



# Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

2016-2017

## Notice Paper

No 8

Wednesday, 22 March 2017

The Assembly meets this day at 10 am

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### PRIVATE MEMBERS' BUSINESS

#### Notices

- 1 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To move—That this Assembly:
  - (1) notes that:
    - (a) in Victoria, land tax, unlike in the ACT, is an opt out system that covers all properties with exemptions for properties that are owner occupied, used for primary production or charitable purposes;
    - (b) the ACT like other Australian jurisdictions is experiencing an affordable housing crisis and:
      - (i) section 4 of the 2016 Labor-Greens Parliamentary Agreement seeks to address this issue in the ACT, including through development of a new Affordable Housing Strategy;
      - (ii) people in lowest income households are being pushed out of the rental market, and into strained social housing services, poverty and homelessness; and

*\* Notifications to which an asterisk (\*) is prefixed appear for the first time*



- (iii) that solving affordable housing issues requires a multi-layered approach with a large range of responses and initiatives; and
  - (c) that the Victorian Government has announced that it will introduce an additional vacancy tax on properties vacant for six months or more in selected suburbs;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) it is difficult to ascertain accurate figures on the current number of vacant properties in the ACT but there is no doubt there are some;
  - (b) the ACT Government charges land tax on rented properties but not on vacant properties, which is unfair for renters and for property investors who rent out their properties and pay tax;
  - (c) there are large numbers of properties left vacant interstate—estimated to be up to 80,000 in Victoria and 90,000 in NSW; and
  - (d) if land tax was applied as it is in Victoria or vacancy tax measures were introduced in the ACT, property owners would have an additional incentive to rent out their properties, therefore increasing the supply of rental dwellings; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) review the current taxation treatment on vacant properties, with a view to extending current land tax requirements to cover all properties unless they are owner occupied, agricultural or charity owned as in Victoria;
  - (b) research and provide details on the number of properties in the ACT that are left vacant for a period of six months or more and consider a vacancy tax such as has been proposed in Victoria; and
  - (c) report back on these issues to the Assembly by the last sitting day in September 2017. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

2 **MS LEE:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) that SHOUT (Self Help Organisations United Together) is an ACT-based umbrella organisation that has been providing support to over 40 self-help and peer support groups for people with disabilities, health and chronic conditions for over 35 years in the ACT;
  - (b) SHOUT is funded by the ACT Government until August 2017, but their future beyond that is unclear;

- (c) many of SHOUT's members are small community organisations entirely managed by volunteers and without SHOUT's backend support, they would have no administrative help, no place to conduct meetings and no support and this would have negative impacts on thousands of Canberrans who are most in need of assistance; and
  - (d) that SHOUT has had no success to date in securing ongoing funding from the ACT Government, notwithstanding their successful and longstanding track record of delivery and have announced they have no choice but to close their doors in August 2017; and
- (2) calls on the:
- (a) Government to commit financial assistance to SHOUT until 30 June 2019, subject to further negotiations at the completion of that period;
  - (b) Government to recognise that abandoning SHOUT will have massive flow on effects to dozens of other groups and they too will face a similar future to SHOUT, through no fault of their own; and
  - (c) Ministers for health and disability to work with community organisations like SHOUT to enable them to continue their work with ACT self-help groups. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

3 **MR PETERSSON:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the recent decision of the Fair Work Commission to cut penalty rates for employees working on the weekends will negatively impact workers in this sector;
- (2) also notes that:
  - (a) the retail and hospitality sectors employ 2.1 million people across Australia, and employs 28,200 in the ACT;
  - (b) this decision will see a reduction in pay of people in this sector of up to \$6,000 a year;
  - (c) this will disproportionately affect women, who make up around 55 percent of employees in the hospitality and retail sectors nationally;
  - (d) this will disproportionately affect young people (15-29) who make up around 49 percent of employees in the hospitality and retail sectors nationally;
  - (e) will unfairly target those Australian workers that are already among the lowest earners in the country and rely on penalty rates; and
  - (f) this decision represents the thin end of the wedge for other groups of workers who receive penalty rates, including nurses, paramedics and fire fighters;

- (3) further notes that the ACT Government:
    - (a) passed legislation last year to confirm Easter Sunday as a public holiday when falling on a weekend, so as to ensure workers receive the appropriate penalty rates; and
    - (b) made a submission to the Fair Work Commission's four Yearly Review of Modern Awards – Penalty Rates, urging them to leave penalty rates at their current levels; and
  - (4) calls on the Federal Government to intervene on behalf of the workers affected by the Fair Work Commission decision to ensure these workers do not suffer financial harm. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).
- 4 **MRS KIKKERT:** To move—That this Assembly:
- (1) notes that:
    - (a) immunisation is the most significant public health intervention in the last 200 years, providing a safe and efficient way to prevent the spread of many diseases that cause hospitalisation, serious ongoing health concerns and death;
    - (b) since the introduction of vaccination for children in Australia in 1932, deaths from vaccine-preventable diseases have fallen by 99 percent;
    - (c) immunisation is critical for the health not only of individual children but of the wider community through the mechanism of “herd immunity”;
    - (d) recent surges in cases of infectious diseases such as measles and whooping cough, both in Australia and overseas, have been linked to insufficient rates of vaccination; and
    - (e) the majority of Australian parents expect childcare centres to be safe places for their children and for the community at large; and
  - (2) calls on the:
    - (a) ACT Government to embrace uniform “No Jab, No Play” principles, preventing unvaccinated children (without medical exemptions) from enrolling in the Territory's childcare centres; and
    - (b) Minister for Health to clearly express the ACT Government's unqualified support for childhood vaccination as an essential public health measure and publicly endorse uniform “No Jab, No Play” principles. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

- 5 **MS LAWDER:** To move—That this Assembly:
- (1) notes that:
    - (a) the ACT Heritage Council make assessments on heritage listings;
    - (b) the Heritage Council has a backlog of assessments;
    - (c) at the end of the 2014-15 year 143 nominations were waiting to be assessed;
    - (d) at the end of the 2015-16 year 136 nominations were waiting to be assessed—a decrease of only seven; and
    - (e) as of the end of February, there were still 131 nominations—a decrease of only five; and
  - (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
    - (a) prioritise clearing the backlog of the nomination register;
    - (b) prioritise the nominations that have been on the register for extended periods of time;
    - (c) make contact with the nominators for the assessments that have been waiting longer than 12 months and update them with how the application is progressing; and
    - (d) report back to the Assembly by the end of August with an update.  
*(Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A).*
- 6 **MS CHEYNE:** To move—That this Assembly:
- (1) recognises the significant and critical contribution of women and girls to the cultural, social, political and economic fabric of the ACT;
  - (2) acknowledges the need for continued commitment to further building the social, economic and political equality of women, noting that:
    - (a) the full-time average weekly earnings for a woman in the ACT are 11.5 percent less than that of a man in the ACT, and 16 percent less nationally;
    - (b) on average, Australian women retire with half of the superannuation of Australian men;
    - (c) 90 percent of adult victims of sexual assault are women;
    - (d) women are underrepresented in leadership positions across the Australian private, government and non-government sectors; and
    - (e) women are still more vulnerable than men in the areas of health, economic security, housing and safety outcomes; and

- (3) notes the sustained focus by the ACT Government to improve the status of women in the ACT over successive years, and it being a national leader by:
- (a) actively participating in, and promoting, celebrations for International Women’s Day, the United Nations Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, and the 16 Days of Activism Campaign;
  - (b) advocating against retrograde changes to Australian laws and policies that will unfairly impact women, such as cuts to penalty rates;
  - (c) developing and delivering the ACT Women’s Plan, and the first Action Plan 2017-2019, to improve outcomes for women and girls across the whole community;
  - (d) establishing and maintaining the Office for Women as a central policy, strategic and coordination point for gender issues across the ACT Government;
  - (e) providing additional funding for women’s sport to encourage stronger participation, better infrastructure and setting new benchmarks for female representation on sporting group boards;
  - (f) establishing the \$21.42 million Safer Families Program which will enable the biggest ever funding injection into programs and services that enable a holistic response to tackling domestic and family violence; and
  - (g) contributing to the achievement, along with the other parties, of being the first majority-female parliament in Australia’s history. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

7 **MR HANSON:** To move—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) on 14 February 2017, a member of the Labor Party, Ms Bec Cody MLA, used the adjournment debate of the Assembly to attack the RSL over some tiles in the male bathroom, Ms Cody stated “Let me say that again, in 2017 in Australia, in a club that promotes itself as championing our values and respect for our national heritage, men are expected to urinate on Aboriginals”;
  - (b) about the Sussex Inlet RSL, Ms Cody said “the Sussex Inlet RSL are a disgrace, they are a disgrace to themselves, a disgrace to the veterans they claim to represent and a disgrace to Australia”;
  - (c) about the RSL in general, Ms Cody said that there existed “a long history of disgraceful behaviour by this organisation”;
  - (d) about the people within the RSL, Ms Cody said they were “people who either are, or stand by, racists”;
  - (e) since Ms Cody’s accusations, it has been exposed that the description Ms Cody made of the tiles’ placement was not true;

- (f) since Ms Cody’s accusations, it was revealed that the links between the club and the RSL management is not true;
  - (g) following Ms Cody’s accusations, the RSL stated “It is this type of unfounded criticism of a national body, spoken in generalisations, which has completed over 100 years of assisting the veteran family and community that makes the veterans very angry”; and
  - (h) Ms Cody’s accusations have caused enormous hurt and harm by falsely representing facts, and accusing various parties of extreme racism; and
- (2) calls upon the Minister for Veterans and Seniors and the Chief Minister to:
- (a) condemn Ms Cody for her inflammatory and untruthful statements;
  - (b) apologise to the members of the Sussex Inlet RSL and its management for promoting untrue statements, and accusing them of being racists;
  - (c) apologise to the national and state management of the RSL for falsely associating them with the RSL club, and accusing them of being racists; and
  - (d) reconfirm the ACT Government’s commitment to our returned service men and women, and the organisations that support them. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

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## EXECUTIVE BUSINESS

### Orders of the day

- 1 **CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2016:** (*Attorney-General*): Agreement in principle—Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Mr Hanson*).
  - 2 **FAMILY AND PERSONAL VIOLENCE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2017:** (*Attorney-General*): Agreement in principle—Resumption of debate (*from 16 February 2017—Mrs Kikkert*).
  - 3 **ACT HEALTH REPORTING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER:** Resumption of debate (*from 14 February 2017—Mr Wall*) on the motion of Ms Fitzharris—That the Assembly takes note of the paper.
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**ASSEMBLY BUSINESS****Orders of the day**

- 1 **HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO THE EMPLOYMENT OF PEOPLE WITH A DISABILITY:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Mr Hanson*) on the motion of Mr Steel—That this Assembly:
  - (1) notes:
    - (a) that the employment rate of people with disability in the ACT Public Service is 2.2 percent as at June 2016; and
    - (b) that the Australian Human Rights Commission report, *Willing to Work: National Inquiry into Employment Discrimination Against Older Australians and Australians with Disability* found the ACT to be the only jurisdiction with an increase in the employment of people with disability over the 2013-15 period;
  - (2) further notes that the ACT Government's new Office for Disability and Disability Reference Group has been established to provide strategic policy advice on disability issues; and
  - (3) resolves that the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services shall conduct an inquiry into the employment of people with a disability in the ACT, to report back to the Assembly by the end of 2017 with reference to:
    - (a) the implementation of the ACT Public Service Disability Employment Strategy;
    - (b) the effectiveness of current attraction and retention programs in the ACT Public Service and private enterprise;
    - (c) data collection, monitoring and reporting mechanisms;
    - (d) relevant experiences and learnings from Australian State, Commonwealth and international jurisdictions;
    - (e) the applicability to the ACT Public Service, of recommendations and findings from the report *Employing people with disability in the APS* published by the University of Canberra; and
    - (f) any other relevant matter.
- 2 **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO THE VALUE OF UNIVERSAL ACCESS TO EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Mr Rattenbury*) on the motion of Mr Steel—That this Assembly:
  - (1) notes the Mitchell Institute Report *Preschool – Two Years are Better Than One Developing a universal preschool program for Australian 3 year olds – evidence, policy and implementation*; and

- (2) resolves that the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs conducts an inquiry into the value of universal access to early childhood education, including evidence around the benefits to children of starting preschool at age three.
- 3 **EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO ENROLMENTS AND CAPACITY IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Ms Le Couteur*) on the motion of Mr Pettersson—That the matter of enrolments and capacity in Canberra public schools, including Priority Enrolment Areas and other factors affecting demand on schools, and any related matters, be referred to the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs for inquiry and report.
- 4 **PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO GREATER HOUSING AFFORDABILITY:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Mr Rattenbury*) on the motion of Ms Orr—That the matter of the interaction of housing types, market settings and land release with changes in consumer behaviour and the goal of achieving greater housing affordability be referred to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal for inquiry and report.
- 5 **JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—PROPOSED INQUIRY INTO EVIDENCE AND BEST PRACTICE AROUND PREVENTION AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAMS IN THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE:** Resumption of debate (*from 15 December 2016—Ms Le Couteur*) on the motion of Ms Cody—That the matter of evidence and best practice around prevention and early intervention programs in the prevention of domestic and family violence and any other related matters be referred to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety for inquiry and report.

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#### Last sitting day in May 2017

- 6 **STANDING COMMITTEES:** Presentation of reports on annual and financial reports for the financial year 2015-2016 and calendar year 2015, pursuant to order of the Assembly of 16 February 2017.

#### 1 August 2017

- 7 **ESTIMATES 2017-2018—SELECT COMMITTEE:** Presentation of report on the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2017-2018, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2017-2018 Budget, pursuant to order of the Assembly of 16 February 2017.

**Last sitting day in August 2017**

- 8 **STANDING COMMITTEE:** Presentation of reports on annual and financial reports for the calendar year 2016, pursuant to order of the Assembly of 16 February 2017.

**End of August 2017**

- 9 **INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY COMMISSION—SELECT COMMITTEE:** Presentation of report on the most effective and efficient model for an independent integrity commission for the ACT, pursuant to order of the Assembly of 15 December 2016.

**Last sitting day in 2017**

- 10 **2016 ACT ELECTION AND THE ELECTORAL ACT—SELECT COMMITTEE:** Presentation of report on a review of the operation of the 2016 ACT election and the Electoral Act and other relevant legislation and policies in regards to election-related matters, pursuant to order of the Assembly of 15 December 2016.

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**EXECUTIVE MEMBERS' BUSINESS****Notice**

- 1 **MR RATTENBURY:** To move—That this Assembly:
- (1) notes:
- (a) the important role that community legal centres have within our justice system, by providing crucial advice and representation to vulnerable members of our community;
  - (b) that community legal centres are facing a funding cliff on 1 July 2017, with a cut of 30 percent of funding from the Federal Government, and that this cut will drastically impact on the crucial legal services provided to vulnerable and disadvantaged people provided by community legal centres;
  - (c) that community legal centres have already been severely impacted by cuts to funding from the Federal Government, including the complete loss of funding to Environmental Defenders Offices, and such cuts will only lead to an increased burden on our legal system, leading to increased costs;
  - (d) the Productivity Commission recommended in its 2014 *Access to Justice Arrangements* report that funding to community legal centres be increased by \$200 million each year from both Federal and State and Territory Governments;

- (e) that all levels of Government have a role in providing adequate resources to community legal centres, recognising the valuable services they provide to our community and the efficient and effective operation of our legal system; and
  - (f) the failure of the Federal Attorney-General to meet and consult with community legal centres prior to a decision to cut funding to the sector; and
- (2) calls on the:
- (a) Federal Government to reverse planned cuts to community legal centres to come into effect on 1 July 2017 and provide adequate funding to community legal centres; and
  - (b) Speaker to write to the Federal Attorney-General communicating this motion. (*Notice given 20 March 2017. Notice will be removed from the Notice Paper unless called on within 4 sitting weeks—standing order 125A*).

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## QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

On the first sitting day of a period of sittings a complete *Notice Paper* is published containing all unanswered questions. On subsequent days, only redirected questions are included on the *Notice Paper* together with a list of all unanswered questions.

A *Questions on Notice Paper* will be issued on the Friday of a sitting week, containing the text of all questions on notice lodged that week and can be accessed at [www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-the-assembly/questions-paper](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-the-assembly/questions-paper).

### *Unanswered questions*

67, 68, 77, 78, 82-85, 87, 89, 90, 92, 94-115, 117-120, 124.

**T Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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## GOVERNMENT TO RESPOND TO PETITIONS

(in accordance with standing order 100)

### 16 May 2017

Curtin—Draft Master Plan—Minister for Planning and Land Management—Petition lodged by Ms Le Couteur (Pet 1-17).

Tillyard Drive and Ginninderra Drive—Traffic control measures—Minister for Transport and City Services—Petition lodged by Mrs Kikkert (Pet 2-17).

### 20 June 2017

KFC Restaurant—O’Hanlon Place, Gold Creek Village—Minister for Planning and Land Management—Petitions lodged by Ms Le Couteur (Pet 3-17 and Pet 6-17).

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## COMMITTEES

Unless otherwise shown, appointed for the life of the Ninth Assembly. The dates of the amendments to the committees’ resolution of appointment are reflected, but not changes in the membership.

### Standing

Pursuant to standing order

**ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE:** (*Formed 31 October 2016*): The Speaker (Chair), Ms Cheyne, Mr Rattenbury, Mr Wall.

Pursuant to resolution

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM—STANDING COMMITTEE:** (*Formed 13 December 2016*): Mr Hanson (Chair), Ms Orr, Mr Parton, Mr Pettersson.

**EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE:** (*Formed 13 December 2016*): Mr Pettersson (Chair), Mrs Kikkert, Mr Steel, Mr Wall.

**ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE:** (*Formed 13 December 2016*): Ms Orr (Chair), Ms Cheyne, Mr Doszpot, Mr Parton.

**HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE:** (*Formed 13 December 2016*): Mr Steel (Chair), Mrs Dunne, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur, Mr Pettersson.

**JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE:** *(Formed 13 December 2016):* Mrs Jones (Chair), Ms Cody, Ms Lee, Mr Steel.

**PLANNING AND URBAN RENEWAL—STANDING COMMITTEE:** *(Formed 13 December 2016):* Ms Le Couteur (Chair), Ms Cheyne, Ms Lawder, Mr Milligan, Ms Orr.

**PUBLIC ACCOUNTS:** *(Formed 13 December 2016):* Mrs Dunne (Chair), Ms Cody, Mr Coe, Mr Pettersson.

## Select

**2016 ACT ELECTION AND ELECTORAL ACT—SELECT COMMITTEE:** *(Formed 15 December 2016):* Ms Cody (Chair), Ms Cheyne, Ms Le Couteur, Mr Milligan, Mr Wall.

**ESTIMATES 2017-2018—SELECT COMMITTEE:** *(Formed 16 February 2017):* Mr Wall (Chair), Ms Cody, Mr Coe, Ms Le Couteur, Mr Pettersson.

**INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY COMMISSION—SELECT COMMITTEE:** *(Formed 15 December 2016):* Mr Rattenbury (Chair), Ms Cody, Mrs Jones, Ms Lee, Mr Steel.

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