



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**2012–2013–2014–2015**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 114**

**THURSDAY, 17 SEPTEMBER 2015**

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**1** The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mrs Dunne) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**2 RATES AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

Mr Barr (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Rates Act 2004*.

*Papers:* Mr Barr presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to section 37—Compatibility statement, undated.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Barr moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Smyth) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**3 SPENT CONVICTIONS (HISTORICAL HOMOSEXUAL CONVICTIONS EXTINGUISHMENT) AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

Mr Corbell (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Spent Convictions Act 2000* to extinguish convictions for certain homosexual offences, and for other purposes.

*Papers:* Mr Corbell presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to section 37—Compatibility statement, undated.



Title read by Clerk.

Mr Corbell moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Hanson—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **4 EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' BUSINESS—PRECEDENCE**

Ordered—That Executive Members' business be called on forthwith.

#### **5 HEALTH (PATIENT PRIVACY) AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

Mr Rattenbury, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Health Act 1993*.

*Paper:* Mr Rattenbury presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Rattenbury moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Corbell—Minister for Health) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

#### **6 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

Mr Smyth moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mrs Jones for this sitting for family reasons.

Question—put and passed.

#### **7 HEALTH, AGEING, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY DEPUTY CHAIR—PAPER**

Mr Wall (Deputy Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services.

*Paper:* Mr Wall, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper:

Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—8<sup>th</sup> Assembly—Period 1 January to 30 June 2015.

#### **8 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS—PRECEDENCE**

Ordered—That Executive business be called on forthwith.

#### **9 REFUGEES AND ASYLUM SEEKERS—A.C.T. RESPONSE**

Ms Berry (Minister for Multicultural Affairs), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes the:

- (a) ACT Government's longstanding commitment to the rights of refugees to seek protection from persecution;
- (b) compassion shown by the ACT community to generations of refugees who have settled in Canberra and the vital role of local specialist migrant and refugee services in supporting this process;

- (c) commitment of the ACT Government to ensuring refugees and asylum seekers have access to government services which support their inclusion in the community;
  - (d) broad community response across Canberra and Australia in support of offering protection to a significant number of refugees fleeing the conflicts in Syria and Iraq; and
  - (e) successful resettlement in Canberra in 1999 of a number of families fleeing the conflict in Kosovo;
- (2) welcomes the:
- (a) Australian Government's commitment to offer 12 000 additional places to refugees displaced by the conflicts in Syria and Iraq;
  - (b) ACT Government's commitment to play its part in settling and supporting a number of these refugees; and
  - (c) ACT community's willingness to welcome and support refugees that come to the ACT; and
- (3) calls on the Australian Government to consider a sustained increase to Australia's humanitarian intake.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## **10 EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE**

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes the:
- (a) recent Australian Government cuts to Community Support program and the detrimental impact it has had on Family Day Care in the ACT;
  - (b) impact the continued uncertainty over Australian Government policy is having on ACT families and the need for greater clarity;
  - (c) inconsistent approaches the Australian Government is taking between Family Day Care providers and nannies in relation to qualifications and compliance measures;
  - (d) need to ensure consistent high quality in early childhood education and care;
  - (e) 94% growth in the number of long day care places since 2001, including an anticipated 1200 places in the 12 months from October 2014; and
  - (f) ACT Government's consistent support of the early childhood education sector through land release, targeted capital funding for centre expansions and scholarships for the workforce; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) work with the Australian Government to ensure any changes to early childhood education and care policy allow all families to access affordable and high quality early childhood education;

- (b) support the early childhood education and care sector to ensure all Canberra families have access to affordable high quality services; and
- (c) work with the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to ensure consistent expectation in regards to qualifications and compliance in early childhood education and care.

Ms Lawder moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “notes”, substitute:

- “(a) that, since 1 July 2011, the Federal Government has funded more than \$1.044 billion over three years into the Family Support Program. The Family Support Program provides services across Australia to support families, improve children’s wellbeing and safety, and build more resilient communities;
  - (b) the Federal Government’s Community Support Program provides funding to approved family day care services in the ACT;
  - (c) support provided to approved family day care services in the ACT under the Federal Government’s Community Support Program includes set up assistance, sustainability assistance, operational support and regional travel assistance;
  - (d) the Federal Government’s Nanny Pilot Programme is part of its \$40 billion investment in child care support over the next four years. This includes an additional \$3.5 billion for the Federal Government’s Jobs for Families child care package; and
  - (e) the ACT Government has a role to play in ensuring family day care in the ACT is more affordable and accessible to everyday Canberra families; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) conduct an independent review of family day care and child care in the ACT that has the following objectives:
    - (i) to investigate and recommend practical steps to reduce the costs of family day care and child care services on everyday Canberra families; and
    - (ii) to investigate and recommend practical steps to increase the number of places available in family day care and child care centres in the ACT; and
  - (b) report back to the Assembly in November 2015 on progress.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 7	
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth	Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Ms Berry	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Lawder		Mr Corbell	

And so it was negatived.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put and passed.

**11 CRIMES (CHILD SEX OFFENDERS) AMENDMENT BILL 2015**

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—

Debate resumed.

*Paper:* Mr Corbell (Attorney-General) presented a revised explanatory statement to the Bill.

Question—That this Bill be agreed to in principle—put and passed.

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*Detail Stage*

Clause 1—

Debate adjourned (Mr Hanson—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**12 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**13 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 14—REVIEW OF AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORTS: NO. 7 OF 2014: 2013-14 FINANCIAL AUDITS; AND NO. 7 OF 2013: 2012-13 FINANCIAL AUDITS—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Barr (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 14—*Review of Auditor-General's Reports: No. 7 of 2014: 2013-14 Financial Audits; and No. 7 of 2013: 2012-13 Financial Audits*—Government response—

and moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

**14 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

Mr Barr (Treasurer) presented the following papers:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 16B—Instruments authorising the rollover of undisbursed appropriation, including statements of reasons—

Public Trustee for the ACT, dated 25 August 2015.

Office of the Legislative Assembly, dated 31 August 2015.

**15 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 11—REPORT ON ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2013-14—RECOMMENDATION 10—UPDATE ON AVIATION PARTNERSHIP AND DIRECT SERVICES FOR INTERNATIONAL FLIGHTS—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Mr Barr (Minister for Tourism and Events) presented the following paper:

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 11—*Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2013-14—Recommendation 10—Update on aviation partnership and direct services for international flights*—Tabling statement—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.

**16 AUDITOR-GENERAL'S ACT—AUDITOR-GENERAL'S REPORT NO. 5/2015—  
INTEGRITY OF DATA IN THE HEALTH DIRECTORATE—  
GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER**

Mr Corbell (Minister for Health) presented the following paper:

Auditor-General's Act, pursuant to subsection 17(6)—Auditor-General's Report No. 5/2015—Integrity of Data in the Health Directorate—Government response—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the paper.

**17 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE—DISCUSSION—MODERNISING  
AND STRENGTHENING SCHOOLS IN ESTABLISHED SUBURBS**

The Assembly was informed that Dr Bourke, Mr Doszpot, Ms Fitzharris, Mr Hanson (Leader of the Opposition), Ms Lawder, Ms Porter and Mr Wall had proposed that matters of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion. In accordance with the provisions of standing order 79, the Speaker had determined that the matter proposed by Ms Fitzharris be submitted to the Assembly, namely, "The importance of modernising and strengthening schools in Canberra's established suburbs".

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

**18 ADJOURNMENT**

Ms Burch (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 4.51 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, 22 September 2015 at 10 a.m.

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**MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mrs Jones\*.

\*on leave

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**M M KIERMAIER**  
Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly