Commission recommendations.

- (4) ACT Policing and the Community Services Directorate agreed to undertake implementation within existing resources. Once the offence has been in effect for

some time, the resourcing impacts can be reassessed based on data and analysis provided by those agencies.

Questions without notice taken on notice

Municipal services—footpaths

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 14 August 2019*):

Since my appointment as the responsible Minister I have received 58 pieces of correspondence that have requested footpath repairs.

Footpath upkeep is important to ensure that walking around our suburbs is both easy and safe. Once reported, a team will assess any issues at a site as soon as possible. Urgent repairs are made within seven working days, and less urgent issues are scheduled in larger contracts for efficiency. These are typically completed within six to nine months depending on priority.

Transport—safety

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 21 August 2019*):

Transport Canberra undertook significant community consultation to inform the development of the new public transport network. As part of this process, Transport Canberra engaged with key stakeholders such as community councils, schools, the School Transport Liaison Committee and other key stakeholders, as well as considering feedback from individual Canberrans about the proposed changes to services.

Additionally, the Government is continuing to deliver improvements for students travelling to and from school, including through the Active Streets program with the addition of five supervised school crossings in 2019, bringing the total to 25 supervised school crossings across our city.

No specific security or risk assessment was undertaken.

Health—departmental bullying

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question by Ms Le Couteur on Tuesday, 17 September 2019*):

Data cannot determine which areas record more complaints in relation to bullying, harassment and abuse of staff over an undefined period, as the level of complaints rises and falls across different areas of ACT Health and Canberra Health Services at different points in time.

Coombs—community hall

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Tuesday, 17 September 2019*):

The 8,900m² site was released by way of a public auction in March 2015 and allows for all community uses under the Territory Plan with a specific requirement for the inclusion of a child care centre and a community activity centre.

The development now has an operating child care centre, gym, vet and a number of specialist medical practitioners. The lessee has advertised the dedicated community activity centre for lease but to date has been unsuccessful in securing a tenant.

The Suburban Land Agency recently facilitated a meeting between Woden Community Services and the lessee and discussions are ongoing. Currently however, there is no power under building and planning laws that can compel the lessee to lease the community activity centre.

The community site at block 10 section 63 Wright is currently out to tender with a requirement for the construction of a 130m² community hall to be made available to the general public at the community rental rate, for a set number of hours per week.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—emergency treatment

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Milligan and Mrs Dunne on Tuesday, 17 September 2019*):

1. Table 1 is a summary of the proportion of identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients ‘seen on time’ for 2018-19, including a breakdown by clinical urgency.

Table 1:

| Triage Category Code | Triage Category Description | Proportion of ‘seen on time’ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients |
|-----------------------------|---|--|
| 1 | Resuscitation: immediate (within seconds) | 100% |
| 2 | Emergency: within 10 minutes | 69% |
| 3 | Urgent: within 30 minutes | 27% |
| 4 | Semi-urgent: within 60 minutes | 42% |
| 5 | Non-urgent: within 120 minutes | 81% |

2. The proportion of identified Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander patients ‘seen on time’ is comparable to the ACT general population. Table 2 provides more detail.

Table 2:

| Triage Category Code | Proportion of 'seen on time' - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Patients | Proportion of 'seen on time' – ACT Population |
|-----------------------------|--|--|
| 1 | 100% | 100% |
| 2 | 69% | 71% |
| 3 | 27% | 28% |
| 4 | 42% | 44% |
| 5 | 81% | 80% |

Centenary Hospital for Women and Children—bypass

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Jones on Tuesday, 17 September 2019*):

As at 17 September 2019, one delivery suite in the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children was offline for maintenance.

Canberra Health Services—Ronald McDonald House

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 18 September 2019*):

- (1) Several discussions have been held with Ronald McDonald House Canberra (RMHC) on relocation options. Canberra Health Services has commenced a feasibility study, with the support of RMHC, to confirm the suitability and cost to design, construct and fit out a new residential accommodation facility that will meet RMHC's requirements.
- (2) The timetable for decanting and relocation of RMHC is dependent on mutual agreement. However, the completion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children Expansion Project is scheduled for June 2022, subject to clinical and operational constraints.
- (3) A proposed site on the Canberra Hospital campus has been identified that is the subject of a feasibility study and will inform further discussions with RMHC.

Sport—controlled sports

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Wednesday, 18 September 2019*):

The revenue obtained from registration fees for registrable events, contestant and official registrations will partially subsidise the cost of the scheme. This will go towards paying for inspectors at events that will assist the Government in meeting the legislation's objectives on safety and integrity. It will also be used in the processing of applications. For example, the contestant and official registration fees include the cost

of obtaining a national criminal background check, undertaking an assessment of the application, and issuing the registration.

Initial funding in 2019-20 is paying for the system build that will establish the licencing system and contain a register of information relating to registrations and events. The maintenance of this system is also costed in the out years. Any expenses above the revenue forecast will be funded within existing resources.

The peak in revenue forecast for 2022-23 is based on the cycle for official and contestant registrations. Registrations are valid for a period of three years, and therefore we expect there will be a surge of renewals three years after the scheme has commenced. These figures are based on an estimated number of registrations, which will become clearer once the scheme commences.

Hospitals—aged-care beds

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Thursday, 19 September 2019*):

1. For the 2017-18 financial year ACT had 239 Nursing home day patients. The table below summarises the average cost, average cost per bed and average length of stay details (in days).

| Episodes | Length of stay (Days) | Total Cost (\$m) | Average Cost (\$) | Average bed day cost (\$) | Average Length of stay (Days) |
|----------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 239 | 9087 | \$10.51m | \$44,005 | \$1,157 | 38 |

2. Patients awaiting a permanent residential care space requiring clinical care in the public hospital system will typically attract Commonwealth funding.

A patient presenting to an ACT public hospital to receive care of any sort that is in-scope for the National Health Reform Agreement will attract a portion of the cost of the specific care requirements of that patient – expressed in National Weighted Activity Unit terms – paid against the prevailing National Efficient Price.

For the 239 episodes identified above, the ACT received approximately \$2,432,067 from the Commonwealth in 2017-18, averaging \$268 per bed day for those episodes.

While Commonwealth funding is a function of the patient's length of stay in the hospital, it does not necessarily respond to changes in length of stay in a linear manner. Therefore, the average Commonwealth per day has been provided in here as a guidance only. It should not be interpreted as 'for every additional bed day, the ACT will receive \$268 from the Commonwealth'.

Transport Canberra—weekend bus services

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 19 September 2019*):

For Saturday 21 September, 254 bus drivers were required, and for Sunday 22 September, 226 drivers were required.

For that weekend, there were 213 drivers rostered (accepted shifts) on Saturday 21 September and 188 (accepted shifts) on Sunday 22 September. Transport Canberra operations then worked with the available drivers to cover as many shifts as possible.

Transport Canberra—network 19 complaints

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mrs Jones and Miss C Burch on Thursday, 19 September 2019*):

Under Transport Canberra's social media procedures, enquiries are responded to within one business day wherever possible. Social media feedback is passed to the Transport Canberra executive team where necessary. One staff member has primary responsibility for monitoring social media with the support of the broader TCCS communications team. Transport Canberra's social media channels have clearly published rules to encourage appropriate online behaviour. Team members are encouraged to speak to their supervisor if they are upset with feedback received so they can be supported. Staff members are also able to access the TCCS Occupational Violence Management Plan which is available on the TCCS Intranet.

In regards to the number of complaints I have been advised by my Directorate that the information sought is not in an easily retrievable form, and to collect and assemble the information sought solely for the purpose of answering the question would require a considerable amount of resources.

Education—public to private school transfers

Ms Berry (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Tuesday, 24 September 2019*):

- 1) Since 2016, 3,411 children and young people across kindergarten to year 12 have transferred from an ACT public school to an independent or to a Catholic school in the territory.
- 2) Between 2011 and 2019 a total of 8,150 children and young people (2.6 percent on average) transferred from an ACT public school to an independent school or a Catholic school. During the same period, a total of 7,269 children and young people (3.3 percent on average) transferred from an independent school or a Catholic school to an ACT public school.

Table 1 provides the proportions of transfers to and from independent and Catholic schools.

Table 1 Proportion of children and young people transferring between public schools and non-government schools, 2011-2019 (%)

| Year | 2011-12 | 2012-13 | 2013-14 | 2014-15 | 2015-16 | 2016-17 | 2017-18 | 2018-19 |
|--------------------------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|------------|
| Public to Catholic | 1.2 | 1.3 | 1.2 | 1 | 0.9 | 1.2 | 1.2 | 1.2 |
| Public to Independent | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.3 | 1.5 | 1.4 | 1.6 | 1.6 |
| TOTAL public to non-government | 2.7 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.8 |
| Catholic to Public | 2.9 | 3 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.8 | 3.4 | 4.2 | 4.3 |
| Independent to Public | 3.1 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.2 |
| TOTAL non-government to public | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.7 | 3.2 | 3.7 | 3.3 | 3.9 | 3.8 |

Notes

These data:

1. are for students enrolled in kindergarten to year 12.
2. represent student transfers matched on student identifier between the February census of ACT schools in a calendar year and the February census in the following year.
3. are calculated based on the percentage of the overall student population of each sector.

Animals—dangerous dogs

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Miss C Burch on Tuesday, 24 September 2019*):

As this matter is currently subject to legal proceedings, I am unable to provide a response to your specific questions.

However, I would like to assure you that Domestic Animal Services investigates all alleged dog attack / harass incidents and takes enforcement action based upon the circumstances and the reported facts which can be proven. I can advise that every alleged incident involving this dog in Narrabundah, has been investigated by Rangers in accordance with the standards expected and required by the *Domestic Animals Act 2000*.

Education—class sizes

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Milligan on Tuesday, 24 September 2019*):

- 1) The agreement with the Education Union does not take effect until 2020. As a result there are currently no primary school classes that are above capacity.

Health—flu season

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Coe on Wednesday, 25 September 2019*):

- (1) Canberra Health Services (CHS) Winter Management Plan was endorsed by the CHS Health Services Executive Committee on 28 May 2019 for commencement on 11 July 2019.

Municipal services—dog management

Mr Steel (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Wednesday, 25 September 2019*):

I receive regular updates from my Directorate on the actions taken by the Compliance Targeting Team. Since its commencement, the Compliance Targeting Team has not issued any notices in relation to second or subsequent offences.

As of 18 October 2019, the Compliance Targeting Team has had 1,436 engagements and issued 97 Warning Notices and 27 Infringement Notices. Of these, 953 related to dog engagements, with one person issued an infringement for keeping an unregistered dog and 36 warning notices issued for:

- Not carrying equipment for removal of faeces – 2 warnings,
- Keeping a dog not de-sexed without a permit – 7 warnings,
- Person keeping an unregistered dog – 23 warnings, and
- Carer with dog not on leash in a public place – 4 warnings.

Municipal services—littering

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question and a supplementary question by Ms Lawder on Thursday, 26 September 2019*):

The option to report litter and illegal dumping has not been removed from the Fix My Street portal. Under a new design finalised in June 2019, the drop-down menus were replaced with grouped icons. The litter and illegal dumping reporting option has been included under every icon.

There was a 2% increase in the reporting of littering and illegal dumping in the three months following the portal's implementation when compared to the preceding three months.

Housing—Taylor

Ms Berry (*in reply to a supplementary question by Ms Le Couteur on Thursday, 26 September 2019*):

When a developer purchases land subject to an affordable housing requirement, these requirements are clearly listed in the contract documents, and will include:

- the required number of affordable housing dwellings;
- requirements for the finishes and inclusions of the affordable housing dwellings;
- requirements relating to the Development Application process;

- price thresholds at which the affordable housing dwellings must be sold;
- requirements and processes for selling the affordable housing dwellings to eligible buyers; and
- processes that the developer must follow if they are not able to sell the affordable housing dwellings to eligible buyers.

If the developer does not comply with these requirements, their ability to participate in future offerings of land may be restricted. Any bond or similar payment may be reduced or withheld if the requirements of the sale are not complied with.