



# LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022

## MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 71

THURSDAY, 1 DECEMBER 2022

---

- 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 Ngunnaawalbun 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 **PRIVILEGES 2022—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—IMPOSITION OF A PROHIBITION NOTICE BY WORKSAFE A.C.T.—REPORT ADOPTED**

Mr Hanson (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Privileges 2022—Select Committee—Report—*Imposition of a prohibition notice by WorkSafe ACT*, dated 28 November 2022, together with a copy of the minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be adopted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**3 PETITION—PETITION NOTED**

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

Mr Pettersson, from 202 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to install a playground at Amaroo shops (e-Pet 035-22).

The Speaker proposed—That the petition so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**4 CHIEF MINISTERIAL TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE—AUGUST 2022—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT Government's trade mission to Singapore in August 2022 and presented the following paper:

Chief Ministerial Trade Mission to Singapore—August 2022—Ministerial statement, 1 December 2022.

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

Question—put and passed.

**5 MINISTER FOR HEALTH TRADE MISSION TO SINGAPORE—9-14 AUGUST 2022—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) made a ministerial statement concerning a trade mission she led to Singapore in August 2022 and presented the following paper:

Minister for Health Trade Mission to Singapore—9-14 August 2022—Ministerial statement, 1 December 2022.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

**6 A.C.T. ENERGY DELEGATION TO SINGAPORE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) made a ministerial statement concerning the delegation he led to Singapore in October 2022, which coincided with the Singapore International Energy Week 2022 and presented the following paper:

ACT Energy Delegation to Singapore—Ministerial statement, 1 December 2022.

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

Question—put and passed.

**7 CLIMATE CHANGE AND GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION ACT—MINISTER'S ANNUAL REPORT 2021-22—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) made a ministerial statement concerning the 2021-22 Minister's Annual Report under the *Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act 2010* and presented the following papers:

Climate Change and Greenhouse Gas Reduction Act, pursuant to subsection 15(3)—  
Minister's Annual Report 2021-22—

Report.

Ministerial statement, 1 December 2022.

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

Question—put and passed.

## **8 ASBESTOS RESPONSE TASKFORCE CLOSURE REPORT—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction) made a ministerial statement concerning the Asbestos Response Taskforce Closure Report and presented the following papers:

Asbestos Response Taskforce Closure Report—

Report—Key delivery outcomes, insights and lessons learnt, dated November 2022.

Ministerial statement, 1 December 2022.

Ms Vassarotti moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Question—put and passed.

## **9 REVENUE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

Mr Barr (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about revenue collection, and for other purposes.

*Paper:* Mr Barr 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 Barr moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Ms Lee—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## **10 GAMING MACHINE (CLUB REFUGE) AMENDMENT BILL 2022**

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Gaming), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Gaming Machine Act 2004* and the *Gaming Machine Regulation 2004*.

*Paper:* Mr Rattenbury 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 Rattenbury 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.

**11 PROFESSIONAL ENGINEERS BILL 2022**

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to regulate the practice of professional engineering, and for other purposes.

*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 Cain) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

**12 PARLIAMENT PORTAL—QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

Ms Burch (Speaker), pursuant to notice, moved—That, from 1 January 2023, standing orders be amended as follows:

(1) Standing Order 113(a)

Omit all words after “with the Clerk,”, substitute “through the Parliament Portal, by 12 noon of a sitting day.”.

(2) Standing Order 120

Omit all words after “shall be given”, substitute “through the Parliament Portal within such time as, in the opinion of the Speaker, will enable the question to be published. The question shall be authorised by the Member.”.

(3) Standing Order 254D(a)

After “the Committee”, insert “, through the questions module on the Parliament Portal,”.

Question—put and passed.

**13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—CONSIDERATION OF ASSEMBLY BUSINESS**

Mr Cain moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Notice No 3, Assembly business, being called on and debated forthwith.

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

**14 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—ROAD SAFETY AND CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILLS 2022—AMENDMENT TO REPORTING DATE**

Mr Cain (Chair) moved—That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended, that established general purpose standing committees, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety shall present its report on the Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 by 24 February 2023.

Question—put and passed.

**15 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBERS**

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That leave of absence from 2 December 2022 to 6 February 2023 be given to all Members.

Question—put and passed.

**16 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

**17 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Bills referred to Committees, pursuant to resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended—Correspondence—Bills—Inquiry—

Justice and Community Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 (No 2)—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 28 November 2022.

Road Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2022 and Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2022—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, dated 28 November 2022.

**18 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS**

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) presented the following papers:

Animal-friendly netting—Assembly resolution of 23 November 2021—Update.

Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency and the National Boards, reporting on the National Registration and Accreditation Scheme—Annual Report 2021-22, dated November 2022.

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration*—Government response, dated 1 December 2022.

Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Inquiry into ACT Auditor-General's Report No. 6 of 2021: Teaching Quality in ACT Public Schools*—Government response, dated 1 December 2022.

Gene Technology Act, pursuant to subsection 136(2)—Office of the Gene Technology Regulator—Annual report 2021-22, dated 13 September 2022.

Health (National Health Funding Pool and Administrator) Act, pursuant to subsection 25(4)—Annual reports 2021-22—

Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool, dated 21 September 2022.

National Health Funding Body, dated 23 September 2022.

Human Rights Act, pursuant to subsection 33(3)—Corrections Management Act—Declaration of incompatibility, dated 21 April 2022—Government response.

Inquiries Act, pursuant to section 14A—Final report—Inquiry into the Legislative, Workplace Governance and Clinical Frameworks of Dhulwa Secure Mental Health Unit, dated 11 November 2022.

Health Practitioner Regulation National Law Regulation 2018, pursuant to subsection 29(c) —National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commissioner—Annual report 2021-22.

Office of the National Rail Safety Regulator—Annual report 2021-2022, dated June 2022.

Urban tree canopy coverage—Assembly resolution of 31 March 2021—Government response—Second update—2022 Report to the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory, dated November 2022.

Waste Management and Resource Recovery Act, pursuant to subsection 64U(2)—ACT Container Deposit Scheme—Annual Report 2021-2022.

## **19 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT—CORRECTIONS MANAGEMENT ACT—DECLARATION OF INCOMPATIBILITY—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, moved—That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Human Rights Act, pursuant to subsection 33(3)—Corrections Management Act—Declaration of incompatibility, dated 21 April 2022—Government response.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## **20 ANIMAL-FRIENDLY NETTING—ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF 23 NOVEMBER 2021—UPDATE—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, moved—That the Assembly take note of the following paper:

Animal-friendly netting—Assembly resolution of 23 November 2021—Update.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

## **21 YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH SUPPORT**

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

(1) notes that:

- (a) mental ill health in childhood and adolescence can have substantial impacts on wellbeing and productivity. These impacts are exacerbated for young people in high-risk groups such as those affected by violence, abuse, maltreatment, or poverty;
- (b) the Australian Bureau of Statistics' National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing found that almost two in five people (39.6 percent) aged 16-24 years had a 12-month mental health disorder in 2020-21. Split by gender, almost half (46.6 percent) of females aged 16-24 years and almost one third (31.2 percent) of males aged 16-24 years had a 12-month mental disorder;

- (c) as reported in the 2021 Census, 35.3 percent of Gungahlin's population are young people below 24 years of age; and
  - (d) supported by strong prevention and early intervention measures, young people can be empowered to manage their mental health and lead a psychologically healthy life;
- (2) further notes:
  - (a) headspace provides services to young people aged 12-25 years at two locations in the ACT, namely Tuggeranong and Canberra city;
  - (b) at headspace, young people can access mental health services, sexual health services, work and study services, alcohol and drug services, and general practitioner doctor services; and
  - (c) young people located in the ACT's northern-most suburbs face significant barriers if they need to access headspace's services at the Canberra city location;
- (3) acknowledges:
  - (a) the ACT Government is committed to supporting people living with a mental illness or mental disorder, and their families, friends, carers, and service providers;
  - (b) the ACT Government's rollout of the online youth navigation portal, Mind Map, that supports young people find the care they need across the mental health system;
  - (c) the 2022-23 Budget includes an additional \$70 million over four years for mental health and community health care support, building on over \$40 million already provided to support mental health since May 2020, including new funding for youth measures:
    - (i) \$8.1 million over four years to expand mental health supports for youth and young adults to address priority needs of young people who are experiencing or are at risk of mental health concerns and/or suicide and self-harm;
    - (ii) expanding the Childhood Early Intervention Team to Gungahlin Child and Family Centre;
    - (iii) the impending inauguration of the adolescent mental health ward at Canberra Hospital;
    - (iv) grants for initiatives to support vulnerable or disadvantaged children to participate in sport and recreational activities that improve their physical wellbeing, health, and social skills;
    - (v) ongoing redevelopment of the Watson Health Precinct that will deliver a new purpose built facility for Catholic Care's STEPS voluntary mental health residential program for 13-18 years old; and

- (vi) establishing new eating disorder programs and services, including STRIDE, a parent support program, and clinical hub for eating disorder services, as well as progressing work towards establishing an early intervention service for eating disorders and construction of the ACT's first eating disorder residential centre; and
  - (d) the ACT Government's investment in Orygen's digital mental health care platform MOST, which provides young people aged 12-25 with access to online therapy, tools, and programs; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) provide an update on the timeline for implementation of Orygen's MOST platform in the ACT;
  - (b) advocate for the Federal Government to fund a headspace located in Gungahlin;
  - (c) provide an analysis of how the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy aligns with the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy and compares to other jurisdictions, including intended outcomes for peer support workers;
  - (d) provide an update to the Assembly on the implementation of the Position Statement on Youth Mental Health Recovery from COVID-19 and advise how youth mental health in this post-lockdown period is responding;
  - (e) provide suitable social and recreational spaces for young people in Gungahlin where they can develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities;
  - (f) provide an update on mental health supports being considered for young Canberrans that could contribute to reduced wait lists and duration of treatment for mild to moderate mental health conditions and the Missing Middle; and
  - (g) report back to the Assembly no later than the first sitting week of May 2023.

Debate ensued.

Mr Cocks, by leave, moved the following amendments:

- (1) Omit paragraph (4)(b), substitute:
  - “(b) advocate for the Federal Government to fund a headspace centre located in Gungahlin and increase funding for all ACT headspace centres to enable them to attract and retain staff”;
- (2) Insert new paragraph (4)(f):
  - “(f) provide an update on the implementation status of all recommendations of the August 2020 report: Youth Mental health in the ACT;”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:



“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) mental ill health in childhood and adolescence can have substantial impacts on wellbeing and productivity. These impacts are exacerbated for young people in high-risk groups such as those affected by violence, abuse, maltreatment, or poverty;
  - (b) the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ National Study of Mental Health and Wellbeing found that almost two in five people (39.6 percent) aged 16-24 years had a 12-month mental health disorder in 2020-21. Split by gender, almost half (46.6 percent) of females aged 16-24 years and almost one third (31.2 percent) of males aged 16-24 years had a 12-month mental disorder;
  - (c) as reported in the 2021 Census, 35.3 percent of Gungahlin’s population are young people below 24 years of age; and
  - (d) supported by strong prevention and early intervention measures, young people can be empowered to manage their mental health and lead a psychologically healthy life;
- (2) further notes:
  - (a) headspace provides services to young people aged 12-25 years at two locations in the ACT, namely Tuggeranong and Canberra city;
  - (b) at headspace, young people can access mental health services, sexual health services, work and study services, alcohol and drug services, and general practitioner doctor services; and
  - (c) young people located in the ACT’s northern-most suburbs face significant barriers if they need to access headspace’s services at the Canberra city location;
- (3) acknowledges:
  - (a) the ACT Government is committed to supporting people living with a mental illness or mental disorder, and their families, friends, carers, and service providers;
  - (b) the ACT Government’s rollout of the online youth navigation portal, Mind Map, that supports young people find the care they need across the mental health system;
  - (c) the 2022-23 Budget includes an additional \$70 million over four years for mental health and community health care support, building on over \$40 million already provided to support mental health since May 2020, including new funding for youth measures:
    - (i) \$8.1 million over four years to expand mental health supports for youth and young adults to address priority needs of young people who are experiencing or are at risk of mental health concerns and/or suicide and self-harm;
    - (ii) expanding the Childhood Early Intervention Team to Gungahlin Child and Family Centre;
    - (iii) the impending inauguration of the adolescent mental health ward at Canberra Hospital;

- (iv) grants for initiatives to support vulnerable or disadvantaged children to participate in sport and recreational activities that improve their physical wellbeing, health, and social skills;
  - (v) ongoing redevelopment of the Watson Health Precinct that will deliver a new purpose built facility for Catholic Care's STEPS voluntary mental health residential program for 13-18 years old; and
  - (vi) establishing new eating disorder programs and services, including STRIDE, a parent support program, and clinical hub for eating disorder services, as well as progressing work towards establishing an early intervention service for eating disorders and construction of the ACT's first eating disorder residential centre; and
- (d) the ACT Government's investment in Orygen's digital mental health care platform MOST, which provides young people aged 12-25 with access to online therapy, tools, and programs; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) provide an update on the timeline for implementation of Orygen's MOST platform in the ACT;
  - (b) advocate for the Federal Government to fund a headspace centre located in Gungahlin and increase funding for all ACT headspace centres to enable them to attract and retain staff;
  - (c) provide an analysis of how the ACT Mental Health Workforce Strategy aligns with the National Mental Health Workforce Strategy and compares to other jurisdictions, including intended outcomes for peer support workers;
  - (d) provide an update to the Assembly on the implementation of the Position Statement on Youth Mental Health Recovery from COVID-19 and advise how youth mental health in this post-lockdown period is responding;
  - (e) provide suitable social and recreational spaces for young people in Gungahlin where they can develop their physical, social, emotional, and cognitive abilities;
  - (f) provide an update on the implementation status of all recommendations of the August 2020 report: Youth Mental health in the ACT;
  - (g) provide an update on mental health supports being considered for young Canberrans that could contribute to reduced wait lists and duration of treatment for mild to moderate mental health conditions and the Missing Middle; and
  - (h) report back to the Assembly no later than the first sitting week of May 2023."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 22 PARAMEDICS—SHORTAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS

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

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) since 2020, the Government has promised to increase the number of serving ambulance officers to meet the increasing demand;

- (b) on 4 August 2022, Mr Gentleman told the Assembly that previous funding packages had delivered 53 new paramedics; and
- (c) annual reports from the previous years show that the number of serving ambulance officers has increased by only five this last financial year, and only 18 the financial year previously, which is a total of only 23 paramedics;
- (2) further notes that:
  - (a) annual reports show that demand has increased by 11 percent over the last year;
  - (b) this year has seen a significant shortage of paramedics such that fire crews have had to be deployed to meet demand;
  - (c) major issues for the paramedics present at the meeting include long night shifts, with paramedic rosters scheduling workers on back-to-back night shifts of 14 hours long per night;
  - (d) according to the Transport Workers' Union spokesperson, the one ComCen program has lagged for seven years and delivered nothing other than a change in uniforms; and
  - (e) on Friday 25 November 2022, paramedics unanimously passed a motion of want of confidence in the leadership of the Emergency Services Agency; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to:
  - (a) detail to the Assembly all actions he is taking to address the issues raised by the ambulance officers; and
  - (b) report back in the first sitting day of 2023 with a progress report.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (1)(b), substitute:

- “(2) further notes that:
- (a) annual reports show that demand has increased by 11 percent over the last year;
  - (b) major issues for the paramedics present at the meeting include long night shifts, with paramedic rosters scheduling workers on back-to-back night shifts of 14 hours long per night;
  - (c) according to the Transport Workers' Union spokesperson, the one ComCen program has lagged for seven years and delivered nothing other than a change in uniforms; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to:
- (a) detail to the Assembly all actions he is taking to address the issues raised by the ambulance officers; and
  - (b) report back in the first sitting day of 2023 with a progress report; and
- (4) thanks paramedics and ACTAS staff for their dedication, effort and hard work in caring for Canberrans, particularly during the pandemic.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
  - (a) since 2020, the Government has promised to increase the number of serving ambulance officers to meet the increasing demand;
  - (b) on 4 August 2022, Mr Gentleman told the Assembly that previous funding packages had delivered 53 new paramedics; and
- (2) further notes that:
  - (a) annual reports show that demand has increased by 11 percent over the last year;
  - (b) major issues for the paramedics present at the meeting include long night shifts, with paramedic rosters scheduling workers on back-to-back night shifts of 14 hours long per night;
  - (c) according to the Transport Workers’ Union spokesperson, the one ComCen program has lagged for seven years and delivered nothing other than a change in uniforms; and
- (3) calls on the Minister for Police and Emergency Services to:
  - (a) detail to the Assembly all actions he is taking to address the issues raised by the ambulance officers; and
  - (b) report back in the first sitting day of 2023 with a progress report; and
- (4) thanks paramedics and ACTAS staff for their dedication, effort and hard work in caring for Canberrans, particularly during the pandemic.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 23 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 4.59 pm, adjourned until Tuesday, 7 February 2023 at 10 am.

---

**MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE:** All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Davis\*.

\*on leave

---

**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly