

2004–2005

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 15

WEDNESDAY, 6 APRIL 2005

1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Berry) 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 **CRIMES AMENDMENT BILL 2005**

Mr Pratt, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes Act 1900*.

Title read by Clerk.

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

Debate adjourned (Mr Stanhope—Attorney-General) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 **LAND (PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT) (UNIT DEVELOPMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2005**

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 negatived.

4 **VOLUNTARY STUDENT UNIONISM**

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

- (1) notes with concern the recent tabling in the Commonwealth House of Representatives of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Up-front Student Union Fees) Bill 2005;
- (2) considers the significant negative implications of the introduction of voluntary student unionism to universities in the ACT for the student population and the broader community;
- (3) recognises the provision by student unions of important representative and welfare services and the significance of student community to the provision of quality tertiary education; and

(4) expresses its commitment to the principle of student unionism.

Debate ensued.

Mrs Dunne, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

(1) paragraph (1), omit the paragraph, substitute:

“(1) commends the Commonwealth Government for the introduction of the Higher Education Support Amendment (Abolition of Compulsory Upfront Student Union Fees) Bill 2005 because it upholds part 3, subsection 15(2) of the ACT *Human Rights Act 2004*”;

(2) paragraph (2), omit the paragraph; and

(3) paragraph (4), insert “voluntary” before “student”.

Debate continued.

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.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

6 VOLUNTARY STUDENT UNIONISM

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Gentleman, and on the amendments moved by Mrs Dunne (*see* [Entry 4](#))—

Debate resumed.

Question—That the amendments be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

| AYES, 6 | | NOES, 9 | |
|------------|----------|--------------|---------------|
| Mrs Burke | Mr Smyth | Mr Berry | Mr Hargreaves |
| Mrs Dunne | | Mr Corbell | Ms MacDonald |
| Mr Mulcahy | | Dr Foskey | Mr Quinlan |
| Mr Pratt | | Ms Gallagher | Mr Stanhope |
| Mr Seselja | | Mr Gentleman | |

And so it was negatived.

Debate continued.

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

7 A.C.T. POLICING

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

(1) notes:

- (a) the community’s growing concern about ACT Policing and a commensurate loss of confidence in the Government to protect the community;
- (b) that when the community is encouraged by the police to report crime “in progress” the community is let down by a failure by police to respond on time and/or follow up effectively due to a lack of Government support and resources;

- (c) the community's concern that there is a poor visible police presence in the community resulting in criminal and offensive behaviour occurring, often in broad daylight, with impunity; and
 - (d) the police's lack of ability and confidence to tackle a number of complex situations because they are poorly resourced and because the ACT Government lacks the political will to be tough on crime; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) reveal to the Assembly and the community the true strength of the ACT Police Force;
 - (b) increase front line policing to provide for an effective community policing presence, as Mr Hargreaves promised to do in 2001; and
 - (c) ensure that Gungahlin Police Station, and indeed all police stations, are manned 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

| AYES, 7 | | NOES, 10 | |
|------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|
| Mrs Burke | Mr Smyth | Mr Berry | Mr Hargreaves |
| Mrs Dunne | Mr Stefaniak | Mr Corbell | Ms MacDonald |
| Mr Mulcahy | | Dr Foskey | Ms Porter |
| Mr Pratt | | Ms Gallagher | Mr Quinlan |
| Mr Seselja | | Mr Gentleman | Mr Stanhope |

And so it was negatived.

8 OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the Office of Fair Trading continues to enhance its activities to the benefit of the ACT community;
 - (b) successful prosecutions have been undertaken of traders in the fitness, real estate, motor vehicle and credit provider industries that have acted against the interests of consumers; and
 - (c) a wide ranging licensing and enforcement regime has maintained a high level of professionalism amongst businesses and has resulted in increased protection to ACT consumers; and
- (2) recognises the achievements of the Office of Fair Trading and acknowledges the important contribution made by the Office to the well-being of the Canberra community.

Debate ensued.

9 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

The Assembly continuing to sit until 6.30 p.m.—The Deputy Speaker adjourned the Assembly until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly