



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 45

WEDNESDAY, 14 FEBRUARY 2018

1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms J. Burch) 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 PETITION AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—STATEMENTS BY MEMBERS—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Petition

The Clerk announced that the following Member had lodged a petition for presentation:

Mr Hanson, from 81 residents, requesting that the Assembly take certain steps in relation to the proposed closure of a car park adjacent to blocks of land in O'Malley slated for development under the Indicative Land Release Program (Pet 3-18).

Ministerial response

The Clerk announced that the following response to petitions had been lodged:

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport and City Services)—Response to petitions Nos 18-17 and 27-17, lodged by Mr Steel on 28 November 2017, concerning improved access to Mount Taylor.

Mr Hanson, Ms Le Couteur and Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management), by leave, made statements in relation to the petition.

3 LANDS ACQUISITION (REPORTING REQUIREMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2018

Mr Coe (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Lands Acquisition Act 1994*.

Paper: Mr Coe presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.



Title read by Clerk.

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

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

4 URBAN RENEWAL PRECINCTS

Ms Le Couteur, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) much of Canberra was built between the 1950s and the mid-1980s and Canberra's older Town Centres—Woden, Belconnen and Tuggeranong—are recognised as needing urban renewal;
 - (b) urban renewal is more than selling vacant sites and approving very tall buildings—it needs more comprehensive strategic planning and delivery approaches that bring together delivery of community facilities, affordable housing, street life, parks, transport upgrades and planning rules;
 - (c) urban renewal that is not done well can result in conflict between developers and the community, dormitory centres with low quality of life and missed opportunities on sustainability, affordable housing and active transport;
 - (d) while the city and inner areas are booming, Woden, Tuggeranong and Belconnen Town Centres are suffering from a lack of focus;
 - (e) the Government established the City Renewal Authority to bring better urban renewal to the city and Northbound Avenue corridor;
 - (f) Woden, Tuggeranong and Belconnen Town Centres and the Kingston Arts Precinct are currently managed by the Suburban Land Agency, which is set up to build new suburbs and is not designed to deliver broader urban renewal; and
 - (g) Light Rail Stage 2 will have broader impacts on the Woden Town Centre and surrounds; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to declare the following areas to be Urban Renewal Precincts for the purposes of section 35 of the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act by the end of June 2018:
 - (a) Woden Town Centre and surrounds;
 - (b) Belconnen Town Centre and surrounds;
 - (c) Tuggeranong Town Centre and surrounds; and
 - (d) Kingston Arts Precinct.

Debate ensued.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after "That this Assembly", substitute:

"(1) notes that:

- (a) as Canberra's built form ages, a key priority for the ACT Government must be a continuous program of urban renewal, coordinated improvements to the public and private realms, that improves amenity, delivers better environmental outcomes and a diversity of housing choices;
 - (b) in the 2017-18 Budget, the ACT Government prioritised creating the central business district that Canberra deserves through the establishment of the City Renewal Authority;
 - (c) Canberra's CBD, Dickson and the Northbourne Avenue corridor that make up the City Renewal Precinct are amongst the oldest areas of Canberra, while being Canberra's key and growing centres of employment;
 - (d) the City Renewal Precinct has seen substantial land release for urban renewal with 51 000 square metres released in 2017-18, in addition to major renewal of privately held developments resulting from the ACT Government's investment in light rail; and
 - (e) the City Renewal Authority is delivering a vibrant heart to the city;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) the process of urban renewal is delivered through a range of mechanisms, the creation of a dedicated agency is one means to deliver coordinated urban renewal;
 - (b) section 36 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* sets clear criteria for the inclusion of land in an urban renewal precinct. These criteria include the requirement to consider advice from the authority and from the Minister responsible for the *Planning and Development Act 2007*;
 - (c) the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Suburban Land Agency play a key role in planning and delivery of urban renewal across the city;
 - (d) Transport Canberra and City Services plays a central role in urban renewal through investments from light rail to footpath and playground improvements;
 - (e) the ACT Government continues to work with communities in the town centres, businesses, investors and residents to deliver coordinated urban renewal;
 - (f) the Government has developed Master Plans for many centres that provide a high level plan setting out objectives and strategies to manage development and change over time;
 - (g) Master Plans are developed in close consultation with local communities; and

- (h) Master Plans set out how an area can develop into the future and take a comprehensive approach that covers future development, community facilities, street life and upgrades of public places, parks, walking and cycling networks and planning rules; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
- (a) implement changes to planning controls for town centres consistent with the finalised master plans that will facilitate renewal including:
 - (i) activating existing streets and public spaces;
 - (ii) providing new opportunities for commercial and residential development in appropriate locations close to public transport, shops and services;
 - (iii) improving town centre roads, intersections and active transport routes; and
 - (iv) providing new areas of open space and parks;
 - (b) ensure resources are in place to coordinate the delivery of the Master Plans across Directorates and to ensure ongoing consultation with the community during implementation, including resources for each of the following:
 - (i) Woden Town Centre;
 - (ii) Belconnen Town Centre;
 - (iii) Tuggeranong Town Centre; and
 - (iv) Kingston Arts Precinct; and
 - (c) develop a Master Plan implementation program, and aligning with the annual reporting timeline, publish yearly updates to the Assembly on progress with implementation of each Master Plan.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) as Canberra’s built form ages, a key priority for the ACT Government must be a continuous program of urban renewal, coordinated improvements to the public and private realms, that improves amenity, delivers better environmental outcomes and a diversity of housing choices;
 - (b) in the 2017-18 Budget, the ACT Government prioritised creating the central business district that Canberra deserves through the establishment of the City Renewal Authority;

- (c) Canberra's CBD, Dickson and the Northbourne Avenue corridor that make up the City Renewal Precinct are amongst the oldest areas of Canberra, while being Canberra's key and growing centres of employment;
 - (d) the City Renewal Precinct has seen substantial land release for urban renewal with 51 000 square metres released in 2017-18, in addition to major renewal of privately held developments resulting from the ACT Government's investment in light rail; and
 - (e) the City Renewal Authority is delivering a vibrant heart to the city;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) the process of urban renewal is delivered through a range of mechanisms, the creation of a dedicated agency is one means to deliver coordinated urban renewal;
 - (b) section 36 of the *City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency Act 2017* sets clear criteria for the inclusion of land in an urban renewal precinct. These criteria include the requirement to consider advice from the authority and from the Minister responsible for the *Planning and Development Act 2007*;
 - (c) the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate and the Suburban Land Agency play a key role in planning and delivery of urban renewal across the city;
 - (d) Transport Canberra and City Services plays a central role in urban renewal through investments from light rail to footpath and playground improvements;
 - (e) the ACT Government continues to work with communities in the town centres, businesses, investors and residents to deliver coordinated urban renewal;
 - (f) the Government has developed Master Plans for many centres that provide a high level plan setting out objectives and strategies to manage development and change over time;
 - (g) Master Plans are developed in close consultation with local communities; and
 - (h) Master Plans set out how an area can develop into the future and take a comprehensive approach that covers future development, community facilities, street life and upgrades of public places, parks, walking and cycling networks and planning rules; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
- (a) implement changes to planning controls for town centres consistent with the finalised master plans that will facilitate renewal including:
 - (i) activating existing streets and public spaces;

- (ii) providing new opportunities for commercial and residential development in appropriate locations close to public transport, shops and services;
 - (iii) improving town centre roads, intersections and active transport routes; and
 - (iv) providing new areas of open space and parks;
- (b) ensure resources are in place to coordinate the delivery of the Master Plans across Directorates and to ensure ongoing consultation with the community during implementation, including resources for each of the following:
- (i) Woden Town Centre;
 - (ii) Belconnen Town Centre;
 - (iii) Tuggeranong Town Centre; and
 - (iv) Kingston Arts Precinct; and
- (c) develop a Master Plan implementation program, and aligning with the annual reporting timeline, publish yearly updates to the Assembly on progress with implementation of each Master Plan.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

5 A.C.T. AMBULANCE SERVICE—RESOURCING

Mrs Jones, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) ACT Ambulance Service has a minimum crewing level of 10 emergency ambulances for each and every shift plus two demand crews each 24 hour period;
 - (b) of the 730 shifts in 2016-17, only 427 shifts met this minimum level, while 303 shifts were below the minimum; and
 - (c) 41.5 percent of ACT Emergency Ambulance shifts in 2016-17 were below minimum crewing; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) explain to the Assembly why ACT Ambulance Service is grossly under resourced; and
 - (b) advise the Assembly by the last sitting day in April 2018 of the dates and shift types of each emergency ambulance shift which fell below minimum crewing in 2016-17.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) currently aims for a minimum crewing level of 10 emergency ambulances for each and every shift plus two demand crews each 24 hour period;
 - (b) of the 730 shifts in 2016-17, only 427 shifts met this minimum level, while 303 shifts were below the minimum; and
 - (c) 41.5 percent of ACT emergency ambulance shifts in 2016-17 were below minimum crewing;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) for the sixth year in a row, ACTAS response times were the best in the country as reported in the Productivity Commission’s 2018 Report on Government Services; and
 - (b) the annual Ambulance Patient Satisfaction Survey shows the ACT Ambulance Service consistently meets community expectations; and
 - (c) the December 2017 announcement that the ACT Government will recruit 23 additional paramedics and deliver two new ambulances, in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
- (a) review the minimum crewing level to determine whether it remains an appropriate guide to allocate ambulance resources to meet variable levels of demand;
 - (b) monitor ambulance resources and staffing to ensure continued strong performance by ACTAS as measured by response times and patient satisfaction; and
 - (c) monitor staff wellbeing to ensure continued support for our frontline service staff.”.

Debate continued.

Mrs Jones moved the following amendment to Mr Gentleman’s proposed amendment: Add:

- “(d) explain how we have arrived at a position where the Service has been under minimum crewing 41.5% of the time in the previous financial year.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment to the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 12	
Miss C. Burch	Mr Milligan	Mr Barr	Ms Le Couteur
Mr Coe	Mr Parton	Ms J. Burch	Mr Pettersson
Mrs Jones	Mr Wall	Ms Cheyne	Mr Ramsay
Mrs Kikkert		Ms Cody	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Lawder		Ms Fitzharris	Mr Steel
Ms Lee		Mr Gentleman	Ms Stephen-Smith

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

Mr Gentleman's amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) currently aims for a minimum crewing level of 10 emergency ambulances for each and every shift plus two demand crews each 24 hour period;
 - (b) of the 730 shifts in 2016-17, only 427 shifts met this minimum level, while 303 shifts were below the minimum; and
 - (c) 41.5 percent of ACT emergency ambulance shifts in 2016-17 were below minimum crewing;
- (2) further notes:
 - (a) for the sixth year in a row, ACTAS response times were the best in the country as reported in the Productivity Commission's 2018 Report on Government Services; and
 - (b) the annual Ambulance Patient Satisfaction Survey shows the ACT Ambulance Service consistently meets community expectations; and
 - (c) the December 2017 announcement that the ACT Government will recruit 23 additional paramedics and deliver two new ambulances, in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) review the minimum crewing level to determine whether it remains an appropriate guide to allocate ambulance resources to meet variable levels of demand;
 - (b) monitor ambulance resources and staffing to ensure continued strong performance by ACTAS as measured by response times and patient satisfaction; and
 - (c) monitor staff wellbeing to ensure continued support for our frontline service staff.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

6 HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND PLANNING

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

- (1) notes the ACT Government's commitment to meeting the health and wellbeing needs for Canberrans now, as well as into the future, including through the following initiatives:
 - (a) the 2017-18 ACT Budget investment of \$1.6 billion for health care and wellbeing;

- (b) improving timeliness and access to emergency health care through the \$23 million Emergency Department expansions;
 - (c) \$6.3 million for elective surgery procedures to help patients access treatment within recommended timeframes;
 - (d) for the sixth year in a row, ACT Ambulance Service response times are the best in the country and will be boosted by recruitment of 24 additional paramedics, as well as two new ambulances, in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway;
 - (e) \$12.4 million to build a new primary health care centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans in the inner south for which planning is already underway;
 - (f) \$1.5 million for new grants to incentivise more bulk-billing services in Canberra's south, complementing local primary care health services;
 - (g) \$3.4 million for two additional mobile dental vans to provide for better dental care;
 - (h) \$4 million in new resources specifically for preventative health initiatives in addition to establishing Year 7 health checks for students and new school based immunisation programs;
 - (i) establishment of a three year homebirth trial recognising the role of individual choice in safe birthing options;
 - (j) establishing a clinical genomics service in collaboration with Australian National University;
 - (k) \$436 000 over three years for participating in Molecular Screening and Therapeutics (MoST) Trial, a rare cancer treatment trial;
 - (l) participation in the Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis HIV prevention trial;
 - (m) upgrades to the helipad at The Canberra Hospital (TCH) in 2017;
 - (n) improving inpatient access to medical imaging and wait times;
 - (o) investment to increase and develop the ACT Health workforce including \$36 million for more nurses and a targeted approach to attracting specialists;
 - (p) operational efficiency improvements within the ACT Health Directorate to increase capacity to deliver health services and minimise patient wait times; and
 - (q) the dedication of the ACT Health workforce to strive to deliver excellent health outcomes for Canberrans through the efficient delivery of services across our health settings;
- (2) further notes the ACT Government focus on investing in evidence-based mental health and suicide prevention services, with \$23.8 million provided for mental health initiatives in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, including:
- (a) \$2.9 million to establish a new Office for Mental Health to coordinate the delivery of mental health services;

- (b) \$13.8 million to deliver new rehabilitation beds at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit; \$5.3 million to invest in a range of targeted programs and services to improve the mental health of Canberrans in the community, including Headspace and the Detention Exit Outreach Program; \$1.8 million to reduce the incidences of suicide in our community through funding for the Black Dog Institute's Life Span Suicide Prevention Program; and
 - (c) expansion of the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Consultation and Liaison Service at TCH to provide services seven days per week;
- (3) further notes the activity underway through the Territory-wide Health Services Framework to plan for the delivery of health services to:
- (a) meet current demand and future population growth;
 - (b) deliver better coordinated, integrated care which is patient-centred;
 - (c) create specialty service centres to coordinate across the continuum of care;
 - (d) leverage the expertise of health stakeholders and the community; and
 - (e) develop a framework for patient care navigators who assist patients with chronic and complex health conditions; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to continue its significant infrastructure investment and planning taking place to ensure we have the right services to meet demand and population growth now and into the future, including through:
- (a) \$95.3 million for infrastructure improvements and maintenance through the Upgrading and Maintaining ACT Health Assets project;
 - (b) opening of Canberra's first dedicated rehabilitation hospital in 2018 with \$16.1 million in the 2017-18 Budget to ensure it is open and ready to care for patients from 2018;
 - (c) establishing the new \$500 million Surgical Procedures and Interventional Radiology and Emergency Centre at TCH;
 - (d) \$3.3 million to undertake a scoping study into the health service and infrastructure requirements for outpatient and hospital-based care on the north side;
 - (e) opening the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people affected by drug and alcohol;
 - (f) \$70 million expansion of the Centenary Hospital for Women and Children;
 - (g) \$14 million for new nurse-led walk-in Centres in Gungahlin and the Weston Creek region, as well as a health centre in the inner north;
 - (h) upgrades to the Dickson Health Centre through the 2016-17 Budget; and

- (i) \$17.3 million for significant upgrades to acute aged care and cancer facilities at TCH.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

7 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

8 HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT AND PLANNING

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Cheyne (*see entry 6*)—

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9 BUS ROUTE CHANGES

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) a number of bus routes throughout Canberra have been altered or cancelled from 9 October 2017;
 - (b) this change was done without any proper consultation with regular commuters or residents in the area that rely on these bus services;
 - (c) a significant number of commuters who rely on these services are older and mobility impaired Canberrans who are no longer able to, or cannot, drive; and
 - (d) the new routes service fewer areas and leave many commuters forced to:
 - (i) walk longer distances to a bus stop; or
 - (ii) travel on a service that is less frequent; or
 - (iii) travel on a service that is slower; or
 - (iv) change buses and take two or more bus routes to get to major town centres and hubs like Civic, Woden, Tuggeranong, Gungahlin and Barton; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) apologise to Canberra residents for failing to consult with them about what changes should and were being made;
 - (b) review the effectiveness of the new timetable to assess its patronage and efficiency and report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in March 2018; and
 - (c) restore bus routes altered in the October 2017 changes subject to the findings of the review of the new routes.

Ms Fitzharris (Minister for Transport and City Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes that:

- (a) the ACT Government is building an integrated public transport network for our growing city, including introducing light rail and delivering more buses more often;
- (b) Transport Canberra continually monitors patronage data, efficiency and periodically updates timetables and routes to ensure improvements for passengers across the bus network, and provide higher frequency services and better connections;
- (c) in 2016, the ACT Government undertook extensive community consultation on what Canberrans wanted from their transport system; almost 5500 people participated. Canberrans said the top three improvements they would like to see were quicker and more direct trips, more frequent and reliable services, and increased peak and off-peak services;
- (d) Transport Canberra considers the findings of these consultations, patronage data and ongoing feedback from customers to undertake minor and major network changes;
- (e) on Saturday, 7 October 2017, Transport Canberra launched updates to the weekday and weekend bus timetables as well a number of service improvements, which includes the introduction of the Green and Black Rapid services and the extension of the Blue Rapid to Lanyon Market Place;

(2) further notes that:

- (a) the ACT Government undertook public consultation in 2017 on the next major update to the bus network and will soon commence phase two of this extensive public consultation into the new network;
- (b) the introduction of the new Green Rapid required some changes to local services to ensure that public transport service coverage is balanced with high frequency rapid services that drive public transport patronage;
- (c) these changes were made in response to data which demonstrated very limited patronage;
- (d) patronage across the network has increased by 2% on each weekday and 10% on each weekend day since its implementation compared to the same period last year (as at 13 February 2018);
- (e) the ACT Government provides the free Flexible Bus Service specifically for older Canberrans and people who have mobility impairments; and
- (f) the ACT Government also provides free off-peak travel for Senior concession card holders; and

(3) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) deliver on its election commitment to build an integrated transport network, including light rail, the introduction of five new rapid routes in 2018 and expanding the network to provide a better, seven day network;
- (b) continue to consult with Canberrans on the design of the new bus network;
- (c) ensure consideration is given to meeting the needs and inclusion of older Canberrans, people with limited mobility, and other transport vulnerable people; and
- (d) ensure a mix of local bus services, rapid buses and continue the flexible transport options to provide an integrated transport network which is accessible for all.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 10		NOES, 7	
Ms J. Burch	Ms Le Couteur	Miss C. Burch	Ms Lee
Ms Cheyne	Ms Orr	Mr Coe	Mr Milligan
Ms Cody	Mr Pettersson	Mrs Dunne	
Ms Fitzharris	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Kikkert	
Mr Gentleman	Mr Steel	Ms Lawder	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT Government is building an integrated public transport network for our growing city, including introducing light rail and delivering more buses more often;
 - (b) Transport Canberra continually monitors patronage data, efficiency and periodically updates timetables and routes to ensure improvements for passengers across the bus network, and provide higher frequency services and better connections;
 - (c) in 2016, the ACT Government undertook extensive community consultation on what Canberrans wanted from their transport system; almost 5500 people participated. Canberrans said the top three improvements they would like to see were quicker and more direct trips, more frequent and reliable services, and increased peak and off-peak services;
 - (d) Transport Canberra considers the findings of these consultations, patronage data and ongoing feedback from customers to undertake minor and major network changes;

- (e) on Saturday, 7 October 2017, Transport Canberra launched updates to the weekday and weekend bus timetables as well a number of service improvements, which includes the introduction of the Green and Black Rapid services and the extension of the Blue Rapid to Lanyon Market Place;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) the ACT Government undertook public consultation in 2017 on the next major update to the bus network and will soon commence phase two of this extensive public consultation into the new network;
 - (b) the introduction of the new Green Rapid required some changes to local services to ensure that public transport service coverage is balanced with high frequency rapid services that drive public transport patronage;
 - (c) these changes were made in response to data which demonstrated very limited patronage;
 - (d) patronage across the network has increased by 2% on each weekday and 10% on each weekend day since its implementation compared to the same period last year (as at 13 February 2018);
 - (e) the ACT Government provides the free Flexible Bus Service specifically for older Canberrans and people who have mobility impairments; and
 - (f) the ACT Government also provides free off-peak travel for Senior concession card holders; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) deliver on its election commitment to build an integrated transport network, including light rail, the introduction of five new rapid routes in 2018 and expanding the network to provide a better, seven day network;
 - (b) continue to consult with Canberrans on the design of the new bus network;
 - (c) ensure consideration is given to meeting the needs and inclusion of older Canberrans, people with limited mobility, and other transport vulnerable people; and
 - (d) ensure a mix of local bus services, rapid buses and continue the flexible transport options to provide an integrated transport network which is accessible for all.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

10 OFFICE FOR MENTAL HEALTH—ESTABLISHMENT DELAY

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Assembly provides for the establishment of an Office for Mental Health;
 - (b) delivery on this initiative has been delayed;

- (c) the shortage of mental health professionals, particularly in the field of child and adolescent mental health; and
 - (d) the difficulties ACT residents experience in navigating the current system; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Mental Health to:
- (a) explain to the people of Canberra:
 - (i) the delay in the establishment of the Office for Mental Health; and
 - (ii) what the Government is doing in practical terms to provide the services that patients need now, in advance of the establishment of the Office for Mental Health; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the first sitting day in March 2018 as to the:
 - (i) construct and terms of reference for the Office for Mental Health;
 - (ii) Government's strategies to simplify navigation of the mental health services system; and
 - (iii) Government's strategies to attract and retain more mental health professionals in Canberra, particularly in the field of child and adolescent mental health.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Mental Health) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after paragraph (1), substitute:

- “(a) the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly provides for the establishment of an Office for Mental Health;
 - (b) that work is well underway to establish the Office by July 2018, and has included significant community consultation and engagement over recent months to inform the proposed model;
 - (c) the national shortage of mental health professionals, particularly in the field of child and adolescent mental health; and
 - (d) the difficulties ACT residents can sometimes experience when navigating the current system;
- (2) further notes the Government's ongoing commitment, through an additional \$23.8 million in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, to improve access to mental health services in advance of the opening of the Office for Mental Health. The Government commitment includes:
- (a) \$5.3 million to fund a range of targeted mental health programs and services in the community, including headspace and the Detention Exit Community Outreach Program;
 - (b) \$13.8 million to deliver new rehabilitation beds at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit;
 - (c) \$1.8 million to reduce incidences of suicide in the community by funding the Black Dog Institute's Lifespan Suicide Prevention Program;

- (d) \$100 000 to Menslink to fund additional counsellors and expand free community counselling services to boys aged 10-12;
 - (e) expanding the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Consultation and Liaison Service at the Canberra Hospital to provide services 7 days per week;
 - (f) expanding the Perinatal Mental Health Consultation Service to provide greater access to specialist psychiatric services for new Canberra mothers; and
 - (g) developing the Mental Health Specialty Service Plan within the Territory-wide Health Services Framework and the associated mental health model of care, which will improve the coordination of mental health services in a holistic and patient-centred way; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Mental Health to provide an update to the Assembly by the first sitting day in May 2018 on:
- (a) the establishment of the Office for Mental Health, including its proposed model and functions;
 - (b) the Government's efforts to simplify navigation of the mental health services system for people in the ACT; and
 - (c) the Government's strategies to attract and retain more medical professionals, including mental health professionals in Canberra and with a focus on the field of child and adolescent mental health."

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

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly provides for the establishment of an Office for Mental Health;
 - (b) that work is well underway to establish the Office by July 2018, and has included significant community consultation and engagement over recent months to inform the proposed model;

- (c) the national shortage of mental health professionals, particularly in the field of child and adolescent mental health; and
 - (d) the difficulties ACT residents can sometimes experience when navigating the current system;
- (2) further notes the Government's ongoing commitment, through an additional \$23.8 million in the 2017-18 ACT Budget, to improve access to mental health services in advance of the opening of the Office for Mental Health. The Government commitment includes:
- (a) \$5.3 million to fund a range of targeted mental health programs and services in the community, including headspace and the Detention Exit Community Outreach Program;
 - (b) \$13.8 million to deliver new rehabilitation beds at the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit;
 - (c) \$1.8 million to reduce incidences of suicide in the community by funding the Black Dog Institute's Lifespan Suicide Prevention Program;
 - (d) \$100 000 to Menslink to fund additional counsellors and expand free community counselling services to boys aged 10-12;
 - (e) expanding the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Consultation and Liaison Service at the Canberra Hospital to provide services 7 days per week;
 - (f) expanding the Perinatal Mental Health Consultation Service to provide greater access to specialist psychiatric services for new Canberra mothers; and
 - (g) developing the Mental Health Specialty Service Plan within the Territory-wide Health Services Framework and the associated mental health model of care, which will improve the coordination of mental health services in a holistic and patient-centred way; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Mental Health to provide an update to the Assembly by the first sitting day in May 2018 on:
- (a) the establishment of the Office for Mental Health, including its proposed model and functions;
 - (b) the Government's efforts to simplify navigation of the mental health services system for people in the ACT; and
 - (c) the Government's strategies to attract and retain more medical professionals, including mental health professionals in Canberra and with a focus on the field of child and adolescent mental health."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

11 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6:39 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly