



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022–2023

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 74

THURSDAY, 9 FEBRUARY 2023

- 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 UNPARLIAMENTARY LANGUAGE—SPEAKER’S RULING

A point of order having been raised by a Minister in relation to comments made by a Member during an Executive motion debate on 8 February 2023, the Speaker ruled that the comments contained a serious imputation and was unparliamentary in the context of how it was used. The Speaker asked the Member to withdraw the words and the Member withdrew.

3 DEATH OF PROFESSOR WILL STEFFEN—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) made a ministerial statement to express his condolences for the passing of Emeritus Professor Will Steffen, a world-renowned climate scientist and a Canberran, and presented the following paper:

Condolences for the passing of Professor Will Steffen—Ministerial statement, 9 February 2023.

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

4 COMMITMENTS TO REDUCE HARM FROM GAMING WHILE SUPPORTING SUSTAINABLE CLUBS—IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Gaming) made a ministerial statement concerning the progress of the implementation of the Government's electronic gaming commitments to reduce harms and presented the following paper:

Progress of Government commitments to reduce harm from gaming while supporting sustainable clubs—Ministerial statement, 9 February 2023.

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

Question—put and passed.

5 OFFICE OF WATER, CATCHMENT PLANS AND YERRABI FLOATING WETLANDS—UPDATE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Rattenbury (Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction) made a ministerial statement concerning water quality matters associated with the ACT's lakes, ponds and other waterways and the Government's ongoing investment and efforts to improve water quality and presented the following paper:

Update on the Office of Water, Catchment Plans and Yerrabi Floating Wetlands—Ministerial statement, 8 February 2023.

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

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

6 EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 7—INQUIRY INTO ACCESS TO SERVICES AND INFORMATION IN AUSLAN—REPORT NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Chair) presented the following report:

Education and Community Inclusion—Standing Committee—Report 7—*Inquiry into access to services and information in Auslan*, dated 6 February 2023, 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.

Presence of Auslan Interpreter on floor of the chamber: Pursuant to standing order 210, an Auslan interpreter was present on the floor of the Chamber during the above motion to take note of the report.

7 MOTOR ACCIDENT INJURIES AMENDMENT BILL 2023

Mr Steel (Special Minister of State), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Motor Accident Injuries Act 2019*.

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

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

8 COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE A.C.T.—SELECT COMMITTEE—ESTABLISHMENT

Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That:

- (1) this Assembly notes that:
 - (a) over the last five years, Canberrans have experienced significant price increases for essential goods and services including medical, education, housing, electricity, gas and transport, and are continuing to rise;
 - (b) these escalating prices for essential goods and services will hit lower income households the hardest; and
 - (c) the *2022 ACT Cost of Living Report* by the ACT Council of Social Service found that despite Canberra having the highest average weekly earnings in Australia, around one in 10 Canberrans are living in poverty;
- (2) this Assembly establish a Select Committee on the Cost of Living to inquire into and report on:
 - (a) the cost of living pressures facing Canberrans;
 - (b) the drivers of the cost of living pressures in Canberra;
 - (c) the Government's fiscal policy response to the cost of living pressures;
 - (d) measures to ease the cost of living; and
 - (e) any related matters;
- (3) the Select Committee shall be composed of two Members to be nominated by the Government and two Members nominated by the Opposition, to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
- (4) the Committee shall elect as Chair one of the Members nominated by the Opposition; and
- (5) the Select Committee will report to the Assembly by the last sitting day of 2023.

Mr Braddock moved the following amendment: Omit all text after "That", substitute:

- "(1) the Assembly establish a Select Committee to conduct expert, stakeholder and community consultation on policy measures to further support low and moderate income Canberra households to manage cost of living pressures;
- (2) the Select Committee will:
 - (a) identify cost of living pressures faced by low and moderate income households that are not currently alleviated by ACT or Commonwealth Government assistance programs;
 - (b) consider advice and ideas from the consultation process on how the ACT Government can further help address cost of living pressures;

- (c) provide timely recommendations to help inform the considerations of the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet in the Budget process;
 - (d) look beyond the current economic cycle to make longer term recommendations on cost of living trends to inform the development of future budgets; and
 - (e) consider any related matters;
- (3) the committee be composed of:
- (a) one Member to be nominated by ACT Labor;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Canberra Liberals; and
 - (c) one Member to be nominated by the ACT Greens;
- to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
- (4) the Chair of the committee shall be the ACT Greens Member;
- (5) the Deputy Chair of the committee shall be the ACT Labor Member; and
- (6) the committee will report to the Assembly by Thursday 11 May 2023.”.

Debate continued.

Ms Lee (Leader of the Opposition) moved the following amendment to the amendment: Omit paragraphs (4) and (5), substitute:

- “(4) the Chair of the Committee shall be the Canberra Liberals Member;
- (5) the Select Committee will vote for the Deputy Chair at its first meeting;”.

Ms Lee addressing the Assembly—

It being 45 minutes after the commencement of Assembly business—

Ordered—That the time allotted to Assembly business be extended by 30 minutes.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That the question be divided.

Question—That Ms Lee’s amendment to paragraph (4) of Mr Braddock’s amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9

Mr Cain
Ms Castley
Mr Cocks
Mr Hanson
Mrs Kikkert
Ms Lawder
Ms Lee
Mr Milligan
Mr Parton

NOES, 16

Mr Barr
Ms Berry
Mr Braddock
Ms Burch
Ms Cheyne
Ms Clay
Ms Davidson
Mr Davis
Mr Gentleman
Ms Orr
Dr Paterson
Mr Pettersson
Mr Rattenbury
Mr Steel
Ms Stephen-Smith
Ms Vassarotti

And so it was negatived.

Question—That Ms Lee’s amendment to paragraph (5) of Mr Braddock’s amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That Mr Braddock’s amendment, as amended, be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That:

- (1) the Assembly establish a Select Committee to conduct expert, stakeholder and community consultation on policy measures to further support low and moderate income Canberra households to manage cost of living pressures;
- (2) the Select Committee will:
 - (a) identify cost of living pressures faced by low and moderate income households that are not currently alleviated by ACT or Commonwealth Government assistance programs;
 - (b) consider advice and ideas from the consultation process on how the ACT Government can further help address cost of living pressures;
 - (c) provide timely recommendations to help inform the considerations of the Expenditure Review Committee of Cabinet in the Budget process;
 - (d) look beyond the current economic cycle to make longer term recommendations on cost of living trends to inform the development of future budgets; and
 - (e) consider any related matters;
- (3) the committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by ACT Labor;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Canberra Liberals; and
 - (c) one Member to be nominated by the ACT Greens;
 to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
- (4) the Chair of the committee shall be the ACT Greens Member;
- (5) the Select Committee will vote for the Deputy Chair at its first meeting; and
- (6) the committee will report to the Assembly by Thursday 11 May 2023.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

9 ORDER TO TABLE—A.C.T. HERITAGE COUNCIL REVIEW—FULL REPORT

Ms Lawder, pursuant to notice, moved—That the full report from the review of the Heritage Council, including recommendations, be tabled in the Assembly, pursuant to standing order 213A, as referred to in Minister Vassarotti’s statement on 29 November 2022.

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Heritage) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “recommendations”, substitute:

“as released on the Disclosure log following the process currently underway under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* that is considering any issues to protect public interests, be tabled in the Assembly after this process is completed.”.

Debate continued.

Ms Lawder addressing the Assembly—

The extended time allotted to Assembly Business having expired—

Suspension of standing orders—Continuation of debate: Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That so much of the standing order be suspended as would prevent the Assembly completing its consideration of notice No. 2, Assembly business.

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

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That the full report from the review of the Heritage Council, including recommendations, as released on the Disclosure log following the process currently underway under the *Freedom of Information Act 2016* that is considering any issues to protect public interests, be tabled in the Assembly after this process is completed.”—
be agreed to—put and passed.

10 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

11 COST OF LIVING PRESSURES IN THE A.C.T.—SELECT COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP

The Speaker, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of today (see [entry 8](#)), informed the Assembly that she had been notified, in writing, of the nominations of Mr Davis, Ms Lawder and Dr Paterson to be members of the Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT.

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Members so nominated be appointed as members of the Select Committee on Cost of Living Pressures in the ACT.

Question—put and passed.

12 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

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

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual Reports—2021-2022—

Justice and Community Safety Directorate—Corrigendum, dated February 2023.

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 21(1)—Auditor-General’s Report No 9/2022—ACT Emergency Services Agency cleaning services arrangements—Government response, dated February 2023.

Budget 2022-2023—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 10—

Budget Statement C—ACT Health Directorate | Canberra Health Services | ACT Local Hospital Network—Corrigendum to Canberra Health Services Budget Statement, dated February 2023.

Coroners Act, pursuant to subsection 102(8)—ACT Coroner's Court—Annual report 2021-2022, dated 22 December 2022.

Education and Care Services National Law as applied by the law of the States and Territories—Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2022 (2023 No 2), dated 4 January 2023, together with an explanatory statement.

Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee—Report 5—Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration—Government response to recommendation 9—Update about the commissioning of future public artwork, dated February 2023.

Financial Management Act—

Pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance reports—December 2022, for the following:

ACT Health Directorate, dated February 2023.

ACT Local Hospital Network, dated February 2023.

Canberra Health Services, dated 10 February 2023.

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, dated February 2023.

Community Services Directorate, dated February 2023.

Education Directorate, dated February 2023.

Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate, dated February 2023.

Housing ACT, dated February 2023.

Justice and Community Safety Directorate, dated February 2023.

Major Projects Canberra, dated 9 February 2023.

Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate, dated 9 February 2023.

Transport Canberra Operations, dated 9 February 2023.

Freedom of Information Act, pursuant to section 39—Copies of notices provided to the Ombudsman—Freedom of Information requests—Decisions not made in time—

Community Services Directorate—

FOI-CSD-22/21, dated 18 November 2022.

FOI-CYF-20/25, dated 17 March 2021.

FOI-HOU-22/22, dated 18 October 2022.

Health and Community Wellbeing—Standing Committee—Report 8—Inquiry into Period Products and Facilities (Access) Bill 2022—Government response, dated 8 February 2023.

Teacher attraction and retention plan 2023-28—Investing in teachers to support the future of education—Education Directorate, dated February 2023, in response to Assembly Resolution of 1 June 2022 relating to the number of teachers in the ACT.

Planning and Development Act, pursuant to subsection 242(2)—Statement of leases granted for the period 1 October to 31 December 2022, dated February 2023.

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

ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal—Determination 8 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

ACT Magistrates Court Judicial Positions—Determination 7 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

ACT Supreme Court Judicial Positions—Determination 14 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Director of Public Prosecutions—Determination 12 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Full-time Statutory Office Holder—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People's Commissioner—Determination 1 of 2023, dated 25 January 2023.

Full-Time Statutory Office Holder: Chief Executive Officer, ACT Integrity Commission—Determination 10 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Part-time Public Office Holders—Determination 13 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Part-time Public Office Holder—Chair, Official Visitors Board—Determination 2 of 2023, dated 25 January 2023.

Part-time Statutory Office Holder: Integrity Commissioner—Determination 9 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Principal Registrar and Chief Executive Officer, ACT Courts and Tribunal—Determination 11 of 2022, dated 15 December 2022.

Public Accounts—Standing Committee—Report 11—Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No. 4 of 2020: Residential Land Supply and Release—Government response, dated February 2023.

13 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—HALF-YEARLY DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT—TRANSPORT CANBERRA AND CITY SERVICES DIRECTORATE—PAPER NOTED

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

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance report—December 2022—Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

14 TEACHER ATTRACTION AND RETENTION PLAN 2023-28—INVESTING IN TEACHERS TO SUPPORT THE FUTURE OF EDUCATION—PAPER NOTED

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

Teacher attraction and retention plan 2023-28—Investing in teachers to support the future of education—Education Directorate.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

15 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—HALF-YEARLY DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT—ACT HEALTH DIRECTORATE—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:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance report—December 2022—ACT Health Directorate.

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

16 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—HALF-YEARLY DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT—ACT LOCAL HOSPITAL NETWORK—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:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance report—December 2022—ACT Local Hospital Network.

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

17 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—HALF-YEARLY DIRECTORATE PERFORMANCE REPORT—CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES—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:

Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 30E—Half-yearly directorate performance report—December 2022—Canberra Health Services.

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

18 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—BUDGET STATEMENT C—CORRIGENDUM TO CANBERRA HEALTH SERVICES BUDGET STATEMENT—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:

Budget 2022-2023—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 10—

Budget Statement C—ACT Health Directorate | Canberra Health Services | ACT Local Hospital Network—Corrigendum to Canberra Health Services Budget Statement.

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

19 WAITING TIMES—OUTPATIENTS AND EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

Ms Castley, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) freedom of information (FOI) documents reveal that more than 80 percent of outpatients are waiting longer than clinically recommended;

- (b) the FOI documents showed the following results across three divisions:
 - (i) 82 percent of patients under the Division of Surgery are waiting longer than clinically recommended;
 - (ii) 84 percent of patients under the Division of Medicine are waiting longer than clinically recommended; and
 - (iii) 81 percent of patients under the Division of Women, Youth and Children are waiting longer than clinically recommended; and
- (c) across these three divisions:
 - (i) patients who are triaged as urgent, who should be seen in 14 days, are waiting an average of 52 days;
 - (ii) patients who are triaged as category one patients, who should be seen within 30 days, are waiting an average of 152 days;
 - (iii) patients who are triaged as category two patients, who should be seen within 90 days, are waiting an average of 399 days; and
 - (iv) patients who are triaged as category three patients, who should be seen within 365 days, are waiting an average of 591 days;
- (2) further notes the:
 - (a) Productivity Commission's *Report on Government Services* showed that the ACT has had the longest Emergency Department wait times for the past five years; and
 - (b) ACT treated less than half of patients within clinically recommended timeframes; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) table by the first day of the next sitting week, current figures for outpatient waiting times and Emergency Department wait times by triage category; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the first day of the next sitting week, a one-year target to reduce the percentage of outpatients who are waiting longer than clinically recommended.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) notes:
- (a) waiting lists across health services are dynamic with removals and additions occurring on a daily basis;
 - (b) waiting lists and waiting times in all public hospitals in Australia, and internationally have been under additional pressure due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (c) additional pressure has also been placed on all public acute services with the underfunding of primary care and Medicare by the former Coalition Government to reduce downstream impacts;

- (d) Canberra Health Services is working to improve outpatient experiences through a whole of health system view that recognises the upstream and downstream impacts of changes to single points in the system;
 - (e) Canberra Health Services conducted approximately 130,000 specialist appointments last financial year and receive more than 60,000 referrals each year, which is increasing every year;
 - (f) Canberra Health Services has actively reduced outpatient waiting times with there being more than 30,000 patients with significant long waits three years ago compared with a total waitlist for outpatients of 30,000 as of July 2022;
 - (g) the ACT Government implemented the Digital Health Record in November 2022 which required a decrease in outpatient activity to facilitate training and implementation;
 - (h) when fully embedded the Digital Health Record will support automation processes, timely reporting and improved visibility of patient needs in relation to outpatient referral and waitlist management, however implementation has impacted reportable data sets including outpatients and live emergency department waiting times in the short-term;
 - (i) Canberra Hospital Emergency Department when compared against peer hospitals across Australia, performed better than its peers in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory on percentage of patients seen on time in 2021-22;
 - (j) Canberrans receive some of the most timely critical care treatment in Australia in 2021-22 the ACT achieved the second highest rate of seen on time for Category 2 emergency presentations and 100 percent of Category 1 resuscitation presentations; and
 - (k) the ACT regularly provides public reporting of emergency department waiting times against national indicators, including through Quarterly Performance Reports; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) table the October 2022 outpatient waiting time figures at the conclusion of this motion;
 - (b) table updated outpatient waiting time figures in the May 2023 sitting week; and
 - (c) continue to monitor Canberra Health Services 2022-23 performance measure to increase the percentage of initial medical specialist outpatient appointments to 35 percent of all appointments.”.

Paper: Ms Stephen-Smith presented the following paper:

CHS Outpatient waiting times—Extracted 8 February 2023.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Ms Berry	Ms Orr	Mr Cain
Mr Braddock	Dr Paterson	Ms Castley
Ms Burch	Mr Pettersson	Mr Cocks
Ms Cheyne	Mr Steel	Mr Hanson
Ms Clay	Ms Stephen-Smith	Mrs Kikkert
Ms Davidson	Ms Vassarotti	Mr Milligan
Mr Davis		Mr Parton
Mr Gentleman		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) waiting lists across health services are dynamic with removals and additions occurring on a daily basis;
 - (b) waiting lists and waiting times in all public hospitals in Australia, and internationally have been under additional pressure due to the COVID-19 pandemic;
 - (c) additional pressure has also been placed on all public acute services with the underfunding of primary care and Medicare by the former Coalition Government to reduce downstream impacts;
 - (d) Canberra Health Services is working to improve outpatient experiences through a whole of health system view that recognises the upstream and downstream impacts of changes to single points in the system;
 - (e) Canberra Health Services conducted approximately 130,000 specialist appointments last financial year and receive more than 60,000 referrals each year, which is increasing every year;
 - (f) Canberra Health Services has actively reduced outpatient waiting times with there being more than 30,000 patients with significant long waits three years ago compared with a total waitlist for outpatients of 30,000 as of July 2022;
 - (g) the ACT Government implemented the Digital Health Record in November 2022 which required a decrease in outpatient activity to facilitate training and implementation;
 - (h) when fully embedded the Digital Health Record will support automation processes, timely reporting and improved visibility of patient needs in relation to outpatient referral and waitlist management, however implementation has impacted reportable data sets including outpatients and live emergency department waiting times in the short-term;

- (i) Canberra Hospital Emergency Department when compared against peer hospitals across Australia, performed better than its peers in Western Australia, South Australia, Tasmania and Northern Territory on percentage of patients seen on time in 2021-22;
 - (j) Canberrans receive some of the most timely critical care treatment in Australia in 2021-22 the ACT achieved the second highest rate of seen on time for Category 2 emergency presentations and 100 percent of Category 1 resuscitation presentations; and
 - (k) the ACT regularly provides public reporting of emergency department waiting times against national indicators, including through Quarterly Performance Reports; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) table the October 2022 outpatient waiting time figures at the conclusion of this motion;
 - (b) table updated outpatient waiting time figures in the May 2023 sitting week; and
 - (c) continue to monitor Canberra Health Services 2022-23 performance measure to increase the percentage of initial medical specialist outpatient appointments to 35 percent of all appointments.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

20 A.C.T. POLICING—RESOURCING

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

- (1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT Government has underfunded and under resourced ACT Policing for years;
 - (b) the 2023 *Report on Government Services* from the Productivity Commission shows that the ACT has:
 - (i) the lowest number of police per-capita in Australia;
 - (ii) the lowest funding per person for police in Australia; and
 - (iii) the lowest clearance rates for property crime in Australia;
 - (c) the ACT is the only jurisdiction in Australia to record a negative average annual growth rate in real recurrent expenditure from 2016-17 to 2020-21;
 - (d) the 2022 ACT Policing Annual Report shows that ACT Policing numbers have declined since 2012 despite population growth of over 70,000 during the same period;
 - (e) in 2022 a Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC) report supported by modelling from Nous Consulting detailing the demand on ACT police services resulted in the Chief Police Officer stating that “It’s become clear to me that the number of police we have currently needs to be increased to meet current and future demand.”; and

- (f) the Minister's repeated assurances that there are sufficient police numbers in the ACT have been shown to be inaccurate; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) increase the number of police to fully meet operational requirements in the 2023-24 ACT Budget; and
 - (b) request that the Australian Federal Police release the PWC report and Nous Consulting modelling.

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Police and Emergency Services) presented the following amendment: Omit all text after "That this Assembly", substitute:

- "(1) extends its thanks and appreciation to ACT Policing for continuing to keep our community safe;
- (2) notes the latest *Report on Government Services* from the Productivity Commission shows that:
 - (a) ACT Policing continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the community; and
 - (b) Canberra residents feel safe with one of the highest levels of perceived safety in both the home and public places; and
- (3) further notes the:
 - (a) new purchase agreement signed with the Australian Federal Police provides base funding of \$800 million over four years;
 - (b) Government will invest in a range of community safety, harm reduction and criminal justice initiatives during the 2023-24 Budget process including increased police resourcing;
 - (c) commitment from the Chief Minister to increase police numbers in the 2023-24 Budget, reflecting the increase in population; and
 - (d) the Assembly resolution of 9 February 2022 in which the Government recommitted to continue resourcing ACT Policing in line with an evidenced based approach."

Debate continued.

Paper: Ms Davidson (Minister for Justice Health) presented the following papers:

ACT Women and Prisons—Invisible Bars: The Stories behind the Stats—Deb Wybron and Kiri Dicker, Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc., dated May 2009.

The Stories of ACT women in prison—10 years after the opening of the AMC—Women's Centre for Health Matters Inc., dated 2019.

Mr Hanson moved the following amendment to the amendment: Add after paragraph (3)(d):

- "(4) That this Assembly calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) increase the number of police to fully meet operational requirements in the 2023-24 ACT Budget;
 - (b) request that the AFP release the PWC report and Nous Consulting modelling."

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

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6

Mr Cain
Ms Castley
Mr Cocks
Mr Hanson
Mr Milligan
Mr Parton

NOES, 13

Mr Braddock
Ms Burch
Ms Cheyne
Ms Clay
Ms Davidson
Mr Davis
Mr Gentleman
Ms Orr
Dr Paterson
Mr Pettersson
Mr Steel
Ms Stephen-Smith
Ms Vassarotti

And so it was negatived.

Mr Gentleman’s amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, be agreed to, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) extends its thanks and appreciation to ACT Policing for continuing to keep our community safe;
- (2) notes the latest *Report on Government Services* from the Productivity Commission shows that:
 - (a) ACT Policing continues to enjoy the trust and confidence of the community; and
 - (b) Canberra residents feel safe with one of the highest levels of perceived safety in both the home and public places;
- (3) further notes the:
 - (a) new purchase agreement signed with the Australian Federal Police provides base funding of \$800 million over four years;
 - (b) Government will invest in a range of community safety, harm reduction and criminal justice initiatives during the 2023-24 Budget process including increased police resourcing;
 - (c) commitment from the Chief Minister to increase police numbers in the 2023-24 Budget, reflecting the increase in population; and
 - (d) the Assembly resolution of 9 February 2022 in which the Government recommitted to continue resourcing ACT Policing in line with an evidenced based approach.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

21 **SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—APPROPRIATION BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2) AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2)**

Mr Gentleman moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the Treasurer to present the Appropriation Bill 2022 (No 2) and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023 (No 2).

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

22 BUDGET 2022-23—FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT ACT—BUDGET REVIEW—PAPER AND STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Mr Barr (Treasurer) presented the following paper:

Budget 2022-2023—Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 20A(2)—Delivering for Canberrans: now and into the future—Budget Review, dated February 2023—

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

23 APPROPRIATION BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2)

Mr Barr (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money for the purposes of the territory for the financial year that began on 1 July 2022.

Paper: Mr Barr presented the following papers:

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

Budget 2022-2023—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 13—Delivering for Canberrans: now and into the future—Supplementary Budget Papers, dated February 2023.

Title read by Clerk.

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

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

24 APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2)

Mr Barr (Treasurer), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate additional money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year that began on 1 July 2022.

Paper: Mr Barr presented the following paper:

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

Title read by Clerk.

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

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

25 PUBLIC ACCOUNTS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REFERENCE—APPROPRIATION BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2) AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2022-2023 (NO 2)

Mr Barr (Treasurer), by leave, moved—

That, notwithstanding the provisions of the resolution of the Assembly of 2 December 2020, as amended, that established general purpose standing committees, the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 (No 2) and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023 (No 2) be referred to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts to decide whether or not to undertake an inquiry, and, if they decide to inquire, report by 21 March 2023.

Question—put and passed.

26 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

Mr Gentleman (Minister for Planning and Land Management) presented the following paper:
Analysis of Recent Land Ballots conducted by the Suburban Land Agency, undated.

27 MULTICULTURALISM BILL 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.

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.

28 ELECTRICITY SAFETY LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 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.

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.

29 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 6.19 pm, adjourned until Tuesday, 21 March 2023 at 10 am.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly