



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**2004–2005–2006–2007–2008**

**MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS**

**No. 128**

**WEDNESDAY, 13 FEBRUARY 2008**

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**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 AGENTS AMENDMENT BILL 2008**

Mr Mulcahy, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Agents Act 2003*, and for other purposes.

Title read by Clerk.

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

*Paper:* Mr Mulcahy, by leave, presented the following paper:

Recruitment and Consulting Services Association (RCSA)—Copy of Code for Professional Practice.

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

**3 COURTS (JUDICIAL APPOINTMENTS) AMENDMENT BILL 2008**

Mr Seselja (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Magistrates Courts Act 1930* and the *Supreme Court Act 1933*.

Title read by Clerk.

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

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

#### **4 INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF LANGUAGES**

Ms Porter, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly recognises the important role languages play in maintaining the diverse cultures that enrich our multicultural way of life, in this the International Year of Languages.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

#### **5 LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN A.C.T. SCHOOLS**

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

- (1) acknowledges:
  - (a) the significant social and economic benefits of a multi-lingual and multicultural society;
  - (b) the crucial role of high quality school language programs in supporting such a society; and
  - (c) the need for all of us to engage with and learn from other cultures; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to ensure that:
  - (a) a key element of the curriculum delivered in ACT schools is an engagement with other cultures through learning an additional language;
  - (b) sustained, and meaningful language learning experiences are provided for all students in ACT schools; and
  - (c) priority is given, through realistic funding and support, to attracting and retaining qualified and capable language teachers in ACT government schools.

Mr Barr (Minister for Education and Training) moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (2), substitute:

- “(2) and notes that the ACT Government:
- (a) has ensured a key element of the curriculum delivered in ACT schools is an engagement with other cultures through learning an additional language;
  - (b) is providing sustained and meaningful language learning experiences for students in ACT schools;
  - (c) has increased funding for languages in ACT schools and for professional development for teachers; and
  - (d) has mandated that languages are taught in all ACT public schools by 2010.”.

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.

#### **6 QUESTIONS**

Questions without notice were asked.

## 7 LANGUAGE PROGRAMS IN A.C.T. SCHOOLS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Dr Foskey, and on the amendment moved by Mr Barr (Minister for Education and Training) (*see entry 5*)—

Mr Barr, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Barr’s amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) acknowledges:
  - (a) the significant social and economic benefits of a multi-lingual and multicultural society;
  - (b) the crucial role of high quality school language programs in supporting such a society; and
  - (c) the need for all of us to engage with and learn from other cultures; and
- (2) notes that the ACT Government:
  - (a) has ensured a key element of the curriculum delivered in ACT schools is an engagement with other cultures through learning an additional language;
  - (b) is providing sustained and meaningful language learning experiences for students in ACT schools;
  - (c) has increased funding for languages in ACT schools and for professional development for teachers; and
  - (d) has mandated that languages are taught in all ACT public schools by 2010.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 8 VIOLENCE AT CANBERRA NIGHTSPOTS

Mr Seselja (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the serious concerns raised in recent weeks over violence at Canberra nightspots;
  - (b) the need to respond to the issue with lasting and sensible solutions; and
  - (c) the positive input of community representatives in contributing to the Opposition’s community roundtable on Friday, 1 February; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
  - (a) take note of the outcomes of the community roundtable; and
  - (b) work with the Opposition in coming up with the positive solutions to problems at Canberra nightclubs.

Mr Corbell (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “and” (second occurring), substitute:

- “(c) the range of measures already being implemented by the ACT Government to address these concerns, including:
- (i) implementation of the Nightlink taxi service;
  - (ii) amendments to the Crimes Act to provide for on the spot infringement notices for a range of minor street offences;
  - (iii) further upgrades and proposed expansion of the CCTV network in Civic to improve surveillance;
  - (iv) increased police resources through the recruitment of an additional 107 officers for ACT Policing;
  - (v) ongoing compliance action by ACT Policing and liquor licensing inspectors to ensure licence conditions are complied with; and
  - (vi) the Government’s announcement to review the Liquor Act, in consultation with industry and the wider community, to provide for further improvements to the legislative framework for the sale of alcohol in the ACT.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That Mr Corbell’s amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

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

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly notes:

- (1) the serious concerns raised in recent weeks over violence at Canberra nightspots;
- (2) the need to respond to the issue with lasting and sensible solutions; and
- (3) the range of measures already being implemented by the ACT Government to address these concerns, including:
  - (a) implementation of the Nightlink taxi service;
  - (b) amendments to the Crimes Act to provide for on the spot infringement notices for a range of minor street offences;
  - (c) further upgrades and proposed expansion of the CCTV network in Civic to improve surveillance;

- (d) increased police resources through the recruitment of an additional 107 officers for ACT Policing;
- (e) ongoing compliance action by ACT Policing and liquor licensing inspectors to ensure licence conditions are complied with; and
- (f) the Government's announcement to review the Liquor Act, in consultation with industry and the wider community, to provide for further improvements to the legislative framework for the sale of alcohol in the ACT."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

## 9 CLIMATE CHANGE

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Gentleman—That this Assembly notes:

- (1) the importance of recognising climate change;
- (2) that there is policy developed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions; and
- (3) that the Canberra public is educated about climate change and what they can do on a grass roots level to contribute to a cleaner world—

and on the amendment moved by Mr Mulcahy: Add the following paragraph:

- “(4) that the most effective policy to reduce greenhouse gas emissions is to embrace a ‘no regrets’ environment policy.”—

Debate resumed.

Question—That Mr Mulcahy's amendment be agreed to—put and negatived.

Mrs Dunne, by leave, moved the following amendment: Omit paragraphs (2) and (3), substitute:

- “(2) the ACT was the first Australian jurisdiction to recognise the importance of climate change and that it adopted Kyoto targets in its 1997 greenhouse strategy; and
- (3) that the Stanhope Government abandoned the 1997 greenhouse strategy in 2005, leaving the ACT without policy in this area for two years.”.

Mrs Dunne addressing the Assembly—

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 34 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

## 10 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 Speaker adjourned the Assembly until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly