



Debates

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Legislative Assembly for the ACT

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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.

Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2020

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 Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (10.02): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

The ACT's new motor accident injury scheme commenced on 1 February. The scheme delivers a fairer, faster and more comprehensive support system, protecting Canberrans if they are injured in a motor accident.

Under the scheme, everyone injured in a motor vehicle accident will receive up to five years treatment, care and income benefits without having to go through a complex, lengthy and costly process to prove fault. Approximately 40 per cent of injured people who could not make a CTP claim under the old scheme will be covered under the new scheme. That is around 600 more Canberrans each year.

With the introduction of the new scheme, premiums are \$60 less than they were a year ago and nearly \$200 less than they were tracking under the old scheme.

Certain sections of the MAI Act were intended to enable the government to regulate the quantum of legal costs and fees for defined benefits and common-law matters, but, if the government did not do so, a lawyer would still be able to charge a client legal costs and fees. The explanatory statement to the MAI bill stated that these provisions are intended to ensure that legal costs and fees are appropriate within the motor accident injury scheme and will not prevent an individual from obtaining a lawyer's services.

Subsequent to the Assembly agreeing to the MAI Act, the government decided not to regulate legal fees and costs on the scheme's commencement. Therefore, I did not create a regulation in relation to legal fees and costs. Instead, the government has determined to monitor legal fees and costs for the first year of the scheme's operations.

The Law Society of the ACT has expressed concerns to the government that, without a regulation in place under these sections of the MAI Act, it is not clear to the society

and its members whether a lawyer could be paid or recover legal costs or fees. We will respond to the society's concerns, and ensure that there is no uncertainty in this regard, through the bill today, which proposes very straightforward and simple amendments to just two sections of the legislation, 203 and 284, to make it absolutely clear that, from the commencement of the scheme on 1 February, if the government does not regulate the quantum of legal costs and fees under these sections, a lawyer is still able to charge a client legal costs and fees.

It is clear that it was not the government's intention—or, I believe, the Assembly's intention—to have a circumstance where legal practitioners were prevented from charging fees in relation to motor accident injury claims. Our initial intention in relation to injured people being able to access legal services was clear in the explanatory statement that accompanied the bill and in correspondence with the legal profession.

The government has decided to closely monitor legal costs and fees on commencement rather than regulate on commencement what legal practitioners can charge for matters under the scheme. To assist with that monitoring, we will require legal practitioners to provide information on legal costs and fees for specific MAI matters to the Motor Accident Injuries Commission. We are currently consulting with the legal profession on a draft regulation to facilitate provision of this information.

The MAI reforms are important. Households have already seen falls in premiums. It is a fair and equitable system that was designed by Canberrans for Canberrans. I commend this bill to the Assembly to remove any doubt that lawyers are able to charge fees under the scheme.

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

Rates Amendment Bill 2020

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 Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (10.06): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

This bill amends the Rates Act 2004 to extend the period for the calculation of average unimproved values for parcels of ACT land to up to five years. In doing so, the impact on rates charges for individual properties will be smoothed, particularly where there are significant changes in unimproved values. This continues the government's process of making our tax system simpler and fairer.

This will benefit property owners across many suburbs as those suburbs undergo periods of growth in demand due to factors including population growth, demographic shifts, and infrastructure corridor development. The government recognises that there are cost of living pressures for families across Canberra and residents need certainty in planning their household budgets. These amendments will help to avoid sharp and unpredictable rate rises by smoothing out the impact of property value increases over five years. This change was announced in the 2019-20 budget and also responds to matters raised in the Legislative Assembly's recent inquiry into commercial rates.

The change to AUV will apply consistently across land types: commercial, residential and rural. The bill provides for the extension of the AUV period to be phased in, to support the administration of rates. For the purpose of the coming rating year, 2020-21, a four-year AUV period will be used before moving to the full five-year period as the basis for the calculation of rates in 2021-22. There is also a related technical amendment to the formula for calculating the growth index for airport land to ensure that it operates on a consistent basis over the phase-in period.

The amendments do not affect the overall revenue collected from general rates. As AUV is used for the calculation of other taxes, the government, through the budget process, will make necessary adjustments to ensure there are no unintended impacts. The bill also amends the meaning of AUV to make it clear that chargeable variations to nominal rent leases will be treated as new leases for the purpose of determining AUVs. This is consistent with current practice for rating purposes.

Through this bill, the government continues its approach to making our tax system fairer for individual taxpayers, more robust, transparent and fit for the future. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

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

Title read by Clerk.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—Minister for Advanced Technology and Space Industries, Minister for the Environment and Heritage, Minister for Planning and Land Management and Minister for Police and Emergency Services) (10.10): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

Today I present the Firearms Legislation Amendment Bill 2020. This bill makes amendments to the laws regarding firearms and weapons in the ACT to support the legitimate activities of biathletes, pentathletes and commonwealth aviation security inspectors. The bill has been developed to meet the important objectives of aviation safety and support for members of our sporting community.

Our firearms legislation is robust in ensuring public safety and, at the same time, reflecting the interests of legitimate firearms users. As I have said before, the government acknowledges that the overwhelming majority of firearms users are law-abiding citizens. There are many valid uses of firearms in the community, and this bill is designed to support these legitimate activities.

The amendments in this bill are consistent with maintaining community safety from firearms crime, while allowing efficient access to firearms for legitimate users under specified circumstances. Firearms legislation generally requires a person to be authorised by a licence or permit to possess and use firearms, including an imitation firearm. However, there is provision for people to be exempted from these requirements in specified circumstances.

This bill introduces two exemptions to these requirements for specific purposes. The first circumstance in which the bill introduces an exemption is in order to contribute to strengthening public safety at Canberra Airport. Aviation security inspectors are employed by the Commonwealth Department of Home Affairs. Amongst other duties, these inspectors conduct systems tests at passenger, staff and goods screening points in airports around Australia. By possessing and carrying imitation firearms and other items such as fake or blunted knives they contest the system.

These tests are necessary to evaluate the effectiveness of current transport security processes and help to ensure that the industry is compliant with aviation security requirements to detect and deny the entry of prohibited items or weapons into a secure zone. Inspectors have been required to comply with each state and territory's firearms and prohibited weapons legislation, including the requirement to obtain permits for each imitation firearm and prohibited weapon used in testing security arrangements.

The bill provides that commonwealth aviation security inspectors will be exempt from the requirements to have a permit to possess and use imitation firearms in the course of their duties. The bill similarly provides that aviation security inspectors who carry prohibited weapons such as blunted knives and fake improvised explosive devices in the course of their duties do not commit an offence under the Prohibited Weapons Act. These exemptions are consistent with others already in ACT legislation for the possession and use of firearms by law enforcement and military personnel in the course of their duties.

These changes were sought by the commonwealth Minister for Home Affairs and will streamline the arrangements for aviation security inspectors. I strongly support any reasonable measures aimed at strengthening aviation security for the safety of the general community and those working in the industry.

The second circumstance in which the amendments made by the bill apply is in relation to the possession and use of laser target shooting devices in the sports of biathlon and modern pentathlon. Australia competes in both biathlon and modern pentathlon at the Olympic Games. Modern pentathlon made its Olympic debut in 1912 and it consists of five events: shooting, fencing, swimming, horseriding and running. The sport requires well-rounded athletes.

Initially, modern pentathletes used the pistol of their choice. Famously, US World War II General George S Patton competed with his .38-calibre pistol. In 1994 air pistols became the firearm of choice, firing .177-calibre pellets, signalling a more modern approach to the firearms. The changes to firearms technology in modern pentathlon culminated at the 2012 Summer Olympic Games in London, where the laser pistol made its debut. This change made modern pentathlon safer to watch for spectators and allowed them to get closer to the action.

Australian modern pentathletes have a history to be proud of at the Olympic Games, dating back to Australia's first appearance in 1952. Australia has had 24 competitors since then, and in 2016 Chloe Esposito became the first Australian to win gold in the event's history at the 2016 Rio Games. Today the firearms used are known as laser target shooting devices or laser pistols or laser rifles. These fall within the definition of an imitation firearm under the Firearms Act. Accordingly, a permit would be required to authorise their possession and use.

The ACT has been approached by representatives of these sports to streamline arrangements so as to avoid the requirement for permits for athletes, coaches, sporting organisations and officials for the purposes of training, competing or otherwise participating in the sports of biathlon and modern pentathlon in the ACT. This bill makes an amendment to exempt participants, athletes, coaches and officials of biathlon or modern pentathlon from the requirement to obtain a permit for their laser target shooting devices used for the purpose of participation in their sport. Similar arrangements are already in place in New South Wales and Victoria.

The bill amends the Firearms Regulation 2008 to prescribe the Australian Biathlon Association, Modern Pentathlon Australia and Modern Pentathlon Association of New South Wales Inc as sporting organisations in relation to the above exemptions. These amendments will support and encourage local and interstate participation in these sports in the ACT.

Firearms should be an all-inclusive process of reform, one that encourages a shared understanding of and respect for the interests of licensed firearms owners, while still maintaining the public's confidence in strictly controlling access to firearms. It is for this reason that I asked the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to undertake consultation during the development of the bill. As well as the stakeholders who advanced their ideas for the bill, the ACT government has consulted on the amendments with the Firearms Advisory Committee and justice stakeholders including ACT Policing. I thank all stakeholders who contributed to the development of the bill.

The amendments in this bill reinforce the underlying principle that supports Australia's regulation of firearms: firearm possession and use is a privilege that is conditional on the overriding need to ensure public safety. The government is committed to building safer communities in Canberra, and amendments in this bill contribute to this commitment. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Coroners Amendment Bill 2020

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) (10.18):
I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am very pleased to introduce the Coroners Amendment Bill 2020. This bill amends the Coroners Act 1997 so that it will better engage with the needs of families who find themselves within a coronial process. The amendments also make it easier for the Coroners Court to implement restorative approaches in its daily life. The death of a loved one can be a painful and a traumatic time, and this is especially so when the death occurs in circumstances when a coronial inquest or hearing is required. Clearly, it is essential that we discover, where we can, the cause of the death and address any matters which can prevent others occurring.

Importantly, people involved in coronial matters are often in grief, and we know that the way that we engage with people in grief can be as important as what is said and discussed. The key provisions of this bill come from a place of compassionate concern to embrace restorative practice. Fundamentally, they help to ensure that people affected by and interested in a coronial process are put in the centre of those processes.

The amendments also recognise that family members should be brought into the coronial process at the earliest opportunity and given better information which is both accessible and understandable. The objects clause will be amended to recognise expressly that, where appropriate, the immediate family of the deceased person should be given the earliest opportunity to participate in and be kept informed of the particulars and progress of the inquest into their loved one's death. Similarly, it amends the act to recognise explicitly the significant impact of a death on the person's family and friends. These changes put people, rather than dispassionate process, at the centre of the system.

In doing so these reforms also support many practices that the Coroner's Court is already using. Significantly, the bill creates an error correction power for the Coroner's Court to allow a coroner to amend findings to correct an error, mistake or omission. This change will have a profound impact on families by avoiding the costly and potentially retraumatising experiences of having to go through Supreme Court proceedings to ensure that the public reports about their loved one are accurate.

Another significant change which embraces restorative practices is to ensure that cultural considerations should be taken into account and respected throughout the coronial process. Canberra is a multicultural community, and now justice process must have the capacity to respond to that context.

The bill also includes amendments to create the definition of death in care, which will apply to deaths where a person is subject to an order under the Mental Health Act 2015 or section 309 of the Crimes Act 1900, rather than being categorised as a death in custody, which is perceived as having negative connotations. This is in itself an important restorative measure. The definition of “member of immediate family” has been expanded to include step-parents, in recognition of their vital role in the lives of the children they help to care for and raise.

The bill also allows the Attorney-General to make guidelines for government responses to comments or recommendations made by the coroner about matters of public safety, and these guidelines can specify the information to be included in those responses and requirements for how those responses are prepared. This amendment directly responds to concerns raised by families about a need for increased clarity about what happens with coroner’s recommendations, why in some cases they are not accepted, as well as the processes which will be or are in place to manage the issues raised in the coronial findings. Families want to have a better understanding of what has been done to prevent deaths like those of their loved ones from happening again.

The guidelines will also be an avenue to ensure that restorative practices are considered in the preparation of responses to coronial recommendations. We will continue to work closely with stakeholders and other parts of government to prepare these guidelines in a manner which increases clarity and integration of government responses. The momentum for change has come as a result of long-term engagement with family members with direct experience of the coronial system, the courts and experts.

In bringing forward the amendments in this bill, I have been incredibly humbled to work with family members with direct experience of coronial process. Their courage and their generosity in sharing their experiences demonstrate deep social concern to help improve this system for others, and I thank them for that. Obviously, not all reforms are legislative. Some of the important restorative measures that the community and stakeholders have raised during consultation on this bill are being implemented by other means, such as the recruitment of a family liaison officer to support families as they navigate the coronial system.

The amendments in this bill will continue to support required changes at the procedural level, and I thank the acting chief magistrate for the work of the court in this area. The way that justice is administered is important. This is an important step in Canberra’s journey to becoming a restorative city. I am honoured to be able to introduce this bill, which continues our journey towards embedding restorative practice throughout our justice administration. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020

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) (10.25):
I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I am pleased to introduce the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2020. This bill follows the public exposure draft, which was then entitled the Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2019 (No 2), that was tabled on 28 November 2019.

The government tabled the exposure draft in the Assembly so that we could engage relevant stakeholders and members of the public about reforms to two complex areas of residential tenancy law, namely occupancy law and the share housing framework. This process of public consultation, which ended on 24 January this year, provided a basis for a more detailed, thorough discussion about the reforms and has resulted in a bill that we are confident will make significant gains in improving the law for tenants, occupants, grantors and landlords.

Although the focus of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 is the relationship between landlord and tenant under a residential tenancy agreement, part 5A of the act turns to the relationship between grantor and occupant under an occupancy agreement.

Occupancy agreements are a form of statutory licence or agreement for accommodation. They have fewer protections, processes and requirements than residential tenancy agreements. This makes occupancy agreements highly adaptable for a diverse range of purposes where the more rigid provisions of a residential tenancy agreement may be inappropriate. Occupancy agreements are regularly used in the crisis accommodation sector, in which some of the most vulnerable Canberrans are supported through difficult periods and provided with the opportunity to move into more long-term housing options. The student accommodation sector is also a significant user of occupancy agreements in the ACT. Other users of occupancy agreements include boarders and lodgers, people in supported housing programs and people residing in residential parks or caravan parks.

When the territory first began modernising its residential tenancy legislation back in the 1990s, the ACT community law reform committee observed that some principles should apply equally, regardless of the legal type of residential agreement. For example, both tenants and occupants need accommodation without arbitrary interference with their privacy.

In 2004 the territory took its first major step towards providing basic protection for occupants by introducing part 5A of the Residential Tenancies Act 1997. Although the flexibility of an occupancy agreement has meant that they are available for a variety of purposes, these past 15 years have shown that this flexibility also meant a lack of certainty about how and when an occupancy agreement should be used. Over time, it has become clear that part 5A requires adjustment for it to appropriately meet the growing demand and needs across a range of accommodation sectors.

This bill demonstrates the government's commitment to clarify the nature of occupancies, improve the processes that relate to owner-renters within caravan and manufactured home parks, and provide clearer and fairer share housing processes in the ACT. The bill also demonstrates our commitment to meaningful, informed discussion on legislative reforms with a wide range of stakeholders. I thank those stakeholders who have contributed their invaluable experience and expertise through the public consultation period to ensure that we have developed a bill that works well for our community.

Turning to some of the specifics of the proposed reforms, firstly, the bill proposes a new definition of an occupancy agreement to clarify the difference between an occupancy agreement and a residential tenancy agreement. This will allow users of the Residential Tenancies Act to identify properly which rights and obligations apply to them without having to undertake complex legal analysis to determine if an agreement is an occupancy or a tenancy agreement. The intention is that occupants and grantors will be able to make more informed decisions about their residential agreements as well as expect clearer legal advice and decisions from legal professionals and decision-making bodies.

During the consultation period, this approach was fine-tuned in response to feedback from the sector, creating a brighter line between residential tenancies and occupancy agreements. We have also relied on the lived experience of those in the sector to reduce, as much as possible, the risks associated with unintended consequences. We have also created limited exemptions for education providers in key areas to ensure that student discipline decisions and important welfare actions continue to be supported by tenancy law.

Secondly, the bill proposes to mandate that certain occupancy principles will form part of an occupancy agreement. While part 5A of the Residential Tenancies Act currently contains occupancy principles which a person must have regard to, mandating compliance with these principles will assist to ensure that there are essential basic minimum protections provided to all occupants. To strengthen minimum protections for occupants, the bill also proposes to introduce a number of new occupancy principles. The occupancy principles are nevertheless drafted to be adaptable to a range of occupancy accommodation contexts. Grantors will be provided with clear guidance regarding their obligations towards occupants, and occupants will be able to seek the enforcement of a more robust set of rights.

One of the new occupancy principles included within these minimum protections is a new requirement that grantors must provide occupants with information about dispute

resolution processes. This must include information about how an occupant can access internal dispute processes, a community dispute resolution provider, the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and the ACT Human Rights Commission. This step, which increases the information available to an occupant when seeking to enforce their rights, is a simple example of how Canberra is progressing towards being a restorative city.

Building on this new principle, the bill proposes to provide occupants with access to an enforceable conciliation process facilitated by the ACT Human Rights Commission. Occupants are currently able to make a complaint to the ACT Human Rights Commission but only where their complaint matches a ground listed in section 41 of the Human Rights Commission Act 2005. It is proposed to streamline this process by allowing all occupants to access the non-adversarial dispute resolution framework of the ACT Human Rights Commission. This provides greater clarity and expands the available options to seek the enforcement of their rights and to resolve disputes.

The sector has welcomed the new requirement for grantors to lodge security deposits with the office for rental bonds. This was a proposal that was championed by both occupants and grantors: occupants wanted greater assurance that their security deposits would be returned to them, and grantors wanted an independent third party to hold security deposits to mitigate risks associated with disputes. We have created an exemption for education providers, as the interest generated on the security deposits funds student services. This again demonstrates that these reforms are not a blunt disruption imposed from above but are instead tailored to Canberra's unique accommodation landscape, based on collaboration with the sector.

Thirdly, the bill proposes amendments to the complex legal framework applicable to people who reside in caravan and manufactured home parks. The bill proposes a new framework that provides greater clarity and certainty when a resident seeks to sell the dwelling they own while it is erected within a residential park. It also clarifies the process involved in the disposal of moveable dwellings and their contents when they have been abandoned, amending the Uncollected Goods Act 1996 to provide park operators with a more efficient means to manage the removal of abandoned dwellings without exposing occupants to undue risks. Additionally, the bill proposes amendments that will clarify the process to be followed when a person who owns their dwelling on a site in a residential park wants to assign their interests in an occupancy agreement to another person.

Finally, turning to the amendments relating to share housing, the bill contains a new framework to modernise the operation of share housing in the ACT. Canberrans deserve residential tenancy law that reflects the modern realities of living. Share housing is an extremely common form of tenancy in the ACT, including being utilised by students and young professionals. The law governing share housing is currently a complex mix of property and contract law. The bill proposes a model that is simpler, modern and better reflects community behaviours and expectations.

Most other Australian jurisdictions have already developed modern legislative frameworks to facilitate share housing. These reforms will ensure that a tenancy

agreement survives a change to the parties, removing the need for new condition reports, clarifying who is responsible for damage at the end of the tenancy and improving processes for managing bonds associated with share houses while also maintaining the integrity of our social housing lists.

Madam Speaker, these reforms will transform the act to recognise the variety of ways Canberrans actually live in our community today. This is the final step in modernising and simplifying our tenancy laws, a journey which began in 2016. They deliver a fairer and more robust framework, respecting the interests and rights of landlords and tenants. They demonstrate the government's recognition of matters of significant social concern and their commitment to progressive reforms. These reforms demonstrate the government's commitment to respond to those most in need of protection and responsibly use the role of the law precisely for their benefit.

Again, I thank those who engaged with the public exposure draft and the public consultation. The consultation process has resulted in a bill that is more precise, more clear and adapted to the needs of everyday Canberrans. This would not have been possible without the constructive and positive engagement of so many people. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

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

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee Report 10

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (10.37): I present the following report:

Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Report 10—*Inquiry into Nature in Our City*, dated 10 February 2020, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings.

I move:

That the report be noted.

This is the 10th report of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services. On 6 December 2017 the committee commenced a self-referred inquiry into matters affecting the value of the natural environment to an urbanising Canberra: nature in our city. You will not be surprised that there was a broad cross-section of interest from right across the community in an inquiry of this nature. The committee received 71 submissions and heard from 69 witnesses during seven public hearings held between March and May 2019.

Evidence was provided by a wide range of individuals, community organisations, experts and government officials. These contributors provided evidence on a wide array of topics and themes but were unified in highlighting the importance of nature for the city and the need to protect and enhance the city's natural assets. On behalf of the committee, I would like to thank all the witnesses and submitters for their

contributions to this inquiry. The committee would also like to thank the staff of the healthy country unit within EPSDD, and representatives of Riverview Projects, for their assistance with the inquiry.

Particular themes highlighted in the evidence we received include how Canberra's landscape is integral to the city's identity and amenity; how green and blue infrastructure across the city can be improved, enhanced and increased; how planning processes can be improved to ensure better outcomes for the city's green spaces and nature reserves; how green spaces in the city can be improved to promote greater biodiversity; how community groups can be supported to better contribute to the management of the city's natural environment; how government can partner with research institutions to ensure that the government's environment policy is evidence based and world class; how the city's green spaces can be better protected from weeds and invasive plant species; and how nature in our city is vital to the city's efforts in adapting to the impacts of climate change.

This inquiry has highlighted what many of us know instinctively: that Canberrans deeply value the city's bush capital status and wish to see the city's relationship with its landscape protected and enhanced into the future. So, naturally, the report found that Canberrans greatly value green and blue public spaces within the city and the nature reserves in it and surrounding it, and that nature has significant health, social and economic benefits for the city's residents.

The report makes 58 recommendations, including, essentially, that the ACT government recommit to the concept of a city in a landscape; that the government develop a city-in-a-landscape strategy and that the government implement a wide range of policies that could stand alone but preferably would form part of, and support, the strategy. The committee believes that these strategic and practical recommendations provide the ACT government with a clear direction on how better to enhance, prioritise, protect and maintain nature in our city to the benefit of all.

We acknowledge that several submissions to the inquiry contained detailed recommendations and suggestions on niche topics and locally specific issues. While we recognise the significance of these topics and issues, the nature of this report, being largely focused on high-level strategic themes, has meant that these recommendations and suggestions have not necessarily been included.

I would like to thank the many members who were part of the committee during the inquiry, including Mr Parton and Ms Lawder, and especially Ms Orr, who was the instigator of the inquiry and the chair for the majority of the time that the inquiry was conducted, including throughout all of the hearings. Thank you to my fellow members Miss Burch and Mr Milligan, who have been a pleasure to work with, including in the crafting of this report.

Mrs Jones interjecting—

MS CHEYNE: I am serious, Mrs Jones! I send extra special thanks to the committee secretariat, including all the secretaries who have worked on this inquiry, Brianna and

Annemieke and Danton, and the support we have received, which has been impeccable, including the assistance with the drafting of this report. Thank you, Frieda, Alice, Lydia and Michelle. All committees hope that the recommendations they make are taken seriously by government and implemented. This committee, Madam Speaker, is no different. On a personal level I genuinely believe this provides a clear, comprehensive, strategic course for government, which prioritises nature in our city. I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Crossbench executive members' business

Ordered that crossbench executive members' business be called on.

Air quality

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (10.43): I move:

That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) over the 2019-20 summer, severe bushfires caused ongoing smoke pollution in the ACT, with air quality readings for PM2.5 reaching extreme hazardous levels on several occasions, and extended periods of poor air quality;
- (b) smoke pollution was stressful and disruptive for ACT residents, caused short-term health issues for many people, and may contribute to long-term health issues;
- (c) smoke pollution caused significant disruption to activities in the ACT including the cancellation of events and the closure of businesses, facilities and workplaces;
- (d) climate change is leading to hotter, drier weather and extended fire seasons, creating a risk of further extended smoke events in the future; and
- (e) the summer's events have exposed a range of issues that the ACT Government should consider regarding air quality, including:
 - (i) extent and quality of indoor and outdoor air quality monitoring and data;
 - (ii) availability and distribution of face masks;
 - (iii) ability of buildings to protect people from smoke;
 - (iv) measures to protect vulnerable people from smoke;
 - (v) air quality standards for workers, especially outdoor workers;
 - (vi) air quality standards for events, including sporting events;
 - (vii) mental health and wellbeing support during extended smoke events;
 - (viii) availability of public places for people to shelter from smoke; and
 - (ix) availability of public information and research on air quality issues;

- (2) acknowledges the work of the Chief Health Officer and the staff of Health Protection Services, including:
 - (a) issuing several public health alerts;
 - (b) establishing a “heavy smoke and hot conditions” website to provide a single source of truth for the community;
 - (c) developing a new website to provide the community with hourly P2.5 quality updates; and
 - (d) facilitating the distribution of nearly 400 000 P2 masks to the most vulnerable in our community; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) create a whole-of-government strategy on smoke and air quality in the ACT, to be completed and released before the beginning of the 2020-21 fire season; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly on the progress of the strategy in August 2020.

For Canberrans, this summer has been completely dominated by the issues of fire, heat and smoke. These upsetting climatic conditions, symptoms of a world that is suffering the worsening effects of climate change, have had a dramatic and disruptive effect on our lives. I do not think there is a single person in Canberra who is not negatively affected in some fashion. Australia also suffered a record-breaking summer in 2018-19, and many people called it Australia’s angry summer. This year’s summer has been apocalyptic by comparison.

For months we have all watched the fires, willing them to go out, not knowing if they might reach our homes in Canberra, and hoping that people, properties, animals and the precious natural environment would be spared. We have sweltered and sheltered from record-breaking heat, enduring a new ACT maximum temperature of 44 degrees and a new high for the overnight minimum of almost 27 degrees. We have also suffered dust storms which carried the parched soil from drought ravaged areas of Australia into our city, and a severe hailstorm that caused extensive damage across Canberra.

There is a lot to say about all these issues, but in this motion I want to focus on a specific challenge that we faced here in Canberra, and that is the extended presence of bushfire smoke. Smoke from the terrible South Coast bushfires blew into Canberra and lingered in our air, seriously degrading our usually excellent air quality for months. This summer was not just an angry summer; it was fuming.

Smoke has dominated Canberrans’ thoughts for months. Smoke was the topic of everyone’s conversations. If you saw a stranger in the street you could immediately share a bond by talking about the smoke. Every day people were troubled by the smoke, checking air monitoring data, trying to acquire masks, changing their plans to avoid smoke and basically having smoke dictate their lives.

At its worst, going outside in Canberra was reminiscent of a post-apocalyptic wasteland seen in dystopian movies: a hazy orange sky, a red sun you could almost safely stare at and a few solitary people wearing breathing masks. Every day people

were asking questions like, “What is the smoke level today? Is it safe to go outside? Is it safe to work? Is my event cancelled? How can I stop the smoke entering my home? What is the situation for people who don’t have a home? What is the smoke doing to my health? What is the smoke doing to my child’s health or my elderly parents’ health, or my asthmatic friend’s health, or perhaps even my pet’s health?”

As my motion says, the unprecedented air quality problems have exposed a variety of issues that the government needs to consider. Sadly, with climate change a reality, we cannot assume that these smoke waves will be a one-off.

As part of adapting to climate change and to ensure that Canberrans are protected in the future, we need a comprehensive plan in place to make sure that we respond as effectively as possible to smoke and air quality problems. I note that an ACT air quality strategy will have wider benefits for the other air quality issues in the ACT, the ones that do not relate to bushfire smoke. Those issues include smoke from wood heaters, particularly in Tuggeranong, and ad hoc events such as the Mitchell chemical fire that occurred in 2011.

The summer of smoke has already provided many lessons to the ACT government. The government was responsive to the unexpected smoke. As an example, ACT Health has already taken many steps to improve data collection and the provision of information to the public. There is still more to do though. For example, the environment commissioner’s *State of the environment* report, which I am tabling this afternoon, encourages the government to increase the number of air quality monitoring stations and to improve knowledge about the impacts of air pollution.

The most obvious issue resulting from poor air quality is its impact on health. This summer, bushfire smoke regularly meant the readings PM10 and PM2.5 pollution in Canberra were at poor, hazardous or even extremely hazardous levels. On several occasions, as is very well known and is seared into our minds, we had the worst air quality in the entire world. No-one ever imagined that this could happen in Canberra.

Members will probably know this already, as everyone in Canberra has now researched the issue, but PM stands for particulate matter. PM2.5 refers to particulate matter that is less than two micrometres in size. That means it is fine particulate matter. PM10 is larger. PM2.5 pollution is particularly problematic as the fine particles are inhaled deep into the lungs. They can stay there and also enter the bloodstream. They have short-term health impacts, which are well understood, and people in Canberra experienced them—respiratory issues, dizziness, feeling unwell—and they are particularly bad for people with asthma or lung or cardiac issues. They also increase the risk of cardiac arrest.

Mortality is increased on days on which there is a significant air pollution reading. In Victoria on the smokiest days there was a doubling in ambulance call-outs and there was a report, tragically, of an elderly woman who died shortly after arriving at Canberra airport as a result of breathing issues that were said to be connected to the air quality.

Many Canberrans have had smoke related-health problems. People attended emergency departments, saw their GP or perhaps just suffered at home. We all probably know someone affected, and perhaps even some in this chamber were affected by the circumstances. Pollutant PM2.5 also has long-term health impacts, and most likely medium-term impacts, but these are less certain. As Brian Oliver, a professor in respiratory biology, said in the *Canberra Times*:

People being exposed to bushfire smoke for more than one or two days is a whole new phenomena.

And more research is needed.

I want to take a moment to acknowledge again the firefighters who have been on the frontline for months, breathing in this smoke. In an interview in the *Guardian*, one firefighter said:

... you wake up feeling like your chest has been stomped on, coughing up crap all the time. I've got guys who aren't smokers who are coughing like they've been smoking 20 years.

As my motion details, while the impacts of smoke on Canberrans' physical health is a primary consideration, it has led to a whole range of further issues that we need to consider as we prepare for the future. For example, how do we ensure that people can avoid being exposed to smoke? We need to consider the way our buildings are constructed. Are they able to keep out smoke?

In Canberra this summer many people discovered that, in fact, they cannot. Residential and commercial buildings alike could not keep out the dense smoke, essentially meaning there was no place to shelter. How do building standards need to be improved for the future? Do we need purifiers, better filtration, tighter buildings with fewer gaps, or other measures?

These issues are even more serious, of course, where there are vulnerable people, places like schools, hospitals and aged-care facilities. The National Construction Code process is notoriously slow. We might not be able to wait for that process. We might need an ACT-specific initiative to ensure that ACT buildings meet the standards we need.

Monitoring of inside conditions also remains a weak point. Many people sought information about the air quality inside buildings but could not get it with any certainty. An ACT air quality strategy should also investigate how government provides, or can otherwise facilitate the community getting access to, places for respite from poor air quality.

Perhaps these places are public government buildings, but they need to be ones that remain open and can repel smoke. Perhaps they are privately owned buildings, and arrangements are agreed with the owners and operators. Again, these are issues that need specific consideration from the point of view of our most vulnerable people, such as those who are homeless or elderly.

Another issue that arose over the summer was the availability of breathing masks for people to protect themselves. Again, there are numerous questions to work through, including their effectiveness, the provision of public information about them, how they can quickly be distributed to people who are vulnerable and how we can help make them accessible to the general public. I again acknowledge the role that ACT Health played, in partnership with some experts around town and the commonwealth, in trying to make this information available. I think we have built a really good foundation, but we need to be prepared in the case of future events.

There are, of course, many people who work outdoors in Canberra, and the air quality issues brought into sharp focus their right to be protected from working in unhealthy conditions. The same applies to people working indoors if the smoke affects their workplace, and employers will need to develop appropriate rules and guidelines for the protection of workers. We even had a brief experience with this in the Assembly in early January, when the smoke infiltrated this building.

It is not just people who are affected. Animals at Canberra zoo were reported to be impacted by the smoke. There were even social media reports of people's pets being impacted, such as the sad story of someone's pet budgies that died after being outside when the smoke rolled in. We do not even know how wildlife across the ACT may have been affected.

Another issue to consider, as we discussed yesterday in the context of Mr Wall's motion, is that business and tourism in Canberra have been affected. An economic downturn like this results in economic stress for individuals who are running businesses, or workers, especially casual workers, who need to earn an income. Ultimately this compounds the anxiety and the challenges people are already facing.

One obvious impact of the smoke was that it caused a flurry of cancelled events this summer, from cultural events and festivals to sports events, both minor club-based events and professional sports events like the Big Bash cricket and the Australian Baseball League. In this new environment, sporting codes and clubs will need to develop air quality protocols, just like they have had to for extreme heat.

We had Canberra's professional teams, such as the Brumbies and the Raiders, having to relocate out of Canberra to train. This year we did not even have Canberra's public New Year's Eve celebration and fireworks. These cancellations and postponements can be disruptive as well as costly. Even the mail was not being delivered because of Australia Post's desire to look after its staff.

It is not just major events. I want to acknowledge that the air quality has caused the cancellation of probably thousands of individual events and activities for everyday citizens. Get-togethers with friends and families were cancelled, holidays were cancelled, exercise sessions were cancelled, people lost all kinds of opportunities to come together as a community and to do the things they usually do in summer to celebrate and relax.

I am not saying these cancellations are the end of the world and, in some ways, some people might even say they are a bit of a First World problem, but they can and do have an impact on people, especially when the disruptions are extended. We should not overlook the effect this can have on people and the feelings that it brings about, particularly some of the mental health issues.

On this issue, I want to conclude by acknowledging the very real impact that the smoke has had on people's mental wellbeing. People can suffer a psychological response, both to the immediate and local disruption of the smoke but also due to a broader realisation that the entire planet is, in fact, suffering. People can feel anxiety, stress, depression and grief. This concern over the climate breakdown, sometimes called eco-anxiety, is increasingly common and is even a recognised area in the field of psychology.

Our response needs to include ways to help people with their mental wellbeing and consider how we offer care, support and information. It is a complex and difficult issue, of course, but as a starting point I try to remind people of the many good and inspiring climate change actions that are being pursued around the world every day. There is still reason to maintain hope that we can meet the climate challenge and foster a healthy and livable world for ourselves and future generations.

To conclude today, I want to acknowledge the significant and multi-layered impacts that smoke has had on the ACT and the many ways it has negatively affected ACT residents and visitors. I think it is essential that the government prepares for future air quality events in a coordinated fashion and has an action plan. I want to acknowledge the significant efforts that were put in place to respond to something that was both unprecedented and unexpected. Many of our agencies worked very hard to provide support immediately to the community and to generate the necessary information. As I said earlier, this provides an excellent foundation to think about, if this does happen to us again, what our action plan will be.

Just as the smoke permeated all parts of Canberra and our lives, the issues it raises permeate all parts of government: health, buildings, education, community services and more. We do not know if and when something like this will happen again, but having had it happen to us, we now need to make sure that, should it happen again, we have the understanding of what we need to do in response. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MRS DUNNE (Ginninderra) (10.58): The Canberra Liberals thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion forward today and will be supporting it. Like our annual flu seasons, the annual bushfire season can create pressures on government agencies, and that is especially the case in relation to our health system.

Consideration of a range of measures to manage the impact of future smoke events in the community is indeed warranted. It has been reported that this season, between the period of 20 December and 12 January, 176 people presented to the emergency departments of hospitals with smoke-related respiratory-type conditions. This, of course, does not cover the whole period during which Canberrans suffered through the

smoke haze. There is no guarantee that the smoke will not return. Although most of the bushfires are either out or well under control, there is still another six weeks or so of the bushfire season to go.

Thankfully, very few of the people who presented to hospital were admitted, but, as Mr Rattenbury said, there were probably many people who just suffered at home or went away if they could. As a family with members who suffer from respiratory conditions, we did take the decision collectively to send one of our family members away and to ensure that the other one who suffers from respiratory conditions and who was away did not come back until the coast was clearer.

Mr Rattenbury is correct in saying that there is a much broader impact. The psychological impacts, the mental health impacts, are considerable. Even for the relatively well-adjusted amongst us, it was oppressive. I recollect that, after having been away for a week on the North Coast of New South Wales, and driving back into Canberra, as we approached Canberra I felt my spirits fall. Normally, when you come into Canberra, you look out towards Black Mountain, you see the Black Mountain tower and you feel that you are home. But when we looked out towards Black Mountain, we could not see it. We thought that it was not a great homecoming. Many people across the territory found this to be the case.

My colleague Mr Milligan will speak about the impact that the smoke emergency had on sports. There are other impacts for people who work outside—tradies on construction sites, police and emergency services personnel, posties, truckies, delivery people, journalists, environmental workers such as rangers, our farmers, and many other people whose work and health can be affected by smoke.

There is also the impact on business and tourism, which Mr Wall touched on yesterday. The South Coast has suffered a very considerable negative economic impact. Hospitality has suffered; retail has suffered; tourism has suffered. And there will be a long, ongoing impact on the local economy of Canberra and the local economy of the region.

As Mr Wall pointed out yesterday, the ACT has not been immune from this. Hospitality and tourism in Canberra have suffered from the effect not only of the bushfires that surrounded Canberra but also from the smoke hazes that lingered like a pall over the city for so long.

As Mr Rattenbury's motion acknowledges, there are significant mental health fallouts. This is not just from the smoke or the fires; it is from the loss of business. It is also from the sheer fact that the people of Canberra have not had their usual break. One of the things that has been most commonly reported to me is that people—ordinary, everyday people, not people who have been working on the firegrounds or anything like that—are reporting being tired all the time. It is not just that we are busy parents or anything like that. I think it has been exacerbated. My unscientific diagnosis is that people look forward to their summer holidays, and the thing that they look forward to was thwarted. The anxiety of watching the fires, what was happening down at the coast and the oppressive smoke have had somewhat imperceptible impacts on people,

and have resulted in people reporting to each other that they are continually tired and they do not know why.

We also have to remember—and I know this not from my own personal experience but from being in touch with people who suffered the events of 2003—that the fires have brought back very vivid memories of that terrifying time, and those people need to be supported as well.

Mr Rattenbury's motion rightly calls for a whole-of-government approach to manage the conditions that affect life and work for Canberrans. Mr Rattenbury's motion is, however, lacking in one respect. He acknowledges the work involved in the distribution of P2 face masks. I applaud that acknowledgement and I applaud the work that was done by the Chief Health Officer to facilitate the distribution of masks where they were needed in the first instance. Sadly, he does not acknowledge that much of this supply was released by the commonwealth from the stockpiles of masks held for a pandemic emergency. I would like to put on the record the Canberra Liberals' thanks and appreciation to the federal government for making those masks available so readily and quickly for the people of Canberra.

There is no doubt that the 2019-20 bushfire season so far has been quite bad, although I think it is still a matter of statistical debate as to whether it has been unprecedented. In many aspects, in the ACT we have been relatively lucky. Although large areas of the ACT have been burnt by bushfires, and many of our rural and remote residents have had very bad experiences, thankfully, due primarily to the dedicated and positive action of our emergency services and the Rural Fire Service, the Orroral and Beard fires wielded very little damage on our urban areas and we did not suffer any fatalities in the fires here. The 2003 bushfires remain the worst incident in terms of loss of homes, infrastructure and lives, as well as our parks and forests. Nonetheless, as happened in 2003, the 2019-20 bushfire experience will teach us many lessons.

A royal commission into bushfires will be welcome and I am glad that the Chief Minister is broadly supportive of the proposal. I am also broadly supportive of the proposal, but I also think that a lot of work needs to be done in relation to the lessons learned from previous fires which have not been implemented. The recommendations from a whole swag of bushfire inquiries across the nation have not been implemented, and we should learn from that as well.

There is much to be learned from our local experience, and it is not just from the effects of smoke haze. Already issues are emerging that we have seen in news reports as recently as today, and as was touched on by Mrs Jones in her motion yesterday. There are many other issues that relate to the ACT's bushfire experience and they should be considered as we develop ways of improving our preparedness for future bushfire seasons. A whole-of-government approach is the right approach, but it should be more broad ranging than just the impact of smoke on our community, as shocking as that was.

I hope the government will take Mr Rattenbury's motion and put it into a more broad-ranging review, consulting widely. I hope that we will build on our learnings from 2003 and this year as well, and I hope that we will be ready for anything that

nature wants to throw at us in the future. The Canberra Liberals are pleased to support the motion.

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) (11.07): I am pleased to rise today in support of the motion moved by Minister Rattenbury regarding the smoke pollution that impacted the lives of all Canberrans this summer. We certainly saw across south-eastern Australia an extraordinary bushfire season. The impact on the territory has seen more than 80 per cent of our beautiful Namadgi National Park burned and the biggest ecological disaster in ACT history. It could not be clearer that the impact of climate change is leading to longer, hotter, drier summers across the country. This summer also brought new challenges to our community and our public services.

As we all know, this bushfire season led to prolonged and unprecedented periods of heavy smoke and poor air quality never witnessed before in the territory. It saw the New South Wales South Coast burn from Braidwood down the Clyde, from Currowan and Bawley Point to the Victorian border, and well beyond that in Victoria. Smoke from these fires travelled around the world. When the wind was blowing from the east, the smoke settled on Canberra in a choking smog.

Canberrans appreciate being the bush capital of Australia, with the close connection to the environment and the clear, clean air that that usually brings. Our air quality issues are usually associated with pollen and with winter smoke from wood fuel heating. The community was shocked at having to grapple with air quality that, at times, was worse than that of any other city on earth.

Between 28 November 2019 and 28 January 2020, there were 47 days where at least one of the ACT Health Directorate's air quality monitoring stations recorded an air quality index above the national standard, registering a poor rating. On 35 of these days, the reading exceeded the hazardous rating of 200. This means that on 47 days out of 61 days this summer, the air quality in Canberra meant that health advisory advice prepared by the ACT Health Directorate came into play. This is why the government's communications over this period have been so important to the community.

I would like to again recognise the extraordinary work of our health sector, in particular the Chief Health Officer, Dr Kerry Coleman, and her team at the health protection service. Dr Coleman's tireless work kept Canberrans informed and up to date. Between 1 November 2019 and 31 January 2020, the directorate issued several public health alerts. Complementing that work, the directorate's social media channels posted more than 60 updates on Facebook and Twitter. It is important to recognise that much of this work took place on weekends, on public holidays and during the ACT public service shutdown period between Christmas and New Year. Many people across the ACT public service were unable to take planned leave and worked very long hours to support our community through this very difficult period.

The unique challenges this summer saw our services respond by increasing the availability of information about air quality for the community. In normal

circumstances we refer people to the AirRater app as a very important tool for Canberrans whose health is affected by environmental factors such as smoke and pollen. The ACT health protection service does not have its own app because AirRater has been developed by a national team of leading researchers in environmental and public health and uses data from the ACT government and other government monitoring stations around the country.

AirRater has been designed for a particular purpose, for people who have asthma, allergy and hayfever, to help them monitor symptoms and understand their triggers. It was not specifically designed for the intense smoke events we experienced this summer. Nevertheless, for Canberrans wanting to access closer to real-time information than the 24-hour rolling average on the ACT Health website, AirRater continued to be a useful reference in the early part of this concerning smoke season. I want to acknowledge the work of Shalev Nessaiver in developing CanberraAir.com, using data from AirRater and presenting it in a way that I know many Canberrans found extremely helpful.

The ACT Health website itself has for some time presented the rolling 24-hour average air quality data. This accords with international standards and the way in which research has been conducted on the impact of air quality, looking at exposure over 24-hour periods. During this unprecedented event, the community asked if the government could also provide hourly reporting of air quality data. The health protection service listened and responded: on 7 January it launched a new site with easy to understand hourly PM2.5 air quality updates. I thank Minister Rattenbury for explaining what PM2.5 is all about.

This supported the information the health protection service was also providing, through a “Heavy smoke and hot conditions in the ACT” webpage, established to maintain a single source of truth for the general public. This site included a frequently asked questions page, details about the distribution of masks, air quality monitoring, and helpful advice to manage one’s mental health. These changes and the updates that were provided throughout this event are lessons that can inform a strategy and help planning for the future.

It is important to recognise that in doing this we were not alone. I visited Westmead Hospital on 19 December. On the new helipad, I was told that normally you could see the Blue Mountains from there. You could barely see five streets away, as Sydney was engulfed in smoke that day. We are all familiar with the impact of the smoke on the Australian Open preliminaries in mid-January in Melbourne. Therefore, it is important, in developing advice and continuing this work, that the ACT, while working fast, does not work alone. The role of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, made up of chief medical officers and chief health officers from around the country, will be really important.

Very few in the community knew what PM2.5 meant or what a P2/N95 mask was before this summer. I think it is safe to say that most Canberrans are now well aware of both the masks’ use and their limitations. The ACT government moved swiftly to make P2/N95 masks available for vulnerable Canberrans, such as those sleeping rough who were vulnerable to prolonged outdoor exposure to smoke. These masks

were distributed through the Early Morning Centre and the Community Services Directorate's other community partners. Housing ACT, in particular, distributed masks to its tenants and clients in the homelessness sector who were most in need.

Following the release of the P2/N95 masks from the commonwealth stockpile, which I absolutely acknowledge, on 6 January it was announced that P2/N95 masks were being delivered to pharmacies and would be available for people who were most at risk from health impacts from exposure to smoke, from 7 January. Masks were also made available through Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services for its clients.

The groups of particularly sensitive individuals who were able to access these masks if they chose included people with existing chronic lung and heart conditions, such as asthma, chronic bronchitis or emphysema and heart disease; pregnant women; and people over 65 years of age. Each eligible person was able to receive two masks at a pharmacy, recognising the limited time masks can be used at any one time and that they need to be replaced.

To manage the distribution of these masks, the ACT Health Directorate worked in partnership with the Pharmacy Guild of Australia and the Pharmaceutical Society. I would like to again take the opportunity to thank them for their contribution and partnership. I also again thank community pharmacies for the great work they did, not just in distributing masks but in informing their consumers about the potential health impacts of smoke, what best to do, and how to use P2/N95 masks—and in some cases how not to use them.

The Community Services Directorate also worked with community and grassroots organisations that helped to assist our most in need residents. There are definitely opportunities to learn from this experience and to ensure that, if and when this happens again, we are ready to again protect the health of those who are most vulnerable in our community. The ACT government also worked with commercial providers to monitor the availability of masks in retail stores.

The provision of health advice throughout this crisis has been difficult, because the short-term impacts on individuals are so variable. I have spoken with people who have asthma who have reported no more impact on them from the smoke event than anyone else: the itchy, dry eyes and the scratchy throat that Mrs Dunne has referred to and the fatigue that is associated with the impact of smoke. At the same time, people who have never experienced respiratory problems before have said that they have developed persistent coughs or have had breathing issues and difficulties.

In that context, providing consistent health advice is difficult. The health advice provided by the health protection service to the community was that it was best to avoid exposure to the smoke through staying indoors where possible and not using evaporative air conditioners, which draw air into the house from outside. They provided evidence to the community about P2/N95 masks, which filter some smoke. They are most commonly used in occupational settings where exposure to airborne particles occurs on a regular basis. However, they were very clear with the community that these masks cannot completely eliminate exposure to smoke and that they can be

difficult to fit and use appropriately; therefore, they were not recommended for use in the general community as an alternative to avoiding outdoor smoke exposure.

The challenges the smoke presented also extended to our hospitals and health staff, and all of those who needed to continue working through this event. In response, Canberra Health Services rolled out a range of measures to support and inform staff, including packs to minimise the impact of smoke and regular briefings for staff. The CEO of Canberra Health Services, Bernadette McDonald, held daily briefings for staff to update them on the state of alert and state of emergency and what CHS was doing to support staff. This meant that during the period all outpatient and community services continued as planned and patients with queries were provided with support to decide whether to attend their clinic or to reschedule.

Our health services were also there to support those who were impacted by the smoke. While there was not a significant rise in presentations, there is no doubt that the support of our health workers served to reduce anxiety and concern across the community.

During this event, on 7 January I received advice from Calvary Public Hospital that since Christmas Day around 30 patients reported at triage that smoke had influenced or dictated their presentation at their emergency department. Interestingly, they reported that a significant number of those people were stating anxiety as their primary reason for presentation, not an impact of the air quality on their physical wellbeing. I am pleased that both Minister Rattenbury and Mrs Dunne have recognised the significant impact of the smoke event on people's mental health.

Minister Rattenbury talked about the fact that this event meant that people were constantly checking the air monitoring updates, constantly checking readings from stations, constantly checking their social media, and checking in with one another. Being cooped up at home, people were on social media a lot. I think there is some work to do to think about how we support people, without being patronising, by giving them good advice about how to manage their anxiety in those situations. When you know the smoke is bad outside, when you know you are going to be cooped up inside, maybe the advice we give people is, "Turn off your social media for a couple of hours." I know the Chief Health Officer mentioned that a few times. "Don't look at the constant updates. Read a book. Play a board game. Watch a movie." There is nothing you can actually do about those readings, but there is maybe something you can do about the mental health impacts of the situation.

I think that one of the reasons the anxiety was so great was our inability to predict when the smoke was coming and going. The Deputy Chief Minister, as Acting Chief Minister, and I experienced this when we were making a decision about what to do with the New Year's Eve celebrations. New Year's Eve dawned clear and bright. It was not windy, and it was not smoky. But we knew the wind was coming and we knew the smoke was coming. We had to make a decision about when we would make a decision about New Year's Eve and when we would tell people what that decision was.

Our ability to predict the coming and going of smoke and our ability to provide people with better information about what they can expect from one day to the next are something we also need to look at, but they are something we cannot necessarily control.

We do not know what the long-term health implications of this summer's smoke events will be. Current available research to estimate the health risks associated with short-term exposure to bushfire smoke over a period of days to weeks is not really available, because what has been measured is in relation to exposure based on 24-hour average levels of PM2.5 and generally prolonged exposure to high levels of pollution. While exposure to high levels of PM2.5 for less than 24 hours may have some long-term health effects for some people, there is currently limited available research to estimate these health risks.

This research will require collaboration across our many great research institutions. I would like to acknowledge that the commonwealth has announced funding for research into the medium term. I know that researchers in health facilities across the territory will have valuable contributions to make.

However, we cannot wait for all this research to review what we experienced. We know there are tangible lessons to learn now. The ACT health protection service and our public hospitals, pharmacies, general practices, walk-in centres and community organisations all contributed to supporting our community during this period.

Across our community, lessons have been learnt and innovative solutions found. It is time that we bring that together. As Minister Rattenbury stated in the chamber yesterday, prolonged smoke across the ACT was never something that was raised by experts planning for bushfire seasons, but we have got things we can learn. I commend the motion.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (11.22): I rise today to speak to this motion, in my capacity as the shadow minister for sport and recreation. While I am grateful to Mr Rattenbury for bringing this issue forward, I want to highlight issues that I fear may be overlooked as part of the whole-of-government strategy on smoke and air quality.

The motion asks the Assembly to note how the summer events have exposed a range of issues that the government should consider regarding air quality, like standards for events, including sporting events. As highlighted by Mr Rattenbury, the impact of air quality on the Canberra community over the last few months has been something we have never really faced before. The situation was intense in terms of the readings and impact, and also very distressing in terms of the duration. The summer was confronting on so many fronts, as Canberrans did not really have a baseline or an experience like this to use as a point of reference. People just had to do their best. As we have heard again and again this week, the Canberra community spirit shone through during these challenging times.

So here we have an opportunity to learn from this event and apply these lessons for the future. That is why I want to speak today: because, regrettably, several sporting events were cancelled and significantly impacted.

The Apis Canberra International was one of the first events that were forced to relocate, moving from the Canberra Tennis Centre in Lyneham to Bendigo to protect athletes and spectators. The Canberra International is an ATP Challenger Tour and ITF women's world tour event. It provides qualification slots for the Australian Open and is the major event in the ACT tennis calendar. Full refunds were issued for people who had bought tickets. The subsequent event in Bendigo was a huge success, raising over \$100,000 for the Red Cross as part of the aces for bushfire relief campaign. It was disappointing that Canberra missed this significant opportunity.

Triathlon ACT also had to cancel their big event, the Capital Trilogy Triathlon, over the weekend of 18 and 19 January. Following this cancellation, I was advised by the executive director of Triathlon ACT that, in consultation with Triathlon Australia, they had decided to cancel the entire summer season, as there were just too many unknowns. However, it is great to hear this week that the ACT junior triathlon event originally scheduled for 8 February will go ahead on 29 March at the AIS.

These are only a couple of examples. We also have had the cancellation of key Canberra Cavalry matches and several Cricket ACT events. Softball, the W-League and the Y-League also postponed matches. Training sessions, as already indicated, have been relocated for the Raiders, the Brumbies and the Canberra Capitals to different locations due to the impact of smoke.

Perhaps the only event to push through these conditions was Summernats. But again there were impacts. Spectator numbers—and experience—was one aspect and, again, there was pressure from the Chief Minister to cancel some of the main activities of this event, as this government continues to have a war on fun in the ACT.

In all seriousness, it was a tough summer for sports with the air quality, heat and hail. The financial impact of cancelling and moving these activities was very real, not just for sport but also for the ACT economy as a whole. However, it is critical that this motion also include the impact air quality issues have had on local and grassroots sport.

A perfect example of this is our local cricket competition, the Canberra City and Suburban Cricket Association, which plays cricket matches all across the ACT. They faced a lot of uncertainty and difference of opinion throughout January. Some matches were played, some were cancelled and some were started and stopped. It was very difficult to get clear advice and consensus. So too with our local tennis and soccer clubs, Little Athletics and so many more. Our local clubs were often forced to cancel events.

While ACT associations and national bodies are developing air quality guidelines for their representative sports, I think it is important that a whole-of-government strategy also consider local activities, not just larger scale events. This is especially important,

given that so many local clubs play their sport on ACT government owned and managed assets.

That brings me to the last point I wish to raise, relating to local sport and recreation infrastructure. Outdoor events were not the only ones impacted by air quality; indoor venues were also affected, with many needing to review conditions on an hourly basis to confirm if they could remain open.

It being 45 minutes after the commencement of crossbench executive members' business, the debate was interrupted in accordance with standing order 77. Ordered that the time allotted to crossbench executive members' business be extended by 30 minutes.

MR MILLIGAN: Local pools were a place of respite for many Canberrans, to stay cool or just to give the kids on school holidays a chance to get out and be active. So too were indoor courts and gyms, many of which would start the day open but would then be forced to close.

A report released in September last year by the ACT Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment raised several issues for consideration when it comes to sport in Canberra. Focused mainly on heat, there was some great advice given about the construction of future indoor facilities. Here again we need to think about how we build and plan for these community assets in the future, as well as how they are managed during extreme weather events or emergency situations such as what occurred this summer.

So I ask Mr Rattenbury to ensure that the focus is not just on sporting events. We need to include local grassroots activities that so many of our community enjoy doing over the summer months. When thinking about this, we need to factor in both indoor and outdoor sports so that local infrastructure is given adequate consideration. Where guidelines or information are provided as part of this strategy, they must cover the impact on local facilities.

There are national and ACT-wide associations that are very knowledgeable and connected to their members. These bodies often need some support and guidance and then they can crack on with what they do best: offering fantastic opportunities for the community to participate and to reap the benefits of being fit and healthy. I sincerely hope that these bodies are properly consulted as part of this process to get a local and grassroots perspective.

I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion forward so that we can discuss the ways government should respond and support the community during weather events such as this. I look forward to the update in June to ensure that local sport and recreation is included in a meaningful and proactive way.

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) (11.29): I enjoy the chance to speak on this motion today and thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing it forward. I move:

Insert new paragraph (2)(A):

“(2A) acknowledges:

- (a) the ACT Government’s investment in government school infrastructure upgrades to respond to the impact of climate change, such as double glazing, insulation and building fabric improvements to reduce air leakage;
- (b) the work of the Education Directorate to prepare government schools and support non-government schools to prepare to respond to smoke pollution and hot conditions, including:
 - (i) timely, collaborative and responsive consultation with staff, unions, parents, health experts, WorkSafe ACT, and other stakeholders;
 - (ii) clear guidance for schools on assessing the air quality risk on a day-by-day basis; and
 - (iii) clear guidance for schools on managing the risk of poor air quality, particularly for sensitive groups; and
- (c) Asthma Australia’s endorsement of the ACT Government’s work to prepare schools to respond to poor air quality caused by bushfire smoke;”.

I particularly want to talk about what has been happening in our schools around managing poor air quality and how school communities and the Education Directorate have been working to make sure that our schools are safe for everybody. Of course, many families were very concerned about air quality within schools as students returned to school after the summer break. The Education Directorate worked with many experts, including the ACT Work Safety Commissioner, and consulted with a large number of stakeholders, including unions and the ACT Council of Parents and Citizens Associations, to prepare clear advice for schools on how to manage air quality issues.

The ACT’s public schools were supported to make decisions that were right for staff and students, based on prevailing weather conditions and the level of relative vulnerabilities of individual staff members and students, depending on their susceptibility to smoke related issues. In mild conditions schools used mitigation strategies for sensitive groups, such as younger children, which included remaining indoors and limiting physical activity as much as possible. In poorer conditions, schools implemented measures that were the same for the general population, such as cancelling outdoor activities and excursions.

School closures were not put into effect and are not anticipated at this time. Based on the advice of the Chief Health Officer, air monitoring will be undertaken, and is undertaken, through direct observations within each school community. Information has always been provided to families and students attending school. As well, Dyson donated 400 air purifiers to the ACT Education Directorate. These air purifiers were allocated to areas in schools for students and staff who were particularly vulnerable. It was decided the remaining units would be distributed to schools based on the level of

relative vulnerability of students and local environmental conditions. Those units have been distributed to schools over the last couple of weeks.

It was good to have the support of Asthma Australia for the government's strategy in our schools. Air quality information kits were provided to schools, which were developed in consultation with experts. The guides, according to Ms Goldman from Asthma Australia, provided a clear standard reference, rather than leaving the burden on each individual school to develop its own policies. Ms Goldman said that the ACT government had been extremely responsive in addressing the health concerns of the community during this bushfire crisis. We want to thank the Asthma Foundation for its support and for providing that extra information for our school communities to use, based on the advice of expert members of our community, including ACT Health.

I want to talk about the work that has been happening within our schools over the last four years with respect to upgrades that will ensure that our schools are cooler in summer and warmer in winter. That four-year program included draught-proofing, which kept smoke out of our school buildings. It also keeps out leaves, dust and debris. That draught-proofing program will continue to be rolled out each year until all schools are complete. It includes things like double-glazed doors, as well as improved seals on the doors of the buildings.

For our new builds, the Education Directorate is proactively implementing the National Construction Code requirements for building permeability. This is a specification that includes wrapping buildings in airtight material prior to erecting the cladding structure, as well as improved seals on doors and windows. This ensures that our schools are draught proof beyond the current required standards. To date, the expansions at both Neville Bonner Primary School and Gold Creek Junior School have been built to this new specification. The Margaret Hendry School and the new P-10 school for Molonglo Valley, which is currently under construction, will also use this specification, as will all future builds. So, whilst this has been an unprecedented event, there have been a lot of lessons for new infrastructure builds, particularly for schools across the ACT.

I want to go to the sport and recreation area of my portfolio responsibilities. Mr Milligan is right, as is Mr Rattenbury, with respect to the countless events that were cancelled and the effects that that had on our community. People were missing out on exercise that they would normally participate in every day, whether that was walking the dog and feeding the chooks, or more formal events, including community events, that had to be cancelled.

Last year, when I met with all the peak sporting organisations, there was agreement between all of them that we needed to work together to build a strategy on how to manage smoke events. Already, strategies were in place to deal with extreme heat events, but now that we have this new issue to deal with as a result of climate change—smoke and air quality—our challenge is how to participate in sport while there is smoke pollution in the air. What should be cancelled? When should events be modified? When will the smoke clear? What level of air quality is acceptable? On all these things, local and national bodies are seeking information and guidance. I have

committed the sport and recreation unit to work with our local sports communities on how to go forward and develop a strategy for future events like this.

The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's report *Heat, Humanity and the Hockey Stick* provided an important opportunity for us to reflect on the increasing future impacts of climate on sport and recreation in the ACT. As I said, ACT sport has a long history of adaptability in the way activities and competitions are delivered and the way facilities are designed and efficiencies made. Over time, the government has made various investments. That includes LED lighting, support for solar panels and synthetic surfaces, and irrigation upgrades to support the delivery of sport in the community. But it is probably fair to say that those investments in the territory were motivated more by a desire to improve conditions than by a deliberate strategy to reduce the sector's carbon footprint.

Notwithstanding that, there has been much done, and this has been highlighted in the commissioner's report. Having said that, there is an absence in our localised and national strategy as to where and how sport can address climate change. As sport so commonly does, the sector provides great community leadership in this space. As we move to the new decade I am committed to increasing our consideration of, and investment in, helping the sector address climate change. I am committed to looking at where the ACT sport and recreation sector can be a genuine leader in how to deliver activities, build facilities and run our community clubs.

I also want to assure members and the community that, immediately the smoke started arriving in the ACT, I ensured that welfare checks and masks were provided, particularly for people who were sleeping rough in the city, and to organisations—including the Red Cross, Vinnies Night Patrol and the Early Morning Centre—that support people in our community who might not always get ready support. I agree that, as Mrs Dunne said, everybody in the Canberra community is tired and exhausted from the continuous effects that the smoke has had on our community.

We need to show kindness and patience to each other until we perhaps get a much-needed break later in the year. It will be important, as we move forward, to develop strategies to cope with unusual or unprecedented circumstances which we have learnt a lot from. All of the directorates within the ACT government, when it was required, stepped up to get expert advice and build strategies so that our city could continue as well as possible during those periods where the smoke haze was affecting the life of the whole community. I thank Mr Rattenbury for bringing this motion forward today. (*Time expired.*)

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) (11.41): We are all aware of the impact the bushfire smoke has had on our city this summer. Minister Rattenbury's motion highlights that many people have been affected by the poor air quality. I would particularly like to highlight the need for working people to be protected from the risks associated with bushfire smoke as well as extreme heat.

There is no doubt that the bushfire crisis and the associated smoke pollution in our city have been exacerbated by our changing climate. Many of us have acknowledged the need for serious action to be taken on climate change, in response to worsening bushfire seasons and the hotter, drier summers, and it is what Canberrans expect of us.

Over this summer, working people, particularly those who work outdoors, have experienced extremely difficult workplace conditions. WorkSafe ACT has played an important role in informing workers, employers and the wider community of what can be done to mitigate the risks of smoke and heat. Under the ACT's work health and safety laws, all employers have an obligation to take all reasonable action to protect their employees and people affected by their business from the risks to health and safety.

In response to the severe smoke pollution and poor air quality, WorkSafe ACT has consistently been advising employers to conduct risk assessments and implement measures such as avoiding or rescheduling outdoor work if possible, rotating workers to limit exposure and providing P2 masks for workers who need to complete prolonged outdoor activity or who are sensitive to smoke. WorkSafe has also published updated guidance material for employers and workers, based on advice from the Chief Health Officer, to ensure that everyone has the correct information to be kept safe from the serious health risks associated with poor air quality. Although WorkSafe, as well as other ACT government agencies, have taken a strong approach to reducing the harm from extreme heat and smoke, we need to ensure that we are prepared for future risks.

I am pleased to support Mr Rattenbury's call for a whole-of-government strategy on smoke and air quality in the ACT. I have already begun working across my portfolios to identify what more can be done to mitigate the impacts of extreme heat, smoke and climate change more broadly. It is important that we work with experts when developing these solutions, including climate scientists, public health professionals, unions and business leaders. Our WHS legislation and regulations must ensure that working people are kept safe, and this requires us to ensure that they provide adequate protection from current-day risks and are modernised when new hazards emerge.

All states and territories, as well as the commonwealth, need to work together to deliver real outcomes on work health and safety, and this extends to how we protect working people from climate change. The ACT, along with other jurisdictions, will be advocating through Safe Work Australia and COAG to keep this issue on the national agenda and develop a national response. As we move into the recovery phase for communities that have been affected by the bushfires, the ACT government will need the support of the commonwealth to assist in restoring our natural environment and ensuring that we are prepared for the future natural disasters that are a result of our changing climate.

We need all governments to take seriously the issue of climate change and its impact on everyone's lives. Canberrans expect their government to take strong action on climate change and respond to its impact with tangible outcomes. We will undertake to find mitigation solutions to the issues that climate change presents to the health of

our economy, our citizens and our environment. This government is committed to keeping working Canberrans safe and will continue to respond to the impacts of climate change to avoid further risk to our community. I commend the motion to the Assembly.

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (11.44): I will speak to the amendment and close at the same time, as no-one else wants to speak. I briefly thank members for their various contributions. This is a complex area and, as I flagged in my opening remarks, I think it has posed a lot of questions that we have not had to really think about before. The intent in bringing this motion forward is to give us a forum and a mechanism to consider many of those questions.

I appreciate the contributions from the various ministers, highlighting some of the work that did take place. As I said in my opening remarks, I was very impressed by the reaction of our public service, our various experts in government and some experts around the town, from ANU and other places, that helped to provide input and guidance during that period, in the sense that, for something we did not really know much about, people worked very hard and they shared good information as quickly as possible.

I appreciate Mrs Dunne's reflections particularly on that sense of people feeling tired after the hypervigilance of the summer. I think a lot of people are exhausted in their own way, and it is something we are going to need to keep an eye on through the rest of the year. I have seen some great initiatives from some bosses around town who are letting their workers have a bit of extra leave and these sorts of things, encouraging them to retake the leave that they lost over the summer. I think that is something that there is not particularly a government answer for but is one that we need to be mindful of.

I want to reflect on a point that Mrs Dunne made about people sending some of their family members away. It struck me, through this, that I know a lot of people who did—people who were able to leave town—but it reminds us very clearly of the social justice elements that arise out of climate impacts in these sorts of events. Some people did leave town, and for very good reasons, particularly those with young children or those who have particular health issues, because of wanting to avoid the impacts. But there were those who could not, who simply could not leave town. It underlines the need for us to be very focused on issues of a just transition, the need to be really mindful of those who cannot afford or do not have the option to take these steps that others are able to take. I was pleased that Mrs Dunne brought that point up.

In terms of the support which Mr Milligan raised, I actually lost count of the number of reports I read of events that were cancelled, be they elite or local. All sorts of sporting events were cancelled. I certainly know that, in the areas that I operate in, plenty of people just cancelled their personal training sessions or their personal exercise simply because they were being told they should not do it. I am sure that something that we really need to think about—and I have flagged it in here—is the need for sporting bodies to think about what their standards are going to be, to have not just heat standards, which many sporting organisations have now developed, but also air quality standards.

I thank members for bringing various nuances and extra stories to the discussion today. I look forward to this work being evolved. I am pleased to support Ms Berry's amendment, and I thank members for their support.

Amendment agreed to.

Original question, as amended, resolved in the affirmative.

Executive business—precedence

Ordered that executive business be called on.

Residential Tenancies Amendment Bill 2019

Debate resumed from 26 September 2019, on motion by **Mr Ramsay**:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (11.48): It is unsurprising that we are here debating changes to residential tenancies again. It is unsurprising, but I do not know that it is really helpful to tenants. What dismays me the most, as someone who rented in Canberra for the best part of 20 years, is that this Labor-Greens government continually sets out to convince renters that they are the government's friends. Those opposite spend so much time moving the goalposts and tinkering with this market.

They have frightened off hundreds of landlords and, in trying to appear as the friend of renters, Labor and the Greens have actually become enemy number one for that cohort. You are not helping. At a time when rental prices in Canberra are the highest in the country and continuing to rise, this government is tinkering around the edges rather than addressing the biggest problem that renters face.

The balance of this bill is minor and uncontroversial, but we, the Canberra Liberals, maintain that this is not the time to be making these changes. There are days when I think that the Labor-Greens machine is blissfully unaware that its actions are driving the rental prices higher. Some days I think that Labor and the Greens know not what they do but, sadly, I think that is not the case. They are fully aware of what they are doing. They understand that changes like these will see more investors leave, that this will further narrow the rental market, that it will push families and individuals into hardship, into poverty or even into homelessness. But they do not care.

They do not care. Former Chief Minister Jon Stanhope is correct. At the end of the day, they do not care as long as the progressive optics are right. As long as they can convince enough people that they do care, it does not matter if they actually do not. They do not give two hoots about the people who used to be their political base, as long as they can hoodwink renters into believing that they care about them. As long as they can hang onto their votes in this election year, who cares if they are actually making their lives harder?

What we have seen is that the concern that we on this side of the chamber have is entirely valid. In the last quarter alone, there has been a five per cent jump in the median rent in Canberra. Domain group economist Trent Wilshire said:

Looking over the past three years, asking house rents have increased 15 per cent and unit rents increased by 14 per cent, so roughly 4 to 5 per cent a year would be the average annual growth.

We have just seen an increase in asking rents that we would normally see over 12 months in one quarter, so it must be asked: what has changed in the last three months to drive such an increase?

I am sure it is no coincidence that the last stack of changes to residential tenancies came into effect just last November and, almost immediately, we have seen an astronomical jump in rental prices. The Canberra Liberals do not believe that now is the time to tackle these changes. What is most important at this point is to address the worsening housing affordability crisis, a crisis that those opposite have not only created and ignored but are now actually fanning the flames of. They are now making it worse.

The Canberra Liberals believe that this is the biggest problem facing renters in this city. Renting in Canberra is continuing to get more expensive. This is entirely the result of the policies of the Barr government and, among other things, its demonisation of property owners in this town.

We need to continue to make Canberra an attractive place to invest in, both in business and in our property market, because a competitive property market with more investors means more properties, which means slower rental growth. If the trend of the last quarter continues, renting and living in Canberra will be untenable for many, but especially those who are already struggling to make ends meet.

These are, of course, the people that those opposite continue to ignore but squeeze as much as possible out of. Those opposite have cut their bus services and closed their bus stops. They have cut funding to VET training and a stack of other things, while they willingly chase policies that actively continue to drive the cost of living through the roof. I think they should be ashamed of themselves.

Many of the details of this bill are straightforward, but I need to make a few observations. Bradley Allen Love Lawyers have said:

Whilst some of these changes may be necessary, it does pose the question whether the balance between the rights of the tenant and the landlord has tipped too far.

This is a question that many property owners have been asking themselves. Further to this, I am not sure who was listening to ABC radio this morning when the bill was discussed. Mr Rattenbury and Deb Phippen from the Tenants' Union thought it was a wonderful idea, but pretty much nobody else did. Adam Shirley is not a shock jock and ABC Canberra is not right-wing conservative radio, but the airwaves were full of callers who can see things exactly the way that I see them.

You are trashing the market, and we know it is going to continue. When those CoreLogic numbers come out, when you see the massive lines at open inspections, when you see people sleeping in their cars, to those opposite I say: I hope you are proud of yourselves.

I am concerned about the section of the bill regarding minimum standards. I want to be clear that this is not because the Canberra Liberals believe there should not be some form of standard in housing. We know that those opposite love to take our comments out of context, and you can be absolutely guaranteed that that will be the case in this election year. But this is the minister who has bungled almost every policy area he has had carriage of and now, in this amendment, he is asking the chamber to basically write him a blank cheque to enforce some sort of minimum standard without the need to actually tell us what he intends to do.

Deb Pippen from the Tenants' Union was asked on the radio this morning what those minimum standards would be. She said she has no idea. She does not know, but she was absolutely certain that they would not be onerous to landlords. She was extremely confident that this government would display some common sense in this space. I do not have that confidence, and neither does the diminishing number of rental property owners, many of them mums and dads who are finding now that their retirement investment dream is turning into an absolute nightmare.

Minimum standards should be carefully considered, widely consulted on, openly discussed and not left for a decision made behind closed doors. I will reiterate that this bill further restricts the rights of property owners and comes at a time when rental prices are the highest in the country. It is not the time to be meddling with residential tenancies and risking more investors leaving the market.

I just want to close with this analogy. If a patient is scheduled to have very important heart surgery but, when the date of that surgery arrives, the patient has developed a bad cold, despite the importance of that surgery, the surgery is delayed. It is delayed because you would not be operating on a patient who is already unwell. You would not perform the operation because it would threaten the life of the patient; it would be reckless. Many of the residential tenancy changes brought forward by this government would have our full support at any other time. But at a time when we have the most expensive rents in the country, now is not the time. We need to wait for the market to recover fully before we can attempt such important surgery.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (11.57): The Greens will be supporting this bill. This bill is part of an ongoing body of work in reforming the Residential Tenancies Act 1997 that began in 2014, when a review of the act was commissioned. This review was published in 2016. As I noted when I spoke to the last government amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act, this process has not been a quick one, even by government standards. Once again I would like to extend my thanks to the very small team in JACS who have been working on this for so many years. I also thank the people in the community and, in particular, the about to be defunded Tenants' Union, Deb Pippen and all the tenants who have responded to the government review.

It is important to ensure that tenants are given appropriate legislative protection. As Mr Parton pointed out, a greater proportion of people are tenants than in the past and people stay in rental accommodation for longer. We now have many more people with children living in rental properties as long-term housing tenure, regardless of whether this is by choice or otherwise.

If we had a high vacancy rate—over 10 per cent, or even over two or three per cent—amendments like this would be much less of an issue. The invisible hand of the market would sort it out. People would leave if they could not stand the house, if it was in poor condition or if they could not cope with how they were being treated as tenants. Landlords would be competing to offer the best house in the best condition. As Mr Parton pointed out, this is not the situation. We have a vacancy rate of less than one per cent in the ACT, and it is unlikely to be the situation for a long time.

Given that situation, we must have in place some basic protections for tenants, and that is what this bill is trying to do. I do take Mr Parton's point that supply is all-important, and reducing supply is not what we are trying to do.

As the old aphorism goes, governments are there to protect people from market failure. There is another line to this, noting that the not-for-profit sector is there to protect people from government failure. But I will not continue down this path, noting the unfortunate demise of the Tenants' Union.

Minister Ramsay has already detailed some of the measures in this bill. I am particularly pleased to see the inclusion of a number of measures, such as strengthening and clarifying the role of ACAT in a number of ways, including in relation to tenancy changes in family violence situations, and reducing the maximum amount of bond payable from the current four weeks rent in advance to two weeks rent in advance. That one will really make a difference for people who find it very hard to have two lots of bonds out at one time. Another measure is to increase the amount of time that tenants have to move out if a landlord or family member wishes to move in from four to eight weeks.

Perhaps the most gratifying inclusion in this bill is the inclusion of new regulatory powers regarding minimum standards. This is, sadly, somewhat bittersweet. My colleague Shane Rattenbury tried to introduce minimum standards for rentals in 2011. Sadly, if predictably, this was not supported by the Liberals or Labor.

More recently, in February last year, I brought forward an amendment to the Residential Tenancies Act which would have seen the introduction of minimum standards. Again it was voted down. This time it was voted down by the same minister who, only seven months later, proposed some of his own. In February last year, when speaking against my amendment that would have introduced minimum standards, Minister Ramsay said, regarding Minister Rattenbury's attempt to introduce minimum standards in 2011:

The government of the day, including the then Attorney-General, Simon Corbell MLA, described the intention of the bill as noble, but had concerns about how it would operate in practice. These included considering whether the costs of retrofitting, to bring rental properties up to the minimum standards, would be

passed on to the tenants in the form of higher rents, and whether rental supply may be reduced if properties were withdrawn from the market due to the costs of retrofitting.

But context is important. The costs that Minister Corbell was speaking of related to energy efficiency measures. My amendment, quite deliberately, did not include any reference to energy efficiency, which Minister Ramsay was fully aware of, I assume. I recognise that energy efficiency in rental dwellings is a very difficult matter. I know that more work will be done on this, and I commend the government for including this as one of the actions in the climate strategy. My colleague Minister Rattenbury also talked about that in his media release this morning, when he referred to increased climate change measures that are funded in the latest budget update.

My amendments in February last year only went to the most basic minimum standards. This is important, because the current wording in the RTA is grossly inadequate. It simply says that a dwelling needs to be “fit for habitation”, which is clearly incredibly debatable and does not provide clarity to tenants, lessors or ACAT. Having something that is a little more prescriptive than that would have been helpful. I was not talking about maximum standards, just basic stuff—minor details like hotplates that work and a front door that locks.

During the debate last February, Minister Ramsay noted:

The government shares Mr Corbell’s views on this issue. The aim is noble. The practicalities need more work.

He was going to ask his directorate to look into it; evidently, they have done that, and this bill is presumably the result. The “more work” has in fact given us an additional 30 words on the subject, and that is it. A regulation may make provision relating to minimum standards, which does not seem like a huge advance on the practicalities compared to the amendment that I put forward. It seems like something that will allow the minister of the day to do more or less what they want, which, I note, is what Mr Parton said.

My amendment was a little bit more practicable in so far as it said that there needs to be public consultation on this, and potentially requiring a dwelling to comply with minimum housing standards. My amendment also contained the boring but hopefully really useful requirement that detailed that tenants may give rectification notices if their house does not meet standards, or the Commissioner for Fair Trading may investigate breaches of standards. It seems that this was too much detail. Given the comments by Mr Parton about implementation, it might have been useful to have a bit more detail. What we have now is a very simple framework that will allow standards to be developed.

I assume that the positive aspect is that it is felt to be different enough from the ongoing Greens work on this issue that Minister Ramsay can feel that the Labor Party owns it and that it does not involve whatever the issues were that former Minister Corbell had with it. Hopefully, it means that, nine years after the Greens first proposed it, it will finally get done.

At the risk of pedantry it is also worth noting that the bill's explanatory statement says that these amendments give effect to the 2016 review, which is not absolutely, 100 per cent accurate. The 2016 review did recommend minimum standards but only for security. The bill that we are voting on today includes more than just security, which is a positive. I do not object to that. I am pleased that the government is moving with the times.

As the Greens have noted in the past, the Greens recognise that one of our roles in life is to be the think tank in terms of new policy ideas. This is what has happened as far as minimum standards for rentals are concerned. I think this is a very valuable role that the Greens fulfil—being the think tank. I hope that this role will continue and that at some point the government will do something about ending unfair evictions. Evictions without cause are a significant issue for tenants in this town today.

I support these amendments and look forward to them making a positive difference for tenants in the ACT, and no difference for most landlords.

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) (12.08), in reply: This bill contains a range of amendments to the Residential Tenancies Act. I thank members for their contribution to this debate. What we know is that we will have, as the outcome of this, better outcomes and more efficient outcomes. What we also know is that the Canberra Liberals have demonstrated today that they will bend over backwards to do anything that they can to find a reason not to improve the situation for tenants.

What we hear from the opposition is that the amendments are minor and may be necessary but we should not do them anyway. What we hear from the opposition is that they do not worry about consistency of position. They assure people that they like tenants but they do not want to actually do anything for tenants: “The amendments might be minor, they might be necessary, but we should not actually act on them.”

What we have heard today is that we have an opposition spokesperson in this area who has clearly not spent time engaging in the detail of what this particular piece of legislation is doing. He is a lazy opposition person in the area. He has not demonstrated the capacity or the willingness to engage in the policy development of this important area. It may be that it is fun to come up with tortuous metaphors that can be used to try to describe what is going on. It would be better if he looked at what was happening with the amendments, if he looked at what was happening with the legislation and what their effect was.

These amendments primarily achieve three things: firstly, they modernise outdated legislative provisions and they update the act to reflect contemporary community expectations of tenancy law. That is a good thing. Secondly, they address gaps that have emerged in the administrative provisions of the act and provide a seamless framework for the resolution of disputes. That is in everyone's interest. Thirdly, they reduce the administrative burdens on landlords and tenants, and they take a

common-sense and risk-informed pathway to better outcomes. That is better for landlords and tenants.

Together these minor amendments to the act reflect an ambition to protect the legitimate interest of landlords and enhance the quality of life for tenants, to make sure that our residential tenancy system works for the most vulnerable people in our community. They may not be necessary but they are worth passing—and worth passing now!

Other Australian jurisdictions are also progressing reforms of their residential tenancy laws. Our neighbours are innovating and changing the way that their laws work. Without change, the ACT risks being left behind. Landlords and tenants, together in the ACT, deserve legislation that is world class, not something that we should just leave until the Canberra Liberals decide that we should not act on it anyway.

We achieve this by walking a balanced, evidence-led path, guided by community behaviours, values and expectations. We achieve this by engaging with the wider community on their current experiences, by learning from the past decisions of the ACAT and by consulting with experts across the sector about future directions for tenancy law.

This bill has a very clear vision of what it means to strike the right balance. It strikes the right balance, not by trying to split the difference on points of contention but by engaging seriously and rationally with concerns, with views and with beliefs of all stakeholders. It strikes the balance by presenting evidence-based proposals that are tailored to our rental market. Most importantly, this bill strikes the balance that is needed to create the sort of environment in which landlords want to invest and in which tenants want to live.

Residential tenancy law is one of the foundation stones of the community. It bridges the gap between really regulating the marketplace of accommodation and nurturing a thriving society. In his play *The Rocks* TS Eliot challenged us to find the meaning of our cities:

Do we dwell together just to make money from each other, or is this a community?

If residential tenancy laws are fair, efficient and balanced Canberra will not only be a market for landlords; it will also be an attractive market in which tenants can build communities. Each of the amendments in this bill reflects that clear vision.

Consistent with the vision, the bill proposes to bring to the ACT what other jurisdictions generally already enjoy. Most of the amendments proposed bring the ACT into line with standards set in other states and territories. Other amendments use the experiences of our counterparts in other jurisdictions to build options suitable for and tailored to Canberra's housing market. The experience in other jurisdictions indicates that these proposals do not cause landlords to exit the market. Instead, the proposals help tenants around Australia build homes within their communities.

We have used the experience of Victoria, New South Wales and the Northern Territory to inform our amendments to support tenants who are moving into aged care or social housing. This is a really good example of where the current act did not meet the needs of our community, forcing landlords and tenants to apply to the tribunal for something that was obvious or straightforward. It would seem that people who are older or people who may be meaning to move into social housing are not people that the Canberra Liberals think it is important to have amendments to protect. But these are amendments that are designed to assist some of the most vulnerable people in our community.

This government not only sees the necessity for that but will act on it. We will not make excuses, like the Canberra Liberals will, to avoid acting on that. In fact, to oppose these amendments is simply to say that tenants in the territory deserve less than their counterparts in the rest of Australia. And that is what we have heard from the opposition spokesperson today.

Finally, this bill also tidies up administrative provisions of the act that were creating uncertainty or unnecessary obstacles for tenants and landlords. Unnecessary gaps between the office for rental bonds and the tribunal are being removed. Historic powers of the tribunal that were inadvertently displaced more than a decade ago are being restored. Key amongst these administrative provisions is a simple, legislative fix to a decade-old legal question in the ACT: when the act changes, what effect does it have on current tenancies? Now, because of this bill, we have a clear and simple answer. For a fixed-term agreement it is the terms in force at the time that the parties entered into the agreement. Periodic agreements always incorporate the most up-to-date provisions.

This bill does cover a lot of ground. No other bill arising from the 2016 review of the act has covered a range of issues as diverse or technical as this. But it is worth getting into the diversity and worth understanding the technicality, especially for those who have responsibility in this area.

I thank all stakeholders who have engaged with government regarding these reforms for their very considered views on the proposals. They have helped put forward a tempered, moderate, balanced set of proposals that will achieve meaningful outcomes both for tenants and for landlords. I commend the bill to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Sitting suspended from 12.16 to 2 pm.

Questions without notice

Municipal services—invasive tree roots

MR COE: My question is to the Minister for City Services. Minister, many constituents contact the opposition about tree roots growing on the nature strip and other government land that then invade private land and cause significant damage to drains, building foundations and other private property. Minister, under these circumstances who is responsible to prove ownership of these trees and the cause of the damage?

MR STEEL: Transport Canberra and City Services undertakes an assessment on an individual, case-by-case basis on what has occurred in relation to tree roots that may be encroaching on someone else's land.

MR COE: Minister, where it has been shown that the cause of the damage is trees on government land, what course of action does the citizen have to take in order to have them removed?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. I will ask him: if there is a specific case that he wants to bring to my attention, please do so and we can look at that matter. It sounds like you are referring to a specific case. Certainly, on a case-by-case basis, the outcome may be different in terms of the approach that the TCCS takes.

Mr Coe: Point of order on relevance. I am, of course, asking for government policy, not to establish new policy but asking what the established policy is for the 160,000 dwellings in the ACT. Perhaps the minister could say what the government policy is with regard to what course of action the citizen needs to take.

MADAM SPEAKER: I heard that there was an approach on a case-by-case basis, but the minister may add.

MR STEEL: My offer stands to the Leader of the Opposition if he wants to provide that particular case; but I am happy to take it on notice to provide him with what policy I can. I think he is referring to a specific case and, if that is true, then he should provide it to me so I can have a look at it. I am happy to investigate it.

MS LAWDER: Is it the government policy that it is on a case-by-case basis or is there a stated policy about what will happen?

MR STEEL: I think it is a matter of both. Each individual circumstance will be looked at to see what has occurred in relation to a tree on public land that may be encroaching on private property and causing damage. That will be done in accordance with policy. I have already undertaken to take that question on notice.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Barr, don't encourage Mr Wall; and, Mr Wall, don't encourage Mr Barr.

Bushfires—wildlife recovery

MS LE COUTEUR: My question is to the minister for the environment and relates to calls from ecologists for urgent action to encourage successful wildlife recovery after the bushfires. Minister, how are you acting on calls to urgently control feral animals in Namadgi and other recently burnt areas given that pest animals like cats thrive in newly burnt areas by preying on homeless and possibly starving wildlife?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Le Couteur for her question. It is an important time as we move into the recovery mode for Namadgi National Park. We know that our people and the environment are resilient, but both need our support as we move into this phase.

The post-fire recovery team has been established to assess recovery needs across the conservation estate. The team is a multidisciplinary one. They are looking at specialising in the fire impact assessment on threatened species' habitat and water quality. They cover all of those areas, including animals that might predate on other animals, particularly native species.

I can advise that prior to the fire actually getting to Tidbinbilla, we were successfully able to relocate a number of native species that are endangered. Bettongs and brush-tailed rock wallabies were transferred to other locations that were well away from the fire. Our rapid assessment team is in there at the moment. They will provide advice to me on which way to proceed from here.

MS LE COUTEUR: Has the government received advice about the impacts in Namadgi and other burnt areas given that it is only 17 years since the last major fire there and, despite the recent rain, the ACT is still in a drought, which presumably will make regrowth more challenging?

MR GENTLEMAN: We receive updates on the condition of the park and our catchments regularly. That has occurred since the 2003 fires. We have looked at the regrowth of vegetation in particular in—I will not use the word drought because we have not declared a drought in the ACT—what we have talked about as extended dry seasons. Hopefully, this rain will help us quite a bit.

There is a lot of information that has been brought together over many years on how to look at increasing the best ecology for the park. We have looked at the way that fire and native species work together. We know that hot fires, for example, will return a different sort of species in the forested area and cooler fires will return another sort of species in the forested area. Those species tend to provide the fuel load for those particular types of fires. We know—Indigenous culture has made us aware—that if you were to burn the landscape with cooler, slower fires, you would get the right species back to protect the landscape from hotter fires into the future.

A lot of work has been done. That all goes into the recovery part of this process.

Tertiary education—funding

MR WALL: My question is to the Minister for Tertiary Education. Minister, late last month you cut \$14 million out of a \$17 million budget of funding dedicated to VET courses. These cuts impact a wide range of qualifications being delivered in the ACT. How much notice was given of this decision to the training providers, and how much notice was given to prospective students?

MR BARR: Firstly the government did not cut any funding. In fact what we will see is that that program will continue to run over budget, probably to the tune of about 30 per cent, for the foreseeable future. What the government did do is respond to the circumstances where the program, which is demand driven, was oversubscribed. We did restrict the level of subsidy for certain courses to impact—

Mr Wall: You were funding the oversubscription and now you are not.

MR BARR: No, we continue to fund the oversubscription, because no existing students are affected. But what we have done is determine that that overfunding cannot continue to grow exponentially over the forward estimates. The budget for the program is a little over \$14 million. The expenditure will be closer to \$18 million or \$19 million. It will remain at that level of overexpenditure for the medium term.

As is common practice each year with the skills list, there is a consultation with industry that begins about six months before the list is finally announced. It changes every year to reflect the skills needs in our economy. Notice was given. The changes have come into effect but do not impact on existing students.

The bigger challenge is that our completion rate is not what it should be. Though we have the highest number of students in government-funded training positions of any jurisdiction, and we have had for the past six years, the position we face is that there are more enrolments but not enough completions. That is a problem that the industry is going to need to respond to, because completions are what we need, not enrolments for the sake of enrolments and certainly not enrolments chasing subsidies. This was exactly the issue that impacted federally in relation to VET-FEE HELP. We cannot allow that situation to manifest in the ACT. We will continue to overfund this, but not uncapped. *(Time expired.)*

MR WALL: Minister, what consultation occurred with training providers prior to the cut occurring?

MR BARR: Skills Canberra met, as I indicated, about six months before to discuss the skills list and the particular courses that would be the subject of the user choice program and what industry needs would be for the coming year. There was then a series of meetings held through January with industry stakeholders. Those meetings continue. That is a routine part of the annual skills list program and the user choice program.

It is my expectation, as I said, that the budget for this program will be exceeded because it is demand driven. But it cannot be uncapped forever. We have put in place a series of measures that ensure that no current student is disadvantaged and that the subsidies continue for high priority courses but so that we can contain the level of over-expenditure to around 30 per cent above the current budget for the program.

MS LEE: Chief Minister, why have you risked exacerbating a skills shortage in the ACT by slashing this funding?

MR BARR: Again, Ms Lee, I do not think you even listened to my first two answers. That is a problem when you are given a question that is written for you before you hear the answers to the other questions. Firstly, there is no cut. Funding will continue in advance of the budget allocation and will be met by consolidated revenue in the overall budget. We will continue to ensure that all current students are supported, hopefully through to completion of their studies.

I repeat the point that the ACT has, for six years in a row now, had the highest proportion of government funded training places of any state or territory. We will continue to see that through the CIT, which is the principal provider of skills training in this city, and the best provider of skills training. Public TAFE is the best. CIT is the best, and that is where people should be going for their training, but we also offer user-choice funding for private training providers. But it is not unlimited. It will be oversubscribed, and it will continue to be, as we support students to get the skills they need.

Tertiary education—funding

MR PARTON: My question is to the Chief Minister in his capacity as Minister for Tertiary Education. Chief Minister, cuts to VET sector funding will have a huge impact on the building and construction industry, with courses such as the cert IV in workplace safety, the cert III in carpentry and the cert III in plumbing all being impacted. Providers of these courses include CIT and most private registered training organisations, RTOs, all of whom will be adversely affected. Are there any RTOs that will not be affected by these cuts?

MR BARR: This again is the problem when you cannot adjust your question time tactics and respond to answers. There are no cuts to funding. In fact, funding will go over the budgeted allocation.

In terms of one of the courses that you refer to, Mr Parton, there have been only one or two enrolments, full stop, under the user choice system. There is no demand for that particular course.

Mr Coe: You said oversubscribed.

MR BARR: Across all of the courses, but not one of the specific ones that Mr Parton referenced in his question. That shows that he has simply read from an MBA letter that was sent to everyone rather than being able to come up with his own question or

an original thought. This demonstrates again that the opposition are devoid of any policy ideas of their own and are simultaneously seeking to attack the government for running a strong training program that is oversubscribed.

MR PARTON: Chief Minister, will any courses offered by Creative Safety Initiatives be affected by these changes?

MR BARR: Possibly, because the skills list changes every year.

MS CHEYNE: Just to drive the point home—

Mrs Jones: Preamble.

MADAM SPEAKER: To the question.

Members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, you have had your fun, so we can stop the interjections, Mr Hanson.

MS CHEYNE: Chief Minister, are the user choice and skilled capital budgets continuing to grow over time?

MR BARR: Yes. The budgets for skilled capital and the user choice program have annual increases, and we will be funding above those budgets in the medium term, as I indicated in response to Mr Wall. But that is not sustainable throughout the next decade, and it is our expectation that the total use of the available funds will be in accordance with the budget. But because we are not making any changes for existing students, the current cohort who are going through their training will be supported to completion. I reiterate the point that the most significant element that we need to focus on is to get those completion rates up, because completing the training is what delivers a skilled worker for a business.

Schools—Molonglo Valley

MS CODY: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Minister, how is the government catering for the growing population in the Molonglo Valley?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cody for her question. I want to talk about the Molonglo region, which has grown to almost 7,000 residents since 2011 and is expected to see Canberra's most rapid population growth over the coming decade, adding an estimated 25,000 by 2029.

Last week I was joined by Minister Steel, member for Murrumbidgee, unions, the P&C council president, the Western Creek Community Council and others to turn the sod for the new primary school in the Molonglo Valley, which is set to open its doors next year. This \$47 million facility, funded in the 2018 budget, delivers on government election commitments and will cater for 644 preschool to year 6 students.

I am also happy to inform members that last week I announced that the government is also constructing a high school on this site, which will be ready to accept students for the 2023 year. For an allocation of \$23 million in the 2019 budget review, the government will construct the high school as part of one project with the primary school construction. This school will accommodate 600 year 7 to 10 students.

The new school will offer both indoor and outdoor learning areas. It will include learning support units for special needs students and will provide integrated learning environments, specialist STEM and arts learning spaces, a cafeteria, a library, secure parking, bike parking and storage. The Molonglo community will soon have the opportunity to choose a name, uniform and logo for Canberra's 89th school.

MS CODY: Minister, how has environmental sustainability influenced the design of the school?

MS BERRY: The new Molonglo school will be Canberra's second zero emissions school. As with the first zero emissions school, Margaret Hendry in Taylor, the design of new school in Molonglo is focused on sustainability. One hundred per cent of the school's energy needs will be sourced from ACT's renewable electricity. Passive design features will be used to maximise the efficient use of electrical energy.

The school will save on power, with 100-kilowatt solar panels, electric-boosted solar hot water and automated LED lighting with motion sensor control. Double glazing will reduce the need for heating in winter, and cooling systems will draw cool night air inside during the summer to reduce the need for mechanical cooling during the day. When additional temperature control is needed, the cooling system can transfer heat from one part of the building to another to improve energy efficiency.

The buildings will include a membrane behind the internal walls and ceiling linings to prevent air leakage and provide greater thermal comfort for staff and students. Shade sails and deciduous trees will provide seasonal shade to the buildings and landscape. The sports field will be irrigated using inground water tanks that collect groundwater and water from roofs.

All these features respond to the government's clear commitment to take tangible action on climate change and will also deliver a more comfortable school environment for students and staff alike.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will the Molonglo community be able to use these school facilities?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Cheyne for the question. Schools are important community hubs and have facilities that cater for activities beyond student learning. The ACT government has recognised this by intelligently designing newer school facilities to cater for use by the wider community when they are not needed for education. The school will have plenty of facilities for the whole community to enjoy, including outdoor ovals, cricket nets, outdoor hard courts for basketball and netball, a multipurpose gym with kitchen facilities and a state-of-the-art multipurpose gym.

Members might recall that late last year I announced that the government is investing approximately \$4 million to deliver the new gym, which is expected to be completed by the middle of next year. It will also include full-size courts with line markings for roller derby and other sports such as basketball, futsal or indoor soccer, netball, volleyball and badminton plus seating and additional space for community storage.

The school's layout also assists access by the community. The government has been working to make sure that community bookings for school facilities are more convenient, with an online booking system consistent with funding allocated earlier this term. The new Molonglo school will be a significant community and sporting facility which will allow spectators to watch indoor sports and events throughout the year.

Schools—suspension policy

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development. Section 2.7 of the ACT Education Directorate's policy 44 titled, "Suspension, transfer or exclusion of a student in ACT public schools policy," which was published on 19 December last year, states:

Suspension is the process of temporarily withdrawing a student from school activities and school grounds, placing them in the care of their parent/ carer.

Minister, why have students who have been suspended under this policy for bullying and attacking other students been allowed to attend school functions with the full knowledge of the school despite your directorate's policy, which specifically states that a suspended student should be temporarily withdrawn from school activities and school grounds?

MS BERRY: The school policy is clear, as Ms Lee has referred to and read from today in her question. However, there would be circumstances which might need to be considered. On each individual circumstance there might be a different process that is completed by the school with regards to managing behaviour within the school community. For a particular circumstance that Ms Lee might be referring to I would need to understand that better to provide advice on exactly what happened and to know whether it was appropriate on that occasion. But the policy is clear, and it is the policy that is followed by our school communities.

MS LEE: Minister, in what circumstances would that policy not be strictly adhered to, and what is the training that our teachers have received in relation to the implementation of that policy?

MS BERRY: That is a bit of a hypothetical question which I cannot really refer to; I would be guessing.

Ms Lee: You raised it; you said that there were circumstances that wouldn't apply.

MS BERRY: I was referring to a circumstance that Ms Lee might be actually implying had occurred.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, allow the minister to finish.

MS BERRY: Thanks everyone; you are all being truly awesome. Madam Speaker, I cannot answer a question on a hypothetical circumstance that might arise in the future. The policy is clear. Ms Lee has read it out. That is the circumstance where the policy is implemented.

Suspensions are used in numerous ways to support children and families and the school community to ensure that every child, regardless of the circumstances that they come to school with, which may include some very complex and complicated circumstances that they are dealing with outside the school community can be integrated into the school. Our teachers and school principals have the expertise to be able to support these students to ensure that their integration back to school—if it is a student that has not behaved appropriately and where the suspension policy has been implemented—is towards making sure that restoring a safe learning and work environment for everybody in the school can be done in a timely manner.

A circumstance that I do not know about that could happen in the future is not something that I or anyone could possibly respond to. The policy is there and is implemented as it is required in the schools.

MR PARTON: What is the standard procedure or practice in dealing with students who witness attacks or bullying leading to a suspension, and what training has been provided to teachers to deal with this cohort of students when implementing this policy?

MS BERRY: The suspension policy is used to ensure that there is a safe return to a safe learning and work environment for the school community. In a circumstance where an issue has occurred within a school community, school teachers and school principals have the appropriate training and are offered additional supports, should the need occur, through the network of support officers who go out to schools, in particular in making sure that there are positive behaviours for learning programs in place in our schools and expanded across our schools so that these kinds of events can be minimised and addressed if they do occur.

The suspension policy is there as a tool to support families and children to return to school in timely way, to understand the kinds of circumstances or complex needs that might be occurring in a child or family's lives, and to be able to support them and other people who are affected by those circumstances, by using not only this policy but also all the other tools and the professionalism that our school teachers and school principals are trusted with and deliver on every day within those school communities.

Education—phonics

MS LAWDER: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, in June last year during question time you were asked:

Given the successful adoption of phonics checks in other states and increasing evidence of its success in schools across the United Kingdom and elsewhere, will phonics checks be used or considered for use in ACT primary schools to identify students who are at risk of falling behind in literacy?

You answered that with a definite:

No, they will not.

The recent Productivity Commission report on government services in education shows that there has been a consistent decline over the past eight years in literacy. Minister, what steps will you take to stop this decline?

MS BERRY: I have also in this place described the literacy programs that are being carried out within our school communities. I described during estimates hearings the English literacy programs by Christine Topfer, a world-renowned literacy expert in delivering programs in supporting and coaching for school communities, particularly in the earlier years, to understand how to work with students who learn differently, particularly those who might have dyslexia or other learning needs, to particularly make sure that school teachers have the professional learning and development that they need to be able to support every student in the classroom.

I have listened very carefully to people who have talked about the kind of phonics testing that Ms Lawder refers to and I have also listened very carefully to the profession and their union about what they need to ensure that every child, regardless of how they learn, gets the supports that they need. And I have heard very positive outcomes as a result of that specialised training and coaching from people like Christine Topfer who is well renowned and an expert in this space on the difference it has made to the teachers being able to do that work but also to the learning experience for students in their schools.

MS LAWDER: Minister, what objections do you have to phonics checks?

MS BERRY: I have not been convinced that a phonics check, in the way that it has been described to me, would be a successful outcome and provide the kinds of learning and teaching development that our school students need. What I have heard from the teaching profession is that the best way for them to be able to support students is to get professional development for themselves and the profession, to have an English and literacy program that is all-encompassing and not just a test which is too late in any case. Those programs that support an assessment happen early on in a child's learning.

In addition to that, I should refer to the ACT government's universal access to preschool education and its expansion to three-year-olds. All of the research shows, all of the experts say, and the early childhood sector and preschool teachers have been talking about—

Ms Lawder: A point of order, Madam Speaker.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat, please, minister. A point of order?

Ms Lawder: The question was very short and to the point: what objections do you have to phonics checks? It goes to relevance. I would ask the minister to directly answer, rather than refer.

MADAM SPEAKER: She is on the topic and the policy area of education and literacy skills. Minister, do you want to finish?

MS BERRY: I want to finish by reminding people that those early years, those first two years before a child starts formal education in kindergarten, are the most formative years when a child's brain development is most important. Those two years before kindergarten are what the ACT government is investing in, and it is supported by the teaching profession, to make sure that children, before they start school, get the best start because they have had those two years in preschool education.

MS LEE: Minister, why is it that our students are falling behind in literacy and why do you continue to ignore the calls from the dyslexia community, still, on phonics checks?

MS BERRY: I have met with the dyslexia associations. I have spoken with them and listened to their views on what they see as an appropriate way forward with regard to English and literacy within our schools. I am not convinced that explicit or direct instruction, as they are asking for, or a test in the second year of primary school is the way forward. An overall assessment that the ACT government in ACT schools already does with the PIPS data at the start of and end of kindergarten is an appropriate assessment.

The English and literacy that children learn through universal access to preschool that they will get for the two years, once that is implemented and phased in for three-year-olds, will make a significant difference to how a child learns. Importantly, we will be making sure that schoolteachers, the professionals in this place who actually deliver education, are supported and provided with the professional development that they have said that they want to ensure that children learn in the best possible way. This will be delivered not through another test that means that people can start pointing a finger at students who might not be achieving learning in the same way.

Mr Hanson: You just want to hide results.

MS BERRY: This is about making sure that every child, regardless of how they learn gets the same best-quality education. I should remind those who are interrupting that the ACT's public schools do very well on PISA in literacy. NAPLAN is a very narrow focus on literacy and numeracy and should not be the thing that identifies whether a student has succeeded or not within our public schools. *(Time expired.)*

Ms Lee: Point of order, Madam Speaker. I did listen to the entirety of the minister's answer. At the beginning of my question I asked why our students are falling behind. She has failed to answer that.

MADAM SPEAKER: The minister's time has expired so I cannot take the point of order.

Education—phonics

MR HANSON: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, the federal education minister, Dan Tehan, has asked the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership to set up a taskforce to investigate how best to ensure that graduate teachers are taught about phonics and how to apply it in the classroom, following revelations that the key element of teaching children to read and write is overlooked in many university courses.

Minister, what phonics training is required for teachers entering the ACT education system?

MS BERRY: Our teachers are professionals and they use a number of ways to ensure that literacy is taught in an appropriate way that best meets the needs of every single student within every single classroom. That teaching also includes phonics and phonetic understanding. It is not restricted to those ways of teaching or those particular paths of literacy learning.

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, I raise a point of order on relevance. The question was not actually about what is being applied in the classroom; the question was specifically about what training graduate teachers are provided prior to entering the ACT education system.

MADAM SPEAKER: The minister has a minute and a half to respond.

MS BERRY: I did just spend a fair bit of time talking about the programs that are being conducted in our schools around the early years literacy program, which provides teachers with those skills and those extra tools to be able to ensure that every child learns in the best way possible and learns literacy within our schools. It is one tool. If the suggestion is that phonetic understanding, or phonics, is not used—it is used but it is not the only tool that is used by our teachers to ensure that literacy learning happens in our schools.

Mr Hanson: Madam Speaker, on a point of relevance again, the question is not about what is actually being used and what is being applied in the classroom; the question is very specifically about what training is provided to teachers graduating into our system. Are they trained in phonics prior to arriving? Is there any check on that? That is the substance of the question, rather than what is being applied.

MADAM SPEAKER: Minister, if you can go to the element of training for our graduate teachers in the time you have left—

MS BERRY: I think that is the question that the federal minister is going to, around what sort of education there is within the university space, if that is what Mr Hanson is referring to. But I have just explained the kind of professional development that our teachers receive once they come into our ACT schools. *(Time expired.)*

MR HANSON: Minister, what literacy testing is done in ACT schools, and what are the results showing?

MS BERRY: I can refer Mr Hanson to responses I provided and advice that was provided by Education Directorate officials during estimates hearings on the PIPS program within our primary schools, which is an assessment that is carried out by teachers of students on where their understanding of English and literacy is at the start of kindergarten, the first term of kindergarten, and in the fourth term of kindergarten, to see where their growth has been throughout the year. Once that assessment has occurred, there is a much better understanding of where a child is up to with regard to their learning and what extra supports they might need.

During those kindergarten years and years 1 and 2, the teachers are being supported through the English literacy program with expertise from people like Christine Topfer, whom I have referred to on a number of occasions. Google her; she is well known. Her training is about ensuring that teachers know how they can teach better using all of the tools that are available, which includes phonics and phonetic understanding, within our schools, particularly within those early years, much sooner than the phonics tests suggest, which is a year 1 test. Our assessment happens with the teachers in the classrooms, with the students, with the families, to have a very clear understanding of where a child starts in kindergarten, where their growth in the year has been, and then where those extra supports need to occur.

MS LEE: Why is it then, minister, that our students are falling behind in literacy and in reading?

MS BERRY: I dispute that our students are falling behind. I think that our students are achieving very well. We were third in the country in the OECD with regard to PISA in 2018. That is on an international scale, something that we should also pay credit to. But I believe that in every way our teaching profession is being supported by the ACT government, ensuring that they are paid appropriately and have professional development and support, that they are listened to very carefully about the kinds of things they need to ensure that every child gets a great education. I believe that progressive governments like this one make sure that teachers have professional development to ensure that every child gets an equal chance to a great education.

Children and young people—care and protection

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Minister for Children, Youth and Families. Minister, the Public Advocate has said that “in recent times, the Public Advocate’s team has also been challenged about their participation in care team matters with questions being raised about what their ‘value-add’ to the process would be”, an attempt “to control the way in which the Public Advocate provides oversight”. Minister, why is the Public Advocate’s team being challenged about their participation in child protection matters?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Kikkert for her question, and I would ask her in her supplementary to perhaps provide a source for that information. Obviously, the

Public Advocate and Human Rights Commission play a vitally important role in the monitoring of child protection and youth justice services in the ACT. Child and youth protection services remain absolutely committed to the continual improvement of services for children and young people, and an open and ongoing dialogue with oversight agencies contributes to this ongoing improvement.

The joint operational protocol between child and youth protection services and the Public Advocate continues to support effective and efficient communication processes between the agencies. I note that the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner, Ms Griffiths-Cook, spoke very approvingly in recent hearings about how that is going, and the continued improvement in the relationship between child and youth protection services and the Public Advocate. They meet regularly to address issues as they arise.

Child and youth protection services and ACT Together are also committed to continual improvement in providing annual review reports for children who require one to be prepared annually. In the ACT Human Rights Commission annual report for 2018-19 the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner acknowledged the improvement in timeliness for the provision of annual review reports within the agreed lodgement times. Ms Griffiths-Cook also talked about further improvements in relation to reports being provided under section 507 and section 879 in those hearings.

I am happy to speak further in response to supplementaries, if Mrs Kikkert can provide some further information on context.

MRS KIKKERT: Minister, what has changed to make your government start challenging the Public Advocate's team in recent times when this did not happen before?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: As Mrs Kikkert has been completely unable to provide the context for her assertion, I reject it. I do not believe that that is the case. The Public Advocate is able to ask for lots of information, including under sections 507 and 879 of the act.

Also the Public Advocate and her representatives are able to sit on care teams, and that is a really important mechanism available to the Public Advocate to obtain information and to contribute to improved outcomes for children, and certainly through that mechanism the Public Advocate can seek to attend and be a member of a care team and, where they choose to participate, they can inform discussions and contribute to decision-making about individual children and young people.

If there was a specific matter that Mrs Kikkert is aware of, where she has a concern or a concern has been expressed to her by a parent, by a carer, by a child or young person or by the Public Advocate—where these concerns have been expressed—I would be happy to follow that up. But that is not the feedback that I have had from the Public Advocate and certainly that is not the conversation that I have been having with the senior leadership of child and youth protection services and the Community

Services Directorate who work very closely with oversight agencies and welcome their oversight.

MR HANSON: How can the Public Advocate contribute to strong, independent and external oversight when your government is, in the Public Advocate's own words, trying to control the way in which they provide that oversight?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Again, I note that Mr Hanson has provided no timing on that or a source for that quote. I do not believe that that is the case. I do not believe that that is what child and youth protection services is doing or what the Community Services Directorate is doing. It is certainly not the intention of the ACT government.

Work safety—regulator

MS CHEYNE: My question is to the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety. Minister, how is the ACT government delivering on its commitment to establish a new independent work safety regulator?

MS ORR: I thank Ms Cheyne for her question. Every worker deserves to go home safely. Our commitment to establish an independent work safety regulator came from a 2018 review of WorkSafe ACT. That review identified ways that we could make our regulation and enforcement of work safety laws even stronger.

Since the 2018 review, we have worked hard to deliver this change and to deliver it quickly and effectively. Comprehensive legislation was developed to give the new Work Health and Safety Commissioner independence in monitoring and enforcing the law. That legislation, which passed last year, establishes the Work Health and Safety Commissioner as a new role. The new commissioner is independent of government and responsible for both enforcement of the law and providing advice on how to improve work safety. A thorough recruitment process to fill this role is currently underway.

In addition to setting up the legislative foundations for stronger regulation, this government is committing significant resources to improve work health and safety. Yesterday I announced an additional \$8.7 million in funding for WorkSafe ACT over the next four years. This funding will go towards additional inspectors, data analysts, communications specialists and a whole range of other functions within WorkSafe ACT, to put it in the best position it has been in to ensure that Canberrans are safe at work.

MS CHEYNE: Minister, how will an independent WorkSafe benefit working people in the ACT?

MS ORR: Again thank you, Ms Cheyne. Safety in our workplaces is everybody's responsibility and we need people to be diligent every day they are in the workplace. What we have seen at the start of this year is the need to continue to get out there and promote a safety culture across all of Canberra.

The new independent Work Health and Safety Commissioner and WorkSafe ACT will allow for more transparent, effective regulation. This will support the development of a stronger safety culture across Canberra's workplaces and will establish a focus on compliance and enforcement. Preventing breaches of work health and safety laws will be a top priority and, where breaches are discovered, the new regulator will be empowered to take swift and strong enforcement action.

The 2018 review by Nous consulting provided a solid foundation for improving the transparency, governance and effectiveness of work health and safety regulation. These changes were specifically designed to ensure that our regulator is effective at monitoring compliance, taking action in response to safety breaches, and promoting even stronger and more up-to-date safety practices. These changes, combined with even more resources for work safety inspectors and functions, will directly benefit working Canberrans.

This government's investment in an independent work health and safety regulator will put our hardworking professionals in the best position possible to make sure that Canberrans are safe at work.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, can you outline other ways that this government is protecting working Canberrans?

MS ORR: Thank you, Mr Pettersson, for the question. The new independent regulator is a critical part of our efforts to promote safety, but we are taking a comprehensive approach. We delivered legislation to require that workers are engaged in effective, ongoing and meaningful consultation in the Work Health and Safety Amendment ACT 2018, which was introduced by the previous Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety.

This government also brought forward legislation to help workers take legal action to get their pay and entitlements in the courts. That legislation, introduced by the Attorney-General and passed in September, provided a pathway for workers to access our local courts efficiently and with minimal costs. Importantly, it also responded to recommendations from the Director of Public Prosecutions to strengthen the prosecution of work health and safety matters.

This government will keep working to ensure that working Canberrans have the protections they deserve. We will keep working to ensure that our regulator has the tools and resources necessary to enforce our safety rules in all workplaces, and we will keep working across our community to promote a culture of safety. Safety is everyone's responsibility, it is a priority, and we will keep investing in new ways to provide even stronger protections for working Canberrans.

Sport—swimming pools

MR MILLIGAN: My question is to the Minister for Sport and Recreation. Minister, on 18 January a chlorine leak was reported at the Canberra Olympic Pool in Civic. Visitors were evacuated. ACT Fire and Rescue attended, and HAZMAT crews were

able to contain the leak after several hours. Minister, what was the cause of this leak and what measures have been taken to safeguard visitors?

MS BERRY: I thank Mr Milligan for that question. The leak was—

Ms Lawder: You are not looking for prepared notes, are you?

MS BERRY: Yes, because I am in the government and we have to read briefs that provide advice to us when these incidents occur.

Opposition members interjecting—

MS BERRY: Do you want the answer to the question or not?

MADAM SPEAKER: Members, allow the minister to answer.

MS BERRY: There were about 1,000 litres of chlorine, which leaked into the bunding, which was holding around 4,000 litres of water. It was suspected that it was as a result of the storm. The entire site, as Mr Mulligan referred to, was evacuated. There were no reported environmental impacts, however this is continuing to be monitored. The leaking tank was isolated and the pipework was re-plumbed to a second chlorine tank. There were no reported injuries or environmental impacts. The gasket that was faulty has been repaired and the pipework has been reconnected. A new delivery of chlorine arrived on 22 January.

ACT Property Group is currently seeking a quote to replace both chlorine tanks and to update the bunding. An audit of the chlorine tanks and bunding at the four additional aquatic facilities will also be undertaken.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, what is the current status on the amount of water that is leaking from the Canberra Olympic Pool in Civic?

MS BERRY: I do not have my figure on me. I will get some advice from the directorate and I will provide that back to the Assembly.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, what is the maintenance budget for pools in the ACT and how much of that is specifically allocated to the ageing and neglected Canberra Olympic Pool?

MS BERRY: I will have to get some advice on the detail of that. Of course, our older pools do require, from time to time, significant upgrades and repairs. We announced last year, and made, repairs on the tiles at the heritage Manuka Pool. That was at a significant cost because the tiles needed to be sourced from overseas and shipped here to make sure that they were aesthetically correct and met the needs of the Manuka Pool upgrade. We take that work very seriously. I will get some more detail on the actual figure that was spent over the past year, particularly with regard to the Civic pool.

Transport Canberra—ticketing

MISS C BURCH: My question is to the transport minister. Minister, I refer to the government's announcement yesterday that the government has commenced a procurement process for a new integrated ticketing system. However, the former minister for transport and senior Transport Canberra and City Services officials are quoted numerous times in this place in estimates and in annual reports hearings about the commencement of and subsequent progress made with this procurement process. Minister, what happened to the three years of progress that had been made towards procuring and delivering an integrated ticketing system?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. The government has been undertaking a procurement process for some time for a new ticketing system, and I look forward to updating the Assembly as soon as I can on the outcomes and finalisation of that procurement process going forward.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, why have you scrapped three years worth of work undertaken by the directorate in order to provide a new ticketing system?

MR STEEL: We have not.

MR PARTON: Minister, why are you misleading Canberrans when you say that they will be soon able to—

MADAM SPEAKER: Finish the question, but it could be unparliamentary with the word “misleading” in there.

MR PARTON: When you say that they will be soon able to tap onto public transport with credit cards, when in reality this will not be the case until at least 2022?

MR STEEL: As I have just said to the Assembly, the outcome of the procurement process has not yet been finalised. Once it has been finalised, I will be able to provide further detail in relation to the exact specifications of the ticketing system, the transition to the new ticketing system, and the transition away from the existing MyWay and NXTBUS systems.

Transport Canberra—network improvements

MR PETTERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Transport. Minister, can you please explain the recent changes to improve our public transport network and what they will mean for Canberrans?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Pettersson for his question and note his advocacy in relation to public transport, and particularly light rail. The government is continuing to make investments to better connect Canberrans with public transport. More Canberrans are using public transport. We have seen in the last quarter a 7.1 per cent increase in the number of journeys taken compared to the same quarter last year. We have seen Canberrans respond to the 21 per cent more services that are being delivered under

our public transport system. We have seen 3.5 million boardings on light rail, which is absolutely fantastic. Light rail stage 1 has been a huge success, and we are looking to further improve the span and frequency of services, and the frequency in peak periods as well, to help meet demand.

We are providing local route services and connections from Tuggeranong to Woden via the Canberra Hospital, which will start in term 2. We are increasing the capacity of our bus services running from Woden direct to the city, for Woden Valley residents, and we are cutting travel times to the city for Tuggeranong residents by up to 15 minutes.

We are adding direct local services from Palmerston, Crace, Nicholls and Casey to Belconnen, and we will better service Giralang, Kaleen and McKellar, with more routes and direct local services to Gungahlin. We are providing better access to Mitchell, with route 18 being extended to Dickson, reducing the need for multiple transfers. From term 2 we will increase the frequency of services on Saturdays during the day for local route buses.

I look forward to updating the Assembly on further improvements that we will be making to the public transport system and the timetable when I release the timetable in around mid-March. The government has also announced that we are investing in a modern ticketing system for Transport Canberra that will make public transport more accessible for Canberrans.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, why is the government increasing light rail frequency in morning peaks and extending the peak times for light rail?

MR STEEL: Because it has been a huge success. In the morning and afternoon peak periods of service we have seen huge numbers of people using light rail: over 15,000 boardings every day on light rail during the weekdays. As a consequence of that popularity, we have seen some crowding on light rail vehicles during peak periods, which is a good problem to have but still a problem.

To meet that extra demand, as of 3 February we have extended the morning and afternoon peak periods: for the morning an extension to 9.30, and an extension of half an hour in the evening to 6.30 northbound. In addition, from 28 April we will be further improving light rail services, with frequency to be increased to every five minutes in the morning peaks, and afternoon peaks extended till 7 northbound and 6.30 southbound. We will also be bringing forward the commencement of services on a Sunday to 7 am rather than 8 am so that we can provide better connections for people using light rail services, and the buses that connect with them, on the weekend.

I would like to acknowledge Mr Pettersson's advocacy on this issue for some time, including a motion in the Assembly. I am very pleased that the government has been able to deliver more frequent and reliable light rail services for Canberra.

MR GUPTA: Minister, what benefits will the new ticketing system provide for public transport users in Canberra?

MR STEEL: I thank Mr Gupta for his question. I am very pleased to advise the Assembly that we are continuing to invest in public transport to ensure that it is more accessible for Canberrans, and the ticketing system is an important part of that.

This week I have announced that we will be transitioning to a new public transport ticketing system to provide public transport users in Canberra with more convenient and flexible options to pay for public transport, whether that is through a credit card, whether that is through cash, the existing method, or whether that is through a mobile phone or a travel card linked to an account. It will also have the benefit beyond the ticketing system to provide further information to Transport Canberra customers about their travel, to help them plan their trip, and provide the most advanced ticketing technology available so that we also match some of the cities that are transitioning at the same time right around the world.

Public transport users will significantly benefit from this system, and I look forward to further updating the community about the features of the ticketing system once we have finalised the procurement process.

Alexander Maconochie Centre—health services

MRS JONES: My question is to the Minister for Corrections and Justice Health. I refer to a survey contained in the healthy prisons report, which found that 82 per cent of prisoners claimed that they had difficulty getting general medical services when needed. Prisoners currently have to wait an average of two weeks to see a doctor on a non-urgent basis, while capacity issues and unfilled positions add to the issues. Minister, why do most prisoners and detainees at the AMC have difficulty getting access to medical services when, in their view, they are needed?

MR RATTENBURY: I can assure the chamber that justice health services runs a very clear triage system; where detainees need urgent treatment, they are given that straightaway. There is, at times, a wait for access to non-urgent appointments, as there might be in the community. That is setting the standard that we strive for: an equivalent standard to what someone might see in the community. I can also inform the Assembly that we have in recent times had some staff shortages in justice health services, but I am also able to confirm that there has been a successful recruitment process and we are now back up to full staff in justice health.

MRS JONES: Minister, when did that recruitment process begin, when was it concluded, and are there currently any roles unfilled or in the process of being filled rather than currently filled?

MR RATTENBURY: I will take the detail on notice, but as I answered in response to the last question, I have recently been briefed that justice health consider themselves to be back up to full capability now. I will provide the details to Mrs Jones on notice.

MRS DUNNE: Minister, what impact did the recent lockdown at the AMC have on access to medical treatment and medications? Were you satisfied with the services available to inmates during that period?

MR RATTENBURY: Justice health services worked very closely with corrective services during the lockdown. The lockdown was necessary in order to ensure the safety and security of the centre, which goes to the safety and security of justice health staff. There was close collaboration there. Necessary health services continued. There was a reduction of three medication rounds a day to two, but that is an operating procedure that can be used at various times; and detainees received all the medications they were due to receive as would normally be the case, just on a slightly altered timetable.

Canberra Health Services—audit reports

MRS DUNNE: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, the Auditor-General's report No 10 of 2019, in relation to the financial audits for 2018-19, says that two audit findings for Canberra Health Services remained unresolved. The first one, reported in the first place in 2012-13, relates to timely and complete credit card acquittals. The other, which was first reported in 2016-17, relates to timely reviews of salary reports and retention of evidence of those reviews. Minister, are the procedures for credit card acquittals unambiguous? If so, why are there still issues of non-compliance six years after the Auditor-General first reported on this matter?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for the question. I do recall reading this information and those two issues being identified, but I cannot recall the detail of what is being done to respond to those. I understand there is work being done. I will have to take that question on notice and come back to the Assembly.

MRS DUNNE: I suppose the minister will take this on notice as well. Minister, are the procedures for the reviews of salary reports unambiguous and, if so, why is the Auditor-General still reporting on those as being noncompliant two years after they were raised by the Auditor-General?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mrs Dunne for the supplementary question. She is correct: I will also take that one on notice.

MISS C BURCH: Minister, why do audit findings for Canberra Health Services relating to important fraud and error prevention policies remain unresolved years after they were first reported?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Miss Burch for the question. It is basically an identical question to Mrs Dunne's first two questions, so I will take it on notice. I note that it is possible that there may be some requirement for investment in IT or something of that nature which just requires a little time to get sorted out. Anyway, I will come back on notice to the Assembly.

Canberra Health Services—radiology services

MR GUPTA: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, could you please update the Assembly on wait times for radiology?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Gupta for his question and for his interest in the health services provided across the ACT. As I have mentioned previously, the ACT government invested \$11 million, including \$6 million from the commonwealth, to replace two linear accelerators used for radiology treatment at the Canberra Hospital campus.

I was pleased to celebrate the opening of the first of the new LINACs with Senator Seselja on 9 September 2019. The second LINAC was installed in December 2019 and is now undergoing extensive commissioning. The new LINAC will be operational by mid-2020. I am delighted to advise the Assembly that since mid-September 2019, 100 per cent of our patients have commenced treatment within the recommended guidelines in all three of the reported categories.

One hundred patients per day receive radiation therapy treatment at Canberra Hospital. This is being achieved on three machines as opposed to the same number being treated on four machines during the same period last year. I am pleased to report that there are currently no waiting lists for radiotherapy services, and wait times are within national benchmarks and meet key performance indicators, further demonstrating the ACT government's commitment to providing health care to Canberrans and those from the surrounding region when and where they need it.

Last week I was pleased to attend the Canberra Region Cancer Centre as part of World Cancer Day at Canberra Hospital on 4 February, and to meet some of the wonderful, dedicated staff who have achieved this result. I also had the pleasure of meeting one of the CRCC's patients, Kim. Kim took the time to show me around her favourite parts of the CRCC. She also took the opportunity to accompany me on a visit to the new LINAC. She was interested to learn about the panels above the treatment space providing the patients with images of calming local scenery whilst they are undertaking treatment. Those are the small things that make a big difference to people's comfort.

MR GUPTA: Minister, could you outline what was done to achieve these results?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Gupta for his supplementary question. Radiotherapy wait times are impacted by a number of different factors, and as with much of the work across our ACT public health services, it is difficult to perfectly forecast demand on our services. There have been a number of activities undertaken by the hardworking staff in Canberra Health Services to improve patient access to radiology treatment but also to improve the way that treatment is delivered.

By way of patient access, improvements in treatment capacity have been achieved by extending treatment times to 7 pm; improving patient scheduling; improving treatment planning processes; and ensuring that machine maintenance is well planned to ensure minimal machine downtime.

In respect of treatment itself, the new LINACs allow for the introduction of a new radiation therapy delivery technique called volumetric modulated arc therapy. This therapy is a radiation therapy technique that delivers the radiation dose continuously

as the treatment machine rotates. What that means for patients is faster treatments for each patient and more patients being able to be seen in the same amount of time per day.

What is less tangible but is incredibly important is the impact of many volunteers and community groups who work alongside Canberra Health Services, offering advice, comfort and support to people facing cancer, and their families, friends and carers. I had the opportunity to meet a number of these groups on World Cancer Day last week, and I thank them for their work. By sharing their experiences, committing their time and providing invaluable advice, they make a real difference to the lives of many people in our community facing what is an incredibly difficult experience.

MS CODY: Minister, what other work is going on to support cancer patients in Canberra Health Services?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Ms Cody for her question and her interest in support for cancer patients in the ACT and the surrounding region. One of the key commitments by the ACT government in supporting cancer patients is our investment of \$21 million in the inpatient wards for cancer services, which are located in the southern end of building 3 at Canberra Hospital campus. Those paying attention would be aware that this is the building the Canberra Liberals would prefer to demolish, creating significant disruption for the Canberra Hospital.

These works include a new internal fit-out to wards 14A and 14B. I look forward to opening the refurbished ward 14A next week. The new wards will include more single rooms with daybeds for the comfort of family and visitors, and dining and lounge facilities in recognition of the long lengths of stay for some cancer patients and the importance of supporting carers encouraging patients to eat. The wards will also be entirely positively pressured, improving safety and the ability for patients with low immune systems to move around the ward.

In addition, Canberra Health Services is developing a cancer consumer reference group to increase consumer, carer and community participation in the planning and delivery of cancer services. Expressions of interest for membership close on 15 February 2020 and I encourage those who might know people who would be interested in putting in an expression of interest to let them know about it.

The Canberra Region Cancer Centre is also working on developing a cancer wellbeing centre and an enhanced research presence. The addition of these two elements will allow the Canberra Region Cancer Centre to be considered to be a comprehensive cancer centre. The cancer wellbeing centre will provide a comprehensive range of programs to support patients, their families and carers during their treatment at Canberra Region Cancer Centre, programs such as exercise and mobility classes, support group meetings, delta therapy dogs and music therapy as well as the provision of legal and financial information. I look forward to providing the Assembly with further updates on these exciting projects.

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

Supplementary answers to questions without notice

Municipal services—invasive tree roots

MR STEEL: In question time, the Leader of the Opposition asked me about tree root damage to private property. I have taken the liberty of printing off the procedures for tree root damage to private property to table in the Assembly, including the tree root damage to sewer and stormwater procedure, tree root damage to private property procedure and tree root damage to pavement procedure. I table now in the Assembly, in answer to his question, the following papers:

Claims for tree damage—Transport Canberra and City Services procedures—

Tree damage to private property.

Tree root damage to pavement.

Tree root damage to private property.

Tree root damage to sewer and storm water.

Mr Coe: It is not case by case?

MR STEEL: No.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: Yesterday Mr Milligan asked me what the cost of the review of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm has been. I note that this answer will be an update to a response to question on notice 2751 of 27 September that I previously provided to Mr Milligan.

The answer is that the total amount paid was \$100,847.05, GST inclusive, including facilitation of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm governance workshop on 15 April 2019. I can also confirm that, as part of the review, consultation and interviews occurred with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the United Ngunnawal Elders Council, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, the Healing Foundation and individual community members.

Papers

Madam Speaker presented the following papers:

Parliamentary Partnership Agreement between the Prince Edward Island Legislature and the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, and visit to Nova Scotia and British Columbia Legislatures by the Speaker in November 2019—Report, dated February 2020.

Mr Gentleman presented the following papers:

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, pursuant to section 22—Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment—State of the Environment Report 2019.

Courts Construction Project—Update to the Legislative Assembly on the progress, February 2020.

Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2019, dated December 2019, together with an explanatory memorandum.

Financial Management Act—

Pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report—Financial quarter ending 31 December 2019.

Pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance reports—December 2019, for the following directorates:

ACT Local Hospital Network, dated 13 February 2020.

Canberra Health Services, dated 13 February 2020.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, dated February 2020.

Community Services Directorate, dated February 2020.

Education Directorate, dated February 2020.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, dated February 2020.

Health Directorate, dated 13 February 2020.

Housing ACT, dated February 2020.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

Major Projects Canberra, dated February 2020.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

Flexible payment options for fees and charges—Government response to the resolution of the Assembly of 3 April 2019, dated February 2020.

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019 (No 141/2019), dated 10 December 2019.

Mental Health Act, pursuant to subsection 271(2)—Review of the Operation of Mental Health Orders under the ACT Mental Health Act 2015—Sections 58, 66, 101, 102, 108, dated 25 October 2019.

Our Booris, Our Way—Final report, dated December 2019.

Remuneration Tribunal Act, pursuant to subsection 12(2)—Determinations, together with accompanying statements for:

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Determination 9 of 2019, dated December 2019.

ACT Magistrates Court Judicial Positions—Determination 8 of 2019, dated December 2019.

ACT Supreme Court Judicial Positions—Determination 7 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Director of Public Prosecutions—Determination 12 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Full-time Statutory Office Holders—Determination 15 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Full-time Statutory Office Holders: Auditor-General, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Electoral Commissioner—Determination 14 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Part-time Public Office Holders—Determination 13 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Part-time Statutory Office Holder: Integrity Commissioner—Determination 10 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Principal Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, ACT Courts and Tribunal—Determination 11 of 2019, dated December 2019.

Transport Action Plan—Quarterly update—Number 2, dated January 2020.

Wanniassa bus network changes—Petition No 27-19—Ministerial response—Additional information—Letter to the Clerk from the Minister for Transport, dated 12 February 2020.

Financial Management Act—consolidated financial report for the December 2019 quarter

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (3.11): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 26—Consolidated Financial Report—Financial quarter ending 31 December 2019.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (3.12): The consolidated financial report for the December quarter has been tabled. I can advise the Assembly that the December quarter headline net operating balance for the general government sector was a surplus of \$89.3 million. This result was around \$70 million lower than the year to date budget, largely due to lower taxation revenue associated with lower conveyance duty and payroll tax.

The result was also influenced by lower GST revenue as a result of significant write-downs in the national GST pool. The lower conveyance duty reflects a greater than expected uptake of the first homebuyer concession scheme. The most recent data shows that one in five home purchasers in the ACT now are first homebuyers. We are proud that the government's support is assisting more Canberrans in buying their first home.

Just as we have done over a number of years, where commonwealth support has not been forthcoming we have been investing in our city's infrastructure and essential services to make real differences for Canberrans now and into the years ahead.

The territory's balance sheet remains strong, represented by key indicators such as net debt, net financial liabilities and net worth. I commend the December quarterly report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (3.13): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Amendment (Miscellaneous) Regulation 2019.

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) (3.14): This amendment to the regulations came into effect on 16 December 2019. It was also published on the ACT Legislation Register on this date. This amendment is minor: it simply provides an extension to the exemption for privately practising midwives to have professional indemnity insurance. This exemption has applied since 2010, when the Health Practitioner Regulation National Law commenced and required all registered health practitioners to have appropriate professional indemnity insurance.

Despite exhaustive national and international investigations, there is currently still no professional indemnity insurance policy for privately practising midwives in Australia for homebirths. As a result, this exemption has been extended several times since 2010. On 8 March 2019, health ministers agreed to extend the current exemption until December 2021 to allow time for alternatives to be further explored. That work on options is being undertaken by the Australian Health Ministers' Advisory Council and will be completed by June 2020.

A professional indemnity insurance product to cover homebirths would be preferable to the uncertainty of a continued exemption for privately practising midwives. It would allow privately practising midwives to remain registered under the national law without the need for an exemption, and continue to provide choice to women and take into account the rights of women and children. However, the exemption does mean that ACT women continue to have a wide choice about the types of birthing services available to them. It provides a continuance of the existing situation for privately practising midwives in the ACT who provide homebirth services.

The ACT government is committed to providing women with choice, including the successful trial for mothers who wish to birth their child at home. This exemption in

the regulations does not apply to the registered nurses in the ACT homebirth trial, as ACT public service employees are covered by the ACT Insurance Authority.

There is no explanatory statement as part of this amendment, as the original explanatory statement which set out the exemption still applies. To honour the commitment of the previous minister for health and wellbeing to provide information about ACT human rights implications in any legislative amendments to the national law, I would like to place on record for the Legislative Assembly that this exemption is consistent with the rights stipulated under the ACT's Human Rights Act 2004 and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women. Specifically it supports the right of pregnant women to exercise a free and informed choice about the medical treatments to be received by them, including the methods of childbirth. Section 10(2) of the Human Rights Act 2004 states the right not to be subject to medical treatment without free consent. This amendment allows women to continue to exercise that consent and choice of medical treatment.

I am pleased to have this amendment tabled in the Assembly today.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Our Booris, Our Way—final report

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (3.17): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Our Booris, Our Way—Final report.

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) (3.17): I am very pleased to speak on the tabling of the final report of the Our Booris, Our Way review. This report is an important milestone not only for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in Canberra but for the whole Aboriginal community, and represents the culmination of an enormous amount of work.

I commissioned the Our Booris, Our Way review in June 2017 to focus on systemic improvements needed to address the unacceptable overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection system in the ACT.

The ACT government knows that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are the experts in their own lives, and the review was established with governance and methodology to be co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experts and key Aboriginal community controlled organisations. It was overseen by a wholly Aboriginal steering committee made up of experts from across the sector and community, including legal, service delivery, human rights, integrated care and lived experience in child protection. I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the

committee, particularly the chair, Barbara Causon, for the dedication and expertise they have contributed to the review over the past two years.

I would also like to acknowledge the work of the project team, who reviewed case files for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children connected to the child protection system as at 31 December 2017. The team, led by skilled Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with experience in child protection, has consulted broadly with the community as well as reviewing the 307 case files.

The steering committee and project team have worked through the case files of some of the most vulnerable children in our community and spoken with families who have distressing life stories. This is difficult and emotionally challenging work and I acknowledge their resilience and the ongoing cultural load they have carried through this process.

Finally, I thank the children, families, carers and community members who have shared their experiences of the child protection system with the committee. I want to acknowledge their bravery and their contribution to shaping the future for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families in Canberra.

The report makes clear that the work it calls for is urgent. As Ms Causon says in her foreword, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community not only expects change but is ready to continue leading it.

The report really gets to the detail of what is not working, what needs to change. But it also speaks to better practice: what is working that we can build on. This is vital to give people confidence that there is hope and that change is possible.

The report contains many quotes from people with lived experience of the system that speak to both the challenges and the changes we need to see in very clear terms.

From a parent:

No-one told us what we needed to do to get the kids back.

From a carer:

It is kind of like a football rotation round where there is one team—

CYPS—

who know all the rules ... and every other team is running around training themselves, never been given the rule book, only comes to play one match ever.

From another parent, though:

When CYPS came into my home and yard and told me they could see how much I had done ... I was very proud of that, how hard I had been working.

That was the first time I had been given a compliment about anything I had been trying to do and it meant a lot. When the CYPS worker believed me it made a huge difference.

And from a child:

They all could have had a meeting together to say you should not be treating kids like this.

In many ways, it is what we know: the importance of relationships, respect, building trust and cultural safety. And yet the insights provided are also much deeper and provide a strong evidence base for the steering committee's final recommendations.

This has been a huge piece of work, and it has necessarily taken time. Throughout the review period, however, the steering committee has provided recommendations to the ACT government and directorates. There were 15 interim recommendations made as the review progressed. These were immediate opportunities for learning and change, and these have been accepted and are being implemented.

In finalising the review, a further examination of files was made for a sample of children known to CYPS as at 30 June 2019. This additional review sought to understand whether there had been any change in the practice and casework applied to these children since the commencement of the review and in response to these iterative recommendations. This analysis is included throughout the report and it shows that while there are promising changes to practice, there is still more work to do on a range of fronts.

I recognise the community's frustration that change is not happening as fast as we would all like. But it is also important to acknowledge that change is happening.

The latest step up for our kids snapshot report data shows that 25 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entered care in 2018-19, compared with 50 in 2017-18 and 59 in 2016-17. As a proportion of children entering care, this represents a reduction from 30 per cent to 20 per cent. Is this still unacceptably high? Absolutely it is. But for the first time in many years, our own data, and most recently the report on government services, show that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people on child protection orders and in out of home care in the ACT is coming down. This is something the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community can take pride in, because they have driven this.

In announcing the review, I know there was scepticism from some that this would simply mean waiting two years for anything to happen. I stated at the time that this would absolutely not be the case, that we knew that urgent action was required. I was pleased recently to see that the changes already made to policy and practice have been recognised by SNAICC, the national voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. SNAICC's latest review of ACT compliance with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander placement principle states that the ACT is now engaging with all elements of the principle.

Many people deserve credit for this: committed leadership within the Community Services Directorate; the staff in children, youth and families who have engaged with this work and faced up with courage to hard facts and new understandings of what it

means to engage in culturally safe practice; and our community partners, including Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services and Gulan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation.

In 2017, the Community Services Directorate partnered with Aboriginal-controlled organisation Curijo to start delivering family group conferencing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, empowering them to make their own decisions about how to keep their children safe within family, community and culture. Ongoing funding for this program was included in the 2019-20 budget, along with further investment to improve the cultural proficiency of staff and to embed the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander child placement principle in policy, practice and training.

More recently, the establishment of the functional family therapy program, run by Gulan Gulwan in partnership with OzChild, has been an astonishing success. I met with Kim Davison from Gulan Gulwan and representatives from OzChild late last year and the impact of functional family therapy was clear. The community is more empowered. More families are staying together.

I was very pleased to announce at the launch of the final Our Booris, Our Way report that Gulan will receive ongoing funding for functional family therapy. This is reflected in the midyear budget review to be introduced today, which includes almost \$4.4 million over four years for functional family therapy, additional resources in the cultural services team, and a senior practitioner in child and youth protection services to support improved responses to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

The Our Booris, Our Way final report makes 28 recommendations for systemic change in child protection and out of home care to: safely reduce the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people entering care; improve their experience and outcomes while in care; and, where appropriate, exit children from care.

The report finds that there needs to be “a more holistic view on how to improve outcomes for children through improving the ability of parents to seek and receive appropriate supports”. It highlights the importance of services across government and the community that support children and families, such as those that address drug and alcohol, family violence, mental health and trauma.

This is a reminder that while we can drive change in culture and practice in child protection and out of home care, we all have a role to play across government and in the community. Every one of us has a role to play and can make a difference in the lives of children and families.

This report marks the end of the Our Booris, Our Way review, but not of our commitment to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and their families. I have been, and continue to be, committed to this review and I value the information that has been presented and the developing change in the way we approach how we work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. I am delighted that an Aboriginal-led interim implementation oversight committee will be

monitoring the progress of the recommendations and look forward to working alongside them as the government finalises its response to the report.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (3.26): I want to speak briefly on the final report from the steering committee. First, I want to thank everyone who contributed to and participated in this process. Many of the stories and experiences of families were, no doubt, traumatic to retell and to relive. I want to thank the steering committee for providing interim reports throughout this process and for their genuine efforts to communicate throughout the two years.

This process has taken two years and cost millions of dollars to complete. There are 28 recommendations aimed at addressing systemic issues for Indigenous children in care in the ACT. I sincerely hope that this government moves quickly to address these issues.

Consistently, the ACT has had one of the nation's highest rates of Indigenous children in state care. This, I feel, is one of the greatest shames. As I have said repeatedly, if we cannot get it right here, then something is very wrong. This tired Labor government has presided over this system for the past 19 years. Sadly, I am not confident that it can address the issue or admit its mistakes. However, I am confident that our Indigenous community and our local Aboriginal community controlled organisations have the knowledge and the desire to address this situation if only they are given the chance to have a voice and a real role in this process.

The Canberra Liberals will be watching for follow-through and action in this critical area of public policy and management. This is yet another demonstration to the Canberra community that we will focus on what matters. We will ensure that the Indigenous community is not presented with more of the same from this lot.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

State of the environment report 2019

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (3.28): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act, pursuant to section 22—Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment—State of the Environment 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) (3.29): I am pleased to table the ACT *State of the Environment* report 2019. The ACT *State of the environment* report meets its statutory requirement in the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993 to provide the community and government with an assessment

of the ACT's environment. The Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment provided the 2019 report to me, as Minister for Sustainability and Climate Change, on 19 December 2019. Under the act, the report must be presented to the Legislative Assembly within six sitting days of the minister receiving the report.

The ACT *State of the environment* report is a four-yearly report. The 2019 report covers the period from 1 July 2015 to 30 June 2019 and includes an assessment of the state and trends of the environment, the pressures on it and their impacts, the management initiatives that are in place to address environmental concerns and the effectiveness of those initiatives. Data gaps and policy challenges are also outlined.

For the 2019 report, environmental assessments are based on 26 core indicators across seven themes—namely, climate change, human settlements, air, land, biodiversity, water and fire—selected to address specific environmental issues. The 2019 report includes a dedicated chapter on Indigenous heritage and environmental issues and interests. This is the first time the ACT *State of the environment* report has begun with such considerations. Other dedicated chapters include acknowledgement and celebration of ACT community contribution to sustainability and environmental knowledge. The value of this work is significant, with replacement value estimated in the order of \$40 million to \$50 million per year, and the importance and status of Canberra's urban trees.

Drivers of environmental challenges and change in the ACT continue to be climate change, our ecological footprint, population growth and development pressures. Key findings include that the ACT's per-capita ecological footprint is 5.4 hectares, which is comparable to the Australian average. The ACT's ecological footprint has decreased by 11 per cent since 2019, but there remains room for improvement. The ACT's total carbon footprint has decreased by 20 per cent since 2019, largely due to our transition to 100 per cent renewable electricity.

The report recognises our world leading action on climate change, however rates climate trends and impacts of climate change as poor, due to the worsening impacts of climate change being experienced in our region. While air quality is not typically a major issue locally, the report recommends improved air-quality monitoring. There remain challenges for protecting our biodiversity, including land clearing for development, better understanding and managing the impacts of climate changes on species and ecosystems and eradication of invasive species.

The commissioner has provided 35 formal recommendations to assist the ACT government to make strategic and practical decisions and undertake specific actions to improve environmental outcomes. The recommendations aim to focus ACT government effort where it is likely to have the greatest impact, including opportunities to integrate multiple environmental outcomes in government policies and programs.

Under the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993, the ACT government is required to present a statement that sets out its responses to these recommendations within six months of tabling this report in the Legislative Assembly. In addition to formal recommendations, the commissioner has presented 42 key

actions across the seven themes to assist with ongoing environmental management. These are not formal recommendations and do not require an ACT government response. I commend the ACT *State of the environment* report 2019 to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Mental Health Act—review of the operation of mental health orders

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (3.33): Pursuant to standing order 211, I move:

That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Mental Health Act, pursuant to subsection 271(2)—Review of the Operation of Mental Health Orders under the *ACT Mental Health Act 2015*—Sections 58, 66, 101, 102, 108.

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) (3.33): I am pleased to table this report via Minister Gentleman. It is being tabled in accordance with my obligations under the Mental Health Act.

The Mental Health Act sets out a system that carefully balances the need to provide a safety net for people experiencing significant mental health conditions, with the right of every person to choose if and when they receive medical treatment. This balance was explored in detail during the considerable stakeholder engagement and public consultation. Getting this balance right is critical to promoting a recovery-oriented approach to mental health service delivery and aligning our mental health legislation with human rights law.

I have risen in this chamber on a previous occasion to speak about the fact that it is a fundamental principle of our health system in Australia that people have the right to choose if and when they receive medical treatment. This principle applies equally to people with mental illness, and any limitations on this right must be carefully considered. This principle is a critical criterion when considering the effective operation of the Mental Health Act.

The report that I table today examines the parts of the act that provide for treatment, care and support to be provided on an involuntary basis through mental health orders and forensic mental health orders. I am pleased that the report indicates that the policy intent of the act has been delivered for mental health orders. The sections of the act that provide for psychiatric treatment orders and community care orders are operating as intended.

In line with the least restrictive philosophy, which is central to the act, it is encouraging to see that data on mental health orders show a substantial decrease of 24.5 per cent in the annual number of psychiatric treatment orders in the two years following the commencement of the act, compared with the two years prior.

The number of community care orders is small relative to the number of psychiatric treatment orders. The number of community care orders issued since commencement of the act remains similar to those in the years immediately preceding, 18 in 2015-16 and 16, 15 and 19 in the following three years.

It is worth noting that the report further concludes that forensic orders are not operating as intended. As at the time of the review, no forensic orders had been made since the commencement of the act. One forensic order has been made since. Under section 101(2)(e) of the act, a forensic order can only be made in circumstances where another less restrictive mental health order cannot be made.

One response received during consultation surmised that forensic orders will continue to not be made, as in almost all cases psychiatric treatment orders and community care orders are sufficient to provide the necessary treatment, care and support. Another contributor to the review indicated that the current practice is viewed as being consistent with the object of least restrictive care.

The report recommends that the purpose and intent of forensic mental health orders be reviewed within the context of least restrictive care. I accept this recommendation. This work has commenced and there will be formal consultation on this question later in 2020. This is complex work, which necessarily involves a lot of conversations with a range of people and the consideration of some emotive topics, so proposed changes to the forensic provisions would be presented to the next Legislative Assembly for consideration.

The report also recommends that the act be reviewed to provide clarity in the circumstances that a contravention notice is in force but the patient consents to the treatment. I accept this recommendation. This work is underway and legislative amendment is being considered to ensure that consenting mental health patients can receive treatment, care and support in the community. When this work is concluded, and consultation has taken place, I will present any proposed legislative amendments to this Chamber for consideration.

The final recommendation is that the data be reviewed again after a period. The recommendation refers to a new model of care. I note the work of our clinical delivery services in ensuring that the model of care for mental health patients evolves over time to reflect both best practice and new evidence as it becomes available. I accept the recommendation as an opportunity to consider the future operation of the act, particularly with respect to these orders provisions and any amendments that are ultimately made to the legislation.

As part of the review we welcomed submissions with respect to all aspects of the legislation, not just those sections of the act that were mandated for review. The submissions received are rich and detailed, providing a blueprint for considering other aspects of the legislation that were not contemplated by the mandated review provisions. This will be a significant piece of work and I thank all those members of our community who took the time to share their perspectives.

The issues are complex, and it is not possible to respond to all issues potentially requiring legislative reform in the time available in the 9th Assembly. In accordance with my obligations under the Mental Health Act, I commend the report to the Assembly.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

2019-20 budget review

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) (3.39): The 2019-20 budget review continues our investment in Canberra's future to ensure that we are prepared for the social, environmental and economic challenges and opportunities that lie ahead. The government is building upon our record of investing where and when it is needed to ensure the delivery of high-quality essential services and infrastructure to the community.

This budget review coincides with the start of a new decade. Unfortunately for the territory and the broader region, the start of this decade has been marked by unprecedented and unrelenting bushfire activity and natural disasters.

Through this decade the government plans to build on and secure a better future for Canberra. We are providing services that matter: more surgeries and services in our hospitals, expanded capacity for our local schools, efficient road and public transport networks, protecting our environment, and ensuring that there is support for those who need it most.

We are also working to maintain a strong economy, one that creates secure local jobs that are rewarding and valued. Our efforts towards economic diversification continue to see significant results, with around 60 per cent of the new jobs created since the beginning of 2016 being in the private sector. Furthermore, the growth in the ACT economy continues to be broad based, with 18 of the territory's 19 industry categories recording growth in 2018-19. The only industry not to follow this trend was our small and historically volatile mining industry.

The territory remains one of Australia's strongest economic performers. In the 2018-19 fiscal year, our real gross state product increased by three per cent. That was the equal second highest growth rate of any jurisdiction in the nation and well above the national rate of growth of two per cent. Solid economic growth in the territory builds on our previous strong growth outcomes. To put that in a monetary perspective, over the past four years the ACT economy has grown from \$34.5 billion in 2014-15 to \$41.6 billion in 2018-19 in nominal terms. In other words our economy has grown at an average of \$1.8 billion per annum over this period.

Our economic performance is reflected in the territory's employment and population outcomes, with our unemployment rate in December 2019 of 3.1 per cent being the

lowest in the nation. The 7½ thousand jobs created in the territory over the year to December 2019 were a combination of full-time employment, up by 3,300 jobs, and part-time employment, up by 4,200 jobs.

Through the year to 2019, our population grew by 6,330 people, further evidence that more and more Australians and international residents, now Canberra residents, are recognising all of the great things that our city has to offer: education, jobs and lifestyle opportunities. The government is investing for everyone that calls Canberra home, focusing on the priorities that matter most to our citizens: health, education, transport, responding to climate change, and the delivery of high-quality community services.

As I indicated when I tabled the December quarterly report, and as was evident in the commonwealth's midyear update, like all other jurisdictions, the reduction in the national GST pool has contributed to a decline in the territory's headline net operating balance position, as it has to every state and territory's headline net operating balance position. Other contributors include decreases in own-source revenue—and I highlighted those in my previous speech, particularly in relation to conveyance duty and payroll tax—and lower than forecast land sales revenue in 2019-20.

As we look forward there are clearly economic risks to Australia and to the territory. We are facing a much more challenging economic environment than we were six months ago. The downside risks to the economic outlook include ongoing tensions in the international trade arena and risks associated with residential building activity. Additionally, any potential expansion of the commonwealth government decentralisation program will dampen commonwealth expenditure in the territory.

The smoke haze and associated economic disruption at the end of 2019 and continuing into 2020 has emerged as a new risk to our economic outlook. Members would be aware that the hailstorm on 20 January caused significant damage to motor vehicles and property, estimated to be close to \$1 billion, and that the bushfires have burned much of the Namadgi National Park. Perhaps most concerning now is the unknown economic implications of the coronavirus outbreak in China, which is currently directly affecting our two biggest export industries, international education and tourism.

The Commonwealth Grants Commission 2020 methodology review of GST revenue-sharing relativities is expected to be released publicly on 16 March 2020. The commission's publications to date, particularly its draft report, indicate that the ACT will likely experience a downward adjustment to its GST share in 2020-21 and future years. So there will be a smaller national GST pool as a result of prevailing economic conditions in Australia and the ACT's share of that smaller pool is likely to be smaller.

In times of uncertainty, the government has a proven record in providing essential services and investing in the forward planning infrastructure that make our city such a great place to live. I have already touched upon our population growth and now, much like in the 2019-20 budget before it, the budget update recognises that as we grow, we

have a responsibility to continue to invest in services, infrastructure and community facilities that our residents rely upon.

It is through this approach that, despite the challenges of recent years, the ACT continues to experience strong economic growth, strong employment outcomes across a diverse range of sectors, and the lowest unemployment and underutilisation of labour levels in Australia.

The budget review is a significant statement to the Assembly and the people of Canberra. We certainly know that there are challenges ahead. 2020 will be the most challenging economic year that this nation has faced for quite some time. But we are not going to back away from our commitment to deliver better services and to support our community. Canberra has a reputation as the world's most livable city, and we remain committed to ensuring that Canberra keeps getting better as our city grows. I present the following paper:

Budget 2019-20—Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 20A(2)—
Budget 2019-20—Budget review.

I move:

That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2)

Mr Barr, pursuant to notice, presented the bill, its explanatory statement, a Human Rights Act compatibility statement and the following supplementary papers:

Budget 2019-20—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 13—
Supplementary Budget Papers.

Title read by Clerk.

MR BARR (Kurrajong—Chief Minister, Treasurer, Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, Minister for Tertiary Education, Minister for Tourism and Special Events and Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment) (3.48): I move:

That this bill be agreed to in principle.

I present Appropriation Bill 2019-20 (No 2) and table the supplementary budget papers in accordance with section 13 of the Financial Management Act 1996. The appropriation bills provide for the appropriation of funds in 2019-20 totalling \$147.124 million, comprising \$81.001 million in additional net controlled recurrent payments appropriations, \$57.679 million in additional capital injection appropriations and \$8.444 million in additional payments on behalf of the territory appropriations.

The appropriation delivers the service outcomes that we need today, and its investments will support both economic growth and address our city's future needs. It is sustainable and its considered expenditures show that we are prioritising the community's needs and future prosperity when it is needed the most, in the face of uncertainty and ahead of the achievement of a short-term fiscal target. We are investing in the essential services that Canberrans expect and deserve: efficient road and public transport networks, protecting our environment and combatting climate change, more surgeries and services in our hospital, expanded capacity for our local schools and ensuring that there is support for those who need it.

In transport the government is getting on with the job of extending the light rail network to Woden. We are commencing early design works for light rail stage 2A, which will extend the existing line from the city to Commonwealth Park. Design works will also commence to elevate the south end of London Circuit to an at-grade intersection with Commonwealth Avenue. A raised London Circuit will provide a new gateway to the city that supports the extension of light rail to the lake and improve city traffic flows.

In terms of boosting public transport services, we are bringing additional bus drivers on board to improve weekend services as well as providing additional peak, morning and afternoon light rail services to respond to high levels of demand. Government is committed to providing high-quality transport connections, and I am delighted to see that we are already exceeding the demand forecasts for patronage on light rail. Other significant transport capital projects contained in the 2019-20 budget review include \$17 million for the completion of the new Woden bus depot.

Additionally, a new integrated ticketing system, which is suitable for use on both buses and light rail, will be procured to support our integrated public transport network. This investment will mean that in the future, travelling on public transport will be easier and more convenient for Canberrans, with a ticketing system that will offer passengers a variety of flexible payment methods and an app providing real-time travel information.

It is only a matter of weeks since the 18 January anniversary of the 2003 fires. The memories of that day of loss were likely being revisited by many, given the loss of life and devastation that the current bushfire season has brought our nation. The ACT government recognises that the best way we can ensure that our community is prepared is by putting in place arrangements that will ensure our emergency services are able to be as responsive as possible.

The appropriation includes additional resources for the ACT Rural Fire Service, funding to address the ACT's contribution to the text message and phone-based national emergency alert system and additional fire detection cameras. The total investment is \$976,000 in this 2019-20 budget review, which builds on \$2.7 million in bushfire-related initiatives delivered in the 2019-20 budget, namely, the contracting of an additional helicopter for bushfire fighting purposes and the implementation of the national fire and danger rating system to predict bushfire behaviour and spread, consistent with the government's 2016 election commitment.

After a detailed community engagement process in mid-September 2019, we released our updated *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25* and *Canberra's Living Infrastructure Plan: Cooling the City*. In the 2019-20 budget review, we deliver five initiatives associated with the strategy and one initiative associated with the plan. In short, we continue to get on with the job of implementing effective actions to further reduce our emissions and increase our resilience to climate change.

Additionally, the government is making more than \$7.8 million of investments across environment and planning. Extra resources will strengthen the number of environmental protection initiatives, including the ACT Waterwatch and ranger assist programs, where Lake Tuggeranong will see water quality improvements associated with the construction of a pollutant trap and other water-flow controls. We have also taken steps to protect endangered species. The Orroral Valley fire has resulted in significant ecological damage to the region, serving as a stark reminder to all of us of the importance of both protecting and regenerating our unique landscape.

The fires have also had an extensive impact on our business community, particularly the tourism industry, so I am pleased to announce additional funding of \$16.5 million over four years to support the tourism industry by strengthening Canberra's major venues and events. We are also providing further support for health services as part of the budget review, progressing work on significant projects underway, including the surgical procedures, interventional radiology and emergency centre at the Canberra Hospital. With more than half-a-billion dollars invested in the Canberra Hospital campus, the project will deliver increased capacity across the hospital's adult intensive care, paediatric intensive care, surgical and emergency services.

The design of the new inner north walk-in centre is also complete, with works to follow, and planning stages for additional surgical theatres and neurology services at Calvary Public Hospital are advancing. Similarly, planning stages for additional mental health and pharmacy services at the Canberra Hospital are underway. Government is also investing an additional \$59.7 million in Canberra Health Services as part of the appropriation. This supplementary funding will help to meet the increasing demand on healthcare services, particularly for elective and emergency surgery.

Our emergency department presentations continue to grow and are becoming more complex. Last year we had the longest and busiest flu season this century. This means that we have had an additional 547 emergency surgeries in the first half of the financial year when compared to last and an additional 2,569 emergency department presentations. To meet these demand pressures, our funding provision has meant an additional 16 beds opened during a long winter and an additional 136 frontline team members including doctors, nurses and allied health workers employed.

Our future education strategy will be further expanded through initiatives designed to support safe and supportive school environments for students, teachers and staff. A further \$23 million will complete our 2016 election commitment to construct a preschool to year 10 campus in the Molonglo Valley with a new year 7 to 10 campus to be constructed alongside the Molonglo preschool to year 6 school. Government will

continue to progress the implementation of the future of education strategy by investing in a number of initiatives that support safer and more supportive school environments for all students, teachers and staff. The 2019-20 budget review also includes a grants program for ACT public school parent and community groups to foster increased parental engagement, building on their parental engagement officers.

The government will also invest \$8.1 million over four years in new digital platforms to improve and expand online services. This will make it easier for our community to engage with the government's online services as we continue to ensure that we can meet the service needs of the community.

Health and safety for working Canberrans will be strengthened by additional funding for WorkSafe ACT. Funding of \$8.7 million over four years, including an additional \$744,000 in the 2019-20 fiscal year, will enhance WorkSafe ACT's ability to effectively respond to Canberra's growing workforce, with the capacity to hire more inspectors, increase regulatory support staff, including data analysts and communications specialists, as well as financial, human resources, governance support and additional support for the already existing psychosocial health officer.

This appropriation also implements a number of initiatives to protect those in need. An additional two full-time staff for the public advocate and children and young people commissioner will see that the rights of those at risk of abuse and exploitation are protected. Child and Youth Protection Services will also be strengthened to help provide vulnerable and at-risk children and young people with the services they need.

Similar resourcing for the Public Trustee and Guardian will ensure that it is able to maintain its decision-making services, be they personal, health related or legal, to those who, for whatever reason, have been unable to establish an enduring power of attorney. This cohort includes some of the community's most vulnerable people.

The government will provide \$1.4 million to accelerate work on a licencing scheme for property developers and progress the building regulation reform program. Every Canberran deserves the right to buy a home knowing that it has been built to the standards they expect, and this initiative will bring greater rigour to the building industry.

We are also providing \$2.1 million to fund the implementation of a charter of rights for victims of crime and providing additional support for victims of crime as well as \$1.7 million in additional funding to continue family violence prevention initiatives. We are providing \$4.9 million progressing the first action plan of the territory's disability justice strategy, which forms the first branch of work in a 10-year plan, which aims to ensure that people with disability in the ACT have equal access to justice and support for their right to equality before the law.

This bill is in line with the government's focus on delivering high-quality essential services and infrastructure that the ACT community needs whilst planning for our future growth. We build our future by investing now. The supplementary budget papers provide further details of the impact of these additional appropriations as well

as the other agencies affected by the bills. I commend the Appropriation Bill 2019-20 (No 2) to the Assembly.

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

Referral to committee

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) (4.00): Pursuant to standing order 174, I move:

That the Appropriation Bill 2019-2020 (No 2) be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts for inquiry and report.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Cost of living

Discussion of matter of public importance

MADAM ASSISTANT SPEAKER (Ms Cody): Madam Speaker has received letters from Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mr Coe, Mrs Dunne, Mr Gupta, Mr Hanson, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Lawder, 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 Wall be submitted to the Assembly, namely:

The importance of reducing cost of living pressures for all Canberrans.

MR WALL (Brindabella) (4.01): I am sure I speak for all MLAs in this place when I say that Canberra is the best place in the world to live. There is no place we would rather be. From our bush outlook to our national parks, our rural villages and easy way of life, we are rightly envied by big-city dwellers who cannot believe it when we whinge about a 25-minute commute to and from work. I will go one step further and say that Tuggeranong is, in fact, the best region in Canberra to live. We in Tuggeranong enjoy the best the bush capital has to offer by way of views, access to our national parks and wilderness spaces, large blocks and a great suburban atmosphere.

I am a born and bred Canberran and I am proudly raising my family in our fantastic region. There is a catch to this seemingly idyllic existence though, and that is the ever-increasing cost of living, the feeling that so many Canberrans and, indeed, Tuggeranong residents get when they know they are not getting quite what they paid for: maybe the cracked foot paths, the lack of maintenance in our parks and playgrounds, our local shopping precincts looking more derelict and decrepit by the day or the constant sound and smell, if you are in the southern suburbs, of burning rubber.

For some of us it can even be felt in the sound of gunshots ringing through the night. It can be felt in the long wait times in the middle of a night in the crowded hospital emergency department waiting room. We feel the unfairness as we wait for cancelled bus services or we purchase a second car to accommodate the need for a family to do a school drop-off because the dedicated school service has now been cancelled.

There has to be a better way. Some Canberrans are finding that better way, and for them it is just across the border: the lure of cheaper rates and cheaper housing, where it is cheaper not only to rent but also to own is an attractive proposition; better amenity and maintenance of roads and infrastructure and community facilities; more police; and in some cases shorter waiting times for elective surgery. For a business, the attraction is even greater with less red tape and an absence of trade union-driven bureaucracy and insanity impeding their way. For many, Queanbeyan and the surrounding New South Wales districts are an attractive option.

After 19 years of Labor-Greens government they cannot seem to break out of their bad habits, bad habits which resulted in increasing costs, the delivery of less and less in return year upon year, less by way of quality of services and less by way of improving outcomes. We often refer to successive Labor-Greens governments when we apportion blame for the excessive rise in the cost of living but, in truth, there is only one individual to blame and who should take all the responsibility. It is the Chief Minister, Mr Barr. He has been in charge of the books, occupying the Treasurer's role since 2011. During this time he has made his disdain for the southern suburbs of Canberra quite evident, likewise his disdain for older people, working families and even at one point the media.

On Mr Barr's watch, taxes and rates have risen to record highs; yet hospital wait times are the worst in the country. Commercial property owners are paying exorbitant rates, fees and charges just for making an investment in the bettering of this town; yet we cannot seem to manage or stop the decline in many other services. Maths and reading results for students in our schools are on the decline consistently. There is also a failure to provide some basic services like adequate school buses for kids to get safely to and from school.

Canberra is by all accounts an affluent city. There are some high wages being earned in this city but there is an unpleasant underbelly to all this as well. We have a disproportionate amount of poverty and kids in out of home care, we have rates of homelessness that do not make sense for such a well-off city.

Nineteen years of Labor and the Greens at the helm of our great city, nine of those under the stewardship of Mr Barr in charge of the budget, have brought with it so many misguided priorities. Canberrans deserve a better government that will focus on getting the basics right.

Back in 2012 the Canberra Liberals said that under a re-elected Labor-Greens government residential rates would triple. Sadly, hasn't that come to pass! The notion of the rising cost of living is not something that we on this side of the chamber have made up. We feel it, we see it, we hear about it on a daily basis. In fact, we live it.

I find it very hard to believe that the Labor and Greens members in this place, particularly those who are representing the outer suburban areas, do not hear it. Perhaps they are not leaving the building or perhaps they are just blindly ignorant to it.

I take this opportunity that this debate offers to give voice to the concerns that are raised with me on an all too regular basis. The following are quotes from a variety of constituents received not just recently but built up over a number of years and are just an excerpt of some of the correspondence that comes into our office or the types of conversations that are had with constituents out on the ground. One constituent says:

The cost of living is hitting hard. \$2,200 for rates. Registration and TPI for two cars \$2,000. We have a total earnings of \$91,000—

gross—

a year with my wife working two jobs—

just to keep them above water—

On top of that we have a mortgage and top level health insurance—both of us experiencing bad health and require time in hospital.

Another says:

As a member of the fastest growing demographic—now a lone female empty nester, I really do fear for my financial future when already as a full-time worker paying a mortgage I struggle with the ever-increasing utilities costs AND the disgraceful exponential increasing of rates.

If I were to downsize my small house to an apartment as this social engineering government would have me do, then with rates and body corporate fees and NO mortgage I would have to find circa \$200 per week before medical, utility, food and travel costs.

I can see many cold winters ahead of me as well as uncomfortable hot summers while more people struggle with the choice between food or warmth.

Another says:

It is normal to expect the cost of living will rise every year, but in Canberra for the last five years the Municipal Rates, car registration and rents have risen disproportionately.

Another says:

We have just received our annual residential rates notice and we are bowled over by the increase, no wonder so many of us are complaining.

Another resident says:

As residents and ratepayers of Tuggeranong Valley we have felt very neglected for a very long time by Andrew Barr and his government and furious at his comment on radio when he stated that there were not many votes for him in Tuggeranong.

To add to these testimonials I add the voice of a small business owner, an employer in this town and a contributor to our economy, providing not just services to the local economy but also employing many Canberrans. They say:

I am a small business owner who has faced increases of rates that are crippling to my business. Last year I was hit with an increase of more than \$15,000 with no notice. If that wasn't bad enough, I have just been informed that my increase for this year is going to be more than \$18,500. How does a small business manage to budget for increases of these amounts and where will the funds come from? I have been serving the local community for 23 years as a small business owner and employer, however, I'm getting to the point where I can't see that I will be able to continue paying increases like we've had.

And that is year on year.

These are real people, residents of our city who are feeling the impacts of 19 years of mismanagement under Labor and the Greens, for nine of which the Chief Minister has been in control of the treasury books. Mr Barr has a lot to answer for when it comes to ignoring the needs of Canberrans and ensuring that we get what we pay for.

There is a choice this year, however. On 17 October Canberrans will be faced with a choice: more of the same, as they have had for the past 19 years, or an alternative; an alternative that has a plan. The Canberra Liberals are the only party going forward that are promising to improve the cost of living for Canberra families. First of all, we will start by introducing a rates freeze from day one which will make managing the budget for Canberra households easier and give them certainty over the next four-year term.

The Canberra Liberals will improve outcomes for all Canberrans and make sure that residents get what they pay for. We will fix the mess left behind by 19 years of Labor neglect, particularly those in outer, forgotten suburbs. Only the Canberra Liberals will focus on easing the cost of living pressures facing Canberrans. We will get the basics right. We will deliver more frontline services by way of better bus services, more doctors, more nurses, more police and, importantly, above all we will treat all Canberrans, no matter where they live, no matter their age, no matter their background, with the respect and the dignity that they deserve.

MS STEPHEN-SMITH (Kurrajong—Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Disability, Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety, Minister for Health, Minister for Urban Renewal) (4.11): The ACT economy is a national success story, driven in part by the record infrastructure and frontline service investments of our Labor government. However, no city is entirely immune from national economic trends. These trends include stagnating wages in the face of the growing cost of living. Like many cities in Australia, Canberra is experiencing a high rate of population growth. This presents our city with particular challenges, as well as opportunities. Our government is meeting these challenges by investing in the services and infrastructure that our growing city needs. Our government has decided to harness the economic power of population growth to create jobs, to increase services and to make our city a better place to live for all Canberrans.

We know how lucky we are to be Canberrans. Statistics tell us that we are well paid, well educated, happy, healthy and active. But this should never be interpreted to mean that we are a city free of disadvantage, discrimination or poverty. There are many Canberrans who need real help to maintain and improve their lives. That is why it is so important that we have a government that will protect the public services Canberrans rely on. That is why it is so important that we keep our public services accessible and responsive to the changing and emerging needs of our community.

Affordable and accessible healthcare is a right that should be afforded to everyone. Across Canberra we are investing in our public health system to ensure that Canberrans have access to affordable health care closer to home.

Our network of nurse-led walk-in centres provides free health treatment for Canberrans and their families. We have four walk-in centres across Canberra, with a fifth opening in the inner north later this year. These walk-in centres are led by a team of highly skilled advanced practice nurses and nurse practitioners. We will continue to invest in walk-in centres because we know that they not only are loved by Canberrans but also provide fantastic health care, help reduce the unexpected medical costs for families and take pressure off our public hospitals.

We have also invested in increasing the rate of bulk-billing. We know the ACT has the lowest rate of bulk-billing for GPs in the country, with rates historically hovering around the 50 per cent mark. In response to this, the ACT Labor government has undertaken a variety of programs over the past decade that have aimed to increase our GP-to-population ratio, encourage bulk-billing and provide primary health care, in particular, to vulnerable populations who would otherwise miss out. These have been successful, with a gradual increase in bulk-billing rates in the ACT over the past decade. According to Medicare statistics the GP bulk-billing rate in the ACT for the June quarter 2019 was 63.9 per cent, compared to 51.1 per cent in the June quarter 2009. Nevertheless we are still well below the national rate of almost 86 per cent in the June quarter 2019 for bulk-billing by GPs.

Despite this, from 1 January 2020 the coalition government in the other place cut incentives for Canberra GPs to bulk-bill vulnerable people by 34 per cent. This cut from the commonwealth will make it more likely that those most in need—pensioners, children and those who are most vulnerable in our community—will not be able to access the care they need that keeps them healthy and out of our hospitals. These cuts are another demonstration of how out of touch not only the commonwealth government is but also Liberal governments around Australia are, and how dangerous the Canberra Liberals would be for health services here in the ACT.

Public education remains a key priority for this government. We believe in providing all students, no matter their financial circumstance, with equitable access to the tools they need to learn. In an ever-changing digital world, the cost of school supplies and technology can have an impact on families. So we are delivering on our 2016 election commitment to increase access to technology for all ACT government secondary school students by providing them with a computer. This year we have provided approximately 4,200 devices to students, helping families to reduce costs as their children enter secondary school.

We know that every individual faces their own challenges when it comes to the cost of raising a family, entering the workforce, studying or living within a limited income. Everyday costs like groceries, utility bills and other housing expenses add up. That is why we have concessions, rebates and payment plans available to make sure that the everyday cost of living does not hinder the wellbeing of families and individuals.

Every year thousands of Canberrans access assistance with ongoing expenses like housing, bills and transport. In 2018-19 the government provided assistance through the pensioner duty concession scheme on conveyance duty, with a tax expenditure of \$2 million dollars, a significant 15.8 per cent increase from 2017-18.

The government provides a utilities concession of up to \$700 a year to help eligible concession card holders with their water, electricity and gas bills. The ACT utilities concession is one of the most generous in Australia and, because it is one combined concession for both water and electricity, it provides the same amount of assistance to both eligible home owners and renters.

The energy efficiency improvement scheme is a key mechanism to help ensure a fair transition towards a zero-emissions future to help households reduce their utilities costs. Under the scheme, energy retailers help households to implement measures that will deliver significant energy savings, with a focus on low-income households.

We have also seen the transition to renewable energy result this year in the ICRC predicting that average electricity costs for a typical ActewAGL customer could shrink 6.75 per cent next financial year. A typical household could save \$113 on their annual bill. This is thanks to the ACT leading the nation in climate change action. It is thanks to our transition to clean renewable energy, which not only reduces our carbon footprint but also is providing financial relief for Canberrans. I recall the grave reluctance with which Mr Hanson embraced the 100 per cent renewable electricity policy in the 2016 election. His words, to paraphrase, were something like, “Well, it is done now; we cannot really reverse it”—a ringing endorsement of a policy that has delivered real savings to families.

The Canberra Liberals also oppose the motor accident injuries scheme, which is part of ongoing reform by the ACT government to compulsory third party. Before it started introducing competition in 2013, premiums set by private sector insurers were as high as \$644 for average passenger vehicle premiums, calculated in today’s dollars. In comparison, the new motor accident injuries scheme has average passenger vehicle premiums of \$458. Since 1 February 2019, premiums have fallen by an average of \$60 for passenger vehicles after taking into account the new \$16 motor accident levy, which is integral to the MAI scheme.

Many of the initiatives and policies I have described are made available to Canberrans throughout the year. But we know that unexpected events happen and that this can also cause financial stress to individuals and families. So, following the hailstorm in January, we have responded by offering a stamp duty rebate of up to \$100 for vehicles with a value of \$10,000 or less that are purchased to replace a written-off vehicle. This is an example of how our government is there to support Canberrans when they need it.

Speaking of stamp duty, this is the government that has abolished stamp duty for first homebuyers. This is the government that has seen the buyer of a \$500,000 home now paying \$9,100 less in stamp duty than when tax reform commenced. That is a saving of \$10,570 compared with the stamp duty payable in Victoria, and \$6,590 compared with New South Wales. I have heard those opposite say, “You just add it to your mortgage.” That is what the opposition wants you to do: pay interest on \$9,100 that you do not have to pay under this government. Pay interest on it every year for 25 or 30 years, because it will be the last bit of your mortgage that you pay off. When you add that up, that is a lot of money for Canberrans every year.

We know that there are Canberrans who struggle from day to day. We are committed to doing what we can to help them. We will continue to invest in our public services, to grow our economy and to provide vulnerable Canberrans with the assistance they need to live fulfilled and happy lives.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.21): I thank Mr Wall for providing yet another opportunity—although it is a pity he is not here to listen to it—to talk about these important issues. They are important issues, particularly to lower income earners in Canberra. We have to remember that quite a substantial number of people in Canberra do not earn as much money as we in this place are privileged to earn.

Continuing the themes from yesterday, one of the obvious ways to reduce cost of living pressures is to have a good public and active transport system because it is actually quite expensive to run a car. I looked up the NRMA’s figures, because it does them regularly, and it says that the cheapest car to run is the three-cylinder Suzuki Alto, which it reckons costs \$89 a week. Coincidentally, that is the type of car I have, but I am not spending that much on it because I seldom use it. At the other end of the scale the dearest that the NRMA listed was the V8 Holden Caprice, which it thought would cost \$361 a week to run. I do not think it has gone very high up the list; I think you can spend an awful lot more than a Holden Caprice costs.

The point I want to make is that, for people with anything other than a very small car, it is very clear that taking the bus is cheaper than having a car. MyWay cards are capped at \$9.50 per day on a weekday and \$5.87 on a weekend. It is not a lot cheaper than using my little Alto, but it is still a little bit cheaper; and on some days you do not necessarily use the bus. Of course, if you walk or ride your bike, as Mr Parton does, it can well be even cheaper. Given that the cheapest car costs close to \$100 a week to run, by the time you pay for parking—and most people in Canberra would spend some money on parking—you are talking about an amount of money which, for most of us, is bigger than our rates. It just does not turn up in one bill that says, “Your car costs this much.”

It is really important and useful to have a public transport system which enables families not to have two cars, to have one car, if they have to, to take the kids to sport and after-school activities. I do appreciate that that is very hard to do on public transport, but it is a huge saving for a family if they can be a one-car family, not a two-car family, and it is a huge saving if you can work out how to be a zero-car family, so that you use public transport, you walk, you cycle, and you use the car-share options that are available, be it taxis, GoGet, Popcar or Car Next Door.

There are options for cars when you need them. This is one area that we are not putting enough thought into, in terms of reducing cost of living pressures for people who live in Canberra.

Another area where we can reduce cost of living pressures is through the introduction of a fair fines system. We talked about this yesterday in the debate on Mr Pettersson's motion on parking. He made the quite reasonable point that some people are considerably disadvantaged if they have to pay a fine. For low income people, paying the full amount in one go has a much bigger financial impact on their ability to meet other costs than for someone who has a higher disposable income. That is the reason why next week I will be bringing on for debate my bill on fair fines. Given the debate yesterday and the concern that the Assembly obviously has about cost of living, I am very hopeful that the Assembly will support this.

Another thing that the government can do to reduce costs for people is to help take steps to combat and prepare for climate change. One of the biggest ones we can do is to seriously improve our housing stock. There are two parts to that. We need to start building new houses to suit our new climate. Regardless of what people may feel is the reason for climate change, we are hard put after this summer to suggest that there has not been climate change. We should be building houses for the future, houses that will work in hot weather, not just in cold weather. I am pleased that one of the things that my colleague Minister Rattenbury announced for the budget update was money towards improving our building regulations so that new houses that are built work better.

The other thing that the government is doing, and Minister Rattenbury in particular, is running Act smart energy efficiency programs, which I am told have managed to save Canberrans a total of \$240 million in terms of better energy efficiency, including a saving of \$15 million on the energy bills of low income households. The current scheme has assisted more than 45 per cent of Canberra households, including 17,900 low income priority households and 15,000 rental properties.

As Minister Stephen-Smith mentioned earlier, because of the ACT government's moves to buy renewable energy, renewable electricity, electricity consumers in Canberra are in the enviable position—enviable to the rest of Australia—of finding that their household electricity bill will go down next year, on average by \$113 per year, which is a bit of good news. Switching to renewables is not only good for the environment in the long run and for Canberra in the short run but it is good for us financially.

The ACT government will ensure that new developments do not have to have a gas connection. This is good because of greenhouse gas emissions and because the price of gas in Australia is going up. In Canberra, 20 years ago, installing gas appliances was the economically and environmentally sensible thing to do. It is not anymore.

I should mention rates, given that that was one of the issues that Mr Wall talked about. I have to agree: rates are an issue, as is land tax. But there is no doubt whatsoever in my mind, or in the minds of most economists—and, I note, in the mind of the *Sydney Morning Herald*, because it is the most prominent article in the middle of their

website today—that a broad-based taxation system which is effectively rates and/or land tax based is better than one which relies on stamp duty, that is, occasional transactions. We need government services every year we are here, and it is fair enough that we should contribute to them every year rather than just in those years in which we are unfortunate or lucky enough to be part of a transaction of buying and selling a house in Canberra.

I recognise that there are issues with our current rates system. I am not trying to say that it is perfect. The Greens have been talking about this at some length. I am very pleased that, partly as a result of our advocacy, the system for rates deferrals for older Canberrans has been significantly improved and that people have even been informed about the deferrals they are entitled to.

There is more work to be done on how we actually work out the rates within the rating system. I am very pleased that the government is currently doing some work on that. I look forward to the experts reporting back on the impact of the changes in the rates systems for people in various parts of Canberra. The basic proposition that a broad-based system rather than a transaction-based system is fairer is actually fairly non-controversial, although, obviously, I am wrong in terms of this Assembly.

There have been lots of other things that the Greens have pushed for which have been good for cost of living pressures, particularly access to dental care for low income Canberrans. We have put a lot of energy into innovative ways to have homeshare and land tax exemptions et cetera, so that there is more affordable housing.

I thank Mr Wall for bringing forward this important topic, and I look forward to listening to the rest of the discussion on it.

MR PARTON (Brindabella) (4.31): I do not wish to make any comment on the importance of issues, but it is fascinating that, when we are here to discuss the cost of living pressures for all Canberrans, I note that there is not a great deal of presence of members on the other side of the chamber. If we were discussing, for argument's sake, something to do with climate change in an MPI, I wonder if the other side of the chamber would be full. They are both extremely important issues. I just want to note that there is not a great deal of interest by those on the other side in talking about the cost of living.

Speaking on behalf of the people of Tuggeranong, I would say to Ms Le Couteur that I think they are pretty keen to keep their cars. But that is just me.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I try as much as possible to spend less time in this building and more time in the streets of Tuggeranong. It is nothing against you; it is just that I feel more at home down there. I can tell you without any doubt that the number one thing that the people of Tuggeranong talk to me about is the cost of living here in Canberra. I am speaking for Martina from Banks, Jose and Rosa from Longmore Crescent and Marica from Bonython. The people of Tuggeranong are absolutely irate about the cost of their rates—rates which they pay each year, yet when they take a stroll down to the local shops, they still have to skip, hop and jump their way down the footpath to avoid all of the cracks and breaks along the way.

For a number of people in rental properties that I have spoken to in recent weeks, the penny has dropped with them about why rents are so high in Tuggeranong and right across Canberra. Mitchell from Fadden, Anthony and Tracy from Isabella Plains and Marcel from Wanniasa: I speak for you.

What is even more surprising is the number of what many would define as traditional Labor voters who are incredibly angry at this government's policies around cost of living. Many of these people identify themselves to me as Labor people who are now absolutely fed up. Yes, Lewis from Wanniasa, I am talking about you; I am talking about Rita from Conder. They have had enough. This was a good line that came to me when I doorknocked on Monday afternoon. A constituent said, "I am not a constituent; I am an ATM for this government. I am an automatic teller machine for this government."

They have had enough of not receiving the services they deserve in return. They are sick of walking on broken footpaths, driving on roads with potholes, not having the grass mowed, and seeing the rubbish in Lake Tuggeranong. They are sick of the ever-increasing cost of parking while having their alternative option of catching the bus taken away. It is pretty hard to get hit by a bus in Wanniasa at the moment; I will give you that strong tip.

The people of Tuggeranong are sick of this government. They are sick of paying for their out-of-control spending habits. I say to Paul and Caroline from Greenway, George from out on Lawrence Wackett Crescent, Marie, Derek and the girls from Monash and Renee from Kambah, that when it comes to cost of living, let me be clear: we hear you. We hear you very loudly and very clearly. I can safely say that the other side stopped listening a long time ago.

MS LAWDER (Brindabella) (4.34): After 19 years of Labor we have a skyrocketing cost of living in Canberra. Canberra now has the highest rents, the most expensive petrol, the highest costs of owning and running a car, the highest gas prices, the highest childcare prices and the second highest land prices. I could go on.

Since 2012 Labor has tripled our rates. Rates have increased from \$209 million in 2011-12 to \$652 million in the 2020-21 year. In the 2019-20 budget, rates for houses and rural properties increased by seven per cent, rates for unit-title properties increased by 11 per cent, and land tax increased by seven per cent. For the first time in Canberra's history, this Labor-Greens government will collect revenue exceeding \$7 billion, and they are borrowing a record \$1 billion. Under Labor, Canberrans will be paying interest on these borrowings for decades, further adding to increases in the cost of living through higher rates, fees, charges and taxes.

In Tuggeranong the importance of reducing the cost of living pressures is even more important. I hear this every day. Not only are our costs of living increasing but our services are diminishing. In Tuggeranong, under this Labor-Greens government, they have reduced our bus services, neglected our parks, gouged us for parking, neglected our lakes and ponds, neglected our footpaths, reduced mowing this year, neglected our sporting facilities and ovals, and given us poor-quality pothole patching and road

resurfacing. Tuggeranong residents are sick of the increases in the cost of living at the same time as they are seeing a reduction in basic local services.

Under the Canberra Liberals, Canberrans will have reduced costs of living for families by our freezing rates and better managing the budget, because the Canberra Liberals want to make Canberra the best place to live, work and raise a family.

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (4.37): Far too many Canberrans are acutely aware of the exorbitant cost of living that we face across our city at the hands of this government. Rates, taxes, fines, fees and charges all continue to rise at extraordinary levels to feed Mr Barr's addiction to revenue. Rates revenue is up by 134 per cent since his reforms began, which means that it has tripled since 2012. And we are no closer to seeing the abolition of stamp duty. Last year alone, we saw parking fees increase by 2.5 per cent. Parking fine revenue was up by 26 per cent. Ms Le Couteur might like to note that public transport fares also increased by 2.5 per cent. Working with vulnerable people cards were up by 60 per cent. Rego increased by \$14. Water bills increased by \$22. That is just a snapshot of the many increases in rates, fees and charges across our city.

Besides the direct impact of these charges, the policies of Mr Barr and his government continue to have a huge impact on the cost of living across our city. Median rent is \$550 per week. Suburbs like Dickson have seen year on year increases of 17 per cent. The housing affordability crisis continues, with rising house prices and rent making Canberra one of the most expensive cities to live. The government just keeps making it worse.

Petrol prices have risen by 13 per cent in seven years. Average electricity bills in Canberra are \$423 higher than New South Wales and \$621 higher than Victoria. Child care is more expensive in Canberra: \$100 more a week than the national median. In addition to this, milk, beer, eggs and many other basic items are much more expensive than in other parts of the country.

Mr Barr is addicted to revenue, and hardworking Canberrans are suffering as a result. We have 35,000 low income Canberrans in our city, and over 26,000 are at or below the poverty line. Mr Barr's utopia has become an expensive, and for many Canberrans an increasingly unaffordable, place to live. Too many Canberrans are being driven out of our city. This heartless Chief Minister just does not care.

The Canberra Liberals do care. Good government should be making the lives of Canberrans easier. We should be supporting those doing it tough whilst reducing the burden of government wherever possible. The Canberra Liberals are the only party in this place who are genuinely concerned about reducing the cost of living in our city, as we can see by the lack of members on the other side at the moment.

We have committed to freezing rates in order to bring down the cost of living for many Canberra households. Mr Barr has said that this freeze is incompatible with territory needs. However, it is Mr Barr and the callous Labor-Greens government that are incompatible with making Canberra an affordable place to live.

MS LEE (Kurrajong) (4.41): I thank Mr Wall for bringing forward this matter of public importance for debate today. Concerns about the rising costs of living for Canberrans are raised with me on a regular basis. There is no shortage of residents in my electorate of Kurrajong, and beyond, who face ever-increasing cost of living pressures after 19 years of Labor. Canberrans are being gouged by this selfish government every day. Enough is enough. As the Leader of the Opposition, Alistair Coe, said, "Canberra is too good for a bad government." It is time that this Labor government was booted. There is a better way, and Canberrans deserve better."

A Canberra Liberals government will freeze rates because we respect hardworking Canberrans, Canberrans who should not be paying for the arrogance and waste of this current government. Whether it is home owners paying astronomical rates or renters seeing costs flow on to higher rents, everyone is facing financial pressures.

In my inaugural speech back in December 2016, I spoke about the forgotten Canberrans, the Canberrans who, year after year, after 19 years of Labor, have been left behind. I spoke about hardworking Canberrans like Mary from O'Connor, paying 30 per cent of her pension on rates and wondering whether she can afford to buy milk and eggs that week or just milk.

It seems that over this term it has just gotten worse. Only last week I was contacted by a resident on a disability support pension who has lived most of her life in Griffith in Canberra's inner south. This is what she told me:

I have been unable to work since the early 1990's and am on a Disability Support Pension. I was never in a position to be able to buy my own home and have always lived in the family home in Griffith. My late parents left our home to me for which I am so grateful. I love this suburb, but it didn't start out as a 'trendy' area. My street was a majority of government houses, my father being in the ACT Ambulance, was eligible for a government house. They moved in to this newly finished house in 1958, and purchased the property in the 1970's. Those of us who have lived in the area a long time are being penalised for being in a now desirable suburb. I do receive the pensioner rate subsidy, but it does very little to help with the ever growing rate instalments. I wish there was a fairer system for longer term residents, most of whom are not on the large wage and superannuation.

When I gave my inaugural speech, I said that I took very seriously my duty to be a voice for these forgotten Canberrans. It is something that I will always remember. What is unacceptable and what is abundantly clear is that the Labor Party has forgotten. There is a better way, and Canberra deserves better.

Once again, I thank Mr Wall for bringing this MPI. It is clear that, at least on this side of the chamber, looking after all Canberrans is why we are here.

MR MILLIGAN (Yerrabi) (4.44): Firstly, I want to thank Mr Wall for bringing this important issue to the Assembly today. I know that as the shadow minister for business he has a real appreciation of how this matter is affecting small family businesses right across Canberra.

I cannot tell members how frequently this issue comes up when I am out in the community. To say that this is the number one issue for people in Yerrabi is not an understatement. Why is that? Because under this long-serving government Canberrans have seen their rates triple; they have seen fees and charges go through the roof; and they have seen rents skyrocket.

As a father of a young 20-something-year-old, I can say that I am concerned for his future. How will young people afford to buy their first home and raise a family in Canberra? How will the aspirations of young people from my electorate of Yerrabi, young families who are working hard to get ahead, ever be realised? We will have to answer for them. They will just have to vote for a Coe Liberal government in October this year. We have already pledged to freeze rates from day one. I can guarantee that we will manage the budget better and respect the ratepayers of this city.

In addition to respect, it is time that residents in the ACT received better value for money. Under this Labor government, we now have Australia's most expensive education system, yet a lack of support for teachers. We have Australia's most expensive hospital, yet nurses are at breaking point. We have Australia's most expensive prison, yet there is very little rehabilitation. We have Australia's most expensive petrol. We have Australia's highest cost of owning and running a car. We have Australia's highest rates of assault on prison guards. We have Australia's smallest frontline police force. We have Australia's worst rental stress. And we have Australia's highest rent, Australia's highest rate of repeat homelessness, Australia's highest gas prices, Australia's least affordable housing market for young people, Australia's most expensive childcare costs, and Australia's worst hospital waiting times. This is just not good enough.

Madam Deputy Speaker, I have heard many stories while talking to residents in my electorate of Yerrabi. The same themes keep coming up. Let me share one of those stories with you.

Jason and Kathy live in Bonner with their young family. Jason works full time running his own business. Kathy combines two part-time jobs so she can share family commitments with her husband. They are often up late into the night doing their own bookkeeping and planning how they can grow their business.

When I doorknocked one Thursday afternoon, Kathy was about to take the kids out to their karate lessons in Mitchell, an activity the kids loved to do. But the family is really stretched and they are wondering how they can continue to afford for their child to continue at karate. Kathy told me that in most months they are scraping together money to cover things like rates, car rego and bills. She worries that they have not had a holiday, not even a weekend away or time camping, in the past two years. They just cannot afford it. Despite working so hard and risking so much, they struggle to get ahead here in the nation's capital.

This tired Labor-Greens government should be ashamed of the past 19 years that they have been in power. This is the reality facing many people in our community. This is just one story. I could go on to seniors, single parents, students, tradespeople,

shiftworkers and retirees. There is not one group that this government has not disadvantaged.

I want to repeat the sentiment and commitments expressed by our leader, Alistair Coe, and my colleagues. The importance of reducing cost of living pressures for all Canberrans is at the front of mind for the Canberra Liberals. We want to do this responsibly and with focus on what matters to the Canberra community. It is time to make this the best place to live, work and raise a family.

MR GENTLEMAN (Brindabella—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) (4.49): I do not think the Canberra Liberals are too interested in this discussion. There are two of them in the whole chamber. The very person that moved the MPI left about 20 minutes ago. They have pointed out that there are three members of the Labor team here on the other side to talk about this important discussion.

It is important that we manage the cost of living for Canberrans to provide the best possible living for them in the ACT. That is why we invest so heavily in Canberrans: in public transport; in health and education; and, particularly now, as we look at the cost of recovery from the bushfire across the ACT, in the environment and the best recovery opportunities we can provide for that sector. That is why people love living in Canberra. It is because of the environment. The views of the Brindabellas that I have spoken about before need to be protected into the future, and that will be our task.

Discussion concluded.

Standing orders—suspension

Motion (by **Mr Gentleman**) agreed to, with the concurrence of an absolute majority:

That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2020, being called and debated forthwith.

Motor Accident Injuries Amendment Bill 2020

Debate resumed.

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (4.51): The opposition will be supporting this bill and we do appreciate the need for its urgency. However, it is a shame that we are in this situation altogether. The bill removes the uncertainty around whether legal professionals can be paid to represent clients under the new CTP scheme. It is extremely troubling that the Assembly must clarify that people are entitled to be paid for their work. You would think that this government, this champion of workers, would at least acknowledge that people who do a fair day's work deserve a fair day's pay. And it raises concerns about what other mistakes the government has made within this act that are yet to be found.

This legislation was a debacle when it was brought into this place. This government and the Greens stubbornly went ahead with it. I think that the Greens to a large extent really did switch off towards the end of that debate because it was in the too-hard basket. Unfortunately we are seeing the consequence of much of this being rushed.

The Canberra Liberals voted against these provisions when the bill was originally debated last year. As we pointed out at the time, the legal costs are already regulated and the sections in the MAI Act are duplications of existing legislation. The Chief Minister was so preoccupied with the vendetta against the legal profession that he put forward this legislation without ensuring that it was actually fit for purpose. It was the government's mistake and we are at least glad that it is being rectified now.

I would like to thank the ACT Law Society for drawing attention to this matter. They have been very diligent throughout this process and have ensured that much of the legislation is at least workable, albeit bad, legislation. If they had not astutely picked up on the government's error, it could have had very serious implications.

The Chief Minister attempted to downplay the Law Society's legitimate concerns in his speech, saying that it was not clear to the society and its members whether a lawyer could be paid or recover legal costs or fees. He is essentially saying that the lawyers do not how to read legislation. A bit of a tip to the Chief Minister: if the Law Society gives you legal advice, it is probably going to be right.

The act currently states:

A lawyer is not entitled to be paid, or to recover, any legal costs or fees for services provided ... other than the prescribed costs and fees.

This is not an interpretation of the Law Society; this is the letter of the law, and that is why we are in this mess now. If the government did not also believe that there was a question of legality, then why would there be this desperation to fix it up today?

In all my years in the Assembly, this may well be the only occasion where legislation has been presented and debated on the same day. It is extraordinary that the Attorney-General signed off on the bill when the implication of these sections prohibits lawyers from being paid for their services. The MAI Act contains several provisions which seem to be targeted against the legal profession, including criminal penalties and offences which are not found in other jurisdictions.

The passage of the MAI Act and this bill calls into question yet again the Attorney-General's ability to manage this portfolio. Given that we are now only a few weeks into the new scheme, it is disturbing to think what other faults might exist in this legislation. Given the consequences of getting this legislation wrong—it is so significant for Canberrans—I am quite fearful about what is going to happen next.

Despite the Chief Minister's comments and advertising campaign telling Canberrans the contrary, it is not a fair and equitable system. Canberrans are still paying a huge amount for CTP. Canberrans are not getting all the benefits that the Chief Minister promised. But now it will be even harder for them to claim adequate compensation under the new scheme.

It is very hard to see winners in this arrangement. Projected premium reductions have had to be revised down significantly. Tenders for significant elements of the scheme were being released only days before commencement, and we still do not have all the required regulations in place.

It supposedly has been the Chief Minister's life's work in the Assembly to get this done. He said in his presentation speech on the original legislation that this was one of the reasons he got into politics, that this was one of the most significant things he had done. Yet we have these fundamental problems with the principle and with the letter of the law. We already know that the government made it harder for not-at-fault victims to receive compensation. Only time will tell what other defects will be uncovered.

I thank the Law Society again for drawing the Assembly's attention to this matter. I very much hope that there are not further significant problems with the legislation that is before us.

MS LE COUTEUR (Murrumbidgee) (4.58): This bill proposes a minor technical change to the motor accidents insurance act. The Greens supported the passage of that new act last year and moved or organised several amendments to improve it and make it fairer.

We recognise that the new act expanded the availability of compulsory third-party insurance to cover drivers who are technically at fault. This means that a person who is injured due to a momentary lapse of attention or because they hit an animal will be able to receive support and treatment for these injuries through the CTP scheme. This is a very important improvement to the CTP scheme, as previously those people were not covered. The scheme now provides much fairer access across our community.

One of the many amendments in the motor accidents insurance act was the addition of a power for a regulation to prescribe the legal costs and fees payable by applicants and insurers in relation to applications for defined benefits. Basically what that means, I understand, in English is that a regulation could set lawyers' fees for CTP matters. The intent is to help get a fair outcome for injured people and to ensure that more money goes to them instead of to lawyers. One of the ideas is that injured people should not have to pay excessive amounts for legal services. My memory is that the Liberal Party was not very enthusiastic about that part of the bill. They were not enthusiastic about all of it, of course. I wondered whether this was around supporting higher fees for the legal profession. I simply do not know.

The reformed CTP scheme has just commenced operation. I understand that the legal profession has suggested that the wording of the legislation means that they cannot charge any fees at all in a CTP matter unless a regulation has been made. I know that that was not the intent of the legislation but, as Mr Coe says, it is probably not the best thing to do to try to argue with the Law Society about how you interpret legislation. It is certainly way beyond my pay grade.

So I support the amendment proposed by the government to clarify that legal fees are only restricted if a regulation about fees is actually enacted. It is a simple clarification. On behalf of the Greens, I support it.

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) (5.00), in reply: I thank members for their support for the legislation. I will be sure to pass on to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office Mr Coe's *Hansard* in relation to the quality of their work. I am sure they will appreciate his commentary.

Mr Coe: It is your fault for not doing the regulation. They know that as well. And how dare you push the parliamentary counsel in front of a bus. That is what you have just done: you have just pushed the parliamentary counsel in front of a bus.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Order, Mr Coe!

MR BARR: I am sure they will appreciate reading *Hansard*. In relation to Mr Coe's personal observations on my motivations in relation to reform in this area, yes, I am proud of the work that has been undertaken over quite some time to put in place a fairer system for Canberra motorists. I am not going to rehash all of the debates we had last year but, Mr Coe, this will be one of many achievements of this government. If you ever have the opportunity to sit on this side of the chamber, you can only hope to achieve as much as this government.

MADAM DEPUTY SPEAKER: Mr Barr, could you address the chair rather than Mr Coe.

MR BARR: Madam Deputy Speaker, Mr Coe could only hope to achieve anywhere near a fraction of what this government has achieved in its time in office. It is going to be a great election year and I certainly look forward to beating the Leader of the Opposition in October.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

Bill agreed to in principle.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Bill agreed to.

Adjournment

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

That the Assembly do now adjourn.

National Condom Day

MS CHEYNE (Ginninderra) (5.03): As members would know, tomorrow is Valentine's Day, and for some it is a celebration of love defined by romantic gestures; for others the day is anything but romantic. But 14 February also marks another significant day that may have flown under the radar this year: National Condom Day.

National Condom Day serves as a reminder that condoms are still one of the best and easiest ways to stop the spread of sexually transmitted infections and HIV, while also preventing unplanned pregnancy. This is particularly important for people participating in casual sex. Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, with the support of its community partners, including the AIDS Action Council and LEAD employment services, will mark the occasion by distributing roses and condom packs in Civic, Braddon and Woden tomorrow. Silk roses and condoms have also been distributed at various cafes, health and community organisations, and university and vocational education O-week events.

Madam Deputy Speaker, as you are well aware, this is not the first time I have stood up in this place to talk about sexual health. Last year I moved a motion encouraging the government to work with stakeholder groups and sector leaders like SHFPACT, the AIDS Action Council and Hepatitis ACT to establish a framework for a collaborative community-based sexual health outreach model which aims to further increase the sector's collective impact, a model that could include an annual sexual health week in the ACT.

It is important that we continue to promote sexual health literacy and awareness and reduce the stigma associated with sexually transmitted infections and blood-borne viruses. National Condom Day is one perfect opportunity to do just that. Sexual health is a vital component of our overall health and wellbeing. Yet it is often the last thing we think about—or perhaps is it forgotten entirely sometimes—when it comes to taking measures to maintain good physical health and prevent disease or infection. We book regular appointments with our dentist to ensure that our teeth and gums are tiptop, yet many sexually active adults have never undergone a simple STI test. This is despite the rates of many sexually transmitted infections—including chlamydia, gonorrhoea and syphilis—continuing to climb. Some of these infections may not have any obvious signs or symptoms.

National Condom Day represents an opportunity once again to discuss safe sex and promote good sexual health practices so that we can reduce the prevalence of STIs and blood-borne viruses in our community. National Condom Day is about promoting healthy sexual relationships, and that also obviously includes consent. SHFPACT lists several key things to remember when it comes to consenting to sex. Firstly, consent must be explicit; a clear “yes” is best. It is okay to change your mind. It is a good idea to check in with your sexual partner, particularly if you sense a shift in their body language. Drink and drugs do affect consent; someone who is very drunk or high cannot give consent.

Whether you love or hate Valentine's Day I think we can all agree that National Condom Day is a day worth celebrating. I encourage everyone to take a moment on Friday, indeed every day, to consider their sexual health: the importance of it and, of course, the importance of consent. In every way, if it is not on, it is not on. Thank you.

Canberra—Chinese community

MR COE (Yerrabi—Leader of the Opposition) (5.07): I rise this evening to extend my support for Canberra's Chinese community. This is, of course, a very tough time

for Chinese people right around the world. Here in the ACT we have a wonderful Chinese community that is very well established and contributes so much to our wonderful city.

As we would all be aware, China is going through a very difficult time with management of the coronavirus. The virus is deadly and extremely infectious, and the Chinese government has gone to extraordinary lengths to try to manage the situation. The commonwealth government has also made some tough decisions in the national interest of Australia. These decisions do have a big impact on this city, particularly on our universities and numerous other sectors of our economy and the community at large. I very much feel for all the students of ANU and UC who have been unable to travel to Canberra because of the bans in place. I certainly hope that these bans are lifted as soon as possible.

We also know that there is a young Canberra girl, just 18 months old, who is in Hubei province right now. She is in the loving care of her grandparents, but her parents are here in the ACT. It is, of course, a very distressing time. After chatting with the foreign minister's office today I know that it is a very complex situation. We have an amalgamation of the Australian travel rules, the strict quarantine rules that are in place in Hubei province and in China at large, and the fact that she is a minor. It makes for a very complex and difficult situation, but my thoughts are very much with Chloe and her family. I am appreciative of her family in China who, I understand, are giving her much loving care.

I want to reiterate my support for the Chinese community here. I hope that members are not stigmatised, and I hope that they are feeling loved by the Canberra population. We are blessed to have a wonderful multicultural city, and Chinese Australians are a significant part of the fabric of our city. In standing up tonight I again want to thank the Chinese community and to let them know that the Canberra Liberals are with them.

Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—national apology

MR RATTENBURY (Kurrajong) (5.10): Today, in beginning my remarks, I would also like to acknowledge the land on which we meet and pay my respects to elders past, present and emerging, because today marks the twelfth anniversary of the national apology to the stolen generations.

This gives us cause to reflect on Australia's dark history regarding first nations people. In Prime Minister Kevin Rudd's apology in 2008, he acknowledged that the forced removal of first nations children from their parents, their culture and their community was deliberate and calculated policy. This strategy was to deal with what was referred to as the problem of the Aboriginal population.

The national apology was a symbolic step in recognising one aspect of the traumas of colonisation and racism. The Greens and I acknowledged that many first nations communities across Australia, including here in the ACT, do experience and have experienced inter-generational trauma. The disadvantages faced today in first nations communities are results of both historic trauma and new instances of trauma, which lead to a vicious cycle.

The 2020 *Closing the Gap* report, released this week, has shown that these are not problems just of the past. While first nations people do not have equitable outcomes in education, employment, housing and health, there is still so much more to be done.

Today, we continue to have higher rates of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people removed from their families and, of course, as is very well known, we have too many of these communities in detention in its various forms. We must do better at listening to first nations communities, letting them decide what and how to address their disadvantages. First nations sovereignty was never ceded and it is clear that, after 12 years of *Closing the Gap*, strategies to date have not achieved the aspirations that were set out in that strategy.

As we reflect on the wrongs of the past, we must also celebrate the resilience of first nations people, particularly those in the stolen generations. Their culture, heritage and knowledge have survived systematic attempts to destroy them. I and the Greens acknowledge that the national apology was an important symbolic milestone on the journey towards truth, justice and reconciliation. However, symbolic change must be accompanied by recognition of and respect for the skills and knowledge of first nations people and support in their self-determined aspirations.

This week in the Assembly we have, naturally, had a real focus on the bushfires that have swept the eastern seaboard and other parts of Australia in recent months. As traditional custodians of this land, first nations people have a unique cultural and spiritual relationship with the land and water. This bushfire season has highlighted the importance of us having a discussion with the traditional custodians about issues around knowledge of land management that we can build into our modern approaches and, in fact, in some cases, reinvigorate.

There is an important discussion to be had with one of the oldest continuing cultures in human history, who successfully and sustainably managed this land for thousands of years, as to how we approach land management going forward. So I take this opportunity to recognise the injustices of the past and today reaffirm our apology to the stolen generations for the hurt, the pain and the suffering that were caused by the laws and parliaments of this country, a country that was stolen from those traditional custodians and first nations people.

Florey community fair

MRS KIKKERT (Ginninderra) (5.14): My family and I love a community event and we certainly enjoyed ourselves at the fabulous Florey community fair, which was held at Florey Primary School on 30 November. I rise today to publicly thank the Florey Neighbourhood Watch for organising and running such a perfectly named event; it was genuinely fabulous. I want to specifically thank Sharon Leigh-Hazell, area coordinator of the Neighbourhood Watch, and her great leadership team for all that they did to make sure the fair ran so smoothly. I also wish to thank all the community volunteers who assisted them.

The fair was filled with an overwhelming variety of market stalls selling an array of delights. Entertainment included dancers, singers and bands. Kenny Koala was there to share helpful information with children, and families could access health and fitness information in addition to connecting with community, volunteer and sporting organisations. Activities included a jumping castle, face painting and sporting demonstrations.

I wish I had time to thank every single person and the community group that was involved, but that simply is not possible. I do wish to make special mention, however, of the ACT Unicycle Riders Society. These generous and enthusiastic community members not only showed off their skills but then invited the curious to have a go. I have to confess that my family ordered a unicycle as a consequence of being at the fair and having a go. We loved it and we enjoyed the core workout. We also enjoyed participating with the Zumba group. What a gift it is to show both children and adults how much fun it can be to get up, to get out and to move.

We know that strong families and strong communities are important parts of our society. Successful activities, such as the fabulous Florey community fair, bring families and individuals together in a way that builds the social networks in our neighbourhoods and suburbs, while also providing families with wholesome recreational activities that all members can participate in. Such experiences create lifelong memories and build relationships amongst parents, children and siblings.

Sharon and her team did amazing work and I am truly grateful for all that they did. I am proud of my electorate and of all those, like Florey Neighbourhood Watch, who work so hard to make Belconnen such a great place to live and to raise a family.

Children and young people—care and protection

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) (5.17): I rise this evening to acknowledge some incredible work by ACT Policing and the Director of Public Prosecutions in delivering justice for sexually exploited young people in our community. I thank child and youth protection services and their government and community partners for the work they do in supporting young people who have experienced sexual exploitation and abuse.

Members may have seen two recent stories in the media about Canberra men in their 40s who have been separately convicted and sentenced for “maintaining a sexual relationship with a young person”, or, to put it plainly, the sexual exploitation of, in both cases, 15-year-old girls. These are hard cases to bring to court. In both cases what finally brought these men undone and provided enough evidence to secure a conviction was being caught in the act with the girls. But both were known to the system.

One of the men had orders in place not to go near the girl, which he flouted repeatedly. He knew he was committing a crime and, in the end, he pleaded guilty—but only after

taking advantage of this vulnerable young person again and again. The other perpetrator fought the charges and showed no insight or remorse. In sentencing him, Justice Mossop described the sex for drugs relationship he had with the girl as the gross exploitation of a vulnerable child by a much older man. It is on the public record that this victim was a young person in foster care. The girl told police the offender did not ask much about her life but, “He knew old I was and that I was in foster care.”

The prosecution in this case also relied on evidence from the girl’s foster mother. I publicly extend my thanks, and I am sure that of the Canberra community, to this remarkable woman who has walked beside an extremely troubled young person and helped put a predator in jail.

The details of these cases are deeply disturbing. The sexual exploitation of young people is not something we would like to believe happens in our community. We want to see that it is the stuff of *Law & Order: Special Victims Unit*, not ACT Policing. But ACT Policing’s sexual assault and child abuse team, SACAT, exists for a reason.

We have spoken many times in this place about institutional child sexual abuse, family violence and sexual assaults. It is time to acknowledge the very difficult work our agencies and non-government partners do in wrapping around girls who are being sexually exploited and who are unfortunately making very poor decisions about their own lives. The circumstances of these young people are extremely complex, often let down by adults in the past, disengaged from school, dulling their pain and trauma with drugs and alcohol and, yes, trading sex for drugs.

What I have been amazed about is the way services wrap around these young people and stick with them to get them through to a safer place. The relationship between SACAT and CYPS is a strong one, guided by a common purpose of working to keep children and young people in our community safe and ensuring that those who perpetrate these acts and offences are unable to do so again.

In these matters, significant coordination of information and resources occurred. At the first instance that the information available indicated that this sexual exploitation was occurring, executives in child and youth protection services convened a high-level meeting that included SACAT, Housing ACT, the Chief Medical Officer, family and community services and ACT Together. A plan was implemented immediately that sought to provide safety to the young people involved and actively disrupt the exploitation that was occurring, using every means available.

A review of all information held by child and youth protection services occurred, mapping the perpetrators’ known contacts within the community and providing a chronology of contact between them and the young people. This information was provided to SACAT to inform their early inquiries. ACT Health worked with the young people to ensure that they were provided with sexual health information and care.

Importantly, child and youth protection services, SACAT, ACT Policing and ACT Together, including the foster carer, continued to provide support to the young people and actively disrupted these exploitative so-called relationships while the

police investigation progressed, ultimately resulting in these two men being convicted for their crimes.

I acknowledge the bravery of the young women involved. They should not have experienced these crimes at the hands of people within our community, but through their cooperation other young people are now safer as these men are now serving considerable sentences.

Thank you to SACAT, thank you to CYPS, thank you to all our government and non-government community partners, to the foster parents in our community. It is important to put on the record what they are doing, working together to keep young people in our community safe.

Parking—infringements

MISS C BURCH (Kurrajong) (5.21): I am disappointed that I find myself rising to speak again this week about a government minister using dirty tactics in this place to misrepresent the Canberra Liberals. We are still eight months out from election day and we are already seeing a campaign of falsehoods and mistruths from a deceitful frontbench. It would appear that the campaign strategy of those opposite for the next eight months will be one based on scaremongering and fear campaigns.

During yesterday's debate on Mr Pettersson's motion on grace periods for parking fines, Mr Ramsay referenced several representations the Canberra Liberals have made to him regarding parking around the territory and accused me and my colleagues of conflating a number of issues regarding illegal parking. Either the Attorney-General does not understand the meaning of the word conflate or he was being knowingly deceptive when he spoke to the representations that I have made to him. Ironically, it would appear that it is Minister Ramsay who has heard the word "parking" and decided to conflate two totally separate issues regarding parking in Canberra.

I would like to point out to the minister that making representations on behalf of constituents regarding illegal parking on median strips and verges—and on the wrong side of the road, where safety is a very serious concern—is not the same as advocating for harsher enforcement in paid parking zones. It is funny that the Attorney-General had the audacity to get up and lecture us about flip-flopping on policy positions when he is part of a government who, on the one hand, yesterday had its backbenchers advocating for Canberra drivers but, on the other hand, has a frontbench hell-bent on making it as difficult as possible for drivers, even going as far as wanting to ban cars around our city.

It just goes to show how far this tired and pathetic government will go in an attempt to cover up its well-known disdain for Canberrans who need to use their cars to get around our territory. I would counsel the Attorney-General in future to look up words he does not understand in the dictionary or to at least stop bringing his reputation into disrepute by knowingly misrepresenting members of the Canberra Liberals. This, of course, follows Minister Steel's misrepresentations earlier this week. Just how low will this government go?

Schools—cleaners

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) (5.24): I use my adjournment speech tonight to talk about our public school cleaners. I want to celebrate and welcome 272 cleaners as employees of the ACT government. They are now into their second week of employment as ACT government employees. The insecurity of employment and the exploitation over the years of these workers, who are mostly migrant and refugee workers, by some cleaning contractors has been unacceptable.

The treatment that these cleaners received whilst they were employed by some cleaning contractors in this town was completely unacceptable. Nobody would accept that treatment from any employer, and neither should the government. In one example, a contract cleaning business underpaid these migrant workers, some of the most vulnerable people in this town, by up to \$25,000. These workers were asked to sign contracts and agreements that they did not understand, which was found to have breached the Fair Work Act. The business was ordered to pay the money that it took off these cleaners, who were Sgaw Karen refugees from Thailand and Burma who spoke very little English and had spent two decades in refugee camps in Thailand before they were resettled in Australia.

I have heard other comments about the behaviour of some cleaning contractors that employed cleaners in this town. Karen Love, who is a cleaner at Macquarie Primary School and a grandmother, was quoted as saying that for a decade she had worked at that school for two different companies. For her, what being employed by the ACT government means is much-desired permanent and secure employment. She said that when her mum passed away she knew that she was entitled to bereavement leave but the boss told her that if she took leave she would be fired. When she got back, the boss was showing around a lady who was to take over her job. The boss said that if she ever took leave like that again, the other lady would have her job.

I am so happy, given some of the treatment of these cleaners, to be able to offer them the security of employment with the ACT government. I want to congratulate them and their union, the United Workers Union, for all their work over the years and for their work in the coming years as ACT government employees. I look forward to seeing them around our public schools. I have seen the immense pride that they take in the essential services that they provide in ensuring that our schools are clean and safe environments for students and school staff. I was very happy to welcome these 272 cleaners as ACT government employees.

Question resolved in the affirmative.

The Assembly adjourned at 5.28 pm until Tuesday, 18 February 2020, at 10 am.

Answers to questions

Transport Canberra—bus timetable (Question No 2780—revised answer)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 25 October 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport*):

- (1) Prior to Network19, how many (a) 300 series buses were scheduled between Woden and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (b) 300 series buses were scheduled between Tuggeranong and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (c) 300 series buses were scheduled between Civic and Belconnen on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak and (d) 200 series buses were scheduled between Civic and Gungahlin on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak.
- (2) Under Network19, how many (a) R4 buses are scheduled between Woden and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (b) R4 series buses are scheduled between Tuggeranong and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (c) R5 buses are scheduled between Woden and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (d) R5 series buses are scheduled between Tuggeranong and Civic on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak, (e) rapid buses are scheduled between Civic and Belconnen on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak and (f) Light Rail services are scheduled between Civic and Gungahlin on each weekday morning peak, and afternoon peak.

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

- (1) Answers to questions 1(a) to 1(d) are set out in the tables below:

	300 series services scheduled to depart during the weekday morning peak in school terms as at 1 April 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	300 series services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 1 April 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
1a - Woden Interchange to City Interchange	28	30
1a - City Interchange to Woden Interchange	19	37
1b - Tuggeranong Interchange to City Interchange	21	30
1b - City Interchange to Tuggeranong Interchange	24	37
1c - Westfield Belconnen to City Interchange	28	31
1c - City Interchange to Westfield Belconnen	29	29

	200 series services scheduled to depart during the weekday morning peak in school terms as at 1 April 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	200 series services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 1 April 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
1d - Gungahlin Place to City Interchange	31	8
1d - City Interchange to Gungahlin Place	6	38

(2) Answers to questions 2(a) to 2(f) are set out in the tables below:

	R4 services scheduled to depart during the weekday morning peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	R4 services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
2a - Woden Interchange to City Interchange	33	24
2a - City Interchange to Woden Interchange	26	24
2b - Tuggeranong Interchange to City Interchange	17	24
2b - City Interchange to Tuggeranong Interchange	11	22

	R5 services scheduled to depart during the morning weekday peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	R5 services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
2c – Woden Interchange to City Interchange	9	10
2c - City Interchange to Woden Interchange	8	11
2d – Lanyon Marketplace to City Interchange	9	11
2d - City Interchange to Lanyon Marketplace	8	11

	R2, R3 and R4 services scheduled to depart during the weekday morning peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	R2, R3 and R4 services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
2e - Westfield Belconnen to City Interchange	41	45
2e - City Interchange to Westfield Belconnen	49	47

	R1 services scheduled to depart during the weekday morning peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 7.30am and 8.59am)	R1 services scheduled to depart during the weekday afternoon peak in school terms as at 10 December 2019 (scheduled departure between 4pm and 5.59pm)
2f - Gungahlin Place to City Interchange	15	18
2f - City Interchange to Gungahlin Place	15	20

Health—outpatient clinics (Question No 2804)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 25 October 2019:

- (1) What is the average waiting time for outpatients' clinics in each specialty in the ACT.
- (2) What are the opening hours and days for each outpatient clinic for each specialty.
- (3) Has the ACT Health Directorate or Canberra Health Services prepared a costing related to operation of a static pill testing clinic in the ACT; if so, (a) what is the estimate of the (i) capital cost and (ii) recurrent cost, of operating such a clinic and (b) how does this cost compare with the cost of operating other outpatients' clinics in the ACT.
- (4) Has the ACT Health Directorate or Canberra Health Services provided briefing documents to the (a) Minister for Health and (b) Minister for Mental Health, about operation of a static pill testing clinic in the ACT; if so (i) when were these documents prepared and (ii) for whom was the briefing prepared and (iii) what was the advice provided to the relevant Minister.

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

- (1)-(2) Average waiting times for an initial appointment at Canberra Health Services (CHS) Outpatient Clinics (from 1 July 2019 to 31 October 2019) are as follows:

Specialty	Average Waiting Time (Days) by Clinical Urgency		
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3
Dermatology	121	*	*
Endocrinology and Diabetes	61	320	648
Ear, Nose and Throat	41	420	1,580
General Surgery	73	205	559
Gastrointestinal	203	404	674
Gynaecology	*	*	183
Immunology (Paediatrics)	*	97	692
Neurology	49	110	311
Neurosurgery	92	154	366
Ophthalmology	86	259	*
Oral Maxillofacial Surgery	42	129	*
Orthopaedics	59	188	921
Paediatrics	86	105	197
Paediatric Surgery	28	139	*
Plastic Surgery	68	381	*
Respiratory	149	347	808
Rheumatology	491	232	*
Urology	54	747	*
Vascular	62	152	179

* Data for clinics where fewer than five patients have been booked via the waiting list have been excluded.

Explanatory Notes:

- Data is only provided for outpatient clinics which use the Ambulatory Care Waitlist in the ACTPAS (ACT Patient Administration System).
- Patients booked directly (and not via the waiting list) are excluded. This occurs regularly for patients with urgent conditions. This also negatively skews the average waiting time, particularly for category 1 patients.
- The data provided includes patient's waiting time from the date they are added to the specialty's waiting list (date of receipt of referral) to the date of removal for appointment.
- The data does not include patients who have been removed from the waitlist for other reasons, including no longer requiring the service.
- Data is presented by specialty which includes multiple clinics. This can negatively distort the overall average waiting time.
- Category 1 target is within 30 days, category 2 target is within 90 days and category 3 target is within 365 days.

CHS Outpatient Clinics are open Monday to Friday, 8:30am to 5:00pm. Some clinics offer appointments earlier and later. Registrar review clinic operates on a Saturday and Sunday.

(1)-(2) In relation to Calvary Public Hospital Bruce Outpatient Clinics, for 2018-19:

Specialty	Opening Days and Hours	Average Waiting Time (Days)
Cardiac Rehabilitation	Monday, Wednesday, Friday 8.00am	54
Cardiology Clinic	Tuesday 9.00am, and Friday 1.00pm (two weeks per month)	88
Endocrinology Clinic	Monday, Wednesday 9.00am, and Thursday 1.00pm	142
General Surgery Clinic	Monday, Tuesday and Thursday 9.00am	151
Geriatrics Clinic	Monday 1.00pm	149
Gynaecology Clinic	Wednesday 9.00am, and Friday 1.00pm	104
Infectious Diseases Clinic	Tuesday 9.00am	84
Neurology Outpatient Review	Monday 1.00pm	N/A*
Neurology Clinic	Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 1.00pm, and Friday 9.00am	226
Plastics Clinic	No current clinic	189
Urology Clinic	No current clinic	79
Vascular Clinic	Friday 1.00pm (one week per month)	92

* The average number of waiting days for this clinic is included in the average number of waiting days for the Neurology Clinic.

3) No, ACT Health Directorate has not prepared costing related to the operation of a static pill testing clinic in the ACT.

4) (a) Yes.

- i) June 2018, November and December 2019.
- ii) The former Minister for Health and Wellbeing was briefed on 20 June 2018 and I was briefed on 29 November 2019 and 24 December 2019.
- iii) The former Minister for Health and Wellbeing noted on 20 June 2018 that the ACT Health Directorate met on 12 June 2018 with Directions Health Services following their request to discuss a static pill testing service.

I noted advice on 29 November 2019 and again on 24 December 2019 regarding unsolicited static pill testing proposals from community groups.

(b) No.

Government—invoices (Question No 2811)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What consultancy services were provided by Waterline Data for the payment of \$178 438.66 on 31 July 2019 on the Register of Invoices and what is the total value of the contract.

- (2) What capital project was delivered by Shaw Building Group Pty Ltd for the payment of \$1 773 048.89 on 13 August 2019 on the Register of Invoices.
- (3) What consultancy services were provided by A G Coombs Advisory Pty Ltd for the payment of \$190 509.00 on 15 August 2019 on the Register of Invoices.
- (4) What consultancy services were provided by Shape Australia Pty Ltd for the four payments made in July and August 2019 totalling \$2 823 296.68 on the Register of Invoices.
- (5) What goods and/or services did Symbion Pharmacy Services Pty Ltd supply for the payment of \$31 420.28 on 23 July 2019 on the Register of Invoices and why was the payment described as “Other Creditors”.
- (6) Why were pathology services provided by South Eastern Sydney Local Health District and not a local provider.
- (7) Why did it take more than a year to pay the invoice for \$95 002.63 from Capital Health Network Ltd.
- (8) Why did it take 134 days to pay the invoice for \$25 114.65 from MedRecruit.

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

- (1) The payment of \$178 438.66 to Waterline Data Science, Inc. was for a 12 month licensing fee to provide data lineage and other associated metadata for the ACT Health Data Repository.
- (2) The invoice from Shaw Building Group Pty Ltd related to the Electrical Main Switchboards Replacement (Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets) Project.
- (3) The consultancy services provided by A G Coombs Advisory Pty Ltd related to Electrical Main Switchboards Replacement (Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets) Project.
- (4) Services provided by Shape Australia relate to:
 - (a) Ward 14A and 14B refurbishment (\$2,554,060.16)
 - (b) LINAC 2 and 3 replacement (\$71,082.00)
 - (c) Maintenance on birthing suites (\$37,837.60)
 - (d) Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets – Fire Project (\$71,524.09)
 - (e) Clinical Services Inpatient Unit Design and Infrastructure Extension (\$88,792.83)

Note: (d) and (e) were consolidated onto one invoice and constitute one payment.
- (5) The invoice from Symbion Pharmacy Services was for the provision of pharmaceutical supplies for Canberra Health Services, which was incorrectly reported as other creditors.
- (6) The services provided were related to a Genetic Consultant that has provided services under contract since 2016-17. An administrative error resulted in this invoice being recorded as pathology services.

- (7) The 'date invoice received' for the payment of \$95,002.63 to Capital Health Network Ltd was stated as 23 July 2018 due to an error. The correct date was 23 July 2019. The Directorate will take necessary steps to have this record corrected.
 - (8) The delay in payment of the invoice to MedRecruit was related to due diligence processes and an administrative delay.
-

Budget—arts funding (Question No 2812)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for the Arts, Creative Industries and Cultural Events, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) In relation to the answer given to question on notice No 2796, can the Minister provide a table of data showing the "period of time" and associated sets of source data "attendance figures" used to calculate the average attendance of 350 000 for (a) 2019-20 and (b) each of the three years prior.
- (2) What were the sources for each of the figures provided in part (1)(b) above.
- (3) Why has the Government's average figure remained static when figures provided by key arts organisations suggest an increasing average.

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

- (1) The number of attendees at programs delivered by artsACT funded organisations has been an accountability indicator since 2016-17 and is therefore reported against in each year's CMTEDD annual report.

Please note that data is collected as part of the funding acquittal process, which is based on the calendar year. This means that the data published in each annual report refers to the previous calendar year (i.e. the 2016-17 annual report included data from the 2016 calendar year).

Figures for the 2019 calendar year will be reported against in the 2019-20 annual report, and 2020 figures will be included in the 2020-21 annual report.

- (2) The source data for the performance measure is the acquittal information provided by Key Arts and Program funded organisations related to ticketed and non-ticketed events. The data is collected by the funded organisations and collated by artsACT.
 - (3) The target was set at 350,000 as a reasonable estimate based on the average from the 2015-16 and 2014-15 results, which was 315,000, with some growth aspiration.
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ACT Health—employment data (Question No 2813)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed

by ACT Health by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 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 administrative officers, general service officers, technical officers, professional officers and other similar classifications by classification within ACT Health (Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services) as at 3 December 2019.

The data within the tables was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data to be displayed, these classifications have not been listed.

Health Directorate

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by Health Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to 3 December 2019.

	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	167.11	176	162.69	170
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	0.6	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 1	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	10.13	11	10	10
Admin Service Officer 3	6.7	8	6.7	8
Admin Service Officer 4	22.8	23	17.4	18
Admin Service Officer 5	47.48	49	50.17	52
Admin Service Officer 6	73.4	78	74.42	78
Graduate Admin Asst	5	5	3	3
General Service Officers & Equivalent	5	5	5.6	6
Health Service Off 10	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 3	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 6	2	2	2.6	3
Health Service Off 8	1	1	1	1
Technical Officers	3	3	3	3
Technical Officer 1	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 2	2	2	2	2

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by Health Directorate by (i) full time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to 3 December 2019.

		FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	Increment	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		167.11	176	162.69	170
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS239	0.6	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.1	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.2	0	0	1	1

Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	5.13	6	6	6
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.3	2	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.4	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	3	3	3	3
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	0.4	1	2.4	3
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	4	4	2	2
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	2.3	3	2.3	3
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	6	6	4	4
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	3	3	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	3	3	3	3
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	10.8	11	9.4	10
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	16	16	23.37	24
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	5	5	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	26.48	28	24.8	26
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	13.29	14	12.8	13
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	12	12	5.6	6
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	8.8	9	13.9	14
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	5	5	5	5
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	34.31	38	35.12	38
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	5	5	3	3
General Service Officers & Equivalent		5	5	5.6	6
Health Service Off 10	HS10.5	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 3	HS3.1Y	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 3	HS3.3Y	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 6	HS6.1	0	0	0.6	1
Health Service Off 6	HS6.2	2	2	2	2
Health Service Off 8	HS8.1Y	1	1	1	1
Technical Officers		3	3	3	3
Technical Officer 1	TO1.3	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.1	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.2	1	1	1	1

Canberra Health Services

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by Canberra Health Services by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

Classification	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	825.35	914	839.7	924
Admin Serv Officer 1/2	7.41	8	7.41	8
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	180.11	200	191.07	214
Admin Serv Officer 3/4	2	2	2	2
Admin Service Officer 1	0.48	1	0.48	1
Admin Service Officer 2	62.67	81	59.98	76
Admin Service Officer 3	197.79	223	202.37	225
Admin Service Officer 4	161.13	171	157.54	166
Admin Service Officer 5	68.2	69	67.54	69
Admin Service Officer 6	81.82	88	86.12	92

ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	3.6	4	4.2	5
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	47.98	52	48.17	52
Clinical Coder	11.16	14	10.82	12
CLINICAL CODER LEVEL 2	0	0	1	1
CLINICAL CODER LEVEL 3	0	0	1	1
Graduate Admin Asst	1	1	0	0
General Service Officers & Equivalent	435.17	497	466.36	518
Building Trade 1	7	7	9	9
Facilities Service Off 5	3	3	2	2
Facilities Service Off 7	4	4	0	0
Health Service Off 10	8.97	9	7.97	8
Health Service Off 2	1.82	3	2.28	3
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	40.2	56	28	40
Health Service Off 3	209.76	243	144.45	168
Health Service Off 3/4	6.49	11	88.62	96
Health Service Off 4	31.93	34	41.24	43
Health Service Off 4/5	19	19	17	17
Health Service Off 5	26.68	27	30.76	31
Health Service Off 6	0	0	2	2
Health Service Off 7	12	12	25.79	26
Health Service Off 8	5	5	5	5
Sen Stores Supervisor 1	1	1	1	1
Sen Stores Supervisor 2	3	3	2	2
Senior Building Trade 1	5	5	6	6
Senior Building Trade Inspector	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	36.32	41	37.25	42
Sterilising Serv Tech 1	4	4	5	5
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	7	7	7	8
Stores Supervisor	2	2	3	3
Professional Officers	130.15	153	138.67	164
Infrastructure Officer 1	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	1	1	0.41	1
Research Officer 2	4.62	5	3.76	5
Technical Officers	122.53	145	132.5	156
Technical Officers	0	0	0	0
Technical Officer 1	78.93	99	86.77	107
Technical Officer 2	24.88	27	25.21	28
Technical Officer 3	12.82	13	14.62	15
Technical Officer 4	5.9	6	5.9	6

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by Canberra Health Services by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date. Instances where the officer is at a lower than classification level is explained as the officer being on partial duties. Where the officer is at a higher increment level than classification the level can be explained as the officer has been on higher duties allowance.

Classification	Increment	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
		2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		825.34	914	839.7	924
Admin Serv Officer 1/2	AS12.9	0	0	1	1
Admin Serv Officer 1/2	ASO1.4	1.41	2	0.41	1

Admin Serv Officer 1/2	ASO2.5	6	6	6	6
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS231	38.25	44	42.52	50
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS232	9.9	12	1.4	2
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS233	6.3	7	6	7
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS234	0.7	1	2.3	3
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS235	7.76	11	8.59	10
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS236	21.12	23	26.3	29
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS237	8.68	10	8.38	9
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS238	10.69	11	8.6	9
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS239	61.3	65	65.17	70
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO2.1	3.7	4	4.2	5
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO2.2	0	0	0.5	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO2.3	1	1	0	0
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO2.5	0	0	0.5	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO2/3	0	0	0.51	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO231	0.71	1	1	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO236	1	1	1	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO3.1	3	3	8.1	9
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO3.2	0	0	1	1
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO3.3	1	1	2	2
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	ASO3.4	5	5	3	3
Admin Serv Officer 3/4	ASO4.2	1	1	0	0
Admin Serv Officer 3/4	ASO4.3	1	1	2	2
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.4	0.48	1	0.48	1
Admin Service Officer 2	AS231	0.14	1	1.18	2
Admin Service Officer 2	AS232	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	30.39	42	28.39	36
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.2	11.6	14	9.18	11
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.3	6.17	7	4.56	6
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.4	1	1	4	4
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	13.37	16	11.67	16
Admin Service Officer 3	AS231	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 3	AS236	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 3	AS239	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO2.2	2	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO2.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO2.5	1.56	2	1	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	48.15	58	51.93	62
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	21.68	24	18.77	20
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.3	16.72	18	13.13	14
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	103.68	115	114.54	125
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3/1	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	34.92	36	47.2	50
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	19	20	12.2	13
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	12.18	13	12.18	13
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	95.02	102	85.96	90
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.1	0.6	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	17	17	11.94	13
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	9	9	11	11
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	40.6	41	43.6	44
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.4	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO4.4	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	12.95	14	10.8	13
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	6	6	8	8
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	6.4	7	11.6	12
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	6.8	7	3.6	4

Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	48.67	53	51.12	54
ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	AS237	1	1	0	0
ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO2.1	0	0	1	1
ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO2.3	2	2	0	0
ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO2.4	0	0	2	2
ASO2 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO2.5	0.6	1	1.2	2
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3.1	5	6	2.4	3
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3.2	1	1	1.6	2
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3.3	1.71	2	0.94	2
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3.4	37.27	40	41.23	43
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3/1	0	0	1	1
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3/2	1	1	0	0
ASO3 - MEDICAL TYPIST	ASO3/4	2	2	1	1
Clinical Coder	CC.1	1.6	2	0	0
Clinical Coder	CC.4	6.6	7	0	0
Clinical Coder	CC.6	1	1	0	0
Clinical Coder	CC.7	1.96	4	0	0
Clinical Coder	CC1.2	0	0	2.42	3
Clinical Coder	CC1.4	0	0	3	3
Clinical Coder	CC1.5	0	0	1	1
Clinical Coder	CC1.6	0	0	4	4
Clinical Coder	CC1.8	0	0	0.4	1
CLINICAL CODER LEVEL 2	CC2.1	0	0	1	1
CLINICAL CODER LEVEL 3	CC3.1	0	0	1	1
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	1	1	0	0
General Service Officers & Equivalent		435.18	497	466.38	518
Building Trade 1	BT1.3	2	2	1	1
Building Trade 1	BT1.4	4	4	7	7
Building Trade 1	SBT1.4	1	1	1	1
Facilities Service Off 5	FSO5.3	3	3	2	2
Facilities Service Off 7	FSO7.3	4	4	0	0
Health Service Off 10	FSO8.3	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 10	HS10.2	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 10	HS10.3	0.97	1	0.97	1
Health Service Off 10	HS10.4	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 10	HS10.5	6	6	5	5
Health Service Off 2	HS2.4	0.33	1	0.33	1
Health Service Off 2	HS3.1	1.49	2	1.95	2
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS2.1	4.03	7	2.16	3
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS2.1Y	2.39	3	1.93	2
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS2.3	1	1	0	0
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS23.1	6.89	9	3.89	6
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS23.5	4.31	5	3.62	5
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS23.6	0.98	1	1	1
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS3.1	16.07	24	7.67	14

HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS3.1Y	1.03	1	2.94	3
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS3.2	3.3	4	1.26	2
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS3.3	0.2	1	0	0
HEALTH SERVICE OFF 2/3	HS4.2	0	0	3.53	4
Health Service Off 3	HS23.5	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 3	HS23.8	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 3	HS3.1	26.15	34	19.22	25
Health Service Off 3	HS3.2	17.22	22	5.67	8
Health Service Off 3	HS3.3	11.39	12	13.81	14
Health Service Off 3	HS3.4	145.83	163	96.94	110
Health Service Off 3	HS3.4Y	0.98	1	0	0
Health Service Off 3	HS3.5	5.23	7	5.13	6
Health Service Off 3	HS4.2	0	0	2.89	3
Health Service Off 3	HS4.3	0.37	1	0.2	1
Health Service Off 3	TO1.4	0.6	1	0.6	1
Health Service Off 3/4	HS3.1	0.51	2	2.48	5
Health Service Off 3/4	HS3.4	2	2	0	0
Health Service Off 3/4	HS4.2	0	0	76.79	81
Health Service Off 3/4	HS5.1	0	0	4	4
Health Service Off 3/4	HS8.4	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 3/4	S3/4.1	1.9	3	2.36	2
Health Service Off 3/4	S3/4.2	0.31	1	0.47	1
Health Service Off 3/4	S3/4.5	0.45	1	0.53	1
Health Service Off 3/4	S3/4.7	1.32	2	1	1
Health Service Off 4	HS3.2	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 4	HS3.4	1	1	1.53	2
Health Service Off 4	HS3.6	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 4	HS4.1	3	3	12.28	12
Health Service Off 4	HS4.2	2.68	3	1.95	2
Health Service Off 4	HS4.3	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 4	HS4.3Y	0.66	1	0.84	1
Health Service Off 4	HS4.4	20.59	22	21.64	23
Health Service Off 4	HS4.4Y	2	2	0	0
Health Service Off 4/5	HS4.1	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 4/5	HS4.4	2	2	2	2
Health Service Off 4/5	HS45.1	4	4	4	4
Health Service Off 4/5	HS45.2	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 4/5	HS45.3	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 4/5	HS45.6	2	2	1	1
Health Service Off 4/5	HS45.7	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 4/5	HS5.2	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 4/5	HS5.3	1	1	2	2
Health Service Off 4/5	HS5.4	7	7	5	5
Health Service Off 5	HS5.1	12.68	13	13.76	14
Health Service Off 5	HS5.1Y	0	0	2	2
Health Service Off 5	HS5.2	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 5	HS5.3	1	1	1	1
Health Service Off 5	HS5.4	12	12	13	13
Health Service Off 6	HS6.1	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 6	HS6.2	0	0	1	1
Health Service Off 7	HS7.1	7	7	19.79	20
Health Service Off 7	HS7.2	0	0	1	1

Health Service Off 7	HS7.4	5	5	5	5
Health Service Off 8	HS8.3	1	1	0	0
Health Service Off 8	HS8.4	4	4	5	5
Sen Stores Supervisor 1	SSS1.2	1	1	1	1
Sen Stores Supervisor 2	SSS2H2	3	3	2	2
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.1	0	0	1	1
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.3	0	0	1	1
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.4	5	5	4	4
Senior Building Trade Inspector	BTI1.3	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	HS3.1	0	0	3	3
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	S3/4.1	5.2	8	6.07	9
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	S3/4.2	5.96	7	5.07	6
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	S3/4.3	2	2	2.84	3
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	S3/4.4	2	2	2	2
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	S3/4.7	19.16	20	17.27	18
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	SST1.2	1	1	0	0
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	SST2.2	1	1	0	0
Sterilising Serv HSO3/4	SST2.3	0	0	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 1	S3/4.3	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 1	SST1.1	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 1	SST1.4	2	2	3	3
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	SST2.1	0	0	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	SST2.2	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	SST2.3	0	0	2	2
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	SST2.4	1	1	1	1
Sterilising Serv Tech 2	SST2.6	5	5	2	3
Stores Supervisor	SSH1	1	1	2	2
Stores Supervisor	SSH3	1	1	1	1
Professional Officers		7.62	8	6.17	8
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.1	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.4	0	0	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.3	1	1	0	0
Professional Officer 1	PO1.4	0	0	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.1	1	1	0	0
Professional Officer 2	PO2.5	0	0	0.41	1
Research Officer 2	RO2.1	0	0	1	1
Research Officer 2	RO2.2	2.62	3	0.82	1
Research Officer 2	RO2.3	0	0	1	1
Research Officer 2	RO2.4	2	2	0.94	2
Technical Officers		122.53	145	132.5	156
Technical Officer 1	TO1.1	22.68	33	20.07	31
Technical Officer 1	TO1.2	6.43	8	12.17	14
Technical Officer 1	TO1.3	5.21	7	5.79	7
Technical Officer 1	TO1.4	43.98	50	48.11	54
Technical Officer 1	TO1X4	0.63	1	0.63	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.1	0.51	1	2.5	3
Technical Officer 2	TO2.5	3	3	0	0
Technical Officer 2	TO2.6	20.37	22	21.71	24
Technical Officer 2	TO2X6	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 3	TO3.1	1	1	2.8	3
Technical Officer 3	TO3.4	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 3	TO3.6	10.82	11	10.82	11
Technical Officer 4	TO4.5	5.9	6	5.9	6

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—
employment data
(Question No 2814)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) Can the Minister provide a breakdown of (a) total approved leave by formal classification and division, (b) total costs attributed to approved leave and (c) total leave as a percentage of total attendance hours, for all employees in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate for (i) 2017-18, (ii) 2018-19 and (iii) 2019-20 to date.
- (2) For the years referred to in parts (1) (i)-(iii), in relation to claims for compensation due to bullying and harassment, what was the (a) total number of claims for compensation lodged, (b) total number of claims paid and (c) total cost of compensation, in each division.

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

- (1) The data table below contains a breakdown of (a) total approved leave by formal classification and division, (b) total costs attributed to approved leave and (c) total leave as a percentage of total attendance hours, for all employees in the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate for (i) 2017-18, (ii) 2018-19 and (iii) 2019-20 to date. The data within the table was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21.

(Data is available at the Chamber Support Office).

- (2) The number of workers' compensation claims lodged by Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development staff cannot be disaggregated by financial year or business unit due to the small number of claims involved. There were a total of five (5) workers' compensation claims for bullying and harassment lodged by Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development staff in the period 1 July 2017 to 31 October 2019. The five claims were paid and the cost of these claims at 31 October 2019 is \$166,480.

**Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate—
employment data
(Question No 2815)**

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables contain a breakdown of the total number of administrative officers, general service officers, technical officers, professional officers and other similar classifications by classification within Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate.

The data within the tables was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data to be displayed, these classifications have not been listed.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	212.98	212.98	207.77	207.77
Admin Service Officer 1	0.45	0.45	0.45	0.45
Admin Service Officer 2	2.22	2.22	3.20	3.20
Admin Service Officer 3	3.71	3.71	4.79	4.79
Admin Service Officer 4	23.68	23.68	23.12	23.12
Admin Service Officer 5	71.50	71.50	67.95	67.95
Admin Service Officer 6	104.42	104.42	101.26	101.26
Graduate Admin Asst	7.00	7.00	7.00	7.00
General Service Officers & Equivalent	68.00	68.00	66.71	66.71
General Service Off 5	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
General Service Off 5/6	47.00	47.00	44.71	44.71
General Service Off 7	11.00	11.00	12.00	12.00
General Service Off 8	4.00	4.00	3.00	3.00
General Service Off 9	5.00	5.00	6.00	6.00
Professional Officers	22.53	22.53	20.16	20.16
Infrastructure Officer 1	1.00	1.00	0.00	0.00
Infrastructure Officer 2	1.00	1.00	2.00	2.00
Professional Officer 1	5.03	5.03	4.34	4.34
Professional Officer 2	13.50	13.50	11.82	11.82
Veterinary Officer 2	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Veterinary Officer 3	1.00	1.00	1.00	1.00
Technical Officers	52.28	52.28	49.04	49.04
Technical Officer 1	3.00	3.00	3.80	3.80
Technical Officer 2	3.68	3.68	2.82	2.82
Technical Officer 3	20.40	20.40	20.00	20.00
Technical Officer 4	25.20	25.20	22.42	22.42

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers and (d) professional officers, employed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date. Instances where the officer is at a lower increment than classification level is explained as the officer being on partial duties. Where the officer is at a higher increment level than classification the level can be explained as the officer has been on higher duties allowance.

Classification	Increment	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
		2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		212.98	226	207.77	223
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.1	0.45	1	0.45	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	0	0	0.98	3
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.2	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.3	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.4	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	0.22	1	0.22	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	0	0	1.54	2
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	1	1	0.54	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	2.71	3	1.71	2
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	7.85	10	5.03	6
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	1.54	2	1.54	2
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	0	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	12.29	14	13.55	15
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4A2	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4A4	2	2	2	2
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.1	3	3	2	2
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	25	25	22.71	23
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	6.6	7	9.6	10
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	36.9	39	30.9	33
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.4	0	0	0.74	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO6.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	GAA.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.1	2	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.3	0.54	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	29.71	30	27.61	29
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	12.42	13	12	12
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	9.42	10	13.41	15
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	2	2	5.9	6
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	48.33	50	41.34	43
Admin Service Officer 6	PO2.5	0	0	1	1
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	7	7	7	7
General Service Officers & Equivalent		68	69	66.71	67
General Service Off 5	GS56.3	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 5	GSO5.2	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.1	12	12	11.71	12
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.2	5	5	7	7
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.3	5	5	4	4
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.4	5	6	5	5
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.5	1	1	3	3
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.7	9	9	11	11
General Service Off 5/6	GSO5.1	9	9	0	0
General Service Off 5/6	GSO5.2	0	0	2	2
General Service Off 5/6	GSO6.4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 7	GSO7.1	4	4	5	5
General Service Off 7	GSO7.2	3	3	0	0
General Service Off 7	GSO7.3	0	0	2	2
General Service Off 7	GSO7.4	4	4	5	5
General Service Off 8	GSO8.4	4	4	3	3
General Service Off 9	GSO9.1	1	1	1	1

General Service Off 9	GSO9.2	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 9	GSO9.3	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 9	GSO9.7	3	3	3	3
Professional Officers		22.53	29	20.16	21
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.4	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.1	0	0	1	1
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.5	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.1	0.21	4	0	0
Professional Officer 1	PO1.2	0	0	0.8	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.3	0.85	1	0	0
Professional Officer 1	PO1.4	1.27	3	0	0
Professional Officer 1	PO1.6	1	1	0.84	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.7	1.7	2	2.7	3
Professional Officer 2	PO2.1	0	0	3	3
Professional Officer 2	PO2.2	3	3	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.3	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.4	0.6	1	0	0
Professional Officer 2	PO2.5	8.9	9	6.82	7
Veterinary Officer 2	VET2.9	1	1	1	1
Veterinary Officer 3	VET3.2	1	1	1	1
Technical Officers		52.28	55	49.04	50
Technical Officer 1	TO1.1	0	0	2.8	3
Technical Officer 1	TO1X1	2	2	0	0
Technical Officer 1	TO1X2	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 1	TO1X3	0	0	1	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.1	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.4	0.68	1	0	0
Technical Officer 2	TO2.5	0	0	0.82	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2.6	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 2	TO2X1	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 3	TO3.1	7	7	3	3
Technical Officer 3	TO3.2	4	4	4	4
Technical Officer 3	TO3.3	2	2	2	2
Technical Officer 3	TO3.4	2	2	4	4
Technical Officer 3	TO3.5	0	0	1	1
Technical Officer 3	TO3.6	5.4	6	5	5
Technical Officer 3	TO3X2	0	0	1	1
Technical Officer 4	PO2.5	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 4	TO4.1	1.9	3	1	1
Technical Officer 4	TO4.2	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 4	TO4.3	2	2	1	1
Technical Officer 4	TO4.4	1	1	1	1
Technical Officer 4	TO4.5	18.3	19	17.42	18
Technical Officer 4	TO4X5	0	0	1	1

Education Directorate—employment data (Question No 2816)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) professional officers, (d) school leaders and (e) other

related classifications, employed by the Education Directorate broken down by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

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

The data tables below have been prepared in response to Miss C. Burch Question on Notice and contain a breakdown of the total number of administrative officers, general service officers, technical officers, professional officers and other similar classifications by classification within Education Directorate.

The data within the tables was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data to be displayed, these classifications have not been listed.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) professional officers, (d) school leaders and (e) other related classifications, employed by the Education Directorate broken down by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	1460.2	2015	1490.6	2084
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 1	1.5	2	1.5	2
Admin Service Officer 2	7.63	9	4.2	18
Admin Service Officer 3	32.25	33	30.24	31
Admin Service Officer 4	78.56	82	81.13	84
Admin Service Officer 5	94.78	97	95.44	97
Admin Service Officer 6	104.71	108	106.86	110
Casual School Asst 2	169.87	396	174.92	418
Graduate Admin Asst	3	3	3	3
School Assistant 2	162.5	222	166.32	227
School Assistant 2/3	467.24	638	474.83	653
School Assistant 3	252.71	328	264.2	340
School Assistant 4	85.45	97	86.96	100
General Service Officers & Equivalent	118.39	132	122.62	136
Building Service Off 1	36.89	47	33.62	45
Building Service Off 2	41.47	44	41.94	43
Building Service Off 3	28.03	29	35.06	36
Facilities Manager	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 10	8	8	8	8
General Service Off 5	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 8	2	2	2	2
Professional Officers	93.21	111	101.37	120
Infrastructure Officer 2	9.8	10	11.8	12
Manager Psychologist	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	11.47	12	17	18
School Counsellor	0	0	1	1
School Psychologist	57.28	73	56.16	72
Senior Psychologist	13.66	15	14.41	16
School Leaders	761.95	780	780.39	801
School Leader A	108.6	109	0.16	1

School Leader A 1	0	0	48	48
School Leader A 2	0	0	45.6	46
School Leader A 3	0	0	15	15
School Leader B	145.24	147	151.1	154
School Leader C	502.11	518	513.53	530
School Network Leader	6	6	7	7

Table 2 provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) professional officers, (d) school leaders and (e) other related classifications, employed by the Education Directorate broken down by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

Classification	Increment	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
		2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		1460.2	2015	1490.6	2084
Admin Serv Officer 2/3	AS239	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.2	0.85	1	0.85	1
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.4	0.65	1	0.65	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	3.03	4	0.6	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.2	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	3.6	4	2.6	3
Admin Service Officer 2	ASTS	0	0	0	13
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	10.45	11	7.4	8
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	2	2	4	4
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.3	2	2	4	4
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	13.8	14	10.84	11
Admin Service Officer 3	SA2.5	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 3	SA23.9	2	2	2	2
Admin Service Officer 3	SA3.3	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 3	SA3.4	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	22	22	23.6	24
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	10	10	10	10
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	6	6	8	8
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	40.56	44	39.53	42
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	23	24	25.52	26
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	11	11	14	14
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	60.78	62	55.92	57
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	32.59	33	33.02	34
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	15.7	17	12.7	13
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	9.76	10	10.5	11
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	9	9	11.8	12
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	36.66	38	37.84	39
Admin Service Officer 6	PO2.5	1	1	0	0
Casual School Asst 2		0	0	0.176	1
Casual School Asst 2	CASSA2	168.28	392	173.24	412
Casual School Asst 2	SA2.1	0.2	1	0	2
Casual School Asst 2	SA23.1	0.8	1	0.4	1
Casual School Asst 2	SA23.2	0	0	0.6	1
Casual School Asst 2	SA23.3	0.19	1	0	0
Casual School Asst 2	SA4.1	0.4	1	0.5	1
Graduate Admin Asst	ASO4.1	2	2	2	2
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	1	1	1	1
School Assistant 2	SA2.1	38.22	53	43.41	62

School Assistant 2	SA2.2	12.79	19	16.96	23
School Assistant 2	SA2.3	10.7	15	10.16	15
School Assistant 2	SA2.4	6.77	8	7.65	9
School Assistant 2	SA2.5	77.76	106	73.12	98
School Assistant 2	SA23.1	4.13	6	2.89	4
School Assistant 2	SA23.2	1.53	2	1.9	3
School Assistant 2	SA23.3	4.25	5	2.38	3
School Assistant 2	SA23.4	1.7	2	2.55	3
School Assistant 2	SA23.5	3.12	4	2.07	3
School Assistant 2	SA23.9	1.53	2	1.53	2
School Assistant 2	SA3.2	0	0	0.85	1
School Assistant 2	SA3.3	0	0	0.85	1
School Assistant 2/3	SA2.1	8.47	11	5.36	7
School Assistant 2/3	SA2.2	0.99	2	1.7	3
School Assistant 2/3	SA2.3	2.24	3	1.53	2
School Assistant 2/3	SA2.4	3.68	5	3.51	5
School Assistant 2/3	SA2.5	74.33	101	63.65	88
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.1	141.56	205	140.5	204
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.2	48.48	67	60.1	86
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.3	29.43	38	33.9	44
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.4	17.19	22	13.97	17
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.5	43.54	60	48.88	67
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.6	3.4	4	3.4	4
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.7	4.85	6	10.46	13
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.8	9.92	13	6.38	8
School Assistant 2/3	SA23.9	44.45	57	46.16	60
School Assistant 2/3	SA3.1	0.85	1	0.85	1
School Assistant 2/3	SA3.2	1.7	2	0	0
School Assistant 2/3	SA3.3	2.79	4	3.54	5
School Assistant 2/3	SA3.4	29.37	37	30.94	39
School Assistant 3	SA2.5	2.38	3	1.53	2
School Assistant 3	SA23.1	1.7	2	1.7	2
School Assistant 3	SA23.3	0.34	1	0	0
School Assistant 3	SA23.4	0.85	1	0.85	1
School Assistant 3	SA23.7	1.36	2	2.89	4
School Assistant 3	SA23.8	1.7	2	0.85	1
School Assistant 3	SA23.9	4.25	5	8.26	10
School Assistant 3	SA3.1	50.54	70	48.92	65
School Assistant 3	SA3.2	41.44	52	44.4	56
School Assistant 3	SA3.3	49.87	67	23.14	30
School Assistant 3	SA3.4	98.28	123	130.74	168
School Assistant 3	SA4.1	0	0	0.92	1
School Assistant 4	ASO4.4	1.5	2	0.58	1
School Assistant 4	SA4.1	20.77	24	25.48	30
School Assistant 4	SA4.2	22.11	25	14.71	17
School Assistant 4	SA4.3	13.43	15	16.03	18
School Assistant 4	SA4.4	27.64	31	30.16	34
General Service Officers & Equivalent		118.39	132	122.62	136
Building Service Off 1	BSO.1	1.09	1	0.99	2
Building Service Off 1	BSO1.1	11.3	21	11.43	21
Building Service Off 1	BSO1.2	1	1	0.6	1
Building Service Off 1	BSO1.4	23.5	24	20.6	21
Building Service Off 2	BSO.1	0.6	1	0.6	1
Building Service Off 2	BSO1.1	1	1	0	0
Building Service Off 2	BSO2.1	7	7	14	14

Building Service Off 2	BSO2.2	3.34	4	3	3
Building Service Off 2	BSO2.3	11.5	12	6.84	7
Building Service Off 2	BSO2.4	13.03	14	14.5	15
Building Service Off 2	GSO6.1	2	2	0	0
Building Service Off 2	GSO6.2	1	1	1	1
Building Service Off 2	GSO6.4	2	2	2	2
Building Service Off 3	BSO3.1	7	7	11.53	12
Building Service Off 3	BSO3.2	4	4	6	6
Building Service Off 3	BSO3.3	2	2	2	2
Building Service Off 3	BSO3.4	12.06	13	11.53	12
Building Service Off 3	GSO8.1	2	2	2	2
Building Service Off 3	GSO8.2	0.97	1	2	2
Facilities Manager	GS10I1	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 10	FACMG3	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 10	FACMG4	0	0	4	4
General Service Off 10	FACMG5	0	0	2	2
General Service Off 10	GS10.1	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 10	GS10.2	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 10	GS10.3	3	3	0	0
General Service Off 10	GS10.4	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 10	GS10.5	2	2	0	0
General Service Off 5	GSO5.4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 8	BSO3.1	2	2	0	0
General Service Off 8	BSO3.2	0	0	2	2
Professional Officers		93.21	111	101.37	120
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.1	1	1	1	1
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.2	1	1	1	1
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.3	1	1	1	1
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.4	1	1	2	2
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.5	5.8	6	6.8	7
Manager Psychologist	MPSY1	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.1	4	4	6.71	7
Professional Officer 2	PO2.2	2	2	2.82	3
Professional Officer 2	PO2.5	5.47	6	7.47	8
School Counsellor	ESP3.2	0	0	1	1
School Psychologist	CT.10	0	0	0.4	1
School Psychologist	ESP2.1	2.06	3	2	3
School Psychologist	ESP2.2	1	1	1	1
School Psychologist	ESP2.3	2	2	2	2
School Psychologist	ESP2.4	0	0	0.8	1
School Psychologist	ESP3.1	1	1	1.3	2
School Psychologist	ESP3.2	7.13	9	6	7
School Psychologist	HP2MP6	0.8	1	0	0
School Psychologist	NSP1.3	3.21	4	3	4
School Psychologist	S/PSY3	0	0	0.8	1
School Psychologist	S/PSY4	1.95	2	0.98	1
School Psychologist	S/PSY5	4	4	3.4	4
School Psychologist	S/PSY6	1	1	1	1
School Psychologist	S/PSY7	2.18	3	2.58	4
School Psychologist	S/PSY8	0.8	1	0.8	1
School Psychologist	S/PSY9	29.25	40	29.2	38
School Psychologist	SPSY1	0.9	1	0.9	1
Senior Psychologist	SPSY1	13.66	15	14.41	16
School Leaders		761.95	780	780.39	801
School Leader A	SLA1	0	0	0.16	1
School Leader A	SLB.1	1	1	0	0

School Leader A	T4.4	49	49	0	0
School Leader A	T4.5	26	26	0	0
School Leader A	T4.6	14.6	15	0	0
School Leader A	T4.7	8	8	0	0
School Leader A	T4.8	5	5	0	0
School Leader A	T4.9	5	5	0	0
School Leader A 1	SLA1	0	0	47	47
School Leader A 1	SLA2	0	0	1	1
School Leader A 2	SLA1	0	0	2	2
School Leader A 2	SLA2	0	0	42.6	43
School Leader A 2	SLA3	0	0	1	1
School Leader A 3	SLA2	0	0	1	1
School Leader A 3	SLA3	0	0	14	14
School Leader B	SLB.1	143.24	145	150.1	153
School Leader B	SLC.1	1	1	0	0
School Leader B	SOB.3	1	1	1	1
School Leader C	CT.10	3	3	2.7	3
School Leader C	CT.2	0	0	1	1
School Leader C	CT.7	1	1	1	1
School Leader C	CT4.1	0.33	1	0.24	1
School Leader C	SLB.1	0	0	1	1
School Leader C	SLC.1	497.78	513	506.59	522
School Leader C	SOB.3	0	0	1	1
School Network Leader	SNL	4	4	6	6
School Network Leader	T4.10	2	2	1	1

Community Services Directorate—employment data (Question No 2817)

Miss C Burch asked the Minister for Community Services and Facilities, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Community Services Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 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 administrative officers, general service officers, technical officers, professional officers and other similar classifications by classification within Community Services Directorate.

The data within the tables was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data to be displayed, these classifications have not been listed.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Community Services Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	408.57	433	416.86	440
Admin Service Officer 1	2.4	3	2.4	3
Admin Service Officer 2	4.24	5	4	4
Admin Service Officer 3	41.88	46	43.58	48
Admin Service Officer 4	45.93	49	49.01	52
Admin Service Officer 5	118.6	124	108.42	114
Admin Service Officer 6	146.73	153	152.9	160
Graduate Admin Asst	4	4	4	4
Youth Worker 1	14	18	7.98	9
Youth Worker 1/2	28	28	41.78	43
Disability Officers	0	0	0	0
Disability Support Off 1	2.79	3	2.79	3
General Service Officers & Equivalent	4.4	5	4.86	6
General Service Off 6	0	0	0.63	1
General Service Off 7	1	1	0.63	1
General Service Off 8	2	2	2	2
Health Assistants	0	0	0	0
ALLIED HLTH ASSIST 3	1.4	2	1.6	2
Professional Officers	1.4	2	1.4	2
Professional Officer 2	1.4	2	1.4	2
Technical Officers	0.66	1	1.2	2
Technical Officer 1	0.66	1	1.2	2

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Community Services Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (iv) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date. Instances where the officer is at a lower increment than classification level is explained as the officer being on partial duties.

		FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	Increment	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		408.56	433	416.86	440
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.4	2.4	3	2.4	3
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	1.24	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.3	2	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.4	0	0	2	2
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	1	1	2	2
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	13.63	15	19.13	21
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	6.47	8	5.27	6
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.3	3.8	4	4.2	5
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	15.98	17	12.98	14
Admin Service Officer 3	YW1.4	2	2	2	2
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO3.2	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO3.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	17.24	19	19.45	21
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	4	4	7.79	8
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	4.61	5	2.37	3
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	17.08	18	17.4	18
Admin Service Officer 4	YW2.4	2	2	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO3.1	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.3	0	0	1	1

Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.4	0	0	0.8	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	33	33	17.8	18
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	15	15	20	20
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	60.6	66	61.61	66
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5A1	3	3	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5A2	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5A3	5	5	4	4
Admin Service Officer 5	YW1.2	0	0	0.21	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.1	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	43.73	45	37.31	38
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	17.91	18	28.54	29
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	16.4	17	10.6	11
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	10.36	11	11.66	14
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	55.33	59	60.79	64
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6A1	2	2	2	2
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	4	4	4	4
Youth Worker 1	YW1.1	4.58	7	4.98	6
Youth Worker 1	YW1.2	6	6	2	2
Youth Worker 1	YW1.3	0.27	1	0	0
Youth Worker 1	YW1.4	2	2	1	1
Youth Worker 1	YW12.2	1	1	0	0
Youth Worker 1	YW12.3	0.14	1	0	0
Youth Worker 1/2	YW1.1	0	0	8	8
Youth Worker 1/2	YW1.2	8	8	9	10
Youth Worker 1/2	YW1.3	3	3	4	4
Youth Worker 1/2	YW1.4	8	8	8	8
Youth Worker 1/2	YW12.2	0	0	1	1
Youth Worker 1/2	YW2.1	2	2	3	3
Youth Worker 1/2	YW2.3	1	1	1	1
Youth Worker 1/2	YW2.4	6	6	7.78	8
Disability Support Off 1	DSO1.4	2.79	3	2.79	3
General Service Officers & Equivalent		4.4	5	4.86	6
General Service Off 6	GSO6.1	0	0	0.63	1
General Service Off 7	GSO7.1	1	1	0.63	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8.2	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 8	GSO8.3	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8.4	1	1	1	1
ALLIED HLTH ASSIST 3	AHA3.3	1.4	2	1.6	2
Professional Officers		1.4	2	1.4	2
Professional Officer 2	PO2.1	0.6	1	0.6	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.5	0.8	1	0.8	1
Technical Officers		0.66	1	1.2	2
Technical Officer 1	TO1.1	0.66	1	1.2	2

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
employment data
(Question No 2818)**

Miss C Burch asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of (a) total approved leave by formal classification and division, (b) the total costs attributed to approved leave and (c) total

leave as a percentage of total attendance hours, for all employees in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate for (i) 2017-18, (ii) 2018-19 and (iii) 2019-20 to date.

- (2) For the years referred to in parts (1) (i)-(iii), in relation to claims for compensation due to bullying and harassment, what was the (a) total number of claims for compensation lodged, (b) total number of claims paid and (c) total cost of compensation, in each division.

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

- (1) The data table below contains a breakdown of (a) total approved leave by formal classification and division, (b) the total costs attributed to approved leave and (c) total leave as a percentage of total attendance hours, for all employees in the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate for (i) 2017-18, (ii) 2018-19 and (iii) 2019-20 to date. The data within the table was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21.

(Data table is available at the Chamber Support Office).

- (2) The number of workers' compensation claims lodged by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development staff cannot be disaggregated by financial year or business unit due to the small number of claims involved. There were a total of eight (8) workers' compensation claims for bullying and harassment lodged by Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development staff in the period 1 July 2017 to 31 October 2019. The eight claims were paid and the cost of these claims at 31 October 2019 is \$229,170. This data was provided by Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.

**Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate—
employment data
(Question No 2819)**

Miss C Burch asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification and (d) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 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 administrative officers, general service officers, technical officers, professional officers and other similar classifications by classification within Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Directorate (CMTEDD).

The data within the tables was obtained from the ACTPS Human Resources Management Information System, CHRIS 21. Where there was no data to be displayed, these classifications have not been listed.

Table 1 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, (iii) ACT public service classification during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date.

	FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers	1148.46	1216	1182.09	1234
Admin Service Officer 1	23.84	27	8.37	10
Admin Service Officer 2	67.7	79	68.08	75
Admin Service Officer 3	154.3	166	199.79	213
Admin Service Officer 4	274.36	290	290.04	301
Admin Service Officer 5	234.71	244	234.43	243
Admin Service Officer 6	353.55	370	341.38	352
Graduate Admin Asst	14	14	13	13
Tourism & Events Off 6	1	1	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	25	25	26	26
General Service Officers & Equivalent	60.91	63	62.71	63
Building Trade 1	6	6	8	8
Building Trade Inspector	6	6	6	6
General Service Off 10	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 3/4	3	3	3	3
General Service Off 5	0	1	0	0
General Service Off 5/6	5	5	3	3
General Service Off 6	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 7	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 8	13	14	11	11
General Service Off 9	3	3	2	2
Senior Building Trade 1	4	4	5	5
Senior Building Trade Inspector	17.91	18	21.71	22
Professional Officers	40.64	42	28.76	30
Infrastructure Officer 1	4	4	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 2	20.53	21	12.64	13
Professional Officer 1	7	7	7	7
Professional Officer 2	4.99	5	4	4
Public Affairs Officer 1	2.12	3	3.12	4
Public Affairs Officer 2	1	1	1	1
Public Affairs Officer 3	1	1	1	1
Technical Officers	16.68	17	15.82	17
Technical Officer 3	10	10	9.14	10
Technical Officer 4	6.68	7	6.68	7

Table 2 below provides a breakdown of the total number of (a) administrative officers, (b) general service officers, (c) technical officers, (d) professional officers and (e) other similar classifications, employed by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate by (i) full-time equivalent, (ii) headcount, and (d) band level within each classification, during (A) 2018-19 and (B) 2019-20 to date. Instances where the officer is at a lower than classification level is explained as the officer being on partial duties. Where the officer is at a higher increment level than classification the level can be explained as the officer has been on higher duties allowance.

		FTE	Headcount	FTE	Headcount
Classification	Increment	2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2019-20
Administrative Officers		1148.47	1216	1182.09	1234
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.1	14.6	16	0	0
Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.2	2.9	3	4.36	5

Admin Service Officer 1	ASO1.4	6.34	8	4.01	5
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.1	25.35	33	28.68	35
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.2	8.68	11	7.4	8
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.3	5	5	2	2
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.4	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO2.5	25.86	26	29	29
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO3.1	0.14	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO3.4	0.68	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 2	ASO5.1	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO2.3	0	0	0.91	1
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.1	61.96	68	76.48	81
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.2	21.3	23	44.18	47
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.3	9	9	20.56	21
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO3.4	62.04	66	56.66	62
Admin Service Officer 3	ASO4.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO3.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO3.2	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO3.4	0	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.1	81.79	86	94.72	97
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.2	25.14	26	39.54	40
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.3	30.51	32	23.72	25
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO4.4	135.24	143	129.06	136
Admin Service Officer 4	ASO5.1	0.68	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.2	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO4.4	0	0	1.8	2
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.1	87.27	90	76.13	78
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.2	33.32	34	37.82	39
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO5.3	112.12	118	116.68	122
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO6.1	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 5	ASO6.3	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO4.1	0	0	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO4.3	1	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO4.4	0	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.2	0.64	1	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5.3	1	2	0	0
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO5C1	1	1	1	1
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.1	116.2	120	98.02	100
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.2	37.73	39	43.27	45
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.3	26.75	28	33.57	35
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.4	23.13	25	18.69	19
Admin Service Officer 6	ASO6.5	143.1	149	141.83	147
Admin Service Officer 6	WCO6.5	3	3	4	4
Graduate Admin Asst	GAA.1	14	14	13	13
Tourism & Events Off 6	ASO6.5	1	1	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	ASO5.3	0	0	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	ASO6.1	1	1	0	0
Work Cover Officer 6	ASO6.2	0	0	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	ASO6.5	2	2	2	2
Work Cover Officer 6	WCO6.1	1	1	2	2
Work Cover Officer 6	WCO6.2	2	2	0	0
Work Cover Officer 6	WCO6.3	1	1	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	WCO6.4	1	1	1	1
Work Cover Officer 6	WCO6.5	17	17	18	18

General Service Officers & Equivalent		60.91	63	62.71	63
Building Trade 1	BT1.1	1	1	1	1
Building Trade 1	BT1.2	1	1	2	2
Building Trade 1	BT1.4	4	4	5	5
Building Trade Inspector	SBTI	6	6	6	6
General Service Off 10	GS10.5	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 3/4	GS34.4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 3/4	GSO3.1	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 3/4	GSO3.2	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 3/4	GSO4.4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 5	GS56I1	0	1	0	0
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.1	2	2	1	1
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.3	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 5/6	GS56.4	2	2	2	2
General Service Off 6	GSO6I4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 7	GSO7.4	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8.1	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8.2	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 8	GSO8.3	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8.4	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 8	GSO8I2	1	2	0	0
General Service Off 8	GSO8I3	2	2	1	1
General Service Off 8	GSO8I4	7	7	8	8
General Service Off 9	GSO9.1	1	1	1	1
General Service Off 9	GSO9.3	1	1	0	0
General Service Off 9	GSO9.4	0	0	1	1
General Service Off 9	GSO9.7	1	1	0	0
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.1	3	3	3	3
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.2	1	1	1	1
Senior Building Trade 1	SBT1.4	0	0	1	1
Senior Building Trade Inspector	BTI11Z	0	0	2	2
Senior Building Trade Inspector	BTI12Z	1	1	1	1
Senior Building Trade Inspector	BTI13B	1.91	2	1.91	2
Senior Building Trade Inspector	BTI13Z	15	15	16.8	17
Professional Officers		40.64	42	28.76	30
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.1	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.2	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.3	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 1	IO1.4	1	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.1	4	4	4	4
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.2	2	2	1	1
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.3	2.65	3	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.4	2	2	2	2
Infrastructure Officer 2	IO2.5	8	8	4.64	5
Infrastructure Officer 2	ITO2.2	0.88	1	0	0
Infrastructure Officer 2	ITO2.4	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.1	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.3	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.4	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 1	PO1.6	4	4	0	0
Professional Officer 1	PO1.7	0	0	4	4
Professional Officer 2	PO2.1	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.2	0	0	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.3	1	1	1	1
Professional Officer 2	PO2.5	2.99	3	1	1

Public Affairs Officer 1	PAO1.3	0	0	1	1
Public Affairs Officer 1	PAO1.4	2.12	3	2.12	3
Public Affairs Officer 2	PAO2.1	1	1	1	1
Public Affairs Officer 3	PAO3.1	1	1	0	0
Public Affairs Officer 3	PAO3.3	0	0	1	1
Technical Officers		16.68	17	15.82	17
Technical Officer 3	TO3.1	2	2	2	2
Technical Officer 3	TO3.3	2	2	2	2
Technical Officer 3	TO3.5	2	2	1	1
Technical Officer 3	TO3.6	4	4	4.14	5
Technical Officer 4	TO4.1	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 4	TO4.2	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 4	TO4.3	0	0	1	1
Technical Officer 4	TO4.4	1	1	0	0
Technical Officer 4	TO4.5	2.68	3	4.68	5
Technical Officer 4	WCO6.5	1	1	1	1

Hospitals—aged-care assessments (Question No 2820)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) In relation to the answer given to the question taken on notice on 19 September 2019, what was the average number of days patients remained in hospital after receiving the results of an Aged Care Assessment Team assessment, in (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19.
- (2) In (a) 2016-17, (b) 2017-18 and (c) 2018-19, of those who remained, how many remained due to a medical condition or other circumstance that required continuing hospitalisation.

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

- (1) Although ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services do not collect data on the length of time patients are waiting for suitable accommodation following an Aged Care Assessment Team (ACAT) assessment, there is data available from the Report on Government Services (RoGS) that might be relevant to the Member's question.

RoGS 2019 shows that the median elapsed time between ACAT approval and entry into residential aged care in the ACT was 98 days for Home Care levels 1 to 4 in 2016-17. This compared to the national median elapsed time of 67 days for the same year. In 2017-18, median elapsed time was 164 days for the ACT and 137 days nationally. Data for 2018-19 is not yet available through ROGS.

Elapsed time is a measure between ACAT approval and entry into residential aged care due to factors which may or may not be related to 'wait time'. It should also be noted that elapsed time could happen at or outside of the hospital.

The RoGS 2019 report can be accessed at:

<https://www.pc.gov.au/research/ongoing/report-on-government-services/2019/community-services/aged-care-services/rogs-2019-partf-chapter14.pdf>

- (2) ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services do not collect data on patient's medical condition or other circumstances that require further hospitalisation following an Aged Care Assessment Team assessment. This information is also not available in other national reports.

Hospitals—procedures data (Question No 2821)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

In relation to the answer given to question on notice No 2725, in 2016/17 (a) what were the 20 most common procedures performed, (b) how many procedures were performed in each procedure category, (c) what was the average cost for each procedure category, (d) what was the Australian average for each procedure category and (e) what was the average cost for peer group hospitals for each procedure category, in (i) The Canberra Hospital and (ii) Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.

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

Response to questions a, b, c & d:

Tables 1 and 2 summarise the 20 most common procedures for Canberra Health Services (CHS) and Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce (CPHB) as follows;

- 20 most common procedures with procedure count, average cost details;
- National figures (procedure count and average costs).

Table 1 : Canberra Health Services – 2016-17

	ACT Public Hospitals (a, b, c)		National Average Cost per Procedure (d)	
Principal Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure
1310000-Haemodialysis	21,144	\$518	1,115,370	\$645
9619909-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	3,207	\$614	104,506	\$1,903
9555003-Allied health intervention, physiotherapy	2,873	\$6,244	212,907	\$6,356
1370605-Administration of gamma globulin	1,312	\$1,682	57,188	\$2,054
9555001-Allied health intervention, social work	1,223	\$7,520	74,274	\$6,378
3821800-Coronary angiography with left heart catheterisation	939	\$5,021	33,664	\$7,395
9048100-Suture of first or second degree tear of perineum	850	\$5,261	39,567	\$4,910
9555000-Allied health intervention, dietetics	848	\$9,474	64,305	\$9,029
9555009-Allied health intervention, pharmacy	652	\$7,413	118,603	\$5,032
9066500-Excisional debridement of skin and subcutaneous tissue	617	\$7,900	18,621	\$8,464
1370602-Administration of packed cells	513	\$10,305	62,803	\$5,437

	ACT Public Hospitals (a, b, c)		National Average Cost per Procedure (d)	
Principal Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure
1652002-Elective lower segment caesarean section	503	\$10,688	33,430	\$10,420
1652003-Emergency lower segment caesarean section	502	\$13,929	31,109	\$12,492
3057200-Laparoscopic appendicectomy	485	\$9,161	27,942	\$7,311
9555002-Allied health intervention, occupational therapy	478	\$6,842	69,186	\$7,056
3830600-Percutaneous insertion of 1 transluminal stent into single coronary artery	376	\$6,167	10,596	\$10,803
1310008-Continuous peritoneal dialysis, long term	350	\$922	6,968	\$2,895
3044500-Laparoscopic cholecystectomy	338	\$12,764	27,258	\$9,237
9220900-Management of non-invasive ventilatory support, <= 24 hours	314	\$13,040	21,247	\$9,634
4736300-Closed reduction of fracture of distal radius	275	\$3,317	8,052	\$2,691

Table 2 : Calvary Public Hospital, Bruce – 2016-17

	ACT Public Hospitals (a,b,c)		National Average Cost per Procedure (d)	
Principal Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure
4270204-Extracapsular extraction of crystalline lens by phacoemulsification and aspiration of cataract with insertion of foldable artificial lens	1,210	\$5,325	68,471	\$2,740
9555003-Allied health intervention, physiotherapy	1,111	\$7,601	212,907	\$6,356
9619909-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	954	\$1,167	104,506	\$1,903
3209300-Fibreoptic colonoscopy to caecum, with polypectomy	787	\$2,080	55,272	\$2,478
3047301-Panendoscopy to duodenum with biopsy	751	\$3,482	68,034	\$3,287
9555002-Allied health intervention, occupational therapy	531	\$12,253	69,186	\$7,056
9619900-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, antineoplastic agent	528	\$1,831	207,737	\$2,370
9555001-Allied health intervention, social work	518	\$6,942	74,274	\$6,378
3209000-Fibreoptic colonoscopy to caecum	445	\$1,857	55,256	\$2,210

	ACT Public Hospitals (a,b,c)		National Average Cost per Procedure (d)	
Principal Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure	Procedure Count	Avg Cost per Procedure
9555009-Allied health intervention, pharmacy	424	\$6,795	118,603	\$5,032
9555012-Allied health intervention, pastoral care	406	\$7,769	3,751	\$6,209
9048100-Suture of first- or second-degree tear of perineum	389	\$4,629	39,567	\$4,910
3681200-Cystoscopy	346	\$2,505	40,441	\$1,418
9555000-Allied health intervention, dietetics	332	\$10,713	64,305	\$9,029
3057200-Laparoscopic appendectomy	273	\$6,466	27,942	\$7,311
1652003-Emergency lower segment caesarean section	242	\$11,971	31,109	\$12,492
1652002-Elective lower segment caesarean section	218	\$8,930	33,430	\$10,420
3564000-Dilation & curettage of uterus [D&C]	202	\$3,902	22,585	\$2,976
3683301-Endoscopic removal of ureteric stent	200	\$2,602	7,259	\$2,063
1370602-Administration of packed cells	194	\$8,933	62,803	\$5,437

Response to question e:

The 20 most common procedures against peer group activity-count and average cost, are shown in Tables 3 and 4.

Table 3 - Canberra Health Services – 2016-17	
Principal Procedure	Peer Group data Avg Cost per Procedure
1310000-Haemodialysis	\$664
9619909-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	\$1,914
9555003-Allied health intervention, physiotherapy	\$6,236
1370605-Administration of gamma globulin	\$2,051
9555001-Allied health intervention, social work	\$6,334
3821800-Coronary angiography with left heart catheterisation	\$7,536
9048100-Suture of first- or second-degree tear of perineum	\$4,774
9555000-Allied health intervention, dietetics	\$9,365
9555009-Allied health intervention, pharmacy	\$5,025
9066500-Excisional debridement of skin and subcutaneous tissue	\$9,060
1370602-Administration of packed cells	\$5,565
1652002-Elective lower segment caesarean section	\$10,208
1652003-Emergency lower segment caesarean section	\$12,235
3057200-Laparoscopic appendectomy	\$7,289
9555002-Allied health intervention, occupational therapy	\$7,020
3830600-Percutaneous insertion of 1 transluminal stent into single coronary artery	\$11,062
1310008-Continuous peritoneal dialysis, long term	\$2,790
3044500-Laparoscopic cholecystectomy	\$9,794
9220900-Management of non-invasive ventilatory support, <= 24 hours	\$9,774
4736300-Closed reduction of fracture of distal radius	\$2,747

Table 4 - Calvary Public Hospital Bruce – 2016-17

Principal Procedure	Avg Cost per Procedure
4270204-Extracapsular extraction of crystalline lens by phacoemulsification and aspiration of cataract with insertion of foldable artificial lens	\$2,912
9555003-Allied health intervention, physiotherapy	\$6,236
9619909-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, other and unspecified pharmacological agent	\$1,914
3209300-Fibreoptic colonoscopy to caecum, with polypectomy	\$2,688
3047301-Panendoscopy to duodenum with biopsy	\$3,840
9555002-Allied health intervention, occupational therapy	\$7,020
9619900-Intravenous administration of pharmacological agent, antineoplastic agent	\$2,340
9555001-Allied health intervention, social work	\$6,334
3209000-Fibreoptic colonoscopy to caecum	\$2,475
9555009-Allied health intervention, pharmacy	\$5,025
9555012-Allied health intervention, pastoral care	\$6,221
9048100-Suture of first- or second-degree tear of perineum	\$4,774
3681200-Cystoscopy	\$1,467
9555000-Allied health intervention, dietetics	\$9,365
3057200-Laparoscopic appendicectomy	\$7,289
1652003-Emergency lower segment caesarean section	\$12,235
1652002-Elective lower segment caesarean section	\$10,208
3564000-Dilation & curettage of uterus [D&C]	\$3,088
3683301-Endoscopic removal of ureteric stent	\$2,164
1370602-Administration of packed cells	\$5,565

Canberra Hospital—hydrotherapy pool (Question No 2822)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) During (a) 2017-18, (b) 2018-19 and (c) 2019-20 (to the date on which this question was published in the Questions on Notice Paper), (i) what upgrades, improvements, changes or other modifications (upgrades) were made to or are in progress at the hydrotherapy pool and any associated infrastructure or equipment at The Canberra Hospital (the pool), (ii) what is the cost of each element of the upgrades, (iii) what is the purpose of the upgrades, (iv) how and to what extent will the functionality of the pool be improved by the upgrades, (v) following the upgrades, what now is the life expectancy of the pool and (vi) how and to what extent is user access to or other use of the hydrotherapy pool itself enhanced.
- (2) As at the date on which this question was published in the Questions on Notice paper (a) what upgrades, improvements, changes or other modifications (upgrades) are planned for the hydrotherapy pool and any associated infrastructure or equipment at The Canberra Hospital (the pool), (b) what is the budget or, if relevant, estimated cost, for each element of the upgrades cost, (c) why are the upgrades required, (d) what differences will the upgrades make to the functionality of the pool, (e) what difference will the upgrades make to the life expectancy of the pool and (f) what differences will the upgrades make to user access to or other use of the hydrotherapy pool itself.

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

- (1)
 - a. None in 2017-18.
 - b. None in 2018-19.
 - c. In 2019-20:
 - i. A compliance upgrade of the access stairs for the plantroom has been undertaken for the hydrotherapy pool.
 - ii. The total cost of compliance upgrade is \$14,740.00.
 - iii. To provide compliant access to the plantroom.
 - iv. No improvement to the functionality of the pool.
 - v. No difference to the life expectancy of the pool.
 - vi. No difference to users of the pool.
 - (2) As outlined in my 28 November 2019 Ministerial Statement to the Legislative Assembly, the pool is at the end of its life and needs to close. Therefore, there are no planned upgrades for the pool. Instead, we are working with Arthritis ACT to identify appropriate alternative arrangements.
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Casey—community facilities (Question No 2823)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Sport and Recreation, upon notice, on 29 November 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Planning and Land Management*):

In relation to the Government being called on to commit to commencing community consultation for community facilities in and around Casey in a motion brought to the Assembly on 5 June 2019, (a) has consultation commenced; if so, what date did it commence, (b) what methods are being used to consult with stakeholders, businesses and residents in Casey, (c) what is the number of interactions with stakeholders, businesses and residents that has been had during consultation, (d) what is the timeline of consultation and when will it be complete, (e) what outcomes will the consultation produce and (f) will the results of the consultation be made public; if so, when.

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

- a) No. Consultation about community facilities in and around Casey is scheduled to commence February 2020 following completion of community needs assessments.
- b) A range of consultation methods will be used including presentations to the Gungahlin Community Council, public 'meet the planner' sessions, community polling and social media.
- c) See above.
- d) Consultation is anticipated to commence in February 2020 and run for approximately six weeks.
- e) Consultation will be used to inform:
 - A shared understanding of the needs for community and recreation facilities in Casey and the immediate surrounding suburbs; and

- appropriate future uses for Blocks 12 and 13 (previously 2 and 3) Section 132 which are scheduled to be handed back to the ACT Government as serviced blocks in December 2019 and released to the market in 2020-21 financial year.
- f) The method and results of consultation will be documented in a community consultation report. This report will be uploaded onto the project's 'YourSay' webpage and community will be advised of its release via email and social media.

Light rail—review (Question No 2824)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

In relation to the review of Light Rail within 12 months of operations commencing, as committed to in the City to Gungahlin Light Rail Project Delivery Report delivered on 21 June 2019 and affirmed in a motion passed 31 July 2019 (a) has the review commenced, (b) what date will the review be finalised, (c) what date will the review be made public, (d) what date will the review be tabled in the Legislative Assembly, (e) will businesses along the light rail corridor be consulted for the review, (f) what opportunities will be provided to businesses along the light rail corridor to contribute to the review, (g) will businesses along the light rail corridor and in the Gungahlin town centre be able to provide financial data to aid the review, (h) what methods have been used to engage with stakeholders and businesses for the review, (i) have any individuals or stakeholders submitted input to the review, (j) what is the scope and methodology of the review and (k) will recommendations be provided from the review.

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

I refer to the Response to the resolution of the Assembly of 31 July 2019—Scope and Methodology of Light Rail Stage 1 Benefits Review—Ministerial statement tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 28 November 2019.

Roads—maintenance (Question No 2825)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Roads and Active Travel, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

In relation to the replacement of the median strip on Kelleway Avenue, Nicholls, just before the Hu Gui Bao En Temple (a) what defects were identified with the previous median strip that required it to be replaced, (b) if no defects were present, what was the reasoning behind replacing the median strip, (c) did works relating to the replacement of the median strip disrupt traffic along Kelleway Avenue (such as reduced speed limit), (d) was any consultation conducted relating to the preferred time for works to be conducted to replace the median strip with schools and other destinations along Kelleway Avenue and (e) what was the total cost to replace the median strip.

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

- (a) & (b) The median strip was replaced to improve safety for children who walk or ride to nearby schools Holy Spirit Primary School and Gold Creek Primary School.

- (c) The works were undertaken during the school holidays and outside peak times to minimise the impact on motorists and residents. The works were completed in just over three days with a 40 km/h speed limit implemented during this time.
 - (d) No consultation was undertaken because there is no direct residential frontage or driveways leading to the location of the works. Transport Canberra and City Services arranged for the works to be undertaken during the school holidays to reduce the level of disruption.
 - (e) The cost to construct the median strip was \$24,992.00 (including GST).
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**Roads—traffic management
(Question No 2826)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Roads and Active Travel, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) When was the most recent assessment of the traffic signal system conducted along Horse Park Drive.
- (2) What is the reasoning behind the decision to not coordinate the traffic light signals along Horse Park Drive.
- (3) When is the next assessment of the current system of traffic signals along Horse Park Drive due to be undertaken.

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

- (1) These traffic signals were last reviewed in August 2019.
 - (2) These traffic signals have never provided co-ordination at all times of day. Throughout peak times, these signals are generally coordinated.

Coordination is removed at times when through-traffic demands do not warrant the increase in delays to pedestrians or side street traffic and/or the quality of coordination is poor.
 - (3) The operation of these signals is currently under review.
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**Suburban Land Agency—programs
(Question No 2827)**

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What was the actual spend for the community development program “Mingle” operated by the Suburban Land Agency in the budget year 2018 19.
- (2) What is the budget expenditure for the Mingle program in the 2019-20 year (current budget) and for each year across the forward estimates.

- (3) Of the expenditure in parts (1) and (2), what is the breakdown of actual spend on each individual program in (a) Moncrieff, (b) Throsby and (c) Taylor.
- (4) What is the total number of staff employed within the Suburban Land Agency to operate the Mingle program and how many staff are employed to operate each individual program in (a) Moncrieff, (b) Throsby and (c) Taylor.
- (5) Is there a set date that each individual Mingle program will cease; if yes what is the set date for the individual programs to cease for (a) Moncrieff, (b) Throsby and (c) Taylor.
- (6) If there is no set date for individual programs to cease, what is the reasoning behind this decision.
- (7) What projects and grants have been delivered by the (a) Moncrieff, (b) Taylor and (c) Throsby, Mingle programs and to what cost.

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

- (1) The actual expenditure for the community development program "Mingle" operated by the Suburban Land Agency in the budget year 2018 19 was \$223,775 ex GST. This covers Moncrieff, Throsby, Taylor, Lawson, Wright and Coombs.
- (2) The budgeted expenditure for the Mingle program in the 2019-20 year is \$756,355 ex GST. This covers Moncrieff, Throsby, Taylor, Lawson, Wright and Coombs.

Total Mingle Budget Expenditure (Ex GST)	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23
SLA	\$756,355	\$1,043,535	\$703,909	\$553,869

- (3) The table below lists the breakdown on each program in Moncrieff, Throsby and Taylor:

Actual Mingle Expenditure (Ex GST)	2018-19	2019-20
Moncrieff	\$63,160	\$27,327
Throsby	\$13,694	\$2,112
Taylor	\$450	\$2,370

- (4) Total staff employed to operate the Mingle program is currently equivalent to 4.5 FTEs. Of these, the equivalent of 2.5 FTE staff are employed to operate the program across Moncrieff, Taylor and Throsby. Staff manage the program across the suburbs within a region, rather than being dedicated to a specific suburb.
- (5) Each Mingle program has a planned year to transition to the community to self-run. The timing is flexible to ensure that the community is in the best position to achieve self-sustainability.
 - Moncrieff – estimated to complete in 2021
 - Taylor – estimated to complete in 2024
 - Throsby – estimated to complete in 2021-22

(6) As above.

(7) The SLA coordinates a Community Development Assistance Program (rather than a formal grants process) for Mingle to partner with local residents to create resident led activities that align with Mingle Program objectives. All activities are co-designed and delivered with residents. Below is a list of grants offered during 2018-19 and the year to date for 2019-20.

See [Attachment A](#) for breakdown of projects (events and activities) delivered across Moncrieff, Taylor and Throsby for 2018-19 and the year to date in 2019-20.

2018-19		
Recipient	Project Purpose/Summary	Amount (Inc GST)
Molonglo Valley Markets	Funds provided for market promotion, entertainment, basic supplies and waste management for four local markets held at Stromlo Cottage in 2018-19.	\$3,700
Molonglo Valley Community Carols	Funds provided for insurance, audio-visual, hall hire, promotion and basic supplies. This was the fourth year this event had been run.	\$2,600
Moncrieff Neighbourhood Watch	Funds provided for 10 Neighbourhood Watch signs to be produced and installed throughout Moncrieff to raise awareness of neighbourhood safety.	\$800
Molonglo Valley Diwali	Funds provided for local residents to deliver the Festival of Lights celebration and help educate the wider community about the meaning of Diwali.	\$1,100
Molonglo Valley Knitting Group	Funds provided to a group of seniors who created woollen blankets to donate to Stromlo Cottage and the Canberra Hospital.	\$200

2019-20 (as at end November 2019)		
Recipient	Project Purpose/Summary	Amount (Inc GST)
Moncrieff	Neighbourhood Watch signage for the suburb	\$797.50
Throsby	N/A	Nil
Taylor	N/A	Nil

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

Municipal services—ovals (Question No 2828)

Mr Milligan asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2019 (*redirected to the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development*):

In relation to maintenance of an oval in Waramanga, bounded by Badimara Street and Namatjira Street and next to St John Vianney's Catholic Primary School (a) who is responsible for the maintenance of this oval, (b) can the Minister explain why the oval has been allowed to reach its state of disrepair when it is located adjacent to two well maintained ovals, (c) why is the oval not maintained to a minimum level of community safety and (d) why has no priority been given to repairing the fence to minimise incursion by vehicles.

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

1.
 - a. The oval, located at the corner of Badimara Street and Namatjira Drive in Waramanga, forms part of the grounds to Mt Stromlo High School. General maintenance and upkeep of this oval is managed by the school.
 - b. Current rainfall patterns have made it increasingly difficult and expensive for schools to maintain natural grass ovals. Mt Stromlo High School has access to the adjacent Transport Canberra and City Services irrigated ovals to meet their sporting and outdoor curriculum needs.
 - c. There are no community safety issues associated with maintenance, although all users should take reasonable care when using any open public space.
 - d. The Education Support Office will work with the school to repair the fencing.

Transport Canberra—bus data (Question No 2829)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What is the (a) financial and (b) greenhouse gas, cost per kilometre of operating a Transport Canberra bus in normal operation, broken down by bus type (if possible).
- (2) Has the ACT Government determined the capital cost per kilometre of Transport Canberra bus operation (or similar metric of capital cost, e.g. per passenger carried); if so can the Minister provide the information broken down by component e.g. bus depot, vehicle etc.
- (3) Has any life cycle analysis been done by or on behalf of the ACT Government of the environmental impacts of operating the Transport Canberra bus network; if so, can the Minister provide details.

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

- (1) (a) The operating cost of a bus per kilometre for buses in 2018-19 was on average \$5.67, a breakdown by bus type is not available.
- (b) The total emissions for the bus network in 2018-19 was 33,201 tCO₂-e with 27,678,621 network kilometres recorded. This equates to an average of 1.2 kg CO₂-e/km. Currently there is no financial cost associated with greenhouse gas emissions for the ACT Government, however an interim price of \$20/t CO₂-e from Government operations will be invested to meet the Zero Emissions Government target from 2020-21 under Action 5.11 of the ACT Climate Change Strategy.

- (2) No. All decisions on capital investment are consistent with the Capital Framework and are examined and supported by the Infrastructure Finance and Capital Works Division. Where applicable capital investments are supported by detailed assessments including but not limited to a cost benefit ratio and a Net Present Value calculation.

A capital cost per Kilometre is not assessed as the per kilometre metric is by nature an operating measure.

- (3) No life cycle analysis has been completed.

**Light rail—data
(Question No 2830)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Transport, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) In relation to the ACT government submission paper to Infrastructure Australia in 2012 entitled City to Gungahlin Transit Corridor Infrastructure Australia Project Submission, are there any conclusions or major assumptions of this paper that would now be different because of knowledge gained by the construction and operation of Light Rail Stage 1; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (2) In relation to the paper written in 2014 by the ACT Government entitled Capital Metro Full Business Case, are there any conclusions or major assumptions of this paper that would now be different because of knowledge gained by the construction and operation of Light Rail Stage 1; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (3) Have any studies been done by or on behalf of the ACT Government on the greenhouse gas implications of operation of Light Rail in the ACT apart from the CURF study; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (4) Have there been any studies done by or on behalf of the ACT government comparing greenhouse gas emissions of bus rapid transit with Light Rail; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (5) Was any life cycle analysis done by or on behalf of the ACT Government of the environmental impacts of the Light Rail Stage 1 project; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (6) Has the Government undertaken any other type of analysis of the total environmental impact, including greenhouse gas emissions, of Light Rail Stage 1, including upstream impacts such as impact of imported materials such as concrete and steel; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (7) What is the financial cost per kilometre of operating a Light Rail vehicle in normal operation.
- (8) What is the total greenhouse gas cost per kilometre of operating a Light Rail vehicle in normal operation, including through electricity use.
- (9) Has the Government done any planning or investigation for providing some limited stops or express running for Light Rail Stages 1 or 2; if so, what issues would it present.

- (10) How long does it take for each additional Light Rail stop, including dwell time at the station and delay due to acceleration and deceleration time.

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

- (1) A comprehensive review of the City to Gungahlin Transit Corridor Infrastructure Australia Project Submission (2012) has not been undertaken by the ACT Government since the commencement of light rail operations to determine this.
- (2) A comprehensive review of the Capital Metro Full Business Case (2014) has not been undertaken by the ACT Government since the commencement of light rail operations to determine this.
- (3) Specific studies and information related to greenhouse gas implications of light rail in the ACT, prepared with the support of the ACT Government, include:
 - i. Flannery, D., Duarte, R., Norman, B., O'Donnell, T., Sinclair, H. and Steffen, W., 2015, Light rail transit and residential density in mid-size cities, Canberra Urban and Regional Futures, University of Canberra.
 - ii. Steffen, W., Percival, T, Flannery, D., 2015, Greenhouse gas emission reduction from Canberra's light rail project, Australian Planner, Taylor & Francis.
 - iii. Part C, Chapters 11 - Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases, 17 - Land Use, and 18 - Climate Change, of the Capital Metro Light Rail Stage 1 Environmental Impact Assessment consider the project impact in these areas in accordance with Section 212 of the *Planning and Development Act 2007* and other relevant legislation.

The Capital Metro Full Business Case (2014) identifies emissions as a key problem and benefit of the project (Chapter 4). The economic analysis within the business case quantifies these benefits through transport benefits analysis whereby reduction in kilometres travelled and a more compact city reduce direct emissions, particularly given the assumptions light rail vehicles are powered through renewable energy sources.

- (4) No.
- (5) No.
- (6) No.
- (7) This is commercially sensitive information and not publicly disclosed.
- (8) This is commercially sensitive information and not publicly disclosed.
- (9) No.
- (10) Stationary (dwell) time at stops is planned as 20 to 25 seconds on average, and optimised through operational practice. The total time for each stop including acceleration and deceleration time is variable by stop design and surrounding environment including signals, track curvature and gradient.

Municipal services—upgrades (Question No 2831)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Urban Renewal, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) How much did the recent temporary upgrades to Woolley Street, Dickson, cost, broken down by major component.
- (2) How much did the recent temporary upgrades to Dickson Pool cost, broken down by major component.
- (3) Who is responsible for the watering for the relocated trees in the Dickson Pool forecourt; if the Pool operator is responsible, is the ACT Government providing funding assistance to cover staffing and water costs.
- (4) If the four trees transplanted to the Pool forecourt do not flourish, will they be replaced, or permanently removed.
- (5) Was any safety analysis conducted in relation to the placement of the bike racks adjacent to Cowper Street in Dickson.

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

- (1) The City Renewal Authority is responsible for the recent temporary work at Woolley Street. They have provided the information below.

	Cost ex GST
Design (including consultants and development of final sketch plans)	\$168,000
Construction	\$538,000
Communications (including consultants)	\$94,000
Events (including consultants)	\$143,000
Project management (including administration and on site staff)	\$237,000
Total cost	\$1,180,000

- (2) The cost of delivering the improvements in response to community feedback at the Dickson Pool forecourt are detailed in the table below (including GST):

	Cost incl GST
Design fees	\$19,800
Artwork	\$6,600
Construction works	\$204,123
Maintenance	\$2,090
Total cost	\$232,613
Tree transplanting by City Renewal Authority	\$44,000

- (3) The ACT Government is responsible for irrigating the transplanted trees.
- (4) The arborist contracted to transplant the trees provides a 12 month tree replacement warranty, guaranteeing replacement if the tree fails.

- (5) The pool forecourt improvements have been designed by a professional landscape architecture consultancy in accordance with all applicable safety standards for temporary installations in a public place. A Design Safety Assessment was undertaken as part of the design. It should be noted the bicycle racks were relocated in late November 2019 closer to the Dickson Pool entrance for the convenience of pool visitors to increase utilisation.

**Canberra—flood management
(Question No 2832)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) Does the ACT Government have a figure for the total storm damage claims made to insurance companies as a result of the 25 February 2018 storm.
- (2) How much of the flooding that took place in North Canberra east of Northbourne Avenue as a result of the 25 February 2018 storm was riverine flooding and (a) what other factors contributed to the storm damage in that area and (b) did overland flows account for the majority of damages to private property.
- (3) To what extent has climate change and the percentage of impervious area in the catchment been factored in to the latest flood maps for the Sullivan's Creek Catchment (e.g. those used for the Section 72 renewal process and those available on ACTMapi).
- (4) Is the ACT stormwater system digitised to the quality required for flood forecasting; if not, are there any plans to do so.
- (5) In the Section 72 Dickson plan for proposed services, the consultants have assumed a future capacity. How many apartments in total will the duplicate trunk sewer line and other service upgrades cater for.

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

- (1) No, the Government does not record or otherwise have access to private insurance claims made by Territory residents.
- (2) Flooding was caused by a combination of riverine flooding (from Sullivans Creek and major tributaries) and overland flows between properties, streets and other land uses. Partial blockage of some systems was also a factor but is not unusual or unexpected.

As the ACT Government only has records of what damage occurred on public land, it would be hard to make a definitive comment on the damage caused to private property. Despite the storm being very large (estimates vary up to a once in one thousand year rainfall event for some areas) the public stormwater system coped well overall with minimal damage.

- (3) Flood studies are done in accordance with Australian Rainfall and Runoff (ARR). ARR has techniques for dealing with the impact of climate change. Impervious surfaces are included in the flood modelling by calibrating flood models to actual

flood events i.e. making sure the model can re-produce the gauged flows. Calibration includes accounting for the impervious area in a catchment. Canberra is very well placed for calibration of flood models with extensive flow gauging network and many years of flow record.

There is an inherent uncertainty in flood modelling because of the nature of the climate/weather, changing catchment features, length of rainfall and flow record, blockages etc. Infrastructure planning takes this uncertainty into account. ARR calls for a 'freeboard' allowance over and above the calculated flood levels to account for all these variables.

The February 2018 flood event was historically significant and was the largest recorded flood in the catchment. The flood maps previously produced will need to be updated based on the latest guidelines and this significant flood event.

- (4) The ACT stormwater system does not utilise digital monitoring for the purpose of flood forecasting and it is not required for this purpose. There are currently no plans to incorporate digital monitoring as part of the ACT stormwater system to support flood forecasting.
- (5) Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) has undertaken a range of planning and servicing to guide the urban renewal of Section 72 Dickson in consultation with the community and key stakeholders. The Infrastructure Report for Block 25 Section 72 Dickson (Cardno, April 2019) was prepared to inform the planning and site servicing for Common Ground being delivered on Block 25 Section 72 Dickson. The report caters for a mixed use Community Facility development of 40 dwellings with approximately 1,150m² commercial/office uses for Common Ground 2. The report also identifies future potential stages as including Block 6 and Block 22, noting that the future use of these sites is yet to be determined and remains subject to further community engagement, decisions by the Salvation Army and further planning and design, in order to ensure that any upgrades required for Common Ground also addressed future capacity options.

The capacity of Icon Water's sewer infrastructure and any other service upgrades will be subject to utility service providers' requirements, engineering feasibility, design and civil works processes. Icon Water have indicated that the existing sewerage network will require some augmentation in the future, and could be triggered by Common Ground, or by other developments, depending on the construction timing. The augmentations have already been identified by Icon Water as part of their planning for growth.

Budget—gender clinic funding (Question No 2833)

Ms Le Couteur asked the Minister for Social Inclusion and Equality, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) In relation to the 2017-18 Budget papers which allocated funding to A Gender Agenda (AGA), what are the plans for 2020-21 where no funding has been allocated.
- (2) What assurances can be provided that a dedicated intersex worker position will continue to be funded and remain in the community in the longer term.

- (3) What funding, if any is provided to assist AGA to run their Friday centre (gender clinic).

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

- (1) ACT Health Directorate recently renewed its services funding agreement with A Gender Agenda for a three-year period from July 2019 to June 2022.
- (2) The ACT Government has provided a grant to A Gender Agenda to continue the employment of a dedicated intersex worker position in that organisation in 2020.
- (3) A Gender Agenda operates the Friday Centre with funding from their services agreement with the ACT Health Directorate. The Friday Centre operates out of a space in Havelock House in Turner subsidised by an ACT Government grant.

**Community sector—social compact
(Question No 2834)**

Ms Le Couteur asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 29 November 2019
(*redirected to the Minister for Community Services and Facilities*):

In relation to the Social Compact previously developed in partnership with the community sector (a) is it still a current document, (b) how is it used to inform Government decisions about procurement and interacting with the not-for-profit community sector and (c) when will it be renewed, reviewed or refreshed.

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

- a. Yes, the Social Compact is still current.
- b. The Social Compact is highly regarded by the community sector and government. It is used by relationship managers in their dealings with community sector members as a guide to the principles that underpin the way we work together and what we can expect as we progress our joint work.
- c. The Social Compact is being refreshed. The Community Services Directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate are working together to produce an updated version. The Social Compact continues to promote the ACT Government's collective commitment to a strong and effective relationship that benefits all Canberrans and communities in the ACT.

**Community services—venue hire
(Question No 2835)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Community Services and Facilities, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What were the hiring costs for the Weston Creek Community Centre (both with and without the use of the kitchen) for each year in the past 10 years and, if the hiring costs have increased, what are the reasons for the increase in costs.

- (2) Is the Weston Community Hub available for bookings to the public; if so, what has been the hiring costs (both with and without the use of the kitchen, if applicable) for each year in the past 10 years and, if the hiring costs have increased, what are the reasons for the increase in costs.

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

- (1) While the Weston Creek Community Centre is an ACT Government asset, the ACT Government is not responsible for hire costs and hire arrangements at the facility as these rest with the community-based organisation managing the facility.

The community-based organisation that manages the facility advertises the following pricing on their website;

MAIN HALL (378.27m2)

- as a Performance Hall – No Kitchen, Tables & Chairs

REQUIRMENT	TIMES	COMMUNITY	BUSINESS/GOVT
Hourly	before 5pm	\$38	\$43
Hourly	after 5pm	\$43	\$48
Half Day	9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm	\$120	\$140
Evening	5pm-9pm	\$140	\$160
Whole Day	9am-5pm	\$220	\$260

MAIN HALL and KITCHEN (400.70m2)

- as an Exhibition/Conference/Function with Kitchen, Tables & Chairs

REQUIRMENT	TIMES	COMMUNITY	BUSINESS/GOVT
Hourly		\$85	\$95
Half Day	9am-1pm or 1pm-5pm	\$250	\$300
Evening Meeting Mon-Thu only	5pm-9pm	\$260	\$310
Whole Day	9am-5pm	\$450	\$500
Evening Function/Party	4pm-Midnight	\$500	\$560
	5 hour minimum	\$400	
	setting up fee	\$30 per hour	\$40 per hour

(2) See (1).

Roads—traffic calming
(Question No 2836)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2019: *(redirected to the Minister for Roads and Active Travel)*

- (1) What is the current status of installing speed humps and when will installation be completed, in relation to the recent traffic studies that have recommended Cartwright Street receive speed humps.
- (2) Does the ACT Government have any plans to install any other calming measures on this street; if so, (a) what and (b) when; if not, (i) why not and (ii) what other measures will the ACT Government take to improve road and traffic safety on this street.
- (3) Does the ACT Government have any plans to install speed limit signs on Cartwright street; if yes, when; if not, why not.

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

- (1) Current status as follows:
 - a) The recommended speed hump within the Charnwood-Dunlop school zone has been implemented.
 - b) The recommended speed hump in the vicinity of MacIntyre Place will be implemented in a future program.
 - c) The recommended pedestrian refuge island in the vicinity of the Brindabella Christian College will be considered for implementation under the Schools Program.
- (2) No. It is anticipated that the recommended treatments, when implemented, will reduce travelling speeds and improve road safety for all road users.
- (3) No. Cartwright Street is a minor collector road and the default 50km/h speed limit applies on this road. The current policy in the ACT is to only signpost streets that have a speed limit higher or lower than the default speed limit. The primary reason for not signposting 50km/h roads is to provide a consistent message to motorists that if you do not see a speed limit sign, then the speed limit is the default 50km/h limit. This approach is consistent with the practice in other jurisdictions across Australia.

Municipal services—signage
(Question No 2837)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2019 *(redirected to the Minister for Health)*:

- (1) Which local shops in the Ginninderra electorate have “No Smoking” signs erected on-site, and how many.
- (2) Does the ACT Government have any plans to install more “No Smoking” signage in public enclosed spaces at local shops to remind visitors of smoking laws; if so, where; if not, what measures will the ACT Government take to enforce smoking laws at local shops.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of installing a “No Smoking” sign – both against a wall and on a post.
- (4) Will the ACT Government install a “No Smoking” sign in the area outside Coffee Guru and Bernie’s from the Bay at Charnwood Shopping Centre; if so, when; if not, what measures will the ACT Government take to enforce smoking laws in this area.

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

- 1) This information is not collected by the ACT Government. Businesses may install their own ‘no smoking’ signs on their premises as they deem appropriate.
 - 2) The ACT Government has installed ‘no smoking’ signs where required to enforce the provisions of the *Smoke-Free Public Places Act 2003* (the Act). The Government has no immediate plans, nor has a need been identified, to install additional ‘no smoking’ signs in enclosed public places. The Government may supply additional ‘no smoking’ signage to businesses on request to encourage non-smoking behaviours.
- ACT Policing and Access Canberra may respond to alleged breaches of the Act.
- Access Canberra will also respond to public complaints regarding alleged breaches of the Act and may undertake investigation and enforcement action as necessary.
- 3) Where required for a specific location, the Government would seek a quote for the cost of producing and installing a ‘no smoking’ sign. This is done in accordance with relevant procurement policies and procedures. The costs of producing and installing signs will vary subject to the specific location and procurement.
 - 4) The ACT Government has no plans to install a ‘no smoking’ sign in the area described. Under section 9E of the Act, the occupiers of the two food businesses are responsible for ensuring that ‘no smoking’ signs are prominently displayed in their outdoor eating and drinking places.

For enforcement matters, please see response to question two.

Municipal services—shade sails (Question No 2838)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) Has the ACT Government received any requests for the metal structure outside Coffee Guru/Bernie’s from the Bay to be replaced by a shade structure for outdoor seating; if so, how many requests have been received over the past three years.

- (2) Will the ACT Government consider improving amenities at Charnwood shops by providing shade sails in this area; if not, why not.
- (3) What is the estimated cost of (a) installing shade sails in this area and (b) removing the existing metal structure.

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

- (1) No.
- (2) No. Amenity improvements to the value of \$230,000 were made at Charnwood shops in 2016-17 to improve accessibility and safety. All local shopping precincts have been assessed and rated according to a range of criteria to determine relative priorities for upgrades and installing shade sails at Charnwood shops has not been identified as a priority.
- (3) The estimated cost is:
 - (a) Installing shades would have an estimated cost of \$12,000 to \$26,000 depending on the size of the shade structure.
 - (b) Removing the existing metal artwork will have an estimated cost of \$9,000.

National Multicultural Festival—preparations (Question No 2839)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) In relation to applications for stalls to participate in the 2020 National Multicultural Festival, how many (a) applications were received for stalls, (b) applications were rejected, (c) were rejected due to miscommunication and/or administrative errors by the applicant, (d) rejected applicants were given a reason for rejection, (e) rejected applicants were given the opportunity to amend their application and resubmit, (f) rejected applicants resubmitted and were subsequently successful in their application.
- (2) In relation to applications for performances to participate in the 2020 National Multicultural Festival, how many (a) applications were received for performances, (b) applications were rejected, (c) applications were rejected due to miscommunication and/or administrative errors by the applicant, (d) rejected applicants were given a reason for rejection, (e) rejected applicants were given the opportunity to amend their application and resubmit, (f) rejected applicants resubmitted and were subsequently successful in their application.
- (3) How many (a) stallholders will be participating at the 2020 National Multicultural Festival, (b) stalls are information stalls, (c) stalls are community stalls, (d) stalls are cultural community stalls, (e) stalls are community organisation stalls and (f) stalls are commercial stalls.
- (4) How many performing groups will be participating at the 2020 National Multicultural Festival.

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

1. In regard to stallholder applications received as at 9 December 2019:
 - a. a total of 320 applications have been received. 13 of these were subsequently withdrawn.
 - b. 25 were unsuccessful.
 - c. Seven were non-compliant.
 - d. All applicants received correspondence from the NMF team advising of the outcome of their application.
 - e. Five
 - f. Zero.
2. In regard to applications for performances received as at 9 December 2019:
 - a. a total of 160 applications have been received;
 - b. 67 were unsuccessful;
 - c. nil;
 - d. all applicants received correspondence from the NMF team advising of the outcome of their application;
 - e. all applications were considered based on suitability, availability and pricing. Applicants were either accepted or not accepted on this basis; and
 - f. See answer to e.
3. In regard to the current number and breakdown of stallholders participating at the 2020 National Multicultural Festival (NMF):

For the 2020 NMF, community organisations, associations and/or commercial operators could apply for a stall under one of seven categories:

1. Community Food and/ or Culturally Relevant Items;
 2. Community Food and/ or Liquor;
 3. Community Clubs;
 4. Information;
 5. Commercial Food and/ or Culturally Relevant Items;
 6. Commercial Food and/ or Liquor; and
 7. Diplomatic.
- a. 275 stallholders participating in the 2020 NMF have applied under of the seven categories list above.
 - b. 49 stallholders have applied under Category 4: Information
 - c. 86 stallholders have applied under Category 1, 2 and 3.
 - d. All community organisations or associations, including cultural communities were able to apply for a stall under Category 1, 2 and 3. Refer to the response for (c).

- e. All community organisations or associations were able to apply for a stall under Category 1, 2 and 3. Refer to the response for (c).
- f. 61 are commercial stalls under category 5 and 6.

Please note this information is subject to change.

- 4. Currently, there are 160 performing groups participating at the 2020 National Multicultural Festival. Please note this information is subject to change.

Additionally, there are 13 Showcases organised by community.

Trees—removal (Question No 2840)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for City Services, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What has been the nature of damage caused by the trees located outside Woolworths supermarket at Charnwood Shopping Centre, as well as the relating repair costs for the years (a) 2014-15, (b) 2015-16, (c) 2016-17, (d) 2017-18, (e) 2018-19 and (f) 2019 to the date this question was published.
- (2) Does the ACT Government have any plans to remove these trees; if so, when; if not, why not, and what measures will the ACT Government take to ensure this area of Charnwood shops is safe from hazards, more accessible and not in need of costly and preventable reparations on a regular basis.

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

- (1) Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) have conducted multiple repairs to pavers that have been displaced by tree roots at the Charnwood Shopping Centre from 2014 to present. There is no specific location data readily available on paver repairs related to the trees located outside the Woolworths supermarket.
- (2) No. The trees are healthy, structurally sound and provide a broad range of benefits to visitors to the Charnwood Shopping Centre. In particular, the presence of mature, shady trees mitigates health hazards associated with the concentration of heat in urban areas. In this location and others across the city, TCCS is investigating options to increase the size of the tree surrounds and install permeable, flexible surrounds that minimise trip hazards, promote tree health and reduce the frequency of repairs to hard pavements.

Mental health—cannabis (Question No 2841)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What are the links between cannabis use and mental illnesses such as schizophrenia.
- (2) What advice did the Minister provide to Government about the health risks associated with cannabis use.

- (3) Was the advice that the Minister provided to the Government consistent with the research that the Commonwealth Minister for Health forwarded to the Chief Minister.
- (4) What studies has the Government undertaken to assess whether the legalisation of cannabis will lead to (a) increased levels of usage and (b) therefore increased demand for mental health services; if none, why.

If studies were undertaken (a) what were the outcomes and (b) to what extent did they inform the government's position on legalisation of cannabis.

- (5) What consideration was given to whether the Government's legalisation of cannabis would be perceived by the public as giving permission for, or condoning, its use; if none, why; if consideration was given, (a) what was the outcome and (b) what did the Government do to mitigate those perceptions.
- (6) What education programs about the risks of using cannabis will be mounted before the legislation to legalise cannabis becomes law.

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

1. Based on its reviews of the evidence on the health effects of cannabis, The World Health Organization (WHO) has concluded that: "cannabis use can exacerbate schizophrenia in affected individuals".

In addition, The US National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine (US National Academies), based on a review published in 2017, concluded that: "Cannabis use is likely to increase the risk of developing schizophrenia and other psychoses; the higher the use the greater the risk."

The National Academies also noted that the relationship between cannabis, cannabis use disorder and psychoses is likely to be "multidirectional and complex", and that genetic factors may influence risk. The National Academies committee also remarked that: "it is noteworthy to state that in certain societies, the incidence of schizophrenia has remained stable over the past 50 years despite the introduction of cannabis into those settings."

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare has estimated that 1.6 per cent of the burden of disease due to schizophrenia in Australia is attributable to cannabis use, based on 2011 Australian data.

With regard to mental health conditions other than schizophrenia, the US National Academies 2017 review concluded that:

- Cannabis use does not appear to increase the likelihood of developing depression, anxiety, and posttraumatic stress disorder;
- For individuals diagnosed with bipolar disorders, near daily cannabis use may be linked to greater symptoms of bipolar disorder than non-users;
- Heavy cannabis users are more likely to report thoughts of suicide than non-users; and
- Regular cannabis use is likely to increase the risk for developing social anxiety disorder.

It should be noted that 'disorders' are more severe longer term health effects, and may differ from immediate effects.

2. The advice considered by Government included information that the ACT Health Directorate provided on the health risks of cannabis consistent with 2017 large scale research evidence reviews conducted by the World Health Organisation and the US National Academies, the Oxford Specialist Handbook on Addiction Medicine (2016), and the Oxford University Press book Marijuana Legalization: What Everyone Needs to Know (2016).

The Government also considered the findings of the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services' *Inquiry into Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018*.

3. The information provided by Minister Hunt on the health effects of cannabis was largely consistent with information sourced by ACT Health Directorate, and is the advice considered by Government alongside the advice received from community stakeholders.
4. ACT Health Directorate undertook policy analysis of the potential population health effects of the legislation using existing available studies of the health impact of cannabis de criminalisation. This included review of:
 - Evidence of the impact of reduced cannabis penalties on cannabis use rates;
 - Theoretical mechanisms of policy impact — for example economic theory of supply and demand for criminalised products;
 - Data on cannabis use in the ACT, including cannabis use rates following earlier decriminalisation measures;
 - Consideration of the social determinants of health, which indicate, for example, that reduced socioeconomic circumstances, which can result from a criminal record, contribute to poorer health outcomes over the long term.
 - Consideration of the potential health impacts of the legislative amendments including:
 - Making it illegal to store cannabis within reach of children;
 - Making it illegal to expose children to second-hand cannabis smoke, or to smoke in a public place;
 - The potentially reduced stigma for cannabis users that may encourage them to come forward for treatment; and
 - The high numbers of people who have already tried cannabis in the ACT, or who use it already, finding it easier to source.

Evidence reviewed by ACTHD did not demonstrate a causal relationship between reducing criminal penalties for personal cannabis use and any long-term, population-wide increase in cannabis use.

In its submission to the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services, the Australian Medical Association (AMA) stated: “It is often thought that criminal penalties are a deterrent to cannabis use and, therefore, an effective way to prevent the health impacts and other harms associated with cannabis use. These beliefs have little foundation.”

Similarly, the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA), concluded from a review of changes to cannabis personal use penalties in European Union (EU) countries that: “The legal impact hypothesis, in its simplest form, predicts

that increased penalties will decrease drug use and reduced penalties will increase drug use. However, in the original analysis (2011), and an updated version (2017), no simple association can be found between legal changes and the prevalence of cannabis use (among 15–34-year-olds in the EU).”

5. See answers to Questions 4 and 6.

6. The ACT Government has consistently been clear in its public messaging that this change is not about condoning cannabis use but rather focussed on reducing the harm associated with the criminalisation of cannabis users. From an evidence-based perspective however, the concept of ‘condoning’ cannabis use has limited value compared to research on how changes to cannabis penalties affect cannabis use in real world settings.

Diversion from the criminal justice system for minor drug offences has been part of the ACT Government approach to drug policy since 1989 when Simple Cannabis Offence Notice commenced. Cannabis use has declined substantially in the ACT since that time.

Nevertheless, the Government agrees that the legislation should not be interpreted as suggesting that cannabis use is ‘harmless’. The Government is preparing communications on how the laws have changed, including the health risks of cannabis and how people can seek support to address these. The Government does not believe that cannabis is a ‘harmless’ drug.

Communication will be delivered in stages, commencing with information on why the legislation is changing and what the change means for Canberrans. The second stage will provide information on the health impacts of cannabis use and let Canberrans know where they can access drug and alcohol help and support services.

Mental health—facilities (Question No 2842)

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What is the status of the work to (a) upgrade the Keaney Building and (b) relocate the adult mental health unit, at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB).
- (2) Is the work in part (1) progressing according to (a) budget and (b) timeline; if no (a) why and (b) to what extent.
- (3) Has the work in part (1) reduced the temporary capacity of the Adult Mental Health Unit at CPHB; if so (a) by how much and (b) for how long.
- (4) What is the progress of the refurbishment of Brian Hennessy House and is it progressing according to (a) budget and (b) timeline; if not, (i) why and (ii) what extent.
- (5) What progress has been made in relation to the gazettal of Calvary Hospital emergency department to allow it to take emergency detention or correctional patients.

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

- (1)
 - (a) The work to upgrade the Keaney Building is nearing completion.
 - (b) The new Adult Mental Health Unit was formally handed over to Calvary Public Hospital Bruce in December 2019 as planned. To ensure patient safety, comfort and stability across the Christmas period, the transfer of patients was postponed until 8 January 2020. The transfer has now been completed and there were no operational impacts for Calvary associated with the postponement.
 - (2)
 - (a) The work was completed within budget.
 - (b) The work was completed on time.
 - (3) The project did not impact the capacity of the Adult Mental Health Unit.
 - (4)
 - (a) The project expenditure is within the allocated budget.
 - (b) The project will be completed on time. Designs have been completed for the refurbishment of the 10-bed Extended Care Unit (ECU) at the Brian Hennessy Rehabilitation Centre (BHRC) and early works have commenced on-site. Construction is scheduled to be completed in November 2020, subject to operational constraints.
 - (5) Consideration of gazettal of the Calvary Public Hospital Bruce Emergency Department under the *Mental Health Act (2015)* will take into account the recommendations of work being undertaken currently to review models of care and service delivery and growth in demand for mental health services in the ACT.
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**Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders—residential rehabilitation facility
(Question No 2843)**

Mrs Dunne asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 29 November 2019:

- (1) What is the progress of the scoping study into Winnunga Nimmityjah developing an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Residential Rehabilitation facility.
- (2) Why is it that the ACT does not have a residential rehabilitation facility more than a decade after the Assembly appropriated money for such a facility and the Government then spending \$12 million building one that cannot be used for its intended purpose.
- (3) What is the level of demand in the community to establish a residential rehabilitation facility for the general community.

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

- (1) ACT Health Directorate executed a contract on 28 November 2019 with Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services to draft and undertake

consultations on a model of care for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Specific Residential Rehabilitation Facility. Under this contract a final Model of Care is to be delivered by July 2020.

- (2) In relation to the purpose of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm as noted by Minister Gentleman in 2014:

"The farm will not be a place for medical treatment or to detoxify. Rather, it will be a place free of drugs and alcohol, with a strong focus on Aboriginal spirituality and culture. It will include a strong focus on agriculture and connection to the land."

- (3) ACT has three residential rehabilitation services for the general community and a residential rehabilitation service for young people. This is in addition to a number of day rehabilitation programs. However, unlike other jurisdictions, the ACT does not have an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific residential rehabilitation facility, which is an identified gap in service provision for the ACT.

Data from the 2017-18 national minimum data set for alcohol and drug treatment indicates that 14 per cent of closed treatment episodes for residential rehabilitation were for people who identified as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait islander.

The ACT Health Directorate is also aware of a number of people seeking culturally specific treatment interstate due to the lack of a culturally specific facility in the ACT. Given this, a culturally specific residential rehabilitation facility in the ACT could increase access and improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples seeking treatment for substance dependence issues.

Questions without notice taken on notice

ACT Health—workplace culture

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Mr Parton and Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

1. No ACT Health Directorate or Canberra Health Services employees have been terminated this year for behaviours described as bullying or harassment. A sanction including termination can only be imposed on an employee following a determination of misconduct that has been substantiated through an independent investigation process.
2. A "final warning" is not a sanction that may be applied to an employee. The ACT Public Sector Enterprise Agreements section H11 Disciplinary Actions and Sanctions details the sanctions that may be applied following a determination of misconduct:
 - written reprimand;
 - a financial penalty which can:
 - reduce the employee's incremental level;
 - defer the employee's incremental advancement; and
 - impose a fine on the employee.

- require the employee to fully or partially reimburse the employer for damage that the employee has wilfully incurred to property or equipment;
 - transfer the employee temporarily or permanently to another position at level or to a lower classification level;
 - remove any benefit derived through an existing Attraction and Retention Incentive; and
 - termination of employment.
3. This information is not available as individuals are not required to provide a reason for resignation.

Hospitals—maternity services

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to supplementary questions by Ms Lawder and Ms Lee on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

- (1) A stillborn child is defined as a baby who shows no signs of life at birth, after a pregnancy of at least 20 weeks gestation or weighing 400g or more. If this occurs at home, the woman would be advised to return to hospital for medical management and to bring the stillborn baby with her.

Some women may experience early pregnancy loss at home with a heavy period and no discernible fetus. This is usually the case with miscarriages below 9 weeks and is not classified as a stillbirth.

A fetus may die in utero at any gestation and women in such circumstance are seen either in the Early Pregnancy Unit or the Fetal Medicine Unit (FMU), depending on the gestation. If this occurs between 13 and 20 weeks gestation, the woman is seen in the FMU by a midwife and specialist who discuss the diagnosis, investigations and options for induction of labour. The medication to initiate labour may take up to 48 hours. During that time the woman may go home with advice to return to hospital after 48 hours, or earlier if she goes into labour. If the fetus is born prior to returning to hospital, the woman is advised to return to hospital for medical management and to bring the fetus with her.

- (2) Canberra Health Services does not send women home to deliver a baby over 20 weeks that has died in utero. Some women commence labour naturally and others require an induction of labour to birth the stillborn baby. This may take up to 48 hours. During that time the woman may go home with advice to return to hospital after 48 hours, or earlier if she goes into labour. If the baby is born prior to returning to hospital, the woman is advised to return to hospital for medical management and to bring the still born baby with her.

ACT Health—SPIRE project

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Wall on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

There have been four.

Date	Type	Description
20 November 2017	g)	ACT Policing reported that they had received a phone call stating that a bomb was going to be placed at a hospital within the ACT.
24 July 2018	d)	A patient under police guard accessed a police firearm and discharged five rounds before being restrained.
24 January 2019	g)	A suspicious package was discovered in the Building 12 carpark which required police intervention.
14 September 2019	h)	A patient under police guard escaped from Fast Track and in the process injured a Wardsperson and elderly visitor.

In relation to a health facility, a ‘major security incident’ is defined as:

- a) a death in custody of a detainee
- b) an escape, attempted escape or preparing to escape from custody by a detainee
- c) a serious assault of any person resulting in admission to hospital or death
- d) a riot or major disturbance
- e) hostage taking
- f) a fire requiring external assistance
- g) a bomb threat or find
- h) a use of force with serious injury to a patient or others, or involving discharge of weapons or chemical agents by another agency
- i) the discovery of a prohibited item inside a secure facility which would significantly affect the safety, security or good order of the facility
- j) erroneous release or unlawful detention of a person in custody
- k) industrial action or withdrawal of security staff labour
- l) the theft or loss of sensitive or highly restricted materials or equipment
- m) unauthorised access to sensitive source materials, equipment or laboratories.

This does not include information security breaches which are recorded by the Chief Information Officer.

Mental health—patient services

Mr Rattenbury (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mrs Dunne on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

In 2018-19, for a person presenting to the Canberra Hospital Emergency Department (ED) with a mental illness, there was an average period of 11.2 hours between the decision to admit and the admission to a mental health ward.

The 11.2 hour period consists of wait time and other factors and it is impossible to distinguish the time contributed by each. Wait time includes bed availability and

ambulance transport, while other factors include responding to co-occurring alcohol and drug use, physical trauma or injury, and/or the need to rule out underlying physical conditions that could be causing their psychological symptoms. It is important that time is taken to eliminate or address physical issues alongside any assessment of mental health issues.

The Canberra Hospital has seen recent increases in the number of ED presentations for mental illness resulting in admission, which has placed additional pressure on the system. Between 1 July 2018 and 30 June 2019, there were 1,645 mental health related presentations to the Canberra Hospital ED that resulted in admission. This represents an increase of 137.7 per cent since 2014-15. As the Canberra Hospital ED is the only facility gazetted under ACT legislation, it must accept and assess all consumers who present to the ED under an Emergency action of the Mental Health Act 2015. It is also the nominated location for assessment of people referred from the ACT or Commonwealth Judiciary under Section 309 of the Crimes Act.

Hospitals—emergency department data

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Mr Hanson on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

Table 1 shows the latest results – Quarter 4 2018-19 and Quarter 1 2019-20 for triage categories 1 to 5 and the variance.

Category	Result Q1 2019-20	Result Q4 2018-19	Variance Q1 2019/20 v Q4 2018/19
Triage 1 – Resuscitation	99.6%	100.0%	-0.4%
Triage 2 – Emergency	72.8%	71.4%	1.4%
Triage 3 - Urgent	25.8%	28.1%	-2.3%
Triage 4 – Semi-urgent	40.6%	44.2%	-3.6%
Triage 5 – Non-urgent	78.9%	80.1%	-1.2%

Data per ACT Health Quarterly Performance reports

ACT Emergency Departments continue to experience an increase in presentations. There was a 4 per cent more presentations in Quarter 1 2019-20 compared with the same period last year. This represents an increase rate of more than double the population growth rate for the ACT, which continues to put significant pressure on wait times, especially in less urgent patients (triage categories 3 to 5).

ACT Health—workplace culture

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to a supplementary question by Miss C Burch on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

1. ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) and Canberra Health Services (CHS) do not keep this data. Ongoing professional development is important for all leaders and managers across both organisations, as it is for any workplace.

There has been considerable effort in undertaking important foundational work to improve the way managers lead at all levels and manage the workforce across the ACT public health system.

As part of that work, the ACT Government has partnered with the Australian National University Research School of Management to develop a Workplace Change Framework. This will incorporate key elements such as management and leadership, and identification of skills and training required to develop people further. In addition, as an important investment in supporting and growing the capabilities of their executives and middle managers, ACTHD and CHS have invested in broad leadership and management training that will lead to the adoption of better management practices embedded across the system.

ACT Health—SPIRE project

Mr Steel (*in reply to a question by Miss C Burch on Wednesday, 27 November 2019*):

How existing traffic conditions on Palmer Street and Gilmore Crescent interplay with travel to and from the new facility being delivered by the SPIRE project will depend upon the final design of the new facility and any complementary works in the area. Consequently, final traffic outcomes will not be definitively known until the design of the facility is finalised.

In the meantime, traffic survey data was collected during December 2019 of roads within and around the hospital campus. This included Yamba Drive, Gilmore Crescent, Hospital Road, Palmer Street and a number of intersections. Various survey methods have been performed including automatic tube counters and intersection and drop off surveys with the use of video cameras.

Survey data was received in January 2020 and is currently being analysed. This work will be one factor which informs the final design approach for the project.

Waste—Hume collection site

Mr Gentleman (*in reply to a question and supplementary questions by Ms Lawder and Mr Wall on Thursday, 28 November 2019*):

1. The owner of the site in Hume has leased the site to Southern State Waste Recycling Pty Ltd. The owner of the site has complied with all requirements.
2. A financial assurance of \$250,000 paid by the operators to the EPA under the conditions of the Environmental Authorisation. Once the waste is removed from the site, it will be determined if this money will be used in the clean up of any environmental damage. There will be no cost to the Government to clean up this site, the removal of waste from the site is the responsibility of the site owner and Southern State Waste Recycling Pty Ltd.

3. ACT Fire and Rescue has not had any enquiries in relation to Paspaley Street Hume recently. The site was last inspected by ACT Fire and Rescue 6 months ago and ACT Fire and Rescue are of the understanding that the site is being cleaned up and the business is in the process of leaving Hume.

The Health Protection Service (HPS) investigates allegations of insanitary conditions under the *Public Health Act 1997*. The HPS does not undertake active vermin control programs, however the HPS investigates allegations of vermin harborage which may constitute an insanitary condition. No complaints regarding the location have been received by the HPS since 2017. An investigation at that time found no insanitary condition present. The HPS will continue to monitor and investigate allegations of insanitary conditions within the area.

The operator of the site is no longer licensed under the *Environment Protection Act 1997* (the Act). Under Section 22 of the Act the operator has a general environmental duty to take the steps that are practicable and reasonable to prevent or minimise their environmental harm caused by the activity they are undertaking.

Hospitals—day surgery capacity

Ms Stephen-Smith (*in reply to supplementary questions by Mrs Dunne and Mr Hanson on Thursday, 28 November 2019*):

- (1) Canberra Health Services and Calvary Public Hospital Bruce follow the Waiting Time and Elective Surgery Access Policy. Having a standard policy and procedure ensures that all patients receive fair and equitable treatment that is based on their clinical needs. Every effort is made to consider any other personal and/or individual circumstances of each patient, and to make the process as convenient as possible, unfortunately this is not always possible.
- (2) Postponements of surgery are not currently captured in a consistent manner across the ACT public health system.

Data on removals from the elective surgery waiting lists for reasons other than surgery is currently published in the Quarterly Performance Reports each quarter.

ACTPAS, the current Patient Administration System utilised by the ACT public health system has limitations that make the capture and reporting of some data more difficult.

The Digital Health Record that was funded in the 2019-20 Budget will address these deficiencies.

In the meantime, the ACT Health Directorate is examining if it is feasible to modify the configuration and use of ACTPAS to capture this data in a reliable and systematic way to enable future publication of surgical postponements.