



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2016–2017–2018–2019–2020

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 132

THURSDAY, 4 JUNE 2020

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Ms J. Burch) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker took the Chair and made a formal recognition that the Assembly was meeting on the lands of the traditional custodians. The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.
- 2 **PARLIAMENT OF KIRIBATI—ELECTION OF NEW SPEAKER—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**
The Speaker made a statement acknowledging the recent election of the Honourable Tangariki Rete as the new Speaker of the Parliament of Kiribati.
- 3 **PRESENTATION OF PAPER**
The Speaker presented the following paper:
Electoral Act, pursuant to subsection 10A(2)—Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the 2020 ACT Legislative Assembly Election—A special report by the ACT Electoral Commission, dated 25 May 2020.
- 4 **CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)—A.C.T. GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**
Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT Government’s response to the COVID-19 emergency and presented the following paper:
Coronavirus (COVID-19)—ACT Government response—Ministerial statement, 4 June 2020.



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

Question—put and passed.

5 PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Planning and Development Act 2007* and the *Planning and Development Regulation 2008*, and for other purposes.

Paper: Mr Gentleman 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 Gentleman 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.

6 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Mr Barr (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Financial Management Act 1996*.

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 (Mr Coe—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

7 PUBLIC HEALTH AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Public Health Act 1997*.

Paper: Ms Stephen-Smith 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 Stephen-Smith moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

8 ELECTRICITY FEED-IN (RENEWABLE ENERGY PREMIUM) AMENDMENT BILL 2020

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act 2008*.

Papers: Mr Rattenbury presented the following papers:

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

Electricity Feed-in (Renewable Energy Premium) Act—Findings of the Review and Audit of the Small and Medium Feed-in Tariff Scheme—ACT Government response, dated June 2020.

Title read by Clerk.

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

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

9 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 43—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mrs Jones (Chair) presented the following report:

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 43, dated 2 June 2020, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

10 HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 10—REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO MATERNITY SERVICES IN THE A.C.T.—REPORT NOTED

Ms Cody (Chair) presented the following report:

Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee—Report 10—*Report on Inquiry into Maternity Services in the ACT*, dated 3 June 2020, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE—SELECT COMMITTEE—INTERIM REPORT 2—REPORT NOTED

Mr Coe (Chair) presented the following report:

COVID-19 Pandemic Response—Select Committee—*Interim Report 2*, dated 28 May 2020, together with a copy of the extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

12 JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—COMMITTEE MEETING SCHEDULE—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER

Mrs Jones (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, made a statement concerning the revised meeting schedule of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role), as a result of an amendment to the Assembly's sitting pattern, and informed the Assembly that this meeting schedule would be temporary and not suitable for the long-term effectiveness of the Committee or the scrutiny process.

Paper: Mrs Jones, by leave, presented the following paper:

Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Revised meeting dates—Remainder of 2020.

13 EDUCATION, EMPLOYMENT AND YOUTH AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE—INQUIRY—YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH IN THE A.C.T.—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Pettersson (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that, to enable more individuals and families to share their experiences of youth mental health challenges, the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs had resolved to re-open the submission process for its inquiry into youth mental health in the ACT until 19 June 2020, and intends to table its report by the last sitting day in August 2020.

14 COMMERCIAL WASTE COLLECTION—MIXED-USE AREAS

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

(1) notes that:

- (a) Canberra is a dynamic city with an increasing number of residential buildings in mixed-use areas, including in Braddon, Kingston, Dickson, and major town centres;
- (b) in July 2019, the Assembly passed a motion regarding noise levels in mixed-use centres, and the Entertainment Action Plan addressing that motion notes a need to consider the impacts of waste collection;
- (c) the *ACT Commercial Waste Industry Code of Practice* (the Code) outlines times for waste collection based on defined zones. The Code was last updated in 1998;
- (d) under the Code, waste collection for some mixed-use areas is able to occur at hours which could have a negative impact on residents' quiet enjoyment of their homes;
- (e) residents of mixed-use areas such as Braddon, Dickson, and Kingston should not be unfairly impacted by noise from waste collection that could be undertaken at more appropriate times;
- (f) adjusting the operating hours of commercial waste collection could help mitigate some of the disruption caused by commercial activities to residents of mixed-use areas;

- (g) ensuring that appropriate noise attenuation is required for residential buildings within entertainment zones would also help residents with these noise issues; and
 - (h) it is essential to deliver outcomes under the Entertainment Action Plan to ensure a future for the night-time economy, noting that phase 1 reporting is due to the Assembly by 31 July 2020; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) review and update the Code, including investigating changes to zones and hours of commercial waste collection to minimise adverse impacts on residents in mixed-use areas; and
 - (b) report back to the Assembly on proposed options for the Code before the start of caretaker 2020.

Debate ensued.

Ms Lawder, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

1. Omit paragraph (1)(g), substitute:
 - “(g) the building industry is actively working to reduce noise attenuation in new developments to better assist residents living in mixed-use areas;”.
2. Insert new paragraph (1)(i):
 - “(i) the ACT Government has rigid and cumbersome requirements for the design of rubbish collection areas which are difficult to comply with, lead to sub-optimal design outcomes and cause considerable delays in the approval process;”.

Debate continued.

Amendments negatived.

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

15 EXECUTIVE BUSINESS—PRECEDENCE

Ordered—That Executive business be called on forthwith.

16 PLANNING AND ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2020

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.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

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

17 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

18 QUESTION ON NOTICE NO 2899—ANSWER—EXPLANATION

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to standing order 118A, asked Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Mental Health) for an explanation concerning the answer to question on notice No 2899.

Mr Rattenbury gave an explanation.

19 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS MOVED—MINISTER TO ADDRESS ASSEMBLY

Mrs Jones moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management) from addressing the Assembly in relation to a resolution passed by the Assembly last year concerning planning and development for the Molonglo Valley.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 6	
Mr Coe	Mr Milligan	Mr Barr	Mr Gentleman
Mrs Dunne	Mr Parton	Ms Berry	Ms Stephen-Smith
Mrs Jones	Mr Wall	Ms J. Burch	
Ms Le Couteur		Ms Cheyne	

And so it was negatived, in accordance with standing order 272, as the motion had not been carried by an absolute majority of Members.

20 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Wall moved—That leave of absence be granted to Miss C. Burch for today's sitting due to illness.

Question—put and passed.

21 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Standing order 191—Amendments to the:

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration (Tissue Donor Acknowledgment) Amendment Bill 2020, dated 25 May 2020.

Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019, dated 25 May 2020.

22 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

ACT Public Health Services—Cultural Review Implementation—Inaugural Annual Review, prepared by M Reid & Associates, dated May 2020.

Age Friendly City Plan 2020-2024—

Plan, dated June 2020.

Statement.

Overview, dated June 2020.

COVID-19 Emergency Response Act, pursuant to subsection 3(3)—COVID-19 Measures—Report No 1—Reporting period 8-30 April 2020, dated May 2020.

COVID-19 Pandemic Response—Select Committee—*Interim Report 1*—Government response, dated June 2020.

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Act and Financial Management Act—

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Board Appointment 2020 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-96 (LR, 18 May 2020).

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Board Appointment 2020 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-97 (LR, 18 May 2020).

ACT Teacher Quality Institute Board Appointment 2020 (No 4)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-95 (LR, 18 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act—

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-98 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-99 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-100 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 4)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-101 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 5)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-102 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 6)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-103 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 7)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-104 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 8)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-105 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 9)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-107 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 10)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-108 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Crimes (Sentence Administration) (Sentence Administration Board) Appointment 2020 (No 11)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-106 (LR, 13 May 2020).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Fees) Determination 2020 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-91 (LR, 14 May 2020).

Veterinary Practice Act—Veterinary Practice (Fees) Determination 2020 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2020-93 (LR, 14 May 2020).

23 A.C.T. PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES—CULTURAL REVIEW IMPLEMENTATION—INAUGURAL ANNUAL REVIEW—MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

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

ACT Public Health Services—Cultural Review Implementation—Inaugural Annual Review.

Debate ensued.

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

24 COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) it is very important for the health and welfare of Canberrans that restrictions are eased in a safe way as soon as possible;
 - (b) the Chief Minister said in March 2020 that it would be impossible for the ACT to have different Coronavirus restrictions to the rest of the region;
 - (c) that despite this:
 - (i) the ACT Government kept ACT schools closed for longer than schools in all other Australian jurisdictions; and
 - (ii) the ACT was the last Australian jurisdiction to provide financial relief to businesses and households affected by COVID-19;
 - (d) Canberrans' responsible behaviour has contributed to the ACT's relative success in dealing with COVID-19; and
 - (e) there has been inconsistent and confusing messaging on what is permissible; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to support ACT households, community groups and businesses by:
 - (a) issuing direct advice about what is permissible;
 - (b) explaining the rationale for the staging outlined in the ACT Government's plan;
 - (c) explaining why the ACT is moving slower than NSW;
 - (d) providing the medical and health advice to support the decisions made for the easing of restrictions; and
 - (e) easing restrictions such that they are at least comparable with NSW, especially noting the Chief Minister's statement in March that the ACT and our region should be in step.

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (1)(a), substitute:

- “(b) the COVID-19 restrictions were first established, and the staged easing of restrictions considered and implemented in the ACT, in accordance with the expert health advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the framework agreed by National Cabinet;
 - (c) the pandemic is not over, and the ACT Government continues to take action to manage the impact of COVID-19 on the ACT community and economy, reflecting the Public Health Directions set by the Chief Health Officer to keep Canberrans safe;
 - (d) the clear health advice for the ACT is that gradually easing restrictions is the best way to safely manage increased social and economic activity, while minimising the risk of a second COVID-19 outbreak;
 - (e) throughout the course of the pandemic, the implementation and easing of restrictions in the ACT have been tailored to meet this jurisdiction’s particular circumstances, including:
 - (i) the ACT did not implement many of the more severe and restrictive steps brought in in other jurisdictions, such as enforcing and fining people for not complying with ‘stay at home’ orders, sitting alone, going for walks in public parks or having a driving lesson; and
 - (ii) the ACT announced and implemented a staged return to face-to-face school learning ahead of Victoria and Tasmania, and with a clearer process than New South Wales’ initial ‘one day a week’ approach;
 - (f) the ongoing economic survival measures released by the ACT Government focus on tax cuts, fee relief, regulatory reduction and public investment to support jobs, and local businesses and households to reduce their costs, while ensuring Canberra was fully prepared to handle the health impacts of a major COVID-19 outbreak;
 - (g) further economic stimulus will be provided through stamp duty concessions to eventual owner occupiers who purchase single residential blocks or off-the-plan apartments and townhouses until 30 June 2021;
 - (h) the ACT is ahead of NSW in easing restrictions in many sectors, while retaining restrictions on some activities that inherently carry more risk of transmission; and
 - (i) it is the ongoing responsibility of all persons in positions of authority in the community, such as Members of the Legislative Assembly, to provide accurate information and factual advice regarding COVID-19, and that wilfully misrepresenting or withholding information is reckless and dangerous;
- (2) thanks the Canberra community for their responsible behaviour and for working with the authorities, which has directly contributed to the ACT’s success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and to keeping family, friends, workmates and neighbours safe; and

- (3) notes the ACT Government and Chief Health Officer will continue to provide regular updates to the community through all available and appropriate means, including regular media briefings, online, telephone, direct in-person contact to assist in compliance and safety, and regular distribution of information to all households.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
- (a) it is very important for the health and welfare of Canberrans that restrictions are eased in a safe way as soon as possible;
 - (b) the COVID-19 restrictions were first established, and the staged easing of restrictions considered and implemented in the ACT, in accordance with the expert health advice of the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee and the framework agreed by National Cabinet;
 - (c) the pandemic is not over, and the ACT Government continues to take action to manage the impact of COVID-19 on the ACT community and economy, reflecting the Public Health Directions set by the Chief Health Officer to keep Canberrans safe;
 - (d) the clear health advice for the ACT is that gradually easing restrictions is the best way to safely manage increased social and economic activity, while minimising the risk of a second COVID-19 outbreak;
 - (e) throughout the course of the pandemic, the implementation and easing of restrictions in the ACT have been tailored to meet this jurisdiction’s particular circumstances, including:
 - (i) the ACT did not implement many of the more severe and restrictive steps brought in in other jurisdictions, such as enforcing and fining people for not complying with ‘stay at home’ orders, sitting alone, going for walks in public parks or having a driving lesson; and
 - (ii) the ACT announced and implemented a staged return to face-to-face school learning ahead of Victoria and Tasmania, and with a clearer process than New South Wales’ initial ‘one day a week’ approach;
 - (f) the ongoing economic survival measures released by the ACT Government focus on tax cuts, fee relief, regulatory reduction and public investment to support jobs, and local businesses and households to reduce their costs, while ensuring Canberra was fully prepared to handle the health impacts of a major COVID-19 outbreak;
 - (g) further economic stimulus will be provided through stamp duty concessions to eventual owner occupiers who purchase single residential blocks or off-the-plan apartments and townhouses until 30 June 2021;

- (h) the ACT is ahead of NSW in easing restrictions in many sectors, while retaining restrictions on some activities that inherently carry more risk of transmission; and
 - (i) it is the ongoing responsibility of all persons in positions of authority in the community, such as Members of the Legislative Assembly, to provide accurate information and factual advice regarding COVID-19, and that wilfully misrepresenting or withholding information is reckless and dangerous;
- (2) thanks the Canberra community for their responsible behaviour and for working with the authorities, which has directly contributed to the ACT's success in managing the COVID-19 pandemic and to keeping family, friends, workmates and neighbours safe; and
- (3) notes the ACT Government and Chief Health Officer will continue to provide regular updates to the community through all available and appropriate means, including regular media briefings, online, telephone, direct in-person contact to assist in compliance and safety, and regular distribution of information to all households."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

25 MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

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

- (1) notes:
- (a) the importance of government providing a public mental health system that is efficient, timely, effective and safe for patients and staff; and
 - (b) Mr Rattenbury MLA has been the Minister for Mental Health for almost four years and conditions for staff and patients have deteriorated over that time;
- (2) further notes:
- (a) the Adult Mental Health Unit (AMHU) at The Canberra Hospital has been operating at and above capacity for at least 2017-18 and 2018-19;
 - (b) funding of four additional beds in the AMHU in 2019-20 is providing little, if any, relief to capacity problems;
 - (c) the average waiting time for admission to the AMHU was 16.2 hours in 2018-19, 140 percent higher than the average of 6.7 hours over the previous five years;
 - (d) data released by the Australian Institute of Health Welfare shows that, in 2017-18, only 43 percent of mental health presentations to ACT emergency departments were seen on time, compared to the national average of 67 percent, and represents the worst performance measure in Australia;
 - (e) the number of people waiting in emergency departments to be admitted to the AMHU increased by 140 percent in 2018-19;

- (f) the Australasian College for Emergency Medicine says that mental health patients in emergency departments take longer to treat than other patients;
 - (g) increasing mental health presentations and wait times put additional pressure on overall emergency department performance;
 - (h) in the years 2012 to 2017, there was an annual average of 29 assaults on mental health staff, with 109 assaults in 2018, an increase of 274 percent;
 - (i) since 2008-09, data in the 2020 Productivity Commission Report on Government Services (ROGS) shows a significantly increasing trend of patients with mental health issues who return for further treatment within 28 days of discharge;
 - (j) the ROGS found that, in 2017-18:
 - (i) 10 percent of acute adult mental health patients discharged from hospital reported a significant deterioration in their condition, the highest proportion in Australia;
 - (ii) almost 49 percent reported no significant change, the highest proportion in Australia by a significant margin; and
 - (iii) 41 percent reported significant improvement, the lowest proportion in Australia by a significant margin;
 - (k) the draft Productivity Commission Report into mental health shows that the ACT has no mental health beds specifically for young people; and
 - (l) the ACT Human Rights Commission has raised concerns about a “revolving door” in the adult mental health system;
- (3) refers the matter to the ACT Human Rights Commission for inquiry and report with reference to the following terms:
- (a) the provision of mental health services to adults;
 - (b) the provision of mental health services to children and young people;
 - (c) the provision of mental health services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
 - (d) recent reports and studies that relate to the provision of mental health services in the ACT;
 - (e) admission and discharges to The Canberra Hospital and Calvary Hospital mental health units;
 - (f) capacity of the health system facilities;
 - (g) treatment of patients with mental health issues in ACT emergency departments;
 - (h) linkages that the mental health system has to other health services, including alcohol and drug rehabilitation services;
 - (i) the way in which patient management is undertaken between agencies, including ACT Health, Corrections Health, Community Services Directorate and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm;

- (j) models of care for mental health facilities and compliance with the relevant models of care;
 - (k) waiting times for acute mental health facilities;
 - (l) patient and staff safety issues;
 - (m) staff culture in the mental health system; and
 - (n) any other related issues; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Human Rights Commission to present to the ACT Legislative Assembly:
- (a) a preliminary report by the last sitting day in August; and
 - (b) a final report by the end of the first sitting week in February 2021.

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Mental Health) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

“(1) notes:

- (a) the importance of the ACT Government providing a public mental health system that is efficient, timely, effective and safe for patients and staff;
- (b) the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly provided for the establishment of an Office for Mental Health to oversee mental health services; and
- (c) that the ACT Government created the ACT’s first Mental Health portfolio in 2016 to provide greater attention to mental health service delivery and this has been achieved;

(2) further notes that:

- (a) as the ACT grows, we are seeing higher demands for mental health services—from early intervention and prevention measures through to emergency and intensive support;
- (b) the ACT Government has continuously invested in improvements to mental health services to ensure better integration of hospital-based and community services;
- (c) the ACT’s *Mental Health Act 2015*, which came into effect in 2016, is regarded as nation-leading;
- (d) the Minister for Mental Health established the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, whose 2019 co-designed work plan is intended to help achieve better integration of services;
- (e) since 2016, the Mental Health Short Stay Unit, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, the Extended Care Unit, and the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit in-patient facilities have opened, providing greater options for mental health treatment in the ACT;

- (f) since 2016, the ACT Government has committed and secured funding for a new Southside Community Step Up Step Down facility, a new model of joint emergency services mental health response—Police, Ambulance and Clinical Early Response, five new supported accommodation facilities, the Adolescent Mental Health Unit, and an eating disorders centre;
 - (g) in 2018, the Home Assessment and Acute Response Team commenced to provide intensive support for people in their homes to either avoid an acute admission or to support early discharge following an admission and, in 2019, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Assertive Mobile Outreach Services provided assessment and treatment for adolescents aged 13-18 with moderate to severe mental illness;
 - (h) in 2018, the CAMHS Consultation and Liaison Service at The Canberra Hospital paediatric adolescent ward and the CAMHS Hospital Liaison Team in the Emergency Department were expanded to provide services seven days per week;
 - (i) there has been significant investment in community sector services which complement the public health services system;
 - (j) by 2018-19, there had been a 137 percent increase in mental health presentations to The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department since 2014-15 but, despite this, there has been a 42.7 percent decrease in waiting times for people with a mental illness and a 36.9 percent decrease in waiting times for people with a serious mental illness;
 - (k) the Adult Mental Health Unit has seen a 32 percent reduction in the number of reported occupational violence staff incidents between November 2019 and January 2020 when compared with the same quarter in 2018-19; and
 - (l) the Safewards program is being trialled in ACT public mental health which is highly effective in reducing and containing conflict and increasing a sense of safety and mutual support for staff and patients;
- (3) refers to reviews undertaken or underway in the mental health portfolio just in this Assembly term, including:
- (a) 2017—Review of Mental Health Service at Alexander Maconochie Centre;
 - (b) 2017—the Auditor-General’s Audit into Mental Health Services—Transition from Acute Care to community;
 - (c) 2017—Human Rights Commission initiated—Provision of Forensic Mental Health Services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
 - (d) 2018—Independent External Review of Mental Health Inpatient Services within ACT Health;
 - (e) 2019—Independent review of the workplace culture within ACT public health services;
 - (f) 2020—the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing’s Review of Children and Young People in the ACT;

- (g) 2020—the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing’s Older Person’s Mental Health Review, which is currently underway; and
- (h) 2020—Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs’ inquiry into youth mental health, which is currently underway;
- (4) acknowledges that the Human Rights Commission’s Health Services Commissioner plays an important role in handling complaints about the provision of health services in the ACT and supporting improvements in the provision of health services; and
- (5) notes that the Government will continue to:
 - (a) work with the Federal Government and Capital Health Network to improve mental health services across the Territory;
 - (b) deliver on agreed recommendations of the abovementioned reviews;
 - (c) improve consumer experience with the mental health system;
 - (d) build clinical and community mental health service capacity; and
 - (e) build an integrated mental health system.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 6	
Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Mrs Dunne	Mr Parton
Ms J. Burch	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Hanson	Mr Wall
Ms Cheyne	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lawder	
Mr Gentleman		Mr Milligan	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the importance of the ACT Government providing a public mental health system that is efficient, timely, effective and safe for patients and staff;
 - (b) the Labor/Greens Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly provided for the establishment of an Office for Mental Health to oversee mental health services; and
 - (c) that the ACT Government created the ACT’s first Mental Health portfolio in 2016 to provide greater attention to mental health service delivery and this has been achieved;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) as the ACT grows, we are seeing higher demands for mental health services—from early intervention and prevention measures through to emergency and intensive support;

- (b) the ACT Government has continuously invested in improvements to mental health services to ensure better integration of hospital-based and community services;
- (c) the ACT's *Mental Health Act 2015*, which came into effect in 2016, is regarded as nation-leading;
- (d) the Minister for Mental Health established the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing, whose 2019 co-designed work plan is intended to help achieve better integration of services;
- (e) since 2016, the Mental Health Short Stay Unit, Dhulwa Mental Health Unit, the Extended Care Unit, and the Adult Mental Health Rehabilitation Unit in-patient facilities have opened, providing greater options for mental health treatment in the ACT;
- (f) since 2016, the ACT Government has committed and secured funding for a new Southside Community Step Up Step Down facility, a new model of joint emergency services mental health response—Police, Ambulance and Clinical Early Response, five new supported accommodation facilities, the Adolescent Mental Health Unit, and an eating disorders centre;
- (g) in 2018, the Home Assessment and Acute Response Team commenced to provide intensive support for people in their homes to either avoid an acute admission or to support early discharge following an admission and, in 2019, the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) Assertive Mobile Outreach Services provided assessment and treatment for adolescents aged 13-18 with moderate to severe mental illness;
- (h) in 2018, the CAMHS Consultation and Liaison Service at The Canberra Hospital paediatric adolescent ward and the CAMHS Hospital Liaison Team in the Emergency Department were expanded to provide services seven days per week;
- (i) there has been significant investment in community sector services which complement the public health services system;
- (j) by 2018-19, there had been a 137 percent increase in mental health presentations to The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department since 2014-15 but, despite this, there has been a 42.7 percent decrease in waiting times for people with a mental illness and a 36.9 percent decrease in waiting times for people with a serious mental illness;
- (k) the Adult Mental Health Unit has seen a 32 percent reduction in the number of reported occupational violence staff incidents between November 2019 and January 2020 when compared with the same quarter in 2018-19; and
- (l) the Safewards program is being trialled in ACT public mental health which is highly effective in reducing and containing conflict and increasing a sense of safety and mutual support for staff and patients;

- (3) refers to reviews undertaken or underway in the mental health portfolio just in this Assembly term, including:
- (a) 2017—Review of Mental Health Service at Alexander Maconochie Centre;
 - (b) 2017—the Auditor-General’s Audit into Mental Health Services—Transition from Acute Care to community;
 - (c) 2017—Human Rights Commission initiated—Provision of Forensic Mental Health Services within the Alexander Maconochie Centre;
 - (d) 2018—Independent External Review of Mental Health Inpatient Services within ACT Health;
 - (e) 2019—Independent review of the workplace culture within ACT public health services;
 - (f) 2020—the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing’s Review of Children and Young People in the ACT;
 - (g) 2020—the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing’s Older Person’s Mental Health Review, which is currently underway; and
 - (h) 2020—Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs’ inquiry into youth mental health, which is currently underway;
- (4) acknowledges that the Human Rights Commission’s Health Services Commissioner plays an important role in handling complaints about the provision of health services in the ACT and supporting improvements in the provision of health services; and
- (5) notes that the Government will continue to:
- (a) work with the Federal Government and Capital Health Network to improve mental health services across the Territory;
 - (b) deliver on agreed recommendations of the abovementioned reviews;
 - (c) improve consumer experience with the mental health system;
 - (d) build clinical and community mental health service capacity; and
 - (e) build an integrated mental health system.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

26 VOLUNTEER FIREFIGHTERS’ FINANCIAL SUPPORT PROGRAM—STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services), by leave, made a statement concerning the Volunteer Firefighters’ Financial Support Program.

27 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Mr Gupta addressing the Assembly—

Ms Stephen-Smith drew the attention of the Speaker to the fact that a quorum of Members was not present.

The bells having been rung, and a quorum formed—

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.29 pm, adjourned until Thursday, 18 June 2020 at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Miss C. Burch*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly