



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2024–2025–2026

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 72

WEDNESDAY, 21 OCTOBER 2026

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- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Hanson) 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 wanggiralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal country.

Today we are all meeting on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male.

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

2 DATA CENTRE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning the development of an ACT Data Centre Framework and presented the following paper:

Data centre—Ministerial statement, 21 October 2026.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

3 MODERN METHODS OF CONSTRUCTION—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development) made a ministerial statement concerning the modern methods of construction implementation progress and presented the following paper:

Modern Methods of Construction—Ministerial statement, 21 October 2026.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 OUT OF HOME CARE SNAPSHOT REPORT—A PRESENTATION OF DATA COVERING 1 JULY 2017 TO 31 DECEMBER 2025—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Children, Youth and Families) made a ministerial statement concerning the latest Out of Home Care Snapshot Report and presented the following papers:

Out of Home Care Snapshot Report—

1 July 2017 – 31 December 2025, undated.

A presentation of data covering 1 July 2017 to 31 December 2025—Ministerial statement, 21 October 2026.

Mr Pettersson moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

5 THRIVING KIDS—IMPLEMENTATION—UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Orr (Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity) made a ministerial statement concerning the progress of the Thriving Kids program implementation and presented the following paper:

Update on Implementation of Thriving Kids—Ministerial statement, 21 October 2026.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

6 MANUKA HOTEL DEVELOPMENT—DOCUMENTS—ORDER TO TABLE

Ms Carrick, pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development to provide the Assembly with the following documents relating to the Manuka Hotel, DA 202038142 and any subsequent development applications, at Griffith section 96, blocks 1, 2 and 5:

- (1) all development applications, including amendments, with accompanying plans;
- (2) all building approvals submitted to the ACT Government and accompanying plans;
- (3) details of all ACT Government inspections, the reason and the date inspected;
- (4) all certifiers' inspection reports;
- (5) all notifications to Access Canberra about compliance; and
- (6) all reports relating to investigations.

Mr Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development) moved the following amendment: Add:

“(7) notwithstanding the provisions of standing order 213A, the document or documents are to be provided within 30 calendar days.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negatived.

Question—put and passed.

7 LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 12—INQUIRY INTO THE EMERGENCIES AMENDMENT BILL 2026—REPORT NOTED

Ms Barry (Chair) presented the following report:

Legal Affairs—Standing Committee—Report 12—*Inquiry into the Emergencies Amendment Bill 2026*, dated 14 October 2026, together with extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

8 ECONOMICS, INDUSTRY AND RECREATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—PETITIONS—GUNGAHLIN UNITED FOOTBALL CLUB AND CAPITAL FOOTBALL—INDEPENDENT INQUIRY—WODEN VALLEY SOCCER CLUB GIRL TEAMS—INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL PREMIER LEAGUE GIRLS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Werner-Gibbings (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation had resolved not to inquire into two petitions concerning an independent inquiry into Gungahlin United Football Club and Capital Football (e-Pet 032-26 and Pet 048-26), and a petition relating to the inclusion of Woden Valley Soccer Club girl teams in the 2027 National Premier League Girl's competition (e-Pet 047-26).

9 SOCIAL POLICY—STANDING COMMITTEE—PETITIONS—CIT BRUCE—SENIOR FITNESS PROGRAMS—REINSTATEMENT—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Emerson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Social Policy had resolved not to inquire into three petitions calling for the reinstatement of the senior fitness programs at CIT Bruce (e-Pet 045-26, Pet 053-26 and Pet 059-26).

10 HOLIDAYS (ANZAC DAY) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Holidays Act 1958*.

Paper: Mr Pettersson 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.

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

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

11 PLANNING (MISSING MIDDLE HOUSING) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

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 Steel (Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development) 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.

12 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

13 CRIMES (ANTI-CONSORTING) AMENDMENT BILL 2026

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900*.

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

Title read by Clerk.

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

Debate adjourned (Dr Paterson—Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

14 GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

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.

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

Detail Stage

Bill, by leave, taken as a whole—

On the motion of Mr Barr (Chief Minister), by leave, his amendments Nos 1 and 2 (see [Schedule 1](#)) were made together, after debate.

Paper: Mr Barr presented a supplementary explanatory statement to the Government amendments.

Bill, as a whole, as amended, agreed to.

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

15 DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE SECTOR—SYSTEM MAPPING

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) as part of a broader suite of priorities, the Government promised to undertake updated system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector before the end of 2028, but it is otherwise unclear when system mapping will commence or be completed;
 - (b) the Government is yet to complete updated whole of system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector;
 - (c) the Government announced in June that it will not implement electronic monitoring of serious domestic violence offenders during this term of government, owing to cost constraints, despite its previous commitment to introducing electronic monitoring;
 - (d) frontline services in the ACT have condemned this decision, with one commenting that it has sent a devastating message to victim-survivors;
 - (e) it is critical that the Government's 10-year *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036* and future resourcing is informed by a clear and fulsome understanding of the barriers, gaps and constraints facing the sector;
 - (f) despite being a key priority for frontline services, the implementation of electronic monitoring in the ACT was not committed to as one of the 35 actions under the Government's First Action Plan (2026-2028) of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*;
 - (g) if system mapping had been completed before the strategy was developed, appropriate levels of funding could have been earmarked for the implementation of electronic monitoring as promised; and
 - (h) system mapping should be given immediate priority, noting that frontline services have testified that they are facing significant constraints, relative to demand, at the hearings of the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) deploy existing funding committed for this work to bring forward and prioritise whole of system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector, under the First Action Plan of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*, and commence that work immediately in consultation with frontline services, victim-survivors and key stakeholders;

- (b) complete and publicly release the system mapping, including identification of unmet demand, service gaps, workforce constraints, funding pressures and barriers to accessing support;
- (c) table the findings in the Assembly within six months, together with the Government's response and an implementation plan outlining how the findings will inform future commissioning, resourcing and delivery of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*; and
- (d) before the close of the final sitting week of 2026, clarify what measures it will implement this term in place of electronic monitoring to monitor serious domestic violence perpetrators and protect community safety.

Ms Tough (Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

1. In paragraph (1)(a), omit "but it is otherwise unclear when system mapping will commence or be completed".
2. Omit paragraph (1)(b), substitute:
 - "(b) the ACT Government is yet to complete updated whole-system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector. However, the First Action Plan under the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036* ('DFSV Strategy') remains on track for completion before the end of 2028".
3. In paragraph (1)(c), after "introducing electronic monitoring", insert: "but has made significant investment in frontline support services".
4. Omit paragraph (1)(d), substitute:
 - "(d) some frontline services in the ACT have condemned this decision, with one commenting that it has sent a 'devastating message' to victim survivors. Another prominent support service expressed reservations about the technology and remained unconvinced it would improve safety if implemented;"
5. Omit paragraphs (1)(f) to (1)(h).
6. Omit all text in paragraph (2), substitute:
 - "(2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) complete and report the system mapping findings including identification of unmet demand, service gaps, workforce constraints, funding pressures and barriers to accessing support, to the monitoring evaluation framework as mandated by the DFSV Strategy;
 - (b) provide an update to the Assembly by mid-July 2027 regarding the ongoing implementation and progress of the DFSV Strategy; and
 - (c) continue to explore the viability of electronic monitoring as an integrated option within the community corrections framework."

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

Mr Emerson moved the following amendment: Omit all text in paragraph (2), substitute:

“(2) calls on the Government to:

- (a) develop and table in the first sitting week of 2027 a detailed feasibility assessment covering:
 - (i) the roll-out of electronic monitoring for domestic violence offences;
 - (ii) the roll-out of electronic monitoring for community-based orders; and
 - (iii) the cost of incarcerating offenders who may have otherwise been subject to electronic monitoring under paragraph (2)(a)(i) and (ii);
- (b) bring forward and prioritise whole-of-system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector, under the First Action Plan of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036* and commence the work as a priority in consultation with frontline services, victim-survivors and key stakeholders;
- (c) complete and publicly release the system mapping, including identification of unmet demand, service gaps, workforce constraints, funding pressures and barriers to accessing support; and
- (d) table the findings of the service mapping within 12 months, together with the Government’s response and an implementation plan outlining how the findings will inform future commissioning, resourcing, and delivery of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*.”.

Ms Vassarotti moved the following amendment to Mr Emerson’s proposed amendment: “Add:

- (3) also calls on the Government to:
 - (a) recommit to progressing electronic monitoring in the ACT justice system, for people on pre- and post-sentence community-based orders, including domestic and family violence perpetrators; and
 - (b) report back to the Assembly on progress on implementation in the first sitting week of 2027.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment to amendment agreed to.

Amendment, as amended, agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) as part of a broader suite of priorities, the Government promised to undertake updated system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector before the end of 2028, but it is otherwise unclear when system mapping will commence or be completed;

- (b) the Government is yet to complete updated whole of system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector;
 - (c) the Government announced in June that it will not implement electronic monitoring of serious domestic violence offenders during this term of government, owing to cost constraints, despite its previous commitment to introducing electronic monitoring;
 - (d) frontline services in the ACT have condemned this decision, with one commenting that it has sent a devastating message to victim-survivors;
 - (e) it is critical that the Government's 10-year *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036* and future resourcing is informed by a clear and fulsome understanding of the barriers, gaps and constraints facing the sector;
 - (f) despite being a key priority for frontline services, the implementation of electronic monitoring in the ACT was not committed to as one of the 35 actions under the Government's First Action Plan (2026-2028) of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*;
 - (g) if system mapping had been completed before the strategy was developed, appropriate levels of funding could have been earmarked for the implementation of electronic monitoring as promised; and
 - (h) system mapping should be given immediate priority, noting that frontline services have testified that they are facing significant constraints, relative to demand, at the hearings of the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) develop and table in the first sitting week of 2027 a detailed feasibility assessment covering:
 - (i) the roll-out of electronic monitoring for domestic violence offences;
 - (ii) the roll-out of electronic monitoring for community-based orders; and
 - (iii) the cost of incarcerating offenders who may have otherwise been subject to electronic monitoring under paragraph (2)(a)(i) and (ii);
 - (b) bring forward and prioritise whole-of-system mapping of the domestic and family violence sector, under the First Action Plan of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036* and commence the work as a priority in consultation with frontline services, victim-survivors and key stakeholders;
 - (c) complete and publicly release the system mapping, including identification of unmet demand, service gaps, workforce constraints, funding pressures and barriers to accessing support; and
 - (d) table the findings of the service mapping within 12 months, together with the Government's response and an implementation plan outlining how the findings will inform future commissioning, resourcing, and delivery of the *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026-2036*; and

- (3) also calls on the Government to:
- (a) recommit to progressing electronic monitoring in the ACT justice system, for people on pre- and post-sentence community-based orders, including domestic and family violence perpetrators; and
 - (b) report back to the Assembly on progress on implementation in the first sitting week of 2027.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

16 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Two Members’ statements were made.

17 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Suspension of standing orders—Extension of adjournment debate: Ms Tough (Minister for Human Rights) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the adjournment debate for today continuing for an extra 30 minutes.

Question—put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.18 pm adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

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

Hamish Finlay
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

SCHEDULE OF AMENDMENTS

Schedule 1

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES (CAMPAIGN ADVERTISING) AMENDMENT BILL 2025

Amendments circulated by the Chief Minister

1

Clause 5

Page 3, line 13—

[oppose the clause]

2

Clause 10

Proposed new section 18 (1A)

Page 4, line 14—

omit proposed new section 18 (1A), substitute

- (1A) A government agency must not begin or continue a government campaign during a Commonwealth pre-election period if—
- (a) the campaign—
 - (i) is about a program, policy or matter that is wholly or partly funded by the Commonwealth; and
 - (ii) mentions the Commonwealth funding; or
 - (b) the campaign depicts, names or otherwise identifies—
 - (i) a Senator or member of the House of Representatives; or
 - (ii) a candidate or prospective candidate for election as a Senator or member of the House of Representatives.
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