



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 27

FRIDAY, 8 OCTOBER 2021

- 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 **AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
SUPERANNUATION BOARD—BOARD MEMBERSHIP—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER**

The Speaker made a statement concerning the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board and the election of board members and alternates.

- 3 **ELECTION OF GOVERNMENT BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE GOVERNMENT BOARD
MEMBER—AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS
SUPERANNUATION BOARD**

Ms Orr, addressing herself to the Clerk, proposed Ms Orr to the Assembly as the Government member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Ms Orr informed the Assembly that she accepted the nomination.

There being no further proposal, the time for proposals expired.

Ms Orr was declared elected as the Government member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Dr Paterson, addressing herself to the Clerk, proposed Dr Paterson to the Assembly as the alternate Government member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Dr Paterson informed the Assembly that she accepted the nomination.

There being no further proposal, the time for proposals expired.

Dr Paterson was declared elected as the Government member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

4 ELECTION OF OPPOSITION BOARD MEMBER AND ALTERNATE OPPOSITION BOARD MEMBER—AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY MEMBERS SUPERANNUATION BOARD

Mr Hanson, addressing himself to the Clerk, proposed Mr Cain to the Assembly as the Opposition member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Mr Cain informed the Assembly that he accepted the nomination.

There being no further proposal, the time for proposals expired.

Mr Cain was declared elected as the Opposition member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Mrs Jones, addressing herself to the Clerk, proposed Mr Hanson to the Assembly as the alternate Opposition member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

Mr Hanson informed the Assembly that he accepted the nomination.

There being no further proposal, the time for proposals expired.

Mr Hanson was declared elected as the Opposition member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly Members Superannuation Board.

5 PETITION—PETITION NOTED

Petitions

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

Mrs Jones, from 442 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to upgrade facilities at the Lyons Shops, including a playground, toilet facilities, outdoor seating, bike track, increased oval maintenance and community art (Pet 41-21).

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

**6 COVID SAFE WORKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE A.C.T. PUBLIC SECTOR—
MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED**

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety) made a ministerial statement concerning COVID-safe working arrangements for the ACT Public Sector and presented the following paper:

COVID safe working arrangements for the ACT Public Sector—Ministerial statement, 8 October 2021.

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

Question—put and passed.

**7 GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE HARM FROM GAMING WHILE
SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE CLUBS—PROGRESS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER
NOTED**

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Gaming) made a ministerial statement concerning the progress of government commitments to reduce harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs and presented the following paper:

Government commitments to reduce harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs—Progress—Ministerial statement, 8 October 2021.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

8 INTERNATIONAL DAY OF OLDER PERSONS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Davidson (Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services) made a ministerial statement concerning International Day of Older Persons and presented the following paper:

Statement on International Day of Older Persons—Ministerial statement, 8 October 2021.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

9 PLANNING AND UNIT TITLES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2021

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend legislation about planning and unit titles, 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.

10 TERRITORY RIGHTS

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights) and Mr Rattenbury (Attorney-General), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) all Australian state parliaments have passed legislation to establish a voluntary assisted dying (VAD) scheme, except New South Wales;
 - (b) a VAD bill is expected to be introduced shortly into the New South Wales Parliament, with newly installed Liberal Premier Dominic Perrottet confirming that a conscience vote will be permitted;
 - (c) in 1997, the Commonwealth Parliament passed the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* (Cth) which amended the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cth) and the *Northern Territory (Self-Government) Act 1978* (Cth), removing the power from both territories to legalise euthanasia or assisted dying, and this ban persists to this day, 24 years later;
 - (d) all parties in the ACT Legislative Assembly have urged the Commonwealth Government and Parliament to lift the current restriction on ACT residents' right to consider this issue;
 - (e) Northern Territory Country Liberal Senator Sam McMahon earlier this year presented the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (Cth) to the Senate, which would remove the restriction on the Northern Territory to debate and potentially legislate to re-establish a VAD framework for the Northern Territory;
 - (f) at the explicit request of ACT Liberal Senator Zed Seselja, the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (Cth) deliberately excludes the ACT from any removal of a restriction on legislating on VAD;
 - (g) the potential passage of the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021 (Cth) in its current form will leave the ACT and its 430 000 residents as having fewer democratic rights than the residents of every other jurisdiction in Australia, including the Northern Territory;
 - (h) the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs, chaired by Liberal Senator Sarah Henderson, released the report from its inquiry into the abovementioned bill on 6 October 2021 which:

- (i) highlighted for the Senate's consideration that, in the absence of an express provision in the abovementioned bill which would amend the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cth), the provision inserted by the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* (Cth) would continue to apply;
 - (ii) noted evidence received that proceeding with the bill without including the ACT would not resolve the disparity between state and territory residents' ability to debate and legislate in relation to VAD;
 - (iii) included a minority report from Senator the Hon Kim Carr, which recommended the bill not be passed in its current form, explicitly noting that Federal Labor recommends that any legislation to restore the right of the Northern Territory to debate and legislate with respect to VAD laws should restore those same rights to the ACT; and
 - (iv) included a minority report from the Australian Greens which recommended the bill be amended to ensure that it affords all Australian self-governing territories the same legislative rights as the Northern Territory;
- (i) the disrespect the Commonwealth Government has shown to ACT and Northern Territory citizens by taking almost seven months to respond to ACT and Northern Territory Government correspondence from 3 March 2021 regarding the need to rectify the concerning persistence of the ban on the ACT's and Northern Territory's ability to legislate on this issue;
- (j) the response received from Commonwealth Attorney-General Michaelia Cash, dated 1 October 2021 which:
 - (i) advised that the Commonwealth Government does not have any current plans to introduce legislation to repeal the *Euthanasia Laws Act 1997* (Cth); and
 - (ii) failed to address the human rights considerations explicitly raised in the correspondence from the ACT and Northern Territory Governments; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Legislative Assembly to:
 - (a) reaffirm its commitment to ensuring that the ACT Legislative Assembly should have the same ability to debate this important issue as other legislatures across Australia do, and that ACT residents should have the same democratic rights as residents across Australia;
 - (b) condemn the removal of the ACT from the Ensuring Northern Territory Rights Bill 2021;
 - (c) denounce the correspondence received from the Commonwealth Attorney-General in October 2021 regarding Territory rights; and
 - (d) refer this motion to all Senators and Members of the Commonwealth Parliament, attaching the correspondence referred to at 1(i), 1(j) and 2(c).

Paper: Ms Cheyne presented the following paper:

Territory rights—Voluntary assisted dying—Copy of letter from the Federal Attorney-General, to the ACT Minister for Human Rights and the Northern Territory Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, dated 1 October 2021.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

11 PREGNANCY AND INFANT LOSS REMEMBRANCE DAY

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Business and Better Regulation), Mr Rattenbury (Leader of the ACT Greens) and Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) one in five Australian women have lost a child through miscarriage, stillbirth or within a month of birth; and
 - (b) Pregnancy and Infant Loss Remembrance Day is recognised on 15 October in jurisdictions across Australia and internationally; and
- (2) acknowledges the loss and grief resulting from pregnancy and infant loss, and offers its support to those members of our community who have been affected by this loss.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

12 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Minister Steel and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to Minister Steel could be directed to Ms Berry (Deputy Chief Minister).

13 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

14 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 15—Annual reports 2020-21—

ACT Auditor-General's Report No 9/2021, dated 7 October 2021.

ACT Ombudsman, dated 9 September 2021.

Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission, dated 27 September 2021.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 67—A report on the operation of the *Freedom of Information Act 2016*—Annual report 2020-21.

15 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led review—Over-representation in the Territory's Justice System—Government response to the resolution of the Assembly of 9 February 2021 concerning racism at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 57(4)—Report of Coroner—Inquest into the deaths of Anthony Leigh Bearham, Nicola Joy Fisher and Others—

Report, dated 4 March 2021

Government response, dated 8 October 2021.

Corflute Recycling Trial Report.

Endoscopy services—Wait times—Government response to the resolution of the Assembly of 22 April 2021, dated 8 October 2021.

Judicial Commissions Act, pursuant to subsection 61A(5)—ACT Judicial Council—Annual report 2020-21.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 79(1)—Approval of Variation No 370 to the Territory Plan—East Yowani Estate—Lyneham section 67 part block 7—Zone change and amendments to the Lyneham Precinct Map and Code, dated 17 September 2021, including associated documents.

Remuneration Tribunal Act, pursuant to subsection 12(2)—Determinations, together with accompanying statements for:

Full-Time Statutory Office Holders—Determination 4 of 2021, dated August 2021.

Full-time Statutory Office Holders:

Auditor-General, Clerk of the Legislative Assembly, Electoral Commissioner—Determination 3 of 2021, dated August 2021.

Chief Executive Officer, City Renewal Authority and Chief Executive Officer, Suburban Land Agency—Determination 5 of 2021, dated August 2021.

Head of Service, Directors-General and Executives—Determination 2 of 2021, dated August 2021.

Members of the ACT Legislative Assembly—Determination 1 of 2021, dated August 2021.

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Animal Welfare Act—Animal Welfare (Advisory Committee Member) Appointment 2021 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-204 (LR, 9 August 2021).

Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Act—Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Amendment Regulation 2021 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2021-20 (LR, 20 August 2021).

Cemeteries and Crematoria Act and Financial Management Act—Cemeteries and Crematoria (Governing Board) Appointment 2021 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-203 (LR, 9 August 2021).

Civil Law (Wrongs) Act—Civil Law (Wrongs) Australian Property Institute Valuers Limited Scheme 2021 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-213 (LR, 30 August 2021).

Crimes (Sentencing) Act—Crimes (Sentencing) Amendment Regulation 2021 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2021-21 (LR, 20 August 2021).

Government Procurement Act—Government Procurement (Non-Public Employee Member) Appointment 2021 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-215 (LR, 2 September 2021).

Liquor Regulation—Liquor (COVID-19 Emergency Response—Permit Fee Waiver) Declaration 2021 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-209 (LR, 26 August 2021).

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods Regulation—

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Vaccinations by Pharmacists) Direction 2021 (No 2)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-205 (LR, 9 August 2021).

Medicines, Poisons and Therapeutic Goods (Vaccinations by Pharmacists) Direction 2021 (No 3)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-207 (LR, 16 August 2021).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Scientific Committee) Appointment 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-208 (LR, 16 August 2021).

Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Regulation—Road Transport (Safety and Traffic Management) Traffic Offence Detection Device Approval 2021 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-206 (LR, 12 August 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) Act—

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Gas Metering Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-220 (LR, 2 September 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Gas Safety and Network Operation Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-217 (LR, 2 September 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Gas Service and Installation Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-219 (LR, 2 September 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Light Rail Regulated Utility (Electrical) Network Boundary Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-211 (LR, 26 August 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Light Rail Regulated Utility (Electrical) Network Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-210 (LR, 26 August 2021).

Utilities (Technical Regulation) (Regulated Utility Coordination Code) Approval 2021—Disallowable Instrument DI2021-212 (LR, 26 August 2021).

Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act—Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Amendment Regulation 2021 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2021-22 (LR, 22 September 2021).

16 CORFLUTE RECYCLING TRIAL REPORT—PAPER NOTED

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

Corflute Recycling Trial Report.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

17 ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER-LED REVIEW—OVER-REPRESENTATION IN THE TERRITORY'S JUSTICE SYSTEM—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO RESOLUTION OF THE ASSEMBLY—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:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led review—Over-representation in the Territory's Justice System—Government response to the resolution of the Assembly of 9 February 2021 concerning racism at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.

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

18 MOLONGLO VALLEY COMMERCIAL CENTRE—LAND RELEASE

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

(1) notes:

- (a) the Molonglo Valley is currently experiencing significant residential growth, with a forecast population of nearly 35 000 by the end of this decade;
- (b) to date, the delivery of critical community facilities, shops and services in the Molonglo Valley have been plagued by significant delays, forcing residents to rely on neighbouring facilities in Weston Creek, which are already under significant pressure;
- (c) at the previous election, ACT Labor promised to “fast track” the delivery of the Molonglo Valley commercial centre, which will contain sorely needed facilities such as:
 - (i) a police station;
 - (ii) a year 11-12 college;
 - (iii) a library;
 - (iv) a community precinct;

- (v) emergency services;
- (vi) health facilities; and
- (vii) supermarkets, retail and commercial space;
- (d) to deliver on this promise, the ACT Government will need to release the first major piece of commercial land before 30 June 2022, as outlined in the *Indicative Land Release Program 2019-20 to 2022-23* and reiterated by Minister Gentlemen in a letter sent to the Molonglo Valley Community Forum in April this year;
- (e) with less than a year to go, Molonglo's 10 000 existing residents have yet to be consulted or provided with any detailed information about the current plans for the Molonglo commercial centre;
- (f) on 11 June 2021, the National Capital Design Review Panel reviewed the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate's (EPSDD's) planning framework for the commercial centre, and advised that the current proposal:
 - (i) has no consideration of indigenous site history;
 - (ii) compromises the existing landscape character by requiring extensive cut and fill;
 - (iii) does not accommodate sufficient existing mature trees;
 - (iv) lacks an effective water management strategy;
 - (v) has not justified its current distribution of uses and associated densities;
 - (vi) does not outline an effective, well integrated movement network;
 - (vii) fails to articulate how it will deliver a safe and sustainable development; and
 - (viii) neglects the needs of the existing and fast-growing Molonglo Valley community;
- (g) after 15 years of planning, this is an extraordinary critique of EPSDD's ability to deliver high quality outcomes for the Molonglo Valley; and
- (h) the Minister should be greatly embarrassed to receive such a report criticising the skills of his directorate and implying that they are stuck in the past; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) table the *Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds Planning Framework* in full, to allow elected Members and the wider community sufficient time to analyse this critical piece of planning work ahead of next year's land release;

- (b) nominate a start date for construction on this group centre for the community to have an understanding of when their group centre is expected to begin being constructed; and
- (c) report back to the Assembly on preparations for the release of the land for the Molonglo commercial centre and plan for community consultation by the last sitting day in November 2021.

Dr Paterson moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (1)(a), substitute:

- “(b) Molonglo Valley residents currently rely on services provided in Weston Creek;
 - (c) at the previous election, ACT Labor promised to “fast track” the delivery of the Molonglo Valley commercial centre, which will contain facilities such as:
 - (i) a police station;
 - (ii) a year 11-12 college;
 - (iii) a library;
 - (iv) a community precinct;
 - (v) emergency services;
 - (vi) health facilities; and
 - (vii) supermarkets, retail and commercial space;
 - (d) to deliver on this promise, the ACT Government will release land in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Program by 2023-2024;
 - (e) consultation for the development of the Molonglo commercial centre will start from the end of 2021 and continue into 2022; and
 - (f) on 11 June 2021, the National Capital Design Review Panel provided a peer review of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate’s work for the Molonglo Group Centre and provided valuable input on areas of planning improvement; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) table the Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds planning in full by the last sitting day in December, to allow elected Members and the wider community sufficient time to analyse this initial work; and
 - (b) update the Assembly by the last sitting day in December on when development of the Molonglo commercial centre is intended and outline plans for community consultation.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 15		NOES, 8
Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mr Hanson
Ms Cheyne	Mr Rattenbury	Mrs Jones
Ms Clay	Mr Steel	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Davidson	Ms Stephen-Smith	Ms Lee
Mr Davis	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Milligan
Mr Gentleman		Mr Parton

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the Molonglo Valley is currently experiencing significant residential growth, with a forecast population of nearly 35 000 by the end of this decade;
- (b) Molonglo Valley residents currently rely on services provided in Weston Creek;
- (c) at the previous election, ACT Labor promised to “fast track” the delivery of the Molonglo Valley commercial centre, which will contain facilities such as:
 - (i) a police station;
 - (ii) a year 11-12 college;
 - (iii) a library;
 - (iv) a community precinct;
 - (v) emergency services;
 - (vi) health facilities; and
 - (vii) supermarkets, retail and commercial space;
- (d) to deliver on this promise, the ACT Government will release land in accordance with the Indicative Land Release Program by 2023-2024;
- (e) consultation for the development of the Molonglo commercial centre will start from the end of 2021 and continue into 2022; and
- (f) on 11 June 2021, the National Capital Design Review Panel provided a peer review of the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate’s work for the Molonglo Group Centre and provided valuable input on areas of planning improvement; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) table the Molonglo Group Centre and Surrounds planning in full by the last sitting day in December, to allow elected Members and the wider community sufficient time to analyse this initial work; and
 - (b) update the Assembly by the last sitting day in December on when development of the Molonglo commercial centre is intended and outline plans for community consultation.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

19 APPROPRIATION BILL 2021-2022

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.

Debate adjourned (Mr Gentleman—Management of Government Business) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

20 APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2021-2022

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 adjourned (Mr Gentleman—Management of Government Business) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

21 YOUTH MENTAL HEALTH

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

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ongoing mental health crisis affecting young people;
 - (b) the immediate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the mental health of young people;
 - (c) that in 2020, 34 percent of young people aged between 12 and 25 reported high or very high levels of psychological distress;
 - (d) that there will be a significant minority who will be affected by long-term anxiety because of COVID-19;
 - (e) the release of the Standing Committee on Education, Employment and Youth Affairs report on youth mental health in the ACT, tabled in August of 2020; and
 - (f) the importance of taking immediate action to address this crisis;
- (2) acknowledges the ACT Government’s \$10.3 million commitment to addressing youth mental health in the 2021-22 Territory Budget including:

- (a) providing \$7.5 million in funding to youth mental health programs, including the Moderated Online Social Therapy program;
 - (b) \$851 000 for Catholic Care's Youth and Wellbeing program; and
 - (c) an additional 25 youth and social workers that will be employed in schools at a cost of \$7.4 million over the next four years to provide early intervention and support for students and their families;
- (3) acknowledges the ACT Government's success in:
- (a) securing \$3.6 million in funding for the community and mental health COVID-19 support package including;
 - (i) \$90 000 to fund at home support for young people suffering moderate to severe mental illness; and
 - (ii) \$70 000 to fund additional mental health programs for schools, individuals and businesses in response to COVID-19; and
 - (b) securing an additional \$2.3 million from the Commonwealth Government to boost existing crisis, mental health and wellbeing services; and
- (4) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) work with the Commonwealth to ensure that the forthcoming National Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention will improve the outcomes for young Canberrans as we progress to a new COVID-normal life in the ACT;
 - (b) develop a position statement on youth mental health recovery from COVID-19 within three months;
 - (c) develop an ACT mental health workforce strategy within six months;
 - (d) continue to support Mental Health Month in the ACT;
 - (e) ensure funding for mental health support services for frontline workers; and
 - (f) continue to fund youth mental health services appropriately and adequately, including ongoing commitment to delivering eating disorder programs.

Debate ensued.

Paper: Mrs Jones presented the following paper:

COVID-19 mental health boost for the ACT—Joint media release—Federal Minister for Health and Aged Care, Assistant Minister to the Prime Minister for Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, and Minister for International Development and the Pacific Senator for the ACT, dated 21 September 2021.

Debate continued.

Question—put and passed.

22 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 5.30 pm, adjourned until Tuesday, 9 November 2021 at 10 am.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly