



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2012

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 3

WEDNESDAY, 28 NOVEMBER 2012

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 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mr Corbell for this sitting for personal reasons.

Question—put and passed.

3 PETITION—MINISTERIAL RESPONSE

The Clerk announced that the following response to a petition had been lodged by:

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training), dated 27 November 2012—Response to petition No. 138, lodged by Ms Hunter on 22 August 2012, concerning the recognition of dyslexia as a learning disability.

4 COST OF LIVING PRESSURES

Mr Seselja (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the increasing cost of living pressures on Canberra families;
- (b) that the 2012-13 Budget Cost of Living Statement documented an average increase in ACT Government rates and charges on Canberra families to more than \$9 000;
- (c) that the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement does not act to reduce the cost of living pressures on all Canberra families;



- (d) the Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement will result in significant cost increases for Canberra families through the 90% Renewable Energy Target; and
 - (e) that ACT Labor's tax changes will increase cost of living pressures through massively increasing property rates by shifting \$350 million per annum in foregone revenue in today's dollars on to rates, amounting to an average increase of \$2 500 per household; and
- (2) calls on the Government to outline how it will lower cost of living pressures on Canberra families.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes:
 - (a) that while Canberra has the highest average incomes in Australia, there are many Canberrans experiencing real financial hardship;
 - (b) the transition to greater use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and providing more sustainable transport options will generate significant savings for Canberra households in the short-term and over the coming decades; and
 - (c) the tax reforms implemented in the 2012-2013 Budget:
 - (i) encourage more affordable housing;
 - (ii) reduce the cost of doing business; and
 - (iii) improve the economic efficiency of our taxation system; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) implement targeted assistance measures to help Canberrans most in need;
 - (b) reduce Canberra's reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels for electricity and transport; and
 - (c) report to the Assembly by August 2013.”.

Mr Smyth moved the following amendment to Mr Rattenbury's proposed amendment: Add new paragraph (2)(d):

- “(d) table in the Assembly by first sitting week of February, the Government modelling of general rates increases once stamp duty is abolished.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Smyth's amendment to Mr Rattenbury's proposed amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7

Mr Coe	Mr Seselja
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mr Hanson	Mr Wall
Mrs Jones	

NOES, 8

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negated.

Question—That Mr Rattenbury’s amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8	NOES, 7
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
	Mr Coe
	Mr Doszpot
	Mr Hanson
	Mrs Jones
	Mr Seselja
	Mr Smyth
	Mr Wall

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that while Canberra has the highest average incomes in Australia, there are many Canberrans experiencing real financial hardship;
 - (b) the transition to greater use of renewable energy, improving energy efficiency and providing more sustainable transport options will generate significant savings for Canberra households in the short-term and over the coming decades; and
 - (c) the tax reforms implemented in the 2012-2013 Budget:
 - (i) encourage more affordable housing;
 - (ii) reduce the cost of doing business; and
 - (iii) improve the economic efficiency of our taxation system; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) implement targeted assistance measures to help Canberrans most in need;
 - (b) reduce Canberra’s reliance on increasingly expensive fossil fuels for electricity and transport; and
 - (c) report to the Assembly by August 2013.”—

be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8	NOES, 7
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury
	Mr Coe
	Mr Doszpot
	Mr Hanson
	Mrs Jones
	Mr Seselja
	Mr Smyth
	Mr Wall

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

5 CHILDCARE AND EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Ms Berry, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the significant investment by the previous Government in early childhood education and childcare;

- (b) that this investment has almost doubled the number of childcare places in the ACT since 2001, following a long period of stagnation;
 - (c) that over this period there has been a 33% increase in the number of long daycare centres in the ACT;
 - (d) that more recently the Government invested in building new childcare centres in areas of demand, including new centres in Holder, Franklin and Flynn, with a land release schedule for new centres in McKellar, Giralang, Holt, Conder, Gungahlin and Macathur;
 - (e) the increase of 500 childcare places in 2011-12;
 - (f) the commitment of a further \$4.5 million to deliver more affordable quality childcare across Canberra to create up to 100 new childcare places, establish three more childcare centres and offer scholarships to build the skills of our early childhood education and childcare workers;
 - (g) the rally of 17 November by many hundreds of ACT based early childhood educators calling for better wages and conditions; and
 - (h) the commitment the ACT Government has made to improve the recruitment and retention of early childhood educators; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) reaffirm its commitment to ensure ACT families continue to have access to high quality and affordable childcare;
 - (b) continue to implement the provisions of the National Quality Framework for childcare; and
 - (c) continue to support early childhood educators to increase the awareness and appreciation of their training and professionalism including recognising the importance of the BIG STEPS campaign.

Mr Hanson moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes:
- (a) that the availability of quality childcare and early childhood education plays an important role in supporting families and the productivity of our economy;
 - (b) that the previous Labor governments have failed to support and encourage the early childhood education and childcare sector in the ACT;
 - (c) that the previous Labor government spent \$4 million of taxpayers funding an additional 10 childcare places at Flynn;
 - (d) the Labor government has proposed to spend \$7.5 million on a childcare centre in Holder, at a cost of \$60 000 per place;
 - (e) that no action has been made on building this facility including no development application for such a centre;
 - (f) that a childcare centre was built by a community organisation in Harrison at a cost of \$28 000 per place, considerably below the Labor Government’s proposed investment;

- (g) that a Productivity Commission report found that with the implementation of the National Quality Framework for childcare that the cost of childcare will increase by \$30 per day for two children;
 - (h) the Minister for Disability, Children and Young People stated that the cost would only increase by \$1-\$3 per day; and
 - (i) that Canberra families currently pay \$75 per week above the national average for childcare; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) provide opportunities and support for the development of additional early education and childcare places by the private sector and community organisations; and
 - (b) write to the Federal Government stating support for a Productivity Commission review into childcare to ensure that childcare is more accessible, affordable and flexible for parents.”.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 8	
Mr Coe	Mrs Jones	Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Mr Doszpot	Mr Seselja	Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall	Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Mr Hanson		Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negated.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 7	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Seselja
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

6 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ms Gallagher (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Mr Corbell (Attorney-General) and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to Mr Corbell could be directed to Ms Gallagher.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 ROAD NETWORK

Mr Coe, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the:
 - (a) vast majority of Canberrans depend on cars as their primary mode of transport;
 - (b) ACT Government has failed to maintain and improve the road network in pace with Canberra’s growing population;
 - (c) Canberra Liberals announced plans to:
 - (i) bring the total roads capital works budget to \$700 million;
 - (ii) fund the duplication of William Slim, Athlon and Horse Park Drives;
 - (iii) enhance the street sweeping program;
 - (iv) install flashing lights in school zones; and
 - (v) provide thousands more parking spaces; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to improve Canberra’s road network by implementing the Canberra Liberals’ policies.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7

Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Hanson	

NOES, 8

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negated.

9 CENTENARY HOSPITAL—MATERNITY SERVICES REVIEW

Mr Hanson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that on 15 November 2012 the Minister for Health commissioned a review into maternity services at the Centenary Hospital due to concerns women are being pressured to leave just six hours after giving birth;
 - (b) that the announcement of this review follows:
 - (i) repeated warnings from the Australian Nursing Federation that the model of care at the hospital is flawed;
 - (ii) warnings from doctors that capacity issues at the hospital may compromise patient safety;
 - (iii) construction delays of approximately 18 months to date with the hospital yet to be completed;
 - (iv) cost blow outs in the hospital of \$20 million to date;

- (v) safety concerns after a section of the building fell apart and nearly hit a baby;
 - (vi) safety concerns after code blue procedures failed; and
 - (vii) concerns raised by staff of high stress and poor morale; and
 - (c) previous problems with obstetrics at The Canberra Hospital; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Health to:
- (a) ensure that the review into the Centenary Hospital is conducted by an individual or organisation independent of the ACT Government;
 - (b) circulate to Members the terms of reference for the review as soon as they are finalised;
 - (c) circulate the review to Members within one week of it being received by the Minister; and
 - (d) make a statement to the Assembly explaining what she is currently doing to address the concerns raised by doctors, nurses and patients.

Debate ensued.

Ms Gallagher (Minister for Health) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- (1) notes:

 - (a) that Stage 1 of the new Centenary Hospital for Women and Children (CHWC) opened in August 2012 with Stage 2 opening in 2013 offering women and their babies state of the art facilities including a brand new neo-natal intensive care unit for the capital region;
 - (b) that there has been a significant increase in demand for public birthing services over the past two years;
 - (c) the commitment to resource an independent feasibility study by 30 June 2014 into whether the ACT should have a stand-alone publicly funded birth centre and to assess demand for public birthing services on the northside of Canberra;
 - (d) the commitment to establish a two-room birth centre at Calvary Public Hospital to allow for 200 births a year through the midwife-led continuity of care model;
 - (e) the current models of care available in the ACT that aim to ensure that the majority of all women at Canberra Hospital be cared for in a continuity of care model;
 - (f) that the Minister for Health has commissioned a review into birthing model of care developed for maternity services at The Canberra Hospital to ensure that women and their babies are provided with the care they need throughout their stay;
 - (g) that the review will look at the model of care, future demand, strategies to address current demand pressures and ways to support the staff at the CHWC in the work they perform;
 - (h) that terms of reference for the review, and the final report, will be publicly released; and

- (i) that the review will be undertaken by the Health Directorate with independent experts providing input to the review; and
- (2) agrees that public maternity services should be provided within the Maternity Services Network that covers both public hospitals to ensure the efficient, effective and safe use of public funding of maternity services.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

NOES, 7

Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:

- (a) that Stage 1 of the new Centenary Hospital for Women and Children (CHWC) opened in August 2012 with Stage 2 opening in 2013 offering women and their babies state of the art facilities including a brand new neo-natal intensive care unit for the capital region;
- (b) that there has been a significant increase in demand for public birthing services over the past two years;
- (c) the commitment to resource an independent feasibility study by 30 June 2014 into whether the ACT should have a stand-alone publicly funded birth centre and to assess demand for public birthing services on the northside of Canberra;
- (d) the commitment to establish a two-room birth centre at Calvary Public Hospital to allow for 200 births a year through the midwife-led continuity of care model;
- (e) the current models of care available in the ACT that aim to ensure that the majority of all women at Canberra Hospital be cared for in a continuity of care model;
- (f) that the Minister for Health has commissioned a review into birthing model of care developed for maternity services at The Canberra Hospital to ensure that women and their babies are provided with the care they need throughout their stay;
- (g) that the review will look at the model of care, future demand, strategies to address current demand pressures and ways to support the staff at the CHWC in the work they perform;
- (h) that terms of reference for the review, and the final report, will be publicly released; and

- (i) that the review will be undertaken by the Health Directorate with independent experts providing input to the review; and
- (2) agrees that public maternity services should be provided within the Maternity Services Network that covers both public hospitals to ensure the efficient, effective and safe use of public funding of maternity services.”—

be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

NOES, 7

Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Mr Doszpot	Mr Seselja
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

10 CHRONIC DISEASE BURDEN

Ms Porter, pursuant to notice, moved—that this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the Chief Health Officer’s 2012 report which found that:
 - (i) 52.9% of ACT adults were either overweight or obese in 2009-10;
 - (ii) almost half of all children aged 5 to 17 years were not within a healthy weight range;
 - (iii) 43.1% of ACT adults are not sufficiently physically active;
 - (iv) smoking rates had improved but further efforts were required to reduce rates particularly amongst Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders;
 - (v) chronic conditions accounted for approximately 80% of the total burden of disease and injury in the ACT, with cancer and cardiovascular disease among the leading disease categories;
 - (vi) the disease burden from chronic diseases is expected to increase over the next decade, largely due to an ageing population and changes in lifestyle; and
 - (vii) approximately one-third of the overall disease burden can be attributed to largely preventable risk factors that impact adversely on the incidence and prevalence of many chronic conditions; and
 - (b) the importance of healthy lifestyles and preventative health strategies in reducing the burden of disease and injury on the community; and
 - (c) the ACT Government’s current initiatives in preventative health; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to report back to the Legislative Assembly in 12 months on progress being made by the Whole-of-Government Healthy Weight Group and other efforts being made to reduce the burden of disease.

Ms Porter addressing the Assembly—

Adjournment negatived: It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Ms Gallagher (Chief Minister) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Ms Porter continued.

Debate ensued.

Mr Smyth moved the following amendment: Add:

- “(3) calls on the ACT Government to establish an ACT Preventative Health Taskforce; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to develop an ACT Preventative Health Strategy.”.

Ms Burch (Minister for Education and Training) moved—That debate be adjourned.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury

NOES, 7

Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the resumption of the debate be made an order of the day for the next sitting—put and passed.

11 ADJOURNMENT NEGATIVED

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter
Ms Burch	

NOES, 7

Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Mr Hanson	

And so it was negatived, in accordance with standing order 162.

12 WASTE MANAGEMENT

Mr Coe, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) effective waste management and reduction is vital to a well-managed city;
 - (b) garden waste is often improperly disposed of and ends up in landfill;
 - (c) the Canberra Liberals announced plans to:
 - (i) provide Canberrans with a third bin for garden waste;
 - (ii) test the market to identify a suitable public-private partnership model to deliver this initiative;
 - (iii) talk to our regional counterparts to explore collaborative models to collect and process other forms of organic waste; and
 - (iv) provide a capital grant of \$10 million for the construction of a garden waste processing facility or the upgrade of an existing facility; and
 - (2) calls on the ACT Government to improve waste management by implementing the Canberra Liberals' policy to provide a third garden bin.
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Suspension of sitting: The Speaker, at 7.10 p.m., suspended the sitting and announced that the Chair would be resumed at the ringing of the bells.

Resumption of sitting: The bells having been rung, the Speaker resumed the Chair at 7.18 p.m.

Mr Barr (Deputy Chief Minister) moved—That debate be adjourned.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 8		NOES, 7	
Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe	Mrs Jones
Ms Berry	Mr Gentleman	Mr Doszpot	Mr Smyth
Dr Bourke	Ms Porter	Mrs Dunne	Mr Wall
Ms Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the resumption of the debate be made an order of the day for the next sitting—put and passed.

13 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Gallagher (Chief Minister) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Closure: Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Territory and Municipal Services) moved—That the question be now put.

Question—That the question be now put—put and passed.

And the question—That the Assembly do now adjourn—being accordingly put—

Question—passed.

And then the Assembly, at 7.21 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Corbell*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly