



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 17

THURSDAY, 3 JUNE 2021

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Ms Burch) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri, dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi dhawura Ngounaawalbun yindjumaralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal Country.

Today we are gathering on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male, and Ngunnawal country.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 DISTRICT LEVEL PLANNING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management) made a ministerial statement concerning District level planning and presented the following paper:

District level planning—Ministerial statement, 3 June 2021.

Mr Gentleman moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 TRANSPORT INVESTMENT IN THE MOLONGLO VALLEY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport and City Services) made a ministerial statement concerning transport investment in the Molonglo Valley and presented the following paper:

Transport investment in the Molonglo Valley—Ministerial statement, 3 June 2021.

Mr Steel moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 GROWING A FOOD BOWL FOR CANBERRA—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for the Environment) made a ministerial statement concerning growing a food bowl for Canberra and presented the following paper:

Growing a food bowl for Canberra—Ministerial statement, 3 June 2021.

Ms Vassarotti moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

5 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES—UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Davidson (Minister for Mental Health) made a ministerial statement concerning an update on the Assembly resolution of 4 June 2020 regarding mental health services and presented the following paper:

Mental health services—Update on Assembly resolution of 4 June 2020—Ministerial statement, 3 June 2021.

Ms Davidson moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

6 NEW SCHOOL BUILDS TO CATER FOR GROWTH IN OUR COMMUNITY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Youth Affairs) made a ministerial statement concerning new school builds to cater for growth in the community and presented the following paper:

New school builds to cater for growth in our community—Ministerial statement, 2 June 2021.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

7 LOOSE-FILL ASBESTOS LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about loose-fill asbestos.

Paper: Ms Vassarotti presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Vassarotti moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

8 ESTIMATES 2021-2022—SELECT COMMITTEE—PROPOSED ESTABLISHMENT

Mr Hanson, pursuant to notice, moved—That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly on 2 December 2020, as amended 30 March 2021, establishing the general purpose standing committees, that:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2021-2022 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2021-2022, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2021-2022 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2021-2022 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by the Government;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Opposition; and
 - (c) one Member to be nominated by the ACT Greens;
- (3) members of the Committee are to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing; an Opposition Member shall be elected chair of Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report by the Committee;
- (5) the Committee is to report by Tuesday, 7 October 2021;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation;
- (7) for the purpose of taking evidence the following will constitute a quorum:
 - (a) two members of the Committee; or
 - (b) one member of the Committee and any other non-executive Member of the Assembly;

- (8) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders; and
- (9) with the establishment of the Select Committee on Estimates 2021-2022, the general purpose standing committees will not now inquire into expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2021-2022.

Debate ensued.

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

9 ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE—EVALUATION OF TRIAL OF ESTIMATES BEING CONSIDERED BY STANDING COMMITTEES

Ms Orr, by leave, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure, in its review of possible structures of the Committee system for the 10th Assembly, recommended a trial of budget estimates going to the general purpose standing committees;
- (2) acknowledges that the budget estimates consideration for the 2021-2022 budget estimates will be the first stand-alone process for the general purpose standing committees; and
- (3) refers the evaluation of the trial to the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure after the 2021-2022 budget process as part of a broader review of the estimates process for inquiry and report by the end of 2021.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 COURTS AND OTHER JUSTICE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

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 Rattenbury (Attorney-General) presented a revised explanatory statement to the Bill.

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

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

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

11 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

12 NATIONAL PARK CITY FOUNDATION

Dr Paterson, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) Canberra was recently named the world’s most sustainable city;
 - (b) accolades such as this are the result of policy decisions made by the ACT Government, together with important contributions from the business and not-for-profit sectors, and from individuals and other groups within our community;
 - (c) over the past decade, there has been a significant change to Canberra’s brand, image and identity with an improved sense of pride;
 - (d) the exponential growth in tourism, with visitor expenditure growing from \$1.3 billion in December 2009 to \$2.8 billion in December 2019, combined with being ranked third by Lonely Planet’s Best in Travel in 2018, are testament to this;
 - (e) despite this, national and international media and other outlets sometimes portray Canberra as being nothing more than the seat of federal politics;
 - (f) the ACT Government’s “Brand CBR” and “More Than” campaigns position the city prominently and positively within the local and national psyche;
 - (g) Canberra is currently facing a skills shortage and needs to compete with many other cities across Australia to attract people;
 - (h) there is opportunity to leverage additional strategies to continue to develop Canberra’s reputation as a progressive, sustainable and contemporary city, offering a great quality of life, such as the global National Park City status;
 - (i) the National Park City Foundation has been established to recognise those cities in which government, business and community work together for improved relationships between people and nature;
 - (j) national park cities:
 - (k) have a vision and framework, developed through collaboration between city partners – government, organisations, businesses, groups and communities;
 - (i) do not require a fee for application;
 - (ii) sit outside of legislation and do not impose any levels of planning restriction, approval processes or bureaucracy;
 - (iii) encourage reporting by the city to the National Park City Foundation to track progress; and
 - (iv) provide international recognition and celebration of initiatives and projects underway, and of the city’s future aspiration;

- (l) to date, London is the only city to be declared a National Park City;
 - (m) Adelaide has commenced the process to become recognised as a National Park City; and
 - (n) Canberra possesses the requisite qualities to become a National Park City; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) explore whether there is benefit for Canberra to apply to become a National Park City through:
 - (i) dialogue with the National Park City Foundation; and
 - (ii) community consultation to identify the level of support from organisations, business and the community;
 - (b) continue to undertake important branding to position Canberra as “more than” meets the eye to attract people to visit, study, work, do business and live; and
 - (c) continue to engage with, and provide content to, local and national media outlets; enabling them to portray Canberra’s unique identity and characteristics as a great place to visit, study, work, do business and live.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

13 OUT-OF-HOME CARE EDUCATION

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

- (1) notes that:
- (a) in general, children and young people in out-of-home care experience poorer educational outcomes in comparison to the general student population, including:
 - (i) lower levels of literacy and numeracy;
 - (ii) poorer school attendance and engagement; and
 - (iii) reduced rates of finishing school and completing year 12;
 - (b) poor educational attainment is more pronounced amongst young people who exit residential care than those exiting home-based care;
 - (c) lower educational outcomes contribute to the fact that 50 per cent of those exiting care end up either homeless, in jail, or as new parents within 12 months;
 - (d) young people in custody likewise often have had poor experiences of education, including issues with poor school attendance and performance;

- (e) the ACT Government’s current out-of-home care strategy includes a joint education and training pathways initiative intended to improve education and training outcomes and identify and reduce barriers to participation in education; and
 - (f) this initiative includes encouraging attendance, addressing absenteeism in collaboration with child protection staff, and developing an individual learning plan for each child;
- (2) also notes that:
- (a) according to research, protective factors that support children and young people engaging well with education include having carers who support learning, are confident and able to act as mentors and tutors, and know how to establish environments conducive to learning;
 - (b) to succeed at providing these protective factors, carers in many cases benefit from training and instruction; and
 - (c) successful initiatives such as Anglicare Victoria’s TEACHaR program provide services such as one-on-one tutoring as well as support for out-of-home care staff to strengthen and enrich the education culture in residential care environments; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) ensure that staff in residential care homes and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre receive ongoing training and support specifically designed to increase their confidence and ability to mentor and tutor residents in literacy and numeracy and to contribute towards building rich learning environments;
 - (b) review Anglicare Victoria’s TEACHaR program and explore ways that a similar service could be made available in the ACT; and
 - (c) update the Assembly on these efforts by the last sitting day of October 2021.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Families and Community Services) moved the following amendment:

Omit paragraph (3) (a) and substitute:

- “(3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) explore ways to improve the support available to staff in residential care homes and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including through training and development opportunities, to increase their confidence and ability to mentor and tutor residents in literacy and numeracy and to contribute towards building rich learning environments;”.

Debate continued.

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

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) in general, children and young people in out-of-home care experience poorer educational outcomes in comparison to the general student population, including:
 - (i) lower levels of literacy and numeracy;
 - (ii) poorer school attendance and engagement; and
 - (iii) reduced rates of finishing school and completing year 12;
 - (b) poor educational attainment is more pronounced amongst young people who exit residential care than those exiting home-based care;
 - (c) lower educational outcomes contribute to the fact that 50 per cent of those exiting care end up either homeless, in jail, or as new parents within 12 months;
 - (d) young people in custody likewise often have had poor experiences of education, including issues with poor school attendance and performance;
 - (e) the ACT Government’s current out-of-home care strategy includes a joint education and training pathways initiative intended to improve education and training outcomes and identify and reduce barriers to participation in education; and
 - (f) this initiative includes encouraging attendance, addressing absenteeism in collaboration with child protection staff, and developing an individual learning plan for each child;
- (2) also notes that:
 - (a) according to research, protective factors that support children and young people engaging well with education include having carers who support learning, are confident and able to act as mentors and tutors, and know how to establish environments conducive to learning;
 - (b) to succeed at providing these protective factors, carers in many cases benefit from training and instruction; and
 - (c) successful initiatives such as Anglicare Victoria’s TEACHaR program provide services such as one-on-one tutoring as well as support for out-of-home care staff to strengthen and enrich the education culture in residential care environments; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) explore ways to improve the support available to staff in residential care homes and Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including through training and development opportunities, to increase their confidence and ability to mentor and tutor residents in literacy and numeracy and to contribute towards building rich learning environments;

- (b) review Anglicare Victoria's TEACHaR program and explore ways that a similar service could be made available in the ACT; and
- (c) update the Assembly on these efforts by the last sitting day of October 2021."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

14 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 5:21 pm, adjourned until 10 am Tuesday 22 June 2021.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly