



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2020–2021–2022–2023–2024

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 118

THURSDAY, 11 APRIL 2024

- 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 **INTERJECTION BY MINISTER—STATEMENT BY SPEAKER—SPEAKER’S RULING**

The Speaker made a statement concerning an interjection made by a Minister during a private members’ business debate yesterday. Having considered the matter, the Speaker ruled that the comments made could be considered as a personal reflection on a Member under standing order 55, and asked the Minister to withdraw the words. The Minister withdrew.

3 **A.C.T. DISABILITY STRATEGY 2024-2033 AND FIRST A.C.T. DISABILITY ACTION PLAN 2024-2026—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPERS—PAPER NOTED**

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Disability) made a ministerial statement concerning the ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033 and presented the following papers:

ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033, including First ACT Disability Action Plan 2024-2026.

ACT Disability Strategy 2024-2033 and First ACT Disability Action Plan 2024-2026—
Easy English, dated April 2024.

Ministerial statement, 11 April 2024.

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

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 ministerial statement and debate.

4 ESTIMATES 2024-2025—SELECT COMMITTEE—ESTABLISHMENT

Ms Lawder, pursuant to notice, moved—That:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2024-2025, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2024-2025 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2024-2025 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by the Labor Party;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Liberal Party; 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;
- (3) a Liberal Party member shall be elected Chair of the Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee;
- (5) the Committee is to report by Friday, 23 August 2024;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (7) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.

Ms Orr moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (5), substitute:

- “(5) the Committee is established on Monday, 6 May 2024 and shall report by Friday, 16 August 2024.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Yvette Berry	Suzanne Orr	Peter Cain
Andrew Braddock	Marisa Paterson	Leanne Castley
Joy Burch	Michael Pettersson	Ed Cocks
Tara Cheyne	Shane Rattenbury	Jeremy Hanson
Jo Clay	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Elizabeth Kikkert
Emma Davidson	Rebecca Vassarotti	Nicole Lawder
Mick Gentleman		Mark Parton
Laura Nuttall		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2024-2025, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2024-2025 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2024-2025 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by the Labor Party;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Liberal Party; 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;
- (3) a Liberal Party member shall be elected Chair of the Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee;
- (5) the Committee is established on Monday, 6 May 2024 and shall report by Friday, 16 August 2024;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (7) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

**5 PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—
CONSIDERATION OF STATUTORY APPOINTMENTS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR—PAPER**

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A and Continuing Resolution 5A, made a statement concerning consideration of statutory appointments by the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services.

Paper: Ms Clay, pursuant to Continuing Resolution 5A, presented the following paper: Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee—Schedule of Statutory Appointments—10th Assembly—Period 1 July to 31 December 2023.

**6 PLANNING, TRANSPORT AND CITY SERVICES—STANDING COMMITTEE—CEMETERIES
AND CREMATORIA AMENDMENT BILL 2024—STATEMENT BY CHAIR**

Ms Clay (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Planning, Transport and City Services had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into the Cemeteries and Crematoria Amendment Bill 2024.

7 VICTIMS OF CRIME (FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Ms Cheyne (Minister for Human Rights), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Victims of Crime (Financial Assistance) Act 2016*.

Paper: Ms Cheyne 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 Cheyne 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 HERITAGE AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for Heritage), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Paper: Ms Vassarotti 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 Vassarotti moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

9 NATURE CONSERVATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Ms Vassarotti (Minister for the Environment, Parks and Land Management), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Nature Conservation Act 2014*.

Paper: Ms Vassarotti 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 Vassarotti moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

10 CRIMES (SENTENCE ADMINISTRATION) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

Ms Davidson (Minister for Corrections and Justice Health), pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Crimes (Sentence Administration) Act 2005*.

Paper: Ms Davidson 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 Davidson 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.

11 WORKPLACE LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

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.

12 CRIMES LEGISLATION AMENDMENT BILL 2024

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.

13 ESTIMATES 2024-2025—SELECT COMMITTEE—MEMBERSHIP

The Speaker, pursuant to the resolution of the Assembly of today (see [entry 4](#)), informed the Assembly that the Speaker had been notified, in writing, of the nominations of Ms Lawder, Miss Nuttall and Ms Orr to be members of the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025.

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Members so nominated be appointed as members of the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025.

Question—put and passed.

14 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Ms Berry (Deputy Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of the Chief Minister and Minister Steel and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to the Chief Minister and Treasurer could be directed to Ms Berry, while those normally directed to the Minister for Tourism and the Minister for Trade, Investment and Economic Development could be directed to Minister Cheyne, and those normally directed to the Minister for Climate Action could be directed to Minister Rattenbury.

Further, she advised that questions without notice normally directed to the Minister for Planning and the Minister for Skills and Training could be directed to Minister Gentleman, while questions without notice normally directed to the Special Minister of State could be directed to Minister Stephen-Smith and those normally directed to the Minister for Transport could be directed to Minister Cheyne.

15 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

16 ATTORNEY-GENERAL'S MEETING NOTES—30 JANUARY 2024—ORDER TO TABLE

Ms Lawder, by leave, moved—That, with reference to standing order 213A(a), this Assembly calls on the Attorney-General to table in the Assembly the notes of the meeting between the Attorney-General and the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions on 30 January 2024 by close of business today.

Debate ensued.

Mr Rattenbury (Attorney-General), who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly and moved the following amendment: Omit “by close of business today”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That, with reference to standing order 213A(a), this Assembly calls on the Attorney-General to table in the Assembly the notes of the meeting between the Attorney-General and the Acting Director of Public Prosecutions on 30 January 2024.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

17 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to subsection 29(3)—2024 Strategic Review of the ACT Auditor-General, dated 8 April 2024, prepared by Mike Blake AM.

18 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Mr Gentleman (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, presented the following papers:

Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act, pursuant to section 13—Annual Report 2023—Canberra Institute of Technology, dated 3 April 2024.

Gaming Machine Act, pursuant to section 179A—Gaming Machine Tax Rebate Review, dated January 2024.

Inspector of Correctional Services Act—Review of a critical incident by the ACT
Inspector of Correctional Services—An Alleged Sexual Assault of a Detained Person at the Alexander Maconochie Centre—Government response, dated April 2024.

19 NURSE-LED WALK-IN CENTRES

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT’s first public nurse-led Walk-in Centre opened on 18 May 2010, providing nurses in the ACT the opportunity to work to the top of their scope of practice and have become highly valued in the Canberra community;
 - (b) the Walk-in Centre network has been progressively expanded to five locations covering all of Canberra’s major regional centres to provide free, accessible and high quality health care to Canberrans for a range of minor injuries and illnesses without an appointment;
 - (c) quarterly performance reports show that between October 2021 and September 2022 those five clinics saw and treated more than 77,000 Canberrans and those from the surrounding NSW region – this has reduced the load of emergency departments and potentially costly GP visits;
 - (d) Walk-in Centres save Canberrans time and money by providing free services and a range of prescriptions, and particularly provide parents with convenient out-of-hours assessments of unwell children;
 - (e) Walk-in Centres have been designed to serve a complementary role with the ACT’s other health services and the Labor Government has continued to invest in expanding Walk-in Centre capabilities and recognise the value of nurse-led models of care;
 - (f) ACT Labor committed to building a new health centre in North Gungahlin to provide walk-in and appointment-based services that will further complement the Walk-in Centres; and
 - (g) ACT Labor committed to a new more than \$1 billion northside hospital that will support Canberrans on the northside to access essential public hospital services into the future;
- (2) also notes that there has been longstanding opposition to the Walk-in Centre model and nurse-led models of care from a range of interest groups, political parties and other stakeholders, most notably during the 2020 election campaign when the then-Liberal Health Spokesperson labelled them “a total flop”; and
- (3) calls on all parties to:
 - (a) publicly affirm support in the Chamber for the current nurse-led Walk-in Centre model, the retention of existing locations, the Urgent Care Clinic partnership with the Commonwealth Government and rule out a politically-motivated “review” of the Walk-in Centre model; and

- (b) support nurse-led health care provision that allows nurses to work to the top of their scope of practice and complements health services in the ACT to ensure Canberrans can access high-quality, public healthcare into the future, including considering innovative nurse-led models of care in the new health centre and Northside Hospital.

Ms Castley moved the following amendment: Omit all text after paragraph (1)(b), substitute:

- “(c) since 2020 Labor has crab-walked away from its commitment to the nurse-led walk-in centre model in favour of health centres which integrate with General Practitioners;
 - (d) with only one health centre completed and one new site selected, there is no prospect of Labor delivering on its promise of 5 new health centres by mid-decade;
 - (e) given its woeful record on infrastructure delivery, Labor also has no prospect of delivering its promised \$1 billion plus northside hospital on time or on budget;
 - (f) the health needs of Canberrans and, in particular, those living on the northside and in Gungahlin will therefore continue to be neglected by the Barr-Rattenbury government;
 - (g) there has been no published data for nurse-led walk-in centres for 18 months due to the ongoing debacle with Digital Health Record data reporting and quarterly performance reports; and
 - (h) in 2011 the Labor government engaged the ANU to conduct a review of its walk-in centre and in 2023 it announced a strategic review of community health assets across the ACT; and
- (2) calls on the Barr-Rattenbury government to admit and to apologise to Canberrans for their failure in primary health care.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7	NOES, 14	
Peter Cain	Yvette Berry	Suzanne Orr
Leanne Castley	Andrew Braddock	Marisa Paterson
Ed Cocks	Joy Burch	Michael Pettersson
Jeremy Hanson	Tara Cheyne	Shane Rattenbury
Elizabeth Kikkert	Jo Clay	Rachel Stephen-Smith
Nicole Lawder	Emma Davidson	Rebecca Vassarotti
Mark Parton	Mick Gentleman	
	Laura Nuttall	

And so it was negatived.

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

20 PUBLIC TRANSPORT—AFFORDABILITY

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

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, with many Canberrans struggling under high interest rates and inflationary pressures;
 - (b) the weekly cost for an adult MyWay cardholder to commute on public transport five days a week is \$32.20;
 - (c) Canberra’s buses are some of the least used in the nation; and
 - (d) the average weekly cost of parking in Civic is well over \$100; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to cap weekly fares for adult MyWay cardholders to \$25 to provide cost-of-living relief to Canberrans.

Ms Cheyne (Acting Minister for Transport) moved the following amendment: Omit all text after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- “(1) notes that:
- (a) the ACT is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, with many Canberrans struggling under high interest rates and inflationary pressures;
 - (b) the weekly cost for an adult MyWay cardholder to commute on public transport five days a week is \$32.20;
 - (c) all seniors over the age of 70 and children under the age of five receive free public transport;
 - (d) concession MyWay cardholders receive free fares when travelling off-peak; and
 - (e) the ACT Government has kept fares deliberately low over many years with fares remaining the same since 5 January 2019;
- (2) further notes that:
- (a) unlike most other major cities, the MyWay ticketing system carries a standard adult fare of \$3.22 at peak and \$2.55 off-peak regardless how far you travel in the ACT;
 - (b) since the start of 2023 public transport fares have increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide; and
 - (c) weekly household public transport costs in Canberra are the third lowest in the country, nearly \$30 less than Brisbane and \$20 less than Melbourne and Sydney; and
- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) consider further options to support more people onto public transport in the ACT;
 - (b) consider the strategic and time-limited use of free public transport where there is network capacity to accommodate a potential increase in passengers and this is most likely to drive behaviour change; and

- (c) continue to advertise how public transport is an affordable way to commute around Canberra.”.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 14		NOES, 7
Yvette Berry	Suzanne Orr	Peter Cain
Andrew Braddock	Marisa Paterson	Leanne Castley
Joy Burch	Michael Pettersson	Ed Cocks
Tara Cheyne	Shane Rattenbury	Jeremy Hanson
Jo Clay	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Elizabeth Lee
Emma Davidson	Rebecca Vassarotti	James Milligan
Mick Gentleman		Mark Parton
Laura Nuttall		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) the ACT is in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis, with many Canberrans struggling under high interest rates and inflationary pressures;
 - (b) the weekly cost for an adult MyWay cardholder to commute on public transport five days a week is \$32.20;
 - (c) all seniors over the age of 70 and children under the age of five receive free public transport;
 - (d) concession MyWay cardholders receive free fares when travelling off-peak; and
 - (e) the ACT Government has kept fares deliberately low over many years with fares remaining the same since 5 January 2019;
- (2) further notes that:
 - (a) unlike most other major cities, the MyWay ticketing system carries a standard adult fare of \$3.22 at peak and \$2.55 off-peak regardless how far you travel in the ACT;
 - (b) since the start of 2023 public transport fares have increased in Sydney, Melbourne, Brisbane and Adelaide; and
 - (c) weekly household public transport costs in Canberra are the third lowest in the country, nearly \$30 less than Brisbane and \$20 less than Melbourne and Sydney; and

- (3) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) consider further options to support more people onto public transport in the ACT;
 - (b) consider the strategic and time-limited use of free public transport where there is network capacity to accommodate a potential increase in passengers and this is most likely to drive behaviour change; and
 - (c) continue to advertise how public transport is an affordable way to commute around Canberra.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

21 PAPERS PRESENTED ON 11 APRIL 2024—PAPERS NOTED

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 211A, proposed—That the papers presented under standing order 211 during the presentation of papers in the routine of business today be noted.

Question—put and passed.

22 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Members’ statements were made.

23 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 5.23 pm, adjourned until Tuesday, 14 May 2024 at 10 am.

MEMBERS’ ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Barr* and Mr Steel*.

*on leave.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly