



QUESTION TIME
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

HANSARD

Edited proof transcript

Thursday, 5 May 2022

This is an **EDITED PROOF TRANSCRIPT** of question time proceedings that is subject to further checking. Members' suggested corrections for the official *Weekly Hansard* should be lodged with the Hansard office as soon as possible. Answers to questions on notice will appear in the *Weekly Hansard*.

Thursday, 5 May 2022

Questions without notice:

Government—land release	1
Housing—Winton report	1
COVID-19 pandemic—school camps	2
Health—air quality monitoring	3
Gungahlin—swimming pool	4
Social housing—Common Ground Dickson	5
Transport Canberra—bus timetables	6
Telecommunications—reception black spots	7
Alexander Maconochie Centre—human rights	8
Government—multicultural affairs	9
Waste—Gungahlin recycling depot.....	11
Parking—mobile phone application	11
Schools—motor vehicle traffic.....	12
Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees	14

Questions without notice

Government—land release

MS LEE: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Over the past 18 months, tens of thousands of people have entered land ballots in Canberra, for only 379 blocks of land. Over the same period of time, we have seen the median house price in Canberra climb to over \$1 million. We also have the highest median rents in Australia. Minister, why does your government refuse to release enough land to meet demand in Canberra to help alleviate the housing affordability crisis?

MR GENTLEMAN: I reject the premise of Ms Lee's question. Of course the government is releasing land, and it is printed in the indicative land release program. Private sector development is expected to contribute to an average annual supply of an additional 1,500 new homes annually across Canberra in the coming years, so up to 24,000 residential dwellings are estimated to be supplied over the next five years, made up of both government and private releases.

MS LEE: Minister, is your government deliberately restricting land supply to increase government revenue?

MR GENTLEMAN: No, we are not.

MR CAIN: Minister, what do you say to the thousands of Canberrans who have been unable to secure a block of land in recent ballots?

MR GENTLEMAN: The government is working very hard to supply land where it is needed. Of course, the ILRP shows that—

Mr Cain: That is not what is happening.

MADAM SPEAKER: A member asked a question; members should have the decency to be quiet and listen.

MR GENTLEMAN: As I was saying, the ILRP shows our planned release over the next five years details those figures against population growth. We want to make sure that there is enough housing for Canberrans into the future, both released by the ACT government and by the private sector.

Housing—Winton report

MR HANSON: My question is to the Minister for Planning and Land Management. Minister, the Winton report of 2015 showed that over 90 per cent of Canberrans would prefer to live in low and medium-density housing. However, in complete contrast, your government's policy is 70 per cent infill and 30 per cent greenfield for new housing development. In practice, this means that 70 per cent of new housing is high-density housing. Minister, is your 70-30 policy meeting Canberrans' housing wants and needs?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Hanson for the question. We did quite a lot of research with the Canberra community in developing the planning strategy of 2018. A

number of research applications took place post the Winton survey to allocate land to meet the desires of the Canberra community. Many people told us how they want to live in the future, not just in the way that we have been living in the past. Some people would like to live around town centres and around the city.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, I am calling on you to not continue your interjections, please. You must have a supplementary question.

MR HANSON: I do. Minister, why won't you commission an updated version of the Winton report?

Ms Lee: You don't want to hear the truth.

MADAM SPEAKER: Ms Lee, welcome back, but please—

MR GENTLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. As I just said in my previous answer, we have done a lot of studies and a lot of surveys across Canberrans since that very dated Winton survey, and they have told us how they want to live into the future. We are responding not only to that—

Opposition members interjecting—

Dr Paterson: A point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Dr Paterson.

Dr Paterson: Madam Speaker, I can't hear what the minister is saying.

MADAM SPEAKER: I am not surprised. Members, please, come to order.

MS LEE: Minister, what do you say to the tens of thousands of Canberrans unable to purchase low or medium-density housing as a direct result of your 70-30 policy?

MR GENTLEMAN: That is not the case. Our policies—

Ms Lee: Twelve thousand people and 101 blocks.

MADAM SPEAKER: Members!

Mr Hanson: It is an Albanese press conference.

MADAM SPEAKER: Mr Hanson, you are about to be warned. We are only on the second question. I have asked for the interjections to stop on multiple occasions. My patience is wearing thin.

COVID-19 pandemic—school camps

MS LAWDER: My question is to the minister for education. Minister, why haven't

you responded to Outward Bound's request from 22 February seeking desperate financial support?

MS BERRY: Requests for funding from the ACT government go through a budget process. Ms Lawder would understand that that is the process. Those kinds of things are considered in the context of the budget every year. I understand that Outward Bound has written to the ACT government and to my office, and we will respond in due course.

MS LAWDER: Minister, why is the ACT government the only government in Australia that has specifically banned school camps without providing any compensation to school camp providers?

MS BERRY: I am trying to understand the context of the question. I think it is with regard to COVID and the impacts of COVID in our community, and the ACT government's decisions through the Chief Health Officer to—

MADAM SPEAKER: If you need the question to be repeated—

MS BERRY: I was trying to understand the context, because it was different to the first question, which was about Outward Bound; then there was a question about camps. I think it is to do with COVID. In the ACT our schools made a decision to ensure the safety of our school staff and students, and provided restrictions around operations of schools and school camps et cetera. Those restrictions are being discussed within our school communities at the moment, and I will be able to advise the Canberra community about any changes that will be made within our schools after those consultations are completed tomorrow morning.

MR HANSON: Minister, when can Outward Bound expect to find out if they have received a grant from the government, given that they were due to be announced on 14 April?

MS BERRY: I will take that question on notice.

Health—air quality monitoring

MR DAVIS: My question is to the Minister for Health. Minister, the pollution caused by wood smoke is an issue that has been raised with me regularly by my constituents in Tuggeranong. I note with interest the ACT government is undertaking a trial of four different models of low-cost air quality sensors to check the accuracy of data. Could you please update the Assembly on what this new dataset is telling us so far?

MS STEPHEN-SMITH: I thank Mr Davis for the question. He is, of course, correct; ACT Health is conducting a trial of four different models of low-cost sensors and has been since early 2021. The sensors have been located at existing air quality monitoring stations at Florey and Monash to compare the quality of the sensor data against the reference instruments that are already operated by ACT Health. Preliminary analysis of the data from the sensors has been carried out, with further analysis to assess the performance of the sensors—for example, seasonal variation. That is ongoing.

The trial is scheduled to be completed in the second half of 2022. The current trial aims to evaluate the reliability and the accuracy of the sensors, and it does not evaluate deployment or placement of the sensors. A pilot of sensor deployment would follow after the completion of the current trial, dependent on the assessment of the initial pilot findings and available funding.

ACT Health is also working with other jurisdictions to consider the potential role that low-cost sensors could play into the future. I do not have the specific information that Mr Davis was after in terms of the outcomes, but we will be able to report that back when the trial is completed in the second half of 2022.

MR DAVIS: Minister, when do we expect the trial to be completed and will all findings be publicly published?

MS DAVIDSON: As I have said, the trial is scheduled to be completed in the second half of this year, 2022. Of course we will be very happy to make that information publicly available when it is finalised.

MR BRADDOCK: Minister, has the government received any advice as to the placement of air quality monitors in my electorate of Yerrabi?

MS DAVIDSON: I thank Mr Braddock for the supplementary question. As I indicated earlier, this current trial is looking at the reliability and the accuracy of the low-cost sensors. There will be a separate process once we understand what that accuracy and reliability is, following the conversations with other jurisdictions around how they are deploying low-cost sensors, to consider where it would be most appropriate to deploy those sensors in the ACT.

Gungahlin—swimming pool

MS CASTLEY: My question is to the Minister for Sport. Minister, this week you provided an update on Gungahlin's closed 50-metre pool, saying the government will be shutting the swimming program pool for routine maintenance, and work to fix the 50-metre pool would be put on hold until the program pool maintenance is done. The 50-metre pool has been closed for more than two years since March 2020. In your letter you say you appreciate the community's 'understanding and support'. Minister, will Gungahlin's 50-metre pool open this year?

MS BERRY: I thank Ms Castley for her question. I know that she has regularly posted on her Facebook page. I hear that she has posted on her Facebook page about her concerns for the Gungahlin pool and the community's frustration at the repairs that are occurring at the pool and the ongoing maintenance that occurs there. It is our aim to have the pool opened in August this year, assuming everything goes well with the maintenance of the program pool and the continuing repairs of the 50-metre pool.

MS CASTLEY: Minister, do you realise the Gungahlin community is not 'understanding and supportive' but irate and, as one local put it, 'My blood is boiling.'

MS BERRY: Yes, I can understand the frustration of the Gungahlin community about

the closure of their pool. The government is committed to ensuring that the pool is repaired and that the 50-metre pool will be repaired by August this year. I understand the frustration of the community; however, I know that they will understand that the repairs and maintenance of that pool is important to the longevity of that pool and that it continues to provide a sport and recreation environment for the Gungahlin and Canberra community more broadly.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, when will the children's programs recommence at this pool?

MS BERRY: It is intended that the program pool will close in two weeks' time for the repairs and maintenance of that pool to occur. The maintenance in that pool needs to occur prior to the completion of the repairs to the 50-metre pool because of the potential issue around moisture affecting the repairs and the tiling of the 50-metre pool. It is expected that the program pool will remain closed for eight to 10 weeks.

Social housing—Common Ground Dickson

MS ORR: My question is to the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development. Minister, can you please update the Assembly on the Common Ground Dickson development?

MS BERRY: I am very happy to provide an update on Common Ground in Dickson. The delivery of Common Ground Dickson was a 2016 ACT Labor election commitment. That was reconfirmed during the last election. I am really proud to say that this model of housing support has been implemented across states and territories, across the country, and this is our second in the ACT. It provides a mix of social and affordable long-term secure housing with onsite support and community services.

The development includes residential units with a mix of one, two and three-bedroom dwellings, as well as communal areas, community spaces, onsite support services and, once finalised, a social enterprise business. Common Ground Dickson is designed to provide long-term, high-quality housing options and support for people experiencing or at risk of homelessness. This project supports the ACT government's commitment to provide secure housing options for households of all incomes and to grow the supply of affordable rental housing in the ACT through investment in community housing.

Common Ground Dickson is almost finished. It is due for completion in the middle of 2022, with the allocation of properties and moving in of new tenants to follow. If you drive past the site now, you will see the significant progress that has happened since we broke ground at the end of 2020. None of us can wait for the next step, when residents will start moving into Common Ground and call it their home.

MS ORR: Minister, what kinds of services and support will be provided to residents at Common Ground?

MS BERRY: I was very happy to announce that Community Housing Canberra has been selected to deliver a holistic service model for Common Ground, including tenancy support and property management services for 40 properties in the new

Common Ground multi-unit development at Dickson. Community Housing Canberra is a home-grown provider in the ACT, providing property and tenancy management.

As part of this arrangement, CHC will also partner with YWCA Canberra to deliver a range of onsite services to support individual tenant needs. This will include education, employment and financial support, as well as mental and physical health. YWCA Canberra is a trusted organisation and has a longstanding record of delivering high-quality, person-centred, gender and trauma-informed support services to the ACT community. This includes for older women and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness, and women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

The services that both CHC and the YWCA will provide will be integral to the community that will develop at Common Ground Dickson. CHC will provide tenancy and property services to tenants related to day-to-day activities such as rent and maintenance. The YWCA will provide those critical support services that will enable residents living in Common Ground to stay connected with work, education and health, as well as other supports. With both organisations working together, this will give the residents at Common Ground Dickson a really fair crack at happiness in their new homes.

MR PETTERSSON: Minister, how does the Common Ground development contribute to the ACT government's priority of delivering more social housing?

MS BERRY: The ACT government is the ACT's largest social landlord, with nearly 12,000 dwelling homes and more than 20,000 Canberrans. It is no surprise, with a Chief Minister who grew up in public housing and a Deputy Chief Minister in public housing, that our commitment to providing public housing in the ACT continues.

In addition to the Common Ground Dickson development, the ACT government is in the middle of the largest investment in the history of self-government to increase and improve the amount of public housing and to provide essential housing for low-income Canberrans at risk of homelessness.

In the 2022-23 ACT budget, \$100 million was committed to increase social and affordable housing in the ACT, including an additional \$80 million for public housing maintenance over the next three years, and \$19 million in additional funding for the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program to support the delivery of the government's commitment to provide 400 additional public housing dwellings and renew another 1,000.

This funding is a strong statement that the ACT government is making to commit to growing, renewing and maintaining public housing. In particular, the maintenance funding injection reflects our commitment to continuously improving maintenance services, to provide great homes that suit the diverse needs of tenants.

Transport Canberra—bus timetables

MR PARTON: My question is to the Minister for Transport and City Services. Minister, despite Canberra no longer being in lockdown and people getting on with their lives, we are still running an interim bus timetable. You have repeatedly said that

this is due to bus drivers being required to isolate due to COVID. Minister, in response to a question on notice during annual reports, it was revealed that for the three weeks from 7 February, only 129 days of COVID leave were taken. This equates to only about 26 drivers isolating or taking COVID leave during this time. Minister, why is our bus network so poorly organised that the unexpected absence of less than 30 drivers in a three-week period means it cannot operate to its maximum capacity?

MR STEEL: No, we have had around 30 bus drivers away, on average, over the last few weeks. That means we are not in a position at this point to be able to move back from an interim timetable. Like many industries, workers have been furloughed not just because they have COVID-19 themselves but because they are also caring for others in their family who have COVID-19, and may be required to take leave.

Our focus—and I have been very clear about this to the opposition spokesperson and the broader Canberra community throughout this time—is that we want to deliver a reliable public transport system that people can depend on, based on the timetable that is currently in place, while we do have a period, unfortunately, when there are large numbers of bus drivers who are needing to take leave. Of course, we will continue to monitor this, and bring back the full timetable as it was prior to the pandemic as soon as we can. But we are not in a position at this point to be able to do that. Of course, we will monitor things as the pandemic, which is not over, progresses.

MR PARTON: Minister, can you tell Canberrans when you will restore the full bus timetable, or are there no actual plans to do this?

MR STEEL: When we can deliver the reliable services that the community expects, with the number of bus drivers that we have. Based on the latest health advice and on where the pandemic is up to—noting that we are heading into a winter period, when there may be a level of disease in the community, combined with flu—that may impact on drivers taking leave. We have been very clear that our focus is on reliability. That is why we have in place the interim bus timetable which has delivered that reliability, unlike other bus services around Australia, where we have seen driver leave impacting on the reliability of bus services.

MS CASTLEY: Minister, how do you expect people to get on buses, as you have asked them to do, as a solution to the congestion problem that you have caused, when there will not be enough buses for everyone to get on?

MR STEEL: We have a very frequent, reliable bus service that people can use right now, through the interim timetable. It does provide a good level of frequency, particularly on rapid services, as well as on route services. It is at a slightly lower level than what was in place prior to the pandemic, but we are looking forward to stepping that up when we can, once we have the certainty that we have the driver workforce to be able to deliver those reliable services for people to use. I certainly have not been out there spruiking, and welcoming people back at this point. We have taken a very cautious approach, based on the health advice. But the service is there for people who want to use it, and it is frequent and reliable.

Telecommunications—reception black spots

MRS KIKKERT: My question is to the Chief Minister. Chief Minister, in 2020 I informed you of the poor mobile reception in west Macgregor and parts of Dunlop. I also asked you what could be done by the ACT government to improve the situation. In your response you said that the ACT government had facilitated talks between Icon Water and Telstra, which resulted in the installation of a mobile reception tower near the Molonglo water treatment plan. You also said that ACT government representatives would discuss the issue with the mobile carriers. Chief Minister, what was the result of the ACT government's discussion with the mobile carriers about this issue?

MR BARR: I obviously did not undertake that discussion myself. I will seek advice from officials and provide some information for Mrs Kikkert.

MRS KIKKERT: Chief Minister, why are there still areas at west Macgregor that periodically have no bars of reception more than 10 years after blocks were sold to residents?

MR BARR: I do not necessarily feel I need to give Mrs Kikkert a lesson in constitutional responsibilities around telecommunications. Mrs Kikkert, that is a federal government responsibility. Your party has been in power for the last decade and has failed to address this specific issue. Communications are a federal government responsibility. If you have not worked that out yet, Mrs Kikkert, and you have been in this place for this long, that is a problem. You might be aware, Mrs Kikkert, that there is not a minister for communications at a state and territory level in any parliament because it is a federal responsibility.

Opposition members interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Members!

Mrs Kikkert interjecting—

MADAM SPEAKER: Mrs Kikkert, your colleague is on the floor trying to get a sup in.

MR CAIN: Minister, what is stopping the ACT government from lobbying for such a sensible change?

MR BARR: We all have the opportunity to lobby. I do take the opportunity to meet with the telcos and we do raise issues of coverage, but I do not have a legal or legislative or constitutional power to require them to deliver mobile phone towers in particular areas. I undertook, in response to Mrs Kikkert's representations, to have the issue raised. But seriously, to suggest that this is a territory government responsibility and it has taken 10 years for anything to happen when your party has been in office for a decade and failed to address the issue. Why do you not raise the question with your Senate colleague Zed Seselja, who is supposed to represent ACT residents on this very issue?

Alexander Maconochie Centre—human rights

MR BRADDOCK: My question is directed to the Minister for Corrections. Minister, in protecting the human rights of detainees, could you please give us an update about the progress of utilising body scanners to replace strip searches in the AMC?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Mr Braddock for the question. It is quite important that we do whatever we can to provide the best human rights compatibility that we can in our prison. Through that, as Mr Braddock suggested, we are purchasing some scanners that will alleviate the situation. There may still be a need to do some searches, depending on the particular situation, but I am pleased to say that the purchases are occurring, and we are moving to install those as soon as we can.

MR BRADDOCK: Minister, can you please explain in which situations a strip search will need to be undertaken.

MR GENTLEMAN: ACT Corrective Services has recently finalised a new searching policy. This new policy makes it clear that there are no grounds for mandatory or regular strip searching of detainees, including on entry to the crisis support unit. The policy also reiterates that strip searching may only occur where there is no option for a suitable less intrusive search—in other words, at the last resort. The policy has a specific focus on appropriate decision making on a case-by-case basis for searches of persons, with the consideration of the detainees' human rights embedded within the decision making.

MS CLAY: I have a supplementary question. How does ACT Corrective Services ensure that detainees' human rights are respected?

MR GENTLEMAN: We do respect the human rights of all detainees, and we are committed to upholding our responsibilities in relation to the living conditions, as outlined in the Corrections Management Act 2007. As minister, I continue to work with the corrections commissioner to ensure the welfare of detainees. Together we will continue to review past practices, which, on occasion, did not meet standards, including human rights. These were before my time as minister, and before the current commissioner's tenure. But it is also important that we respect the human rights of our workforce and ensure that they have a safe workplace. The Blueprint for Change process has been an important part of this.

Government—multicultural affairs

MR PETERSSON: My question is to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs. Minister, given the ACT government's intention to support multicultural communities in light of this year's National Multicultural Festival postponement, can you please provide an update on some of the actions and activities undertaken so far this year?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Mr Pettersson for the question. Following on from the positive engagement with our local multicultural communities at Australia Day and Canberra Day events this year, the ACT government is continuing to support our culturally and linguistically diverse city through a host of recent and ongoing initiatives.

I recently announced the provision of \$180,000 in funding, through the 2021-22 Participation (Multicultural) Grants Program, to over 50 community organisations. Projects funded through these grants range from refugee scholarship initiatives to multicultural sports tournaments. They will support local groups to promote community inclusion and to build social connections.

This is in addition to almost \$180,000 from this year's National Multicultural Festival grants, which have supported over 60 community organisations to deliver events and activities like the upcoming European Festival, later this month, and many other national, cultural and faith-based celebrations throughout 2022. Most recently, several Ramadan celebrations have been held across the territory, including an ACT government Iftar dinner.

I am pleased to also share that applications are currently open for the Multicultural Ambassadors program and this year's Multicultural Awards.

MR PETERSSON: Minister, can you please provide details about the ACT government's Iftar dinner and other activities related to Ramadan?

MS CHEYNE: We proudly host the ACT government Ramadan Iftar dinner each year to celebrate and acknowledge the importance of Ramadan as the holiest month in the Islamic calendar. This event also recognises the more than 5,000 members of the Islamic faith who call Canberra home.

The 2022 ACT government Ramadan Iftar dinner was held on 14 April at the Theo Notaras Multicultural Centre and was attended by over 100 representatives from the local community, business and government organisations. I extend my thanks to Minister Stephen-Smith, who was able to fill in for me when I had to attend to a family matter. The Community Services Directorate will continue to work closely with leaders from the Canberra Muslim community to plan, deliver and co-host this key event in future.

Several Ramadan celebrations were supported by multicultural participation grants and National Multicultural Festival grants. I would like to acknowledge the participation of members from right across the chamber at Iftar dinners organised across Canberra over the last month.

DR PATERSON: Minister, what is the difference between the Multicultural Ambassadors and Multicultural Awards programs, and how can the community get involved?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Dr Paterson for the question. Multicultural Ambassadors are those who support Canberra's international engagement strategy, using their links and their networks to promote the business and investment opportunities available across Canberra and the ACT region to current and emerging international markets. The ACT government is currently looking for people to fill two ambassador roles, for a term of up to three years. People with strong knowledge of and links to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand or South Korea are encouraged to apply. Applications close on Tuesday, 7 May.

Our annual Multicultural Awards recognise and celebrate the significant achievements and contributions of local individuals and organisations who have helped to create a thriving, welcoming and inclusive multicultural community. The four award categories are: Multicultural Individual Champion, Community Organisation (Multicultural Champion), Outstanding Excellence Award for Diversity and Inclusion and the Multicultural Art, Media or Culture Award. Applications for those awards close on 31 May. I am pleased that the winners will be announced at the ACT Multicultural Awards on Tuesday, 19 July, including the appointees to the Multicultural Ambassadors program. Thank you.

Waste—Gungahlin recycling depot

MR MILLIGAN: Madam Speaker, my question is to the minister for city services. Minister Steel, your government wants us to be savvy recyclers, but have you seen the state of the Gungahlin recycling depot? Rubbish was left outside the main gate as it was too full, and access to the facility was blocked and broken. Minister, how often does this facility get emptied?

MR STEEL: I will take that question on notice.

MR MILLIGAN: Minister, how often is maintenance carried out in these facilities?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for his question. We do have a contract to manage those facilities. I will come back to the member on the detail of that question when I can.

MS CASTLEY: Minister, how do you expect people to recycle and do the right thing when these facilities are overflowing and are not properly maintained?

MR STEEL: I thank the member for her question. I will be responding to the previous questions, which will answer her supplementary.

Parking—mobile phone application

MR CAIN: My question is to the Minister for Business and Better Regulation. Minister, why does it cost Canberrans more to pay digitally for their parking via the easy pay app than to pay at a pay parking machine and for the same amount of time?

MS CHEYNE: I thank Mr Cain for the question. The EasyPark app is one option that drivers can use when paying for parking in the ACT. It is important to note that drivers can still pay using a credit or a debit card, or indeed with cash, at a parking meter.

We have had a transition to this new parking app. Previously we were with Park Mobile and we are now with EasyPark. That is part of the arrangement that we have with Duncan Solutions, who hold the contract for the supply, installation and maintenance of pay parking ticket machines for the ACT government-operated pay parking areas.

As part of the contract requirements, Duncan are required to provide a pay by phone

option. Earlier this year we were informed that Park Mobile had been acquired by the EasyPark group. Park Mobile was discontinued and now there has been a change to EasyPark. This is one option that community members can use to pay for parking, as I mentioned, and it is used in all states or territories.

MR CAIN: Minister, why would you impose a barrier in this extra charge to the use of a digital pay parking option?

MS CHEYNE: This is not a charge that is imposed by the ACT government. EasyPark is its own business. EasyPark operates in a pay-after system, which means that customers do not pay in advance for their parking. They only pay for the time they have used. Being a user-pay system, this means that there are additional costs incurred by users through transaction and commission fees that are applied by EasyPark, which is a matter for EasyPark. There are different pricing models that people can engage with.

What I am very pleased to say is that we have had a very strong take-up of EasyPark. In fact, Mr Cain will be interested to know that the average spend with EasyPark since its inception has been \$4.93. That compares to Park Mobile where the average spend was \$7.37. So what that tells us is that, with the transition to EasyPark and being a pay-after system, people are taking advantage of that and paying less for their parking than having to pay for it in increments. So even with the extra charges that EasyPark applies, people are saving money.

MS LAWDER: Minister, when does the government's contract with EasyPark expire and will a local Canberra business be considered to provide this service in future?

MS CHEYNE: As I said in my previous answer, this is a contract that we have with Duncan. Duncan works with EasyPark as its provider. EasyPark is the option for pay parking, the digital solution. That is applied right across Australia and, indeed, by our colleagues from the National Capital Authority. One of the benefits of having EasyPark within ACT government-owned facilities is that there is now just the one mobile app for all parking. So you only need to have the one app rather than two. Again, that has been received very favourably.

Schools—motor vehicle traffic

MS CLAY: My question is the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs. Minister, I often speak to parents about traffic congestion around schools. A constituent recently asked me what we are doing to stop cars from idling at schools at drop-off and pick-up. Idling cars really drive up our climate emissions and they are a real barrier to encouraging more children and parents to walk and ride to school. I lodged this constituent question with you, and you told me about Ride and Walk to School program and the Active Streets for Schools program, and that is great, but I was really after information about idling cars. Do we have yet any education that we are delivering through our schools or to our school communities to discourage cars idling around schools?

MR STEEL: I will take the question because the Active Streets for Schools program with Transport Canberra and City Services does work with the Education Directorate

to get information out to families to encourage children to walk and ride to school, but also, to encourage better behaviours around the use of vehicles, particularly around parking and safe access to school grounds for pick up and drop offs.

So that work is happening. We work with all schools on that and, where particular issues are raised at particular schools where the community has raised specific problems that are occurring, we work with them as a priority to make sure that we put in place new safe arrangements that also mean, hopefully, people who are taking their children to school in a vehicle are not idling.

There is also a range of different options that we are promoting such as 'Kiss and Drop,' where we are encouraging people to drop their off a little bit further away from the school, around a kilometre, so that they children can then walk the rest of the way to school safely and that, of course, reduces congestion around the school but also helps to reduce the need to idle in front of a school.

MS CLAY: Minister, are you using signage, letters to parents and notes in the school newsletters?

MS BERRY: Thank you, I will take that question. Yes, of course, schools communicate with their school community in a range of different ways about these other options that can be used by parents who are able to make those options. As Minister Steel said or implied, our school communities are very busy environments during pick up and drop.

However, there are these options in place for those families who can make the change to do ride or walk to school programs, as well as the Active Streets for Schools programs as well and the Kiss and Drop. So of course, we encourage schools to provide that information to families. Of course, schools manage their drop off and pick up differently, depending on their physical layout and their community needs. But for those families that can make the options, we provide that information about what those options might be, so that they can reduce that idling and that busyness in car parks.

MR DAVIS: Minister of the active transport options you mention in those programs, how many schools are actively taking up those programs?

MS BERRY: Well I would suggest that it is available for every school to take up those options and there are options around Active Streets for Schools and ways for students and families to walk to school. Of course, during COVID and the changes to work environments in the ACT, parents and families were able to take that option more often, while working from home.

As people are returning to the workplace, it has meant that there has been a busier environment around our school parking and drop offs. So we would continue to encourage families to make those options where they can, at different school environments, it is not always the case that a family can do that.

Mr Davis: Point of order.

MADAM SPEAKER: Resume your seat please. Point of order.

MR DAVIS: I am more than happy if the minister needs to take it on notice, but I would like the specific number, how many schools are these programs currently running in?

MADAM SPEAKER: The minister has a minute. She is in order though; she is talking about the availability of the options within schools. Do you have more to add?

Alexander Maconochie Centre—female detainees

DR PATERSON: Minister, can you please update the Assembly on what programs and supports are available for women at the AMC?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Dr Paterson for the question and for continued interest in welfare of women at the AMC. There are a range of programs available at the AMC that are specifically designed for women focusing in a range of areas, those include wellness, education and return to work, Indigenous initiatives and harm minimisation interventions relating to drug and alcohol misuse as well.

To improve on case planning, the through care team has recently installed a women's pre-release coordinator in the women's area who works specifically with female detainees for six months prior to their release. A reintegration needs assessment tool has also been developed. This enables staff to develop a reintegration case plan for each detainee, focused on supporting them as they transition back into the community.

Another great initiative that Minister Berry has provided support for in her role as minister for women is the ACT women's return to work grants program. For women who have been out of the workforce for an extended period, it supports them onto pathways to meaningful and stable employment. Detainees have access to a new work ready program that provides skills to complete their CV and set some goals for employment and pathways to employment. There is also a dedicated service provider that provides tailored recreational activities to women detainees.

Following disruptions caused by COVID, ACT Corrective Service is now rebuilding the program schedule. The aim is to run the program each day, which includes content from Toora's Coming Home program, the Elders Healing Program, Shine for Kids and Pathways From prison group.

DR PATERSON: Minister, how will the Integrated Offender Management framework support women at the AMC?

MR GENTLEMAN: Thank you, Madam Speaker. Well following extensive consultation in the integrated offender management framework was finalised in December 2021 and the IOM framework ensures a cooperative and coordinated approach in working with a detainee from entry into custody to transition back into community is achieved.

The development of the women's focused implementation plan has been completed with a number of existing and new initiatives who are well into development

implementation as well. Its focused implementation has been working through the IOM for women in the first instance, and has ensured a focus on the specific factors and needs of women right through the stages of consultation, design, development and now implementation.

So I am pleased to say that Corrections has done some excellent work in designing and delivering new psycho-educational and criminogenic programs to the women in the AMC. Since December 2021, 32 female detainees have been enrolled in the brief intervention programs designed to improve knowledge and coping skills.

The Explore, Question, Understand, Investigate, Practice, Succeed suite of offence specific programs targeting addiction, aggression, family violence and general offending also commenced in March 2022. A total of nine sentenced female detainees are currently participating in that program.

Corrections has also been working to expand its offering of drug and alcohol services for women. A pilot of the dialectical behavioural therapy was conducted during late 2021 and is currently being tailored for women. This program provides alcohol and drug program intervention at the earliest point in a detainee's sentence. So enhancing the detainee's commitment and readiness for more high intensity therapeutic community programs, with support post release. The reintegration needs assessment tool—*(time expired)*.

MS ORR: Minister, how is the Yeddung Mura alternative reporting site supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been released from the AMC on parole?

MR GENTLEMAN: I thank Ms Orr for the question. We have met, of course, with Yeddung Mura and really encourage the work they are doing. The government is committed to reducing overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system, and post release support is a critical component of that goal.

An alternative off-site parole reporting option for Indigenous clients was recently introduced in partnership with Yeddung Mura. This means that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on bail, parole or community corrections order may now report to ACT CS at a particular community site as an alternative to traditional reporting arrangements.

So Yeddung Mura external reporting site operates every Tuesday in the suburb of Fadden, and also available on site are other relevant cultural services and the valuable opportunity to yarn with Aboriginal elders. Prior to this alternative reporting site at Fadden, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients could only report to ACT Corrective Services at the London Circuit site in Civic.

The Yeddung Mura site provides a safe and culturally appropriate point of contact with ACT Corrective Service, without compromising the client's feelings of safety and their emotional wellbeing. Since the site reopened last November, after the COVID-19 lockdown, more referrals have been coming in and the growth has been credited to word of mouth, through the community and the staff who have discussed it

with their clients.

I am advised that the feedback from people who attend each week has been quite positive and that clients have stated they feel a lot more comfortable and have less anxiety with attending their supervision.

Mr Barr: Further questions can be placed on the notice paper.