



Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

Sitting week—2 to 5 August 2021

Issue 7/2021

No confidence motion

On 3 August, a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Corrections was moved by the Opposition. During debate the Opposition outlined reasons for moving the motion with the Government and ACT Greens stating the reasons why they would not support the motion.

The motion was negatived following a vote of the Assembly.

Government Business

Includes business items presented to the Assembly by the Executive including bills, motions, and papers

Bills introduced

[COAG Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](#) (presented 4 August)

Summary: This bill will amend a number of Territory statutes by amending outdated references to the Council of Australian Governments (COAG), former COAG ministerial forums and councils and any associated bodies to reduce any potential legal risks posed by these outdated references. The bill will include flexible amendments to allow changes to the names of national and interjurisdictional minister level forums without the need for subsequent legislative amendments.

[COVID-19 Emergency Response \(Check-in Information\) Amendment Bill 2021](#) (presented 4 August)

Summary: This bill will amend the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020* to exclusively reserve personal information collected through the use of the Check In CBR app (the app) for contract tracing purposes and compliance with its provisions. The bill will entrench into the Act that personal information collected about individuals by the app is provided to and stored by ACT Health, is stored for 28 days and then deleted, unless the person is subject to an investigation or prosecution for failing to comply with a public health direction and can only be used for contract tracing and contract tracing compliance purposes.

[Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the Territory's road transport legislation to improve road safety by strengthening the regulatory and enforcement framework for dangerous driving and other unsafe behaviours on the Territory's road network.

The amendments include establishing a new offence for negligent driving that causes actual bodily harm, increasing existing minimum automatic licence disqualification periods for the offences of culpable driving and negligent driving and establishing two new offences to address unsafe behaviours of other transport modes.

Bills debated

[Senior Practitioner Amendment Bill 2021](#)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Senior Practitioner Act 2018*, which contains provisions that both engage and promote or limit human rights in order to regulate and reduce the use of restrictive practices on vulnerable people.

Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 3 August with all parties supporting the passage of the bill through the Assembly. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed without amendment.

[Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2021](#)

Summary: This bill makes necessary changes to ACT legislation to improve the clarity and effective operation of criminal justice legislation. The bill amends several pieces of legislation to support efforts to keep vulnerable people safe, to support police in the field and to ensure that the criminal justice system functions in line with the ACT community's expectations.

Proceedings: All parties indicated support for the proposed legislation when debate resumed on 4 August. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The bill was passed without amendment.

[Work Health and Safety Amendment Bill 2021](#)

Summary: This bill will establish an offence provision that is similar to those in effect under the Crimes Act for the purposes of industrial manslaughter. The bill will establish industrial manslaughter as an offence under the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, repeals industrial manslaughter from the *Crimes Act 1900* and sets out the necessary consequential amendments to a number of Acts.

Proceedings: Debate on the bill resumed on 5 August with all parties outlining reasons for supporting the proposed legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle

The bill was by the Assembly passed without amendment.

Motions debated

On 4 August debate resumed, from 23 June, on a ministerial statement made by the Treasurer on 2 June in relation to an update on the **ACT Infrastructure Plan**. The motion to note the statement was passed.

Debate resumed, from 24 June, on a ministerial statement relating to the **minimum age of criminal responsibility**. The motion to note the statement was passed.

Ministerial statements

The Minister for Health made a ministerial statement on 3 August providing an update on the Assembly resolution of 31 March 2021 relating to the **Canberra Rape Crisis Centre**.

During the statement, the minister reminded the Assembly that the resolution called on the ACT Government to investigate the accessibility and availability of the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Canberra's Forensic and Medical Sexual Assault Care service and to report back to the Assembly on the progress by the first sitting day in August 2021.

The minister informed the Assembly that information on how to access government sexual assault care and support services had been updated on the ACT Health website on 1 April 2021 and also outlined that services can be accessed through a number of different avenues. The minister went on to advise that, since the passing of the resolution on 31 March, the government had initiated a large program of work looking at all matters related to sexual assault in the Territory.

Mrs Jones MLA also addressed the Assembly on the matter.

Molonglo Valley Community Council was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Chief Minister on 3 August. The Chief Minister informed the Assembly that the government would provide annual funding to support the establishment of a new community council for the Molonglo Valley and stated that the government encouraged the new community forum to engage widely with the diverse range of communities who live and work in the Valley.

At the conclusion of the statement, a number of other members addressed the Assembly on the matter.

On 3 August, the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development updated the Assembly on the government's **growing and renewing public housing program** and stated that the program was progressing well with the structures developed over the last two years underpinning the successful delivery of the expanding program.

The Minister for Homelessness and Housing Services updated the Assembly on the **new programs to address homelessness** on 3 August. The minister outlined the steps taken by the government, and other service providers, to provide support for those experiencing homelessness in the Territory. The minister also informed the Assembly of a number of funding commitments made by the government to address homelessness.

The Assistant Minister for Seniors, Veterans, Families and Community Services also spoke to the ministerial statement.

Other ministerial statements made during the sitting week related to:

Emergency Services Agency cross-border arrangements in response to natural hazards—Minister for Police and Emergency Services (*4 August*)

Education System Review—Government response to resolution of the Assembly of 23 June 2021
(*4 August*)

Healthy waterways for better urban lakes and ponds—Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction (*5 August*)

Private buildings cladding scheme—Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction (*5 August*)

Recognising a significant contribution to the Canberra region and Australian arts sector—Minister for the Arts (4 August)

Update on CIT Woden and Woden Interchange—Minister for Skills (4 August)

Update on the Government's response to the COVID-19 emergency—Minister for Health (3 August)

The full text of the statements made by Ministers can be accessed from the [Assembly Hansard](#) site.

Private Members' Business

Includes items presented to the Assembly by all non-Executive Members, including bills and motions

Bill introduced

[Bail Amendment Bill 2021](#) (presented 5 August)

Summary: This bill will amend the *Bail Act 1992* by extending the list of offences that do not have the presumption for bail to include assaults on frontline community service providers as defined in the *Crimes Act 1900*.

Motions debated

Awareness on the impacts of using e-cigarettes was the subject of a motion moved by Dr Paterson MLA on 3 August. The motion noted that evidence is still evolving around the impacts of e-cigarettes and e-liquids and also noted, among other things, that young people, under the age of 18 within the community, are vaping, which in turn, can create pathways to tobacco smoking nicotine addiction. The motion called on the government to continue to develop programs that educate and inform Canberrans, especially younger Canberrans, about the risks of e-cigarettes and to review relevant legislation to ensure current arrangements are contributing to minimising harm being caused by e-cigarettes and vaping. During debate the Opposition indicated support for the motion, however, noted that efforts are already underway to reduce the risks from vaping, including by the Therapeutic Goods Administration and other Commonwealth agencies. The ACT Greens outlined reasons for supporting the motion during the debate.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A motion moved by Mr Braddock MLA on 4 August included noting the central and indispensable contribution of the multicultural community to Canberra's civic, social, cultural, education and economic vibrancy and also noting the invaluable work of **Canberra's community language schools** to provide language, and cultural connection and training. The motion called on the Government to, among other things, commit to increasing the accessibility of grants to multicultural community groups and commit to increasing civic participation through a number of measures. The motion also included calling on the Government to report back to the Assembly by June 2022 on progress, including how participation in (i) submissions and (ii) grant applications and recipients have changed. During debate amendments moved by the Opposition sought to note reasons why new Australians who have not learned fluent English may not have an opportunity to do so and also sought to amend the date the Government was to report back to the Assembly on the issues to August 2022. The Opposition's amendments were agreed to.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

Mental health support for correctional officers at the Alexander Maconochie Centre was the subject of a motion moved by Mrs Kikkert MLA on 5 August. The motion included noting that recent events reaffirm that correctional officers work in dangerous and sometimes life-threatening environments and that in a 2007 Australian study, correctional officers reported higher rates of formal psychological stress than any other occupational group. The motion called on the ACT Government to enhance wellbeing and mental health support for ACT Corrective Services staff, including correctional officers, and explore options such as an on-site post-traumatic stress disorder and trauma specialising counsellor and to also ensure that support services for staff are easily accessible and that staff are actively made aware of these supports. The motion received the support of all parties in the Assembly.

The motion was passed without amendment.

Further items debated during the sitting week related to:

E-invoicing—Mr Cain MLA on 3 August

Hospitality Support Package—Ms Castley MLA on 4 August

National Disability Insurance Scheme—Ms Orr MLA on 5 August

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Petitions and petition response

The following petitions were lodged—

- Gungahlin Town Centre—Suspension of auction sites—lodged by Mr Braddock (3 August)
This petition was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services
- Funding of significant upgrades to Nicholls Oval amenities—lodged by Mr Pettersson (3 August)
This petition was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services
- Red Hill Integrated Plan—Proposed amendment—lodged by Mrs Jones (3 and 4 August)
The petition lodged on 3 August was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services
- Proposed rejection of Draft Variation 375 to the Territory Plan—lodged by Ms Lee (3 August)
This petition was referred to the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services

The following ministerial responses to petitions were lodged—

- Proposed development at Chisholm Village (*Minister for Planning and Land Management (3 August)*)
- Proposed upgrades to Yerrabi Pond (*Minister for Transport and City Services (3 August)*)

A copy of the petitions and petition responses can be found on the Assembly [Hansard](#) site.

Papers Presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented during the sitting week:

- ACT Electoral Commission—Report on the ACT Legislative Assembly Election 2020—Government response

- Approval of Variation No 379 to the Territory Plan—Nature Reserve—Kenny Environmental Offsets Site
- Auditor-General’s Reports—
 - Report 2/2021—Total Facilities Management Contract Implementation—Government response
 - Report 3/2021—Court Transport Unit Vehicle—Romeo 5—Government response
 - Report 4/2021—ACT Government’s vehicle emissions reduction activities—Government response
 - Report 7/2021—Procurement exemptions and value for money
- Australian Human Rights Commission—Respect@Work: National Inquiry into Sexual Harassment in Australian Workplaces—ACT Government response
- Commissioner for Standards for the ACT Legislative Assembly—Report for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
- COVID-19 Measures for the period 1 April to 30 June 2021—Pursuant to section 3 of the *COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020*
- Ethics and Integrity Adviser for Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT—Report for the period 1 July 2020 to 30 June 2021
- Exercise of call-in powers—Statement by Minister in relation to Development Application No 202138534—Block 1 Section 58 Garran
- Implementation of the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme—Report for the period 1 January to 30 June 2021
- Status of the Public Health Emergency due to COVID-19—Chief Health Officer—Report 16—10 July 2021

Committee Activities

Committee reports

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

[Report 6—Report on the Conduct of Mr Parton MLA](#)

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

[Report 2—Inquiry into the 2020 ACT Election and the Electoral Act](#)

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

[Report 2—Draft Reserve Management Plan: Canberra Nature Park](#)

Scrutiny Committee

[Scrutiny Report 7](#)

This report contained the committee’s comments on six bills, five pieces of subordinate legislation and two government responses.

Committee inquiries

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee

[Carers Recognition Bill 2021](#) – Report by 24 August 2021

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

[Road Transport \(Safety and Traffic Management\) Amendment Bill 2021 \(No 2\)](#) – Report by 22 September 2021

Committee statements

Administration and Procedure—Standing Committee

On 3 August, the chair of the committee made a statement in relation to the committee’s consideration of the referral on the conventions and practices around the **interaction between the Assembly and the operations of Assembly committees**.

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee, on 5 August, made a statement concerning the committee’s **consideration of statutory appointments** for the period 1 January to 30 June 2021. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the schedule of statutory appointments for the reporting period.

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

On 5 August, the chair of the committee made a statement concerning the committee’s **consideration of statutory appointments** for the period 1 January to 30 June 2021. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the schedule of statutory appointments for the reporting period.

Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

The chair of the committee, on 3 August, made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee was currently seeking further information in relation to its inquiry into Giralang Shops, and if received, the committee will be able to complete its inquiry.

Government responses to committee reports

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee

Report 2—Report on inquiries into Annual and Financial Reports 2019-20 and ACT Budget 2020-21

Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee

Report 1—Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020 and Appropriation Bill 2020-2021

Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee

Report 1—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2019-20 and Estimates 2020-21

Report 1—Report on Annual and Financial Reports 2019-20 and Estimates 2020-21—Update on Recommendation 2

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee

Report 1—Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020; Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2020-2021

Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee

Report 1—Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020; Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2021

Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Report 1—Annual and Financial Reports 2019-2020; Appropriation Bill 2020-2021 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2020-2021

Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Johnathan Davis (ACT Greens)
Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Peter Cain (Canberra Liberals)
Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Jo Clay (ACT Greens)
Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)
Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)
Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)
Ms Rebecca Vassarotti (ACT Greens)

Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Emma Davidson (ACT Greens)
Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)
Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)
Dr Marisa Paterson (Australian Labor Party)
Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Andrew Braddock (ACT Greens)

Ms Leanne Castley (Canberra Liberals)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

Next Sitting

Tuesday, 31 August 2021.

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