

Answers to questions

Domestic and family violence—safer families levy (Question No 409)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, upon notice, on 6 August 2021:

- (1) Did the Minister announce that the increase to the ACT Safer Families Levy will raise an additional \$8.8 million for domestic and family violence services in the ACT, and that frontline services will be prioritised for funding; if so, can the ACT Government provide a detailed and complete breakdown of funding of the Safer Families Levy for this term of government.
- (2) How much funding will be allocated to the frontline services of (a) Toora Women Inc (Toora) and (b) EveryMan.
- (3) How much funding has EveryMan received from the ACT Government for each of the past five years and for what purposes.
- (4) Will the ACT Government provide funding for two specialist children’s counsellors, as urgently requested by Toora in their 2021-22 ACT Budget Submission (and supported by Doris Women’s Refuge); if not, why not and what measures will the ACT Government take to support the increasing demand for services provided by Toora.

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

- 1) The ACT Government will stage an increase to the Safer Families Levy of \$5 per year over four years, taking the Levy from \$30 per household currently to \$50 per household in 2024-25. The Levy increase will go directly to funding Safer Families initiatives.

This will deliver a total of \$8.8 million over the next four years to expand funding for essential family, domestic and sexual violence initiatives for the ACT community. Funding from the Levy will be prioritised to frontline service delivery by both community and government services.

The Safer Families funding allocation is outlined in detail in Budget Paper 3 each year. As detailed in the 2021-22 Budget Paper, a range of initiatives are funded beyond 2021-22 via forward estimates.

- 2) Toora Women Inc. (Toora) and EveryMan are funded primarily through the *National Housing and Homelessness Agreement (NHHA)*. EveryMan also receives *Community Development Program (CDP)* funding.
 - a) The total NHHA funding to be received by Toora for the 2021-22 financial year is \$4,023,050.72.
 - b) The total NHHA funding to be received by EveryMan for the 2021-22 financial year is \$1,680,771.15. In addition, EveryMan will also receive \$500,543.80 CDP funding.
- 3) The below table provides a composite breakdown of the funding received by EveryMan for the past five years, including the stated purpose and specific programs against these amounts.

EveryMan Australia Funding Breakdown							
Funding Source	Service	16/17 Funding	17/18 Funding	18/19 Funding	19/20 Funding	20/21 Funding	Program Description
NHHA	Early Intervention Program – Base Funding	\$718,988.44	\$735,870.20	\$753,899.00	\$772,369.52	\$787,044.55	Support (crisis accommodation and/or a range of related support services), to help people who are experiencing homelessness achieve the maximum possible degree of independence.
	Early Intervention Program – Equal Remuneration Support	\$36,858.80	\$55,475.28	\$75,866.76	\$131,909.19	\$165,639.39	
	Managed Transitional Program – Base Funding*	\$509,749.11	\$509,749.11	\$509,749.11	\$509,749.11	\$509,749.11	Support (crisis accommodation and/or a range of related support services), to assist men exiting correctional settings who are at risk of homelessness.
	Managed Transitional Program – Equal Remuneration Support	\$26,043.36	\$39,197.16	\$53,605.20	\$93,192.21	\$117,002.90	
	Head Tenant Program – Base Funding*	-	\$50,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$65,000.00	\$65,000.00	Support (building skills, knowledge, and resilience) for individuals at risk of eviction from a social housing property.
	Indigenous Program – Base Funding**	\$276,189.51	\$375,617.76	\$384,820.36	\$394,608.48	\$407,165.05	Support (including crisis accommodation and/or a range of related support services), to support Indigenous individuals or families at risk of homelessness
	Indigenous Boarding House Program – Base Funding**	\$229,464.39	\$312,071.56	\$319,717.32	\$327,550.4	\$338,281.76	Support (including crisis accommodation and/or a range of related support services), to support Indigenous individuals or families at risk of homelessness
CDP	EveryMan Program – Base Funding	-	\$262,954.90	\$269,396.99	\$275,997.22	\$281,241.17	Services to men and other service users (including counselling, information and referral and peer support services) to manage the complexity of the physical, emotional and social issues that impact on their wellbeing, family and other interpersonal relationships.
	EveryMan Program – Equal Remuneration Support	-	\$22,501.11	\$29,622.59	\$45,117.27	\$56,654.24	
	Working with the Man – Base Funding	-	\$116,527.43	\$119,382.35	\$122,307.22	\$124,631.06	Specialist behaviour change program for those who have used violence in an intimate partner setting. The program offers a full range of resources to build the capacity for participants to make lasting change.
	Working with the Man – Equal Remuneration Support	-	\$9,971.29	\$13,127.14	\$19,993.57	\$25,106.14	
TOTAL FUNDING BY YEAR		\$1,797,294	\$2,489,936	\$2,579,207	\$2,757,822	\$2,877,516	-

*NPAH Funding, Indexation not applicable

** As per the existing contractual arrangements under 2016.27662.222, Toora Women Inc. receive the funding for both the Indigenous and Indigenous Boarding House Programs, with this funding subsequently passed on to Everyman, as the agency who administers these programs.

- 4) All community budget submissions are considered by the ACT Government. The ACT Government recognises the need to provide specialist services for children impacted by domestic and family violence.

In 2018-19, the ACT Government provided additional funding of \$700,800 over four years to four women's support services, including Toora, to better respond directly to the needs of women and children impacted by domestic and family violence.

Projects are underway to understand what children and young people themselves say they need, and to ensure appropriate integrated mental health and trauma supports.

Justice—justice reinvestment program (Question No 412)

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 6 August 2021:

Can the Attorney-General provide a breakdown of each individual ongoing and trial justice reinvestment program and the funding provided to them since their inception.

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

The ACT Government committed to developing a Justice Reinvestment strategy in 2014 to 2018.

The strategy developed involved using '*a smarter, more cost-effective approach to improving criminal justice outcomes by reducing crime and diverting offenders, and those at risk of becoming offenders, from the criminal justice system*'. The areas of focus identified were: improving justice accommodation options; responding to the impacts of drug and alcohol dependence; early support for people living with a mental illness or disability; pathways for safe and sustainable bail; community building capabilities and reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the justice system.

By 2018, trial justice reinvestment programs and evaluations had commenced including in the areas of family support, bail support, housing support, restorative justice and specialist courts (for example, focussed on drug related offending or indigenous offenders). A number of the trial programs became established as ongoing programs, while others evolved.

The ACT Government's justice reinvestment approach has underpinned both its Building Communities not Prisons initiative ([Building Communities Not Prisons | Justice and Community Safety Directorate \(act.gov.au\)](#)) and its Reducing Recidivism plan ([Reducing Recidivism | Justice and Community Safety Directorate \(act.gov.au\)](#)).

Some of programs trialled as the Justice Reinvestment Strategy was developed form part of the Building Communities Not Prisons initiative announced in 2018, (in particular, the Ngurrumbai Bail Support Program and Yarrabi Barmirr). Similarly, some of the programs which form part of the Building Communities Not Prisons initiative and other established justice reinvestment programs, form part of the Reducing Recidivism Plan announced in 2020 (in particular the Ngurrumbai Bail Support Program, Warrumbul Court, Yarrabi Bammir, the Justice Housing Program, the Drug and Alcohol Court, Strong Connected Neighbourhoods and Restorative Justice Conferencing).

While not all contemporaneously and explicitly identified as 'justice reinvestment' programs, key justice programs / initiatives which reflect the ACT Government's justice reinvestment approach include:

Program	Budget funding '000					
	Pre 2018-19	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21 ¹	2021-22	Total
Ngurrambai Bail Support Program	210 ²	160	305	495	482	1,652
Reducing Recidivism	0	0	784	804	824	2,412
Warrumbul Court	0	0	174	179	183	536
Yarrabi Bamirr	0	498	1,019	1,045	1,071	3,633
More support for families/ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People Liaison Officer	0	138	281	288	296	1,003
Justice Housing Program (including Providing safer alternatives to remand)	0	1,450	11,117	4,700	2,595	19,862
Drug and Alcohol Court (including funding across a range of agencies)	0	1,583	4,271	5,996	0 ³	11,850
Strong Connected Neighbourhoods Program ⁴	1,282 ⁵	285	527	515	578	3,187
Improving access to restorative justice	63	129	132	134	135	593

¹ Figures in this column for Reducing Recidivism, the Justice Housing Program, and Strong Connected Neighbourhoods, reflect original Budget decisions. They differ from the figures given in response to QTON No. 07 from the 19 February 2021 hearing which reflect actual allocations having regard to the impacts of rolled over funding.

The figure in this column for the Drug and Alcohol Court also reflects the original Budget decision. It differs from the figure at given in QTON No. 07 from the 19 February 2021 hearing which reflects the impacts of rolled over funding but not the Health offset.

² Funds in 2017-18

³ The Drug and Alcohol Court is subject to further budget decisions of Government.

⁴ The Strong Connected Neighbourhoods Program has operated since 2008 under several titles and modes of program delivery

⁵ Funds from 2008-09 through to 2018-19.

Roads—roadworks noise (Question No 417)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) Can people lodge a complaint with Access Canberra about the noise from trucks.

- (2) Has the Government tested noise from dump trucks along Horse Park Drive.
- (3) Will the Minister request testing for the noise for houses that back on to Horse Park Drive.
- (4) Has the Government done any research into the greenhouse emissions of diesel trucks carrying roadworks waste material.
- (5) How much damage do trucks cause to road surfaces compared to other vehicles.
- (6) What action would the Government consider or take if noise levels reached between 80-95 decibels as trucks passed.

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

- (1) Yes.
- (2) Specific noise related to trucks cannot be identified through noise surveys coordinated by Transport Canberra and City Services. Noise surveys are assessed, based upon both noise levels and duration. Two noise surveys have been undertaken in Amaroo relating to Horse Park Drive.
- (3) See (2).
- (4) No specific research on the greenhouse emissions from vehicles carrying roadworks waste materials is available.
- (5) It is not possible to separately identify the contribution of particular classes of vehicles to road surfaces.
- (6) The guidance used by Roads ACT to determine the need for noise intervention is based on noise exposure which accounts for both the loudness and duration of noise rather than the loudness alone.

Should a noise survey exceed the current noise thresholds, then a variety of measures can be considered, such road resurfacing or the installation of noise attenuation measures.

Environment—gross pollutant traps (Question No 419)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) Has Flexible given the Government a water sample from the Gross Pollutant Trap (GPT) and drying pad next to the ANU Cricket Grounds; if so, can the Minister provide the results.
- (2) Has Flexible given the Government a sediment sample from the GPT and drying pad next to ANU Cricket Grounds; if so, can the Minister provide the results.

- (3) Has Flexible given the Government a water sample from the GPT and drying pad next to the Drakeford drive; if so, can the Minister provide the results.
- (4) Has Flexible given the Government a sediment sample from the GPT and drying pad next to Drakeford drive; if so, can the Minister provide the results.
- (5) Is Flexible required to provide the Government with information about the source of material placed at ANU Cricket Ground and Drakeford drive; if so, can the Minister give information about the source of material; if not, why is Flexible not required to provide the information.
- (6) How many times has debris been cleared from the ANU Cricket Ground and Drakeford drive GPT in (a) 2016, (b) 2017, (c) 2018, (d) 2019, (e) 2020 and (f) 2021.
- (7) What are the volumes of debris cleared from the ANU and Drakeford drive GPT.
- (8) Why are independent tests not done to ensure integrity and confidence that no contaminated waste is being disposed of, leaking or drying at the ANU and Drakeford drive GPTs.
- (9) Has the Government consulted/surveyed residents near the drying beds about odours and other issues near the drying beds including residents' concerns.
- (10) Has the Government done any testing near the drying beds about odours and how they compare to Environment Protection Authority standards; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (11) Why is transporting the waste straight to Mugga Lane not the most efficient environmental solution.

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

- (1) No, this task is not in Flexible's maintenance contract. Collection of water samples is not typically required under their Environmental Management Plan (EMP) to accord with EPA regulations.
- (2) No, this task is not in Flexible's maintenance contract. Collection of water samples is not typically required under their EMP to accord with EPA regulations.
- (3) No, this task is not in Flexible's maintenance contract. Collection of water samples is not typically required under their EMP to accord with EPA regulations.
- (4) No, this task is not in Flexible's maintenance contract. Collection of water samples is not typically required under their EMP to accord with EPA regulations.
- (5) No, Flexible are not required to provide information about the source of material placed at the Turner and Monash drying pads. These are designated locations for drying wet material collected in the course of their stormwater network contracted services to Roads ACT. Materials dried at these locations are typically collected from the Belconnen and Central Canberra regions.
- (6) Please see data below:

Number of times debris has been cleared.

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Turner	14	18	18	19	18	13
Monash	11	10	11	12	14	9

(7) Please see data below:

Approximate amount of debris cleared (in tonnes)

	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021
Turner	1790	1750	1720	1780	1910	1650
Monash	1380	1150	1460	1220	1470	1320

(8) All material stored on site is removed from the stormwater network. All material is currently transported to landfill following drying. No testing is required at these sites.

(9) TCCS has not surveyed residents regarding the drying pads.

(10) The designated drying pads are not monitored for odours.

(11) Liquid waste is not currently transported to a waste treatment or disposal facility (e.g. Mugga Lane) due to logistical and regulatory constraints.

Roads—Gungahlin (Question No 420)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Planning and Land Management, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) Has the Government consulted with the community about the dangerous intersection at Gungahlin Place and Efkarpidis Street; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (2) How many complaints have there been about this intersection since the beginning of 2016 and can the Minister provide details, for example, nature of complaints.
- (3) How has the Government responded to the complaints referred to in part (2).
- (4) Has the Government done any work at this intersection in the last five years; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (5) How many accidents have occurred at this intersection since the beginning of 2016 and can the Minister provide details.

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

- (1) The ACT Government has received feedback from the community which was not solicited by the ACT Government. As a result a consultant has recently been appointed to identify improvements at the intersection. The Government will consider the consultant's findings and the feedback received from the community to inform any future improvement to the intersection.

- (2) No complaints have been received about safety at this intersection via Fix My Street. There have been two pieces of ministerial correspondence related to this intersection. The Hon Andrew Leigh MP and I visited the site to talk through the issues at the intersection (next to his office). A recent survey conducted by Ms Suzanne Orr MLA and shared with the Government included feedback about this intersection.
- (3) A consultant has recently been appointed to identify further improvements at the intersection. The Government will consider the consultant's findings and the feedback received from the community to inform any future improvement to the intersection.
- (4) In response to community feedback, the visibility at the intersection has been improved to meet current guidelines. This included relocating the existing bus layby approximately 8m away from the intersection as an immediate solution.

In addition, a consultant has recently been appointed to identify further improvements at the intersection. The Government will consider the consultant's findings and the feedback received from the community to inform any future improvement to the intersection.

- (5) Since 2016 a total of 17 crashes have been reported at this intersection (the table provides a summary of crashes at the intersection Gungahlin Place/ Efkarpidis Street for the period).

This rate of crashes is low compared to other similar locations.

	Total number of reported crashes	Type of crash		
		Fatal	Injury	Property Damage Only
2016 - 2020	17	0	0	17
2021 to date (preliminary data only)	0	0	0	0

Roads—maintenance (Question No 422)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) How many pothole complaints have there been, each year in the ACT, since 2016.
- (2) What is the process once Access Canberra receives a pothole complaint and how long does it take, on average, for a pothole to be fixed.
- (3) Does the Government keep a register of how many potholes there are in Canberra and their severity; if not, why not.
- (4) How much money has been spent, each year since 2016, repairing potholes.
- (5) How many accidents have been caused by potholes, per year since 2016, and can the Minister provide details including costs.

- (6) How many reports of vehicle damage caused by potholes is the Government aware of, each year since 2016, and can the Minister provide detail including cost of vehicle damage.
- (7) What other damage has been caused by potholes.
- (8) Is there a dedicated team of staff repairing potholes; if so, (a) how many staff are in that team and (b) how many staff have been employed in this unit/team each year since 2016.
- (9) What is the Government doing to improve the condition of our roads and can the Minister provide details.
- (10) What is the Government's response to the comments of the director of the National Centre for Pavement Preservation that "the cost of addressing minor deficiencies is much less than addressing major deficiencies. We have to do road maintenance when the roads are in fair-to-

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

- (1) Please refer to table below for pothole complaints received, each year in the ACT, since 2016:

Calendar Year	Number of complaints received related to potholes
2016	1589
2017	186*
2018	109*
2019	91*
2020	1292
2021 (until 6 October)	3028

*Note: Data records for 2017-2019 may be inaccurate due to transfer of data between new Asset Management Systems.

- (2) The complaints are received by Access Canberra via Fix My Street, phone calls and emails. The current average turnaround time from receiving to completion is approximately 10 business days.
- (3) The Government uses asset management software (currently Assetic) which stores every request raised against each asset (e.g. road) as well as what has been done to remedy this. Using this system the Government can monitor recurring potholes and prioritise remedies accordingly.
- (4) Pothole repair is funded from the routine road maintenance budget. The Government does not track costs for pothole repairs specifically. The number of potholes repaired is shown in the table below.

Financial Year	Number of potholes repaired
2016-2017	6036
2017-2018	4382
2018-2019	3440
2019-2020	2697
2020-2021	6378
2021-2022 (until 30/09/21)	2479

- (5) The Government does not keep records of potholes as a crash causation factor.
- (6) The Government does not keep records of all vehicle damage caused by potholes.
- (7) The Government does not keep records of all damage caused by potholes.
- (8) Since 2016, Roads ACT has had approximately seven dedicated officers to provide routine road maintenance tasks including potholes patching. Since March 2021, Roads ACT have had an additional Automated Asphalt Paving Machine team (four people total) undertaking more durable patching of potholes. Officers are assigned to Road Maintenance tasks subject to competing priorities and weather.
- (9) The Government approaches its investment in road maintenance strategically, through undertaking planned preventive maintenance, planned corrective works and reactive maintenance. The annual resurfacing program is Roads ACT's major investments in the prevention of potholes and other pavement defects. Under this program, Roads ACT has resurfaced approximately one million square metres of roads each year.
- (10) The National Centre for Pavement Preservation is a United States (US) based organisation with a focus on the maintenance of public roads in the US (US).

The ACT Government focuses its investment in road maintenance mostly in preventative works, which target roads with fair condition. These resurfacing treatments are generally designed to prevent the road condition declining from fair to poor or very poor.

Electricity—usage and costs (Question No 424)

Ms Castley asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) How much has electricity usage increased in households since 12 August 2021.
- (2) How has the system/network coped with this increased demand.
- (3) Have there been increased power outages as a result of increased demand; if so, can the Minister provide details about usual number of daily power outages compared to daily outages since 12 August 2021.

- (4) What backup plans are in place if electricity demand is too high and the system/network can't cope.
- (5) Can the Government guarantee the system/network can cope; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (6) What is an average household electricity bill and how much will bills increase due to increased demand.
- (7) How much has electricity usage decreased in commercial buildings since 12 August 2021.
- (8) How much has gas usage increased in households since 12 August 2021.
- (9) How much has gas usage decreased in commercial buildings since 12 August 2021.
- (10) Will the ACT Government offer electricity bill savings/rebates/grants for households as a result of the lockdown; if so can the Minister provide details.

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

- (1) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Specifically, the ACT Government only collects total annual supply data and does not collect information that separates household energy consumption from commercial use.

The annual supply of electricity in the ACT for 2018-19 and 2019-20 below. This data is reported to the ACT Government on an annual basis by energy utilities under the *Utilities Act 2000*.

	2018-19	2019-20
Electricity (MWh)	2,872,824	2,890,163
<i>Source: Energy Industry Levy determinations (54H – Utilities Act)</i>		

- (2) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Matters relating to energy supply in the ACT are best directed towards Evoenergy. Evoenergy owns and operates the ACT electricity network.

The National Electricity Market (NEM) Reliability Standard specifies the maximum permissible unserved energy, or the maximum allowable level of electricity at risk of not being supplied to consumers, per financial year within the NEM. The standard is set at 0.002% of the annual energy consumption for associated regions per financial year.

An Interim Reliability Measure (IRM) was introduced by the National Electricity Amendment (Interim Reliability Measure) Rule 2020 (IRM Rule). The IRM Rule and changes to the Retailer Reliability Obligation (RRO) rules are intended to support reliability in the system while more fundamental reforms are designed and implemented. The IRM allows for a maximum expectation of 0.0006% of energy demand to be unmet in a given region per financial year.

The ACT forms part of the NSW region of the NEM, and the amount of energy demand unmet in the ACT is included in the NSW figure. For 2019/20 reporting period, the amount of energy demand unmet in the NSW NEM region was negligible.

In its annual compliance report, the Utilities Technical Regulator published the following data regarding electricity supply reliability in the ACT:

Parameter	TARGET	2016–17	2017–18	2018–19	2019–20
Average Interruption Duration per outage (CAIDI) minutes	74.6	92.84	126.72	96.92	114.33
Interruption Frequency (SAIFI) Number	1.2	0.90	0.79	0.95	0.72
Average Interruption Duration per customer (SAIDI) minutes	91	83.74	99.97	92.53	81.7

- (3) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Matters relating to energy supply in the ACT are best directed towards Evoenergy. Evoenergy owns and operates the ACT electricity network.

Evoenergy reports known and planned outages in the ACT. Further information on outages, including an outages map is available on their website: www.evoenergy.com.au/outages.

- (4) Most electricity in Australia is generated, bought, sold and transported in markets that need to match supply and demand in real time. The National Electricity Market (NEM) fills this role for the east coast and southern states, including the ACT. Short supply situations are often the result of generation or transmission equipment becoming unavailable unexpectedly, such as the accident at the Callide Power station in Queensland in May. However, very hot days can provide short term challenges for electricity supply across the NEM which is managed through interjurisdictional cooperation.

The ACT Energy Emergency (Coordination) Plan (the Plan) is a supporting plan of the ACT Emergency Plan. It provides a framework for a coordinated approach to an actual or imminent event relating to the supply of electricity, gas and/or liquid fuel, locally and nationally. The Plan was reviewed during 2019 and 2020, and an updated plan was approved by the ESA Commissioner in July 2020. The ACT Energy Emergency Plan has not been activated so far in 2021.

- (5) The system security and reliability standards needed for a reliable and secure electricity market are defined in the National Electricity Rules and also by the AEMC's Reliability Panel. Australian Energy Market Operator (AEMO) and network businesses operate the system in line with these standards.
- (6) According to the AER[1], residential electricity customers in the ACT each use an average of 6,372 kWh per year and pay a \$1,793 median annual electricity bill. Residential gas customers each use an average of 42,078 MJ per year and pay a \$1,555 median annual gas bill. Any change in costs from changed electricity usage would be based on the pricing system that a customer is on.
- (7) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Matters relating to energy supply in the ACT are best directed towards Evoenergy. Evoenergy owns and operates the ACT electricity network.

- (8) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Matters relating to gas supply in the ACT are best directed towards Evoenergy. Evoenergy owns the ACT gas network.
- (9) The ACT Government does not collect data at the level of detail requested. Matters relating to gas supply in the ACT are best directed towards Evoenergy. Evoenergy owns the ACT gas network.
- (10) The ACT Government established the Utilities Hardship Fund in 2020 to support ACT energy consumers who may have difficulty paying their electricity bills as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Four electricity retailers volunteered to participate. The ACT Government co-funds \$100 vouchers for participating retailers to provide to vulnerable consumers. The fund was run in 2020-21 and is being run again for 2021-22.

For those in particular need, a government Utilities Concession is available for \$750 per year. The Government is also providing an additional \$250 rebate to eligible households for 2021-22, taking the 2021-22 payment to \$1000.

^[1] Source: <https://www.aer.gov.au/system/files/AER%20Jurisdictional%20Snapshots%202019-20.pdf>

Government—Future Jobs Fund (Question No 425)

Mr Cain asked the Minister for Economic Development, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) In relation to the Future Jobs Fund initiative in the 2020-21 Budget, can the Minister provide any modelling done to demonstrate the anticipated protection or creation of 1,000+ jobs.
- (2) What criteria will be applied when distributing grants and other support payments through the Future Jobs Fund.
- (3) Will the ACT Government fund the Future Jobs Fund from debt; if not, how will it be funded.

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

- (1) This figure is an estimate that will be dependent on a range of factors including labour market and economic conditions over the four years of the Fund.
 - (2) Criteria for the distribution of grants and other payments will be finalised as programs are developed.
 - (3) No. Funding under the Future Jobs Fund will be provided as expense and capital and sourced from revenues. These mechanisms will be used to deliver a range of activities to protect or create new jobs in high growth sectors in the ACT.
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**Justice—remandees
(Question No 427)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Attorney-General, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) Does the ACT have any goals or key indicators related to how long a remandee is incarcerated before being sentenced; if so, what are those goals or key indicators and how is the ACT currently performing; if not, why not.
- (2) Does the ACT have any goals or key indicators related to how long a remandee is incarcerated before having their next court appearance; if so, what are those goals or key indicators and how is the ACT currently performing; if not, why not.

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

- (1) No. The time between incarceration and sentencing will vary between and depend on all the facts and circumstance in individual matters.

ACT Courts are measured against twelve performance indicators in the 'Report on Government Services' framework set by the Productivity Commission, which provides information on equity, efficiency and effectiveness.

- (2) No. See the answer to question (1).

**Roads—William Hovell Drive
(Question No 432)**

Mrs Kikkert asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) At what point is the William Hovell Drive duplication design stage at, given that as at 14 May 2021, the design stage was 70 percent complete.
- (2) Given that section 6.3 of the draft environmental impact statement for the William Hovell Drive duplication states that "telephone conversations with interested Hawker residents" had taken place, how many of these telephone conversations occurred and when did these calls take place.
- (3) Was there any effort to specifically reach out to residents of (a) Elsey Street, (b) Mainoru Place, (c) Kurundi Place, (d) Florina Place and (e) Andado Place, for input on the duplication; if so, what were these efforts and how many people were contacted.

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

- (1) The detail design is at approximately 75% complete. The detail design will not be able to be fully completed until any feedback from the Environmental Impact Statement assessment has been received and incorporated.

- (2) There were three conversations which took place on 7 August 2021, 11 August 2021 and 17 August 2021.

The Environment Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has advised that 216 residents adjacent to the project received notification letters. Emails to 41 community and interest groups have also been sent.

ACT public service—superannuation (Question No 434)

Ms Lee asked the Treasurer, upon notice, on 17 September 2021 (*redirected to the Special Minister of State*):

- (1) In relation to superannuation payments in 2020-21, how much was paid across the ACT Public Service.
- (2) Further to part (1), how much was paid and to how many public servants across the funds of (a) Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme, (b) Public Sector Superannuation Scheme and (c) all other funds.
- (3) How many public servants utilised salary packaging in 2020-21, broken down by agency.
- (4) In relation to public servants that are eligible for full fringe benefits tax benefits, including public hospital staff under the Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act and Emergency Services Agency ambulance positions, how many (a) are eligible and (b) utilise salary packaging.
- (5) How many public servants utilised salary packaging in 2020-21 for (a) additional superannuation payments, (b) novated lease, (c) home mortgages or investment loans and (d) any other purpose.
- (6) How many public servants utilised long service leave in 2020-21.

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

- (1) During 2020-21 ACT Government paid the following in superannuation payments:
 - ACT Public Service (employed by directorates): \$374,336,543.87
 - ACT Public Sector (employed by public authorities such as government commissions and authorities): \$16,749,517.47
 - Combined: \$391,086,061.34.
- (2) During 2020-21 ACT Government paid the following in superannuation payments across the funds of:
 - a. Commonwealth Superannuation Scheme:
 - ACT Public Service: \$4,204,856.21
 - ACT Public Sector: \$227,750.26
 - Combined: \$4,432,606.47

- b. Public Sector Superannuation Scheme:
- ACT Public Service: \$158,510,021.42
 - ACT Public Sector: \$7,318,524.94
 - Combined: \$165,828,546.36
- c. All other funds:
- ACT Public Service: \$211,621,666.24
 - ACT Public Sector: \$9,203,242.27
 - Combined: \$220,824,908.51

- (3) A total of 12,457 ACT public servants utilised salary packaging in 2020-21. Below is the breakdown of public servants, by agency, who utilised salary packaging in 2020-21:

Canberra Health Services	6,153
Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	1,063
Community Services Directorate	367
Education Directorate	2,171
Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate	375
ACT Health Directorate	389
Justice and Community Safety Directorate	1,046
Major Projects Canberra	102
Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	791
Total	12,457

- (4) ACT public servants that are employed by Canberra Health Services and ACT Ambulance personnel are eligible to access public hospital and ambulance fringe benefits through salary packaging under the *Fringe Benefits Tax Assessment Act*.
- a. On 14 September 2021 a total of 8,376 ACT public servants were eligible; and
- b. During the financial year of 2020-21, a total of 6,633 eligible ACT public servants utilised salary packaging benefits that were only available to public hospital and ambulance personnel.
- (5) During 2020-21, the breakdown of salary packaged benefits accessed by ACT public servants by category is as follows:
- a. 7,075 ACT public servants accessed additional salary packaged superannuation payments;
- b. 2,266 ACT public servants salary packaged one or more car/s through a novated lease;
- c. 4,302 eligible public hospital and ambulance ACT public servants salary packaged to their home mortgage, residential rent, personal loans and/or everyday living expenses (through a prepaid salary packaging debit card); and
- d. 1,419 ACT public servants salary packaged other benefits.

- (6) During 2020-21 the following numbers of staff utilised long service leave:
- ACT Public Service = 2,165
 - ACT Public Sector = 95
 - Combined = 2,260
-

**Lake Tuggeranong—maintenance
(Question No 442)**

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) What is the estimated leaf load, including nutrients, of the deciduous and evergreen trees around Lake Tuggeranong.
- (2) What is the planting and replacement policy.
- (3) How is Lake Tuggeranong divided in terms of areas of fertiliser application.
- (4) How much fertiliser is applied in each of these areas.
- (5) How often does street sweeping occur in the Tuggeranong town centre.
- (6) How much of the available organics and sediment is captured.
- (7) Is the Minister able to provide any research the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate has done on the release of phosphate from organics.

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

- (1) The ACT Healthy Waterways Program is conducting ongoing research with the University of Canberra into the sources of nutrient pollution entering Lake Tuggeranong and other urban waterways, including from leaf litter. Research at Lake Tuggeranong has identified that the majority of nutrients enter through the stormwater drainage system. Very little comes from specific points in the catchment, with nutrient load spread evenly across the urban areas of the catchment. This suggests that nutrients from leaves, fertiliser, soil and animal waste may be key sources, as all are known to enter road-side stormwater drains throughout the catchment. This year's research program will focus on identifying the main sources of pollution in the catchment. Leaf litter from trees planted around the lake is thought to be of minor importance, as the stormwater system delivers far greater pollutant loads from a much larger area. For this reason we have not focused our research questions on the parklands around the lake. The H2OK: Keeping Our Waterways Healthy community education and behaviour change program has recently shifted to targeting each nutrient source separately so that we can gauge the effectiveness of each intervention. Leaf litter was selected as a suitable starting point for this approach due to the no-regrets nature of encouraging more Canberrans to see it as a valuable resource, not a nuisance.
- (2) Planting in the ACT includes both native and exotic species that have been specifically chosen to survive in Canberra's climate, while improving diversity to strengthen the

resilience of our whole urban forest. Priority planting locations include suburbs with low canopy cover, replacement of removed trees, areas nominated by the community and streets and parks where there are existing planting gaps. Requirements of specific locations, such as areas adjacent to waterways, are taken into consideration and appropriate species are selected. Recommendations from ongoing research will also be considered.

- (3) The irrigated sections of Tuggeranong Town Park (the lawns and garden beds) are the only areas around Lake Tuggeranong to receive fertiliser through an annual nutrition program.
- (4) Tuggeranong Town Park was last fertilised in 2019 as part of the turf renovation and nutrition program. 1000kg of a multi-purpose turf fertiliser was applied over seven hectares.
- (5) The suburb of Greenway is scheduled for sweeping February, May, October and December, however, intermittent works to clear debris outside of this schedule are conducted on an as needs basis.
- (6) In the 2020-21 financial year, 21,450 m³ of street sweeping material was collected from the whole of Canberra, including organics and sediment.
- (7) No. TCCS hasn't done any research.

Parks and reserves—Fadden Pond (Question No 443)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Transport and City Services, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

Why was Fadden Pond drained directly into Lake Tuggeranong and not overland, using the Healthy Waterways infrastructure (rain gardens, wetlands, etc).

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

Works at Fadden Pond were planned and consulted with the Environment Protection Authority (EPA). All works were approved by an ACT Government aquatic specialist to ensure the best environmental outcomes. Works were undertaken in accordance with an Environmental Authorisation as well as an Environmental Management Plan (EMP).

Water from the pond was not pumped directly into Lake Tuggeranong. Water was released into an overflow sump that flows into a stormwater channel that flows into Upper Stranger wetland. Treated flows from Upper Stranger Wetland flow into Tuggeranong Weir and then into Lake Tuggeranong. This is the same process that occurs when Fadden Pond overflows.

Environment—Healthy Waterways project (Question No 445)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) With the diversion of only small flows along the Village Creek for Healthy Waterways Phase 1, eg, YA20, how will that be upscaled in Healthy Waterways Phase 2 and subsequent phases, so as to have a significant impact on reducing pollutants for both the low flows and higher flows.
- (2) What modifications were made to the Gross Pollutant Traps audited as part of Healthy Waterways Phase 1 around 2014.
- (3) Has a subsequent Gross Pollutant Traps audit been undertaken; if so, what were the results and has any action been taken.

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

- (1) YA020 was designed to divert a portion of storm flows from the adjacent drain. It receives inputs from all stormflows but, with a fixed inlet pipe size, the proportion of storm flows bypassing the asset increases as flows through the drain increase.

Large water sensitive urban design assets placed low down in catchments (i.e. like YA020) cannot process all the stormflows passing down the major stormwater trunks, so are designed to allow some flows to bypass them.

This design results in the greatest amount of pollution mitigation for the investment in a water quality asset because there are flows regularly entering and being filtered by the assets. Water quality assets can also be placed higher up in catchments along smaller stormwater channels where they can process all or most of the stormflows. Pollution mitigation by such assets is more expensive (considering the amount of pollution mitigated per year per \$ of assets) because further up in catchments the assets are processing stormwater less frequently.

For Lake Tuggeranong, which is receiving significant loads of pollution in stormflows that stimulate algal blooms, it is likely that some water quality assets will need to be placed in the upper catchment to clean stormflows to an acceptable standard. This is being investigated as a part of planning activities for Stage 2 of Healthy Waterways. The Healthy Waterways team is also investigating other kinds of infrastructure that can encourage infiltration of stormwaters into catchment soils where it then gets cleansed, as occurs in a natural catchment. The combination of water quality assets, infiltration infrastructure and other initiatives like public education and improved management of public green spaces by Government are likely to be required to keep our lakes clean and healthy.

- (2) There were some minor improvements made after the last GPT Audit, including the removal of some baskets for safety reasons and the cleaning of trash racks and GPTs.
- (3) Another GPT audit is currently being conducted, but it was suspended with COVID work restrictions. When this is complete a review will be conducted of work required to address any issues raised.

Parks and reserves—Fadden Pond (Question No 446)

Ms Lawder asked the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, upon notice, on 17 September 2021 (*redirected to the Minister for Transport and City Services*):

- (1) Is the Minister able to provide the results of testing done from the monitoring of Fadden Pond clean out.
- (2) Has any monitoring been done downstream to identify any impacts.
- (3) Will Fadden Pond be restocked with native fish.

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

- (1) Testing of Fadden Pond was not conducted as it was not required under the Environmental Management Plan (EMP) approved by the Environment Protection Authority (EPA).
 - (2) Monitoring was not conducted as it was not required under the EMP approved by the EPA.
 - (3) Yes, EPSDD is planning to re-stock Fadden Pond with Golden Perch when stocks become available.
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ACT Public Service—*independence* (Question No 448)

Mrs Jones asked the Chief Minister, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) Is the ACT Public Service apolitical.
- (2) Why does the Chief Minister's photograph appear on the internal ACT Whole of Government Shared Services website at <http://sharingservices/actgovt/default.htm>.
- (3) Who decided to include a photograph of the Chief Minister on the website.
- (4) Why was a photograph of the Chief Minister included on the website.
- (5) Was the Chief Minister or his office consulted about whether or not to include a photograph of himself on the website.
- (6) Was the Chief Minister or his office consulted about which photograph should be used on the website.
- (7) Is the Chief Minister concerned that having a photograph of himself on an internal ACT Whole of Government website might lead Canberrans to doubt whether or not the ACT Public Service is encouraged to be apolitical.

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

- (1) The Code of Conduct for the ACT Public Service (ACTPS) outlines employee values and signature behaviours. The values outline that integrity in the ACTPS means being apolitical.
- (2) Internal inquiries into the Chief Minister's photograph appearing on the internal ACT Whole of Government Shared Services website concluded the following:

- <http://shareservices/actgovt/default.htm> was decommissioned on 19 September 2017 (Attachment A).
 - The Chief Minister’s image was added after the decommissioning of the site on 8 November 2017
 - The Digital Data and Technology Solutions (DDTS) web team provided information on the webmaster properties for the site. All staff listed that are still within ACT Government were contacted, however, none of the staff were able to provide information on the addition of the image to the site. The details provided by DDTS identified the staff member who uploaded the image, however, they are no longer employed by ACT Government.
 - The image photographer advised that it was taken several years ago for the ACT Budget and saved in the Whole of Government image library.
- (3) There is no record of a decision being made to include a photograph of the Chief Minister on the website.
- (4) It is unknown why a photograph of the Chief Minister is included on the website.
- (5) There is no record of the Chief Minister or his office being consulted about whether or not to include a photograph of himself on the website.
- (6) The Chief Minister or his office are not consulted or have input into the Shared Services internal website design.
- (7) The site has now been removed. ACT Public Servants are expected to follow the Code of Conduct which requires staff to be apolitical.

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

**Nurses—COVID-19
(Question No 450)**

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) How many individual nurses worked on COVID-19 wards at The Canberra Hospital during the weeks ending on (a) 22 August 2021, (b) 29 August 2021, (c) 5 September 2021, (d) 12 September 2021 and (e) 19 September 2021.
- (2) How many individual nurses who had not received a “fit test” of a protective mask within the last year, worked on a COVID-19 ward during the weeks ending (a) 22 August 2021 (b) 29 August 2021, (c) 5 September 2021, (d) 12 September 2021 and (e) 19 September 2021.

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

(1)

ICU* and COVID Ward (includes new starter/relief/casual staff)	Week ending	Number of nurses rostered (headcount)
	22 August 2021	33*
	29 August 2021	116
	5 September 2021	86
	12 September 2021	115
	19 September 2021	83

*ICU data represents the number of nurses rostered to manage COVID-19 suspected or confirmed patients.

**ICU data not included as there were no COVID-19 patients in ICU the week ending 22 August 2021.

(2)

ICU and COVID Ward (includes new starter/relief/casual staff)	Week ending	Staff rostered and not fit tested
	22 August 2021	Not available
	29 August 2021	Not available
	5 September 2021	40
	12 September 2021	16
	19 September 2021	8

ACT Health—management systems (Question No 452)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Health, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

- (1) What information technology system or other system does the ACT currently use to manage notifiable diseases.
- (2) When did the Government decide to obtain a new Notifiable Diseases Management System.
- (3) Why did the Government decide to obtain a new Notifiable Diseases Management System.
- (4) When will the Notifiable Diseases Management System, supplied under contract notice 638806, be fully implemented.

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

- (1) The ACT Health Directorate (ACTHD) uses two systems for public health management, surveillance, and investigation of notifiable diseases:
 - **NDMS** - A bespoke Digital Data and Technology solutions (DDTS) developed system known as the Notifiable Disease Management System (NDMS); and
 - **REDCap**.

The systems are integrated with the ACTHD's data repository for reporting purposes.

- (2) The 2017-18 ACT Budget provided \$398,000 for a new bespoke tool to manage notifiable diseases. The 2020-21 ACT Budget allocated \$7.515m for a new notifiable diseases response management commercial off-the-shelf (COTS) system.
- (3) The implementation of the new NDMS is aligned with the Digital Health Strategy 2021-2029, using technology to better manage health outcomes, and improving the readiness of ACTHD to manage notifiable diseases. The new system will improve access, reliability and efficiency by providing an integrated solution through increased automation, reduction of manual effort, improved reporting capability.
- (4) The system will be implemented in phases, with the first phase planned for the fourth quarter of 2021. The full solution will be implemented by the fourth quarter of 2022.

Mental health—mental health officers (Question No 460)

Mrs Jones asked the Minister for Mental Health, upon notice, on 17 September 2021:

How many persons were authorised as mental health officers under section 201 of the of the Mental Health Act 2015 on (a) 1 January 2020, (b) 1 February 2020, (c) 1 March 2020, (d) 1 April 2020, (e) 1 May 2020, (f) 1 June 2020, (g) 1 July 2020, (h) 1 August 2020, (i) 1 September 2020, (j) 1 October 2020, (k) 1 November 2020, (l) 1 December 2020, (m) 1 January 2021, (n) 1 February 2021, (o) 1 March 2021, (p) 1 April 2021, (q) 1 May 2021, (r) 1 June 2021, (s) 1 July 2021, (t) 1 August 2021 and (u) 1 September 2021.

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

The table below indicates the number of persons authorised, on the specified date, as mental health officers under section 201 of the *Mental Health Act 2015*:

	Date	Number
(a)	1 January 2020	90
(b)	1 February 2020	91
(c)	1 March 2020	93
(d)	1 April 2020	93
(e)	1 May 2020	97
(f)	1 June 2020	97
(g)	1 July 2020	97
(h)	1 August 2020	97
(i)	1 September 2020	97
(j)	1 October 2020	97
(k)	1 November 2020	96
(l)	1 December 2020	96
(m)	1 January 2021	96
(n)	1 February 2021	96
(o)	1 March 2021	76
(p)	1 April 2021	76

(q)	1 May 2021	76
(r)	1 June 2021	76
(s)	1 July 2021	76
(t)	1 August 2021	76
(u)	1 September 2021	80

In February 2021, an audit of the mental health officers was undertaken. The appointment of 20 mental health officers was revoked as the officer had either left the service; moved to a different role; or their status as a mental health officer was no longer required.
