



**Legislative Assembly for the  
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

# **Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023**

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory  
Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

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Approved for publication

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Report  
10th Assembly  
September 2022



# About the committee

## Establishing resolution

At its meeting on Thursday, 24 March 2022, the Assembly passed the resolution to establish a Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023. The resolution was amended at a meeting of the Assembly on Monday, 15 August 2022. The resolution, as amended, is as follows:

“That:

1. a Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2022 2023, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022 2023 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2022 2023 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 Greens; andto be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
3. the Liberal Party Member shall be elected chair of the Committee by the Committee;
4. the Committee shall be established from 1 July 2022;
5. 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;
6. the Committee is to report on the Bills that have been referred on a date that is two weeks after its last public hearing has been held or the date when the last answer to a question taken on notice or question on notice has been received, whichever is the latter;
7. 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
8. 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.”.

You can read the full establishing resolution on our [website](#).

## Committee members

Mr James Milligan MLA, Chair

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, Deputy Chair

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

## Secretariat

Dr David Monk, Senior Director Committee Support  
Dr Adele Chynoweth OAM, Committee Secretary  
Ms Joanne Cullen, Committee Secretary  
Ms Kathleen de Kleuver, Committee Secretary  
Mr Samuel Thompson, Committee Secretary (to 9 September 2022)  
Mr Nick Byrne, Acting Assistant Committee Secretary  
Ms Miona Ikeda, Assistant Committee Secretary  
Ms Kate Mickelson, Assistant Committee Secretary  
Ms Sophie Milne, Assistant Committee Secretary  
Mr Adam Walker, Assistant Committee Secretary  
Ms Lydia Chung, Administrative Assistant  
Mr Dikshes Patel, Administrative Assistant  
Ms Emma Weaver, Administrative Assistant

## Contact us

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## About this inquiry

The Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 was established to examine the ACT budget expenditure proposals in the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023.

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# Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym	Long form
ACCC	Australian Competition and Consumer Commission
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTCOSS	Australian Council of Social Service
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
ADACAS	ACT Disability and Aged Care Advocacy Service
ADWG	Australian Drinking Water Guidelines
AEU	Australian Education Union
AI	artificial intelligence
AIS	Australian Institute of Sport
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
ANU	Australian National University
ARIns	Attraction and Retention Incentives
CAHMS	Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFMMEU	Construction Forestry Maritime Mining Energy Union
CHIP	Catchment Health Indicator Report
CHP	community housing providers
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CMHT	Custodial Mental Health Team
CMTEDD	The Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease 2019, caused by the novel coronavirus SARS-CoV-2.
CPI	Consumer Price Index
CRA	City Renewal Authority
CRM	Customer Relation Management
CSD	Community Services Directorate
CSIRO	Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation
CTU	Court Transport Unity
CYPS	Child and Youth Protection Services
DPP	Director of Public Prosecutions
DVPC	Domestic Violence Prevention Council
EPA	Environment Protection Authority

EPSDD	Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate
ESO	Environmental Significance Opinion
EV	electric vehicle
FOGO	Food organics and garden organics
FOI	Freedom of Information
FTE	Full Time Equivalent
GIA	gender impact assessment
HHC	Hume Health Centre
HRIMS	human resource information management project
ICE	internal combustion engines
ICRC	Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission
ICS	Inspector of Correctional Services
ILRP	Indicative Land Release Program
JACS	Justice and Community Safety
JESC	Joint Emergency Services Centre
km	kilometres
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LED	Light Emitting Diode
LGBTIQ+	lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender/gender diverse, intersex and queer
m <sup>2</sup>	metres squared
MIB	2-Methylisoborneol
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
MPC	Major Projects Canberra
NCA	National Capital Authority
NDIA	National Disability Insurance Agency
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
NPM	National Preventative Mechanism
NSW	New South Wales
OLA	Office of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
PCBU	Person conducting a business or undertaking
PTG	Public Trustee and Guardian

PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
QPRC	Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council
RSV	Respiratory Syncytial Virus
RTO	Registered Training Organisations
SFP	Stromlo Forest Park
SLA	Suburban Land Agency
SPT	UN SubCommittee for the Prevention of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)
SSCC	Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee
TCCS	Transport Canberra and City Services
TCH	The Canberra Hospital
TRC	Transitional Release Centre
WAC	Water Abstraction Charge
UC	University of Canberra
VET	vocational education and training
ZEV	Zero Emissions Vehicle

# Recommendations

## Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review timelines for the presentation of the ACT Budget, with consideration to the time required for committees to conduct a budget estimates process and write a report.

## Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Speaker resolve the constitutional rights of committees to conduct their business so that future inquiries do not encounter the same issues that impacted the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023.

## Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Speaker authorise the use of the chamber for future public hearings for inquiries into ACT Budget Estimates and Annual and Financial Reports.

## Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund improvements to the Chamber so that it has suitable audio-visual functionality.

## Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding for an independent voice to advocate on behalf of migrant and refugee communities.

## Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government considers its branding decisions to maintain apolitical public service outputs.

## Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate how to improve the effectiveness of wellbeing indicators and gender responsive budgeting and demonstrate that they are influencing budget decisions.

## Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government encourage the use of the Gender Impact Analysis Tool.

## Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government record and report against how many times directorate staff seek support and training in using the gender assessment tool and which agencies seek support.

## Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government track objective measures like the gender pay gap and employment pay gap as part of the gender responsive budgeting measures.

### **Recommendation 11**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider providing in future budgets the FTE projections by directorate and agency for each year of the forward estimates (Appendix K).

### **Recommendation 12**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should review its position on tiered payroll taxation as the previous work into the subject is a decade old.

### **Recommendation 13**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collect and publish data on the economic impact of the arts in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 14**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit ongoing funding to the 'Recognising Significant Women through Public Art' initiative.

### **Recommendation 15**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, through Access Canberra, explore an outreach service for vulnerable Canberrans.

### **Recommendation 16**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with schools to examine processes for toxic waste disposal.

### **Recommendation 17**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government demonstrate planning which balances short-term demand for skills with long-term demand, and how they are affected by Government objectives such as the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

### **Recommendation 18**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-introduce the accountability indicators for the Skilled Migration Output Class and to report on these in the annual reports.

### **Recommendation 19**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the details of JobTrainer in its annual reports, with specific reference to overall cost to the Government, number of additional enrolments due to the program, and number of completions.

### **Recommendation 20**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government identify for clarity the funding allocated for each area of Skilled Capital and User Choice within the budget and report on how this is distributed between CIT and Independent RTOs in the Annual Reports.



### **Recommendation 21**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include direct links to Independent RTOs on its Study Canberra Website as part of its review.

### **Recommendation 22**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, whilst awaiting the ACT Integrity Commission report into the CIT consultancy contracts, ensures that governance arrangements for all future CIT procurement decisions are fit for purpose.

### **Recommendation 23**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government focus on supporting vulnerable students who have not been in employment prior to graduating their course, in terms of achieving employment after graduating.

### **Recommendation 24**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government support women in construction to ensure safe workplaces, women are encouraged to enter teaching roles, and diversity for work placement, and encourage female participation in teaching staff.

### **Recommendation 25**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide its plan for future indoor sports facilities across the ACT and allocate funding in the 2023-2024 budget for indoor sports.

### **Recommendation 26**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reports timeframes for the Ice Rink Complex and indicate:

- when details of the confirmed site will be released;
- whether the facility will be a joint venture with external parties and sporting groups;
- details of who will be responsible for the management and maintenance; and
- a timeframe for when budget allocations will be made and report back to the Assembly.

### **Recommendation 27**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise:

- the extent of the proposed feasibility study to determine the parameters for a new pool, featuring a dive pool, in the Stromlo Leisure Centre complex;
- the extent of consultations that have already taken place with key interest groups about new or additional pool facilities; and
- the likely timeframe for the study, timelines for consideration of the results by government and the allocation of any budget funding for the expansion of current pool facilities and report back to the Assembly.

### **Recommendation 28**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government upgrade the sports facilities roadmap to a comprehensive sports facilities management plan to ensure that maintenance of existing facilities and establishment of new facilities meets community need.

### **Recommendation 29**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise funding for the commencement of the build of the Phillip enclosed oval in the 2023-2024 budget.

### **Recommendation 30**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government hold the owner of the Phillip Pool to account to its lease conditions to open the pool for the summer of 2022-23.

### **Recommendation 31**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures the Motor Accident Insurance Scheme is supportive of distressed families by expediting the process to access claims.

### **Recommendation 32**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult broadly with the community on the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan and any proposed developments in relation to Stromlo Forest Park.

### **Recommendation 33**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase funding for ACT Archives to proactively digitise records for access by the community.

### **Recommendation 34**

The Committee recommends that ICON Water examine reasons for the MIB contamination and how to supply long term high quality drinking water.

### **Recommendation 35**

The Committee recommends that ICON Water should provide as part of the recorded message on known issues a pathway option to leave customer feedback.

### **Recommendation 36**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government look to improve its offering of fountains and water features through the City Renewal Authority.

### **Recommendation 37**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to improve transparency on kangaroo cull programs particularly in relation to methodology and data.

### **Recommendation 38**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that wombats are located and either relocated or culled before any SLA development in new suburbs in the ACT, with

particular urgent attention to be given to the current suburb development in the Molonglo Valley.

### **Recommendation 39**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a strategy for wombat removal from all future green field sites.

### **Recommendation 40**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures in its Housing ACT surveys that there is a question about tenants' satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the service—and if dissatisfied, why.

### **Recommendation 41**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that ACT Public Housing letters, sent to tenants, include due dates/deadline information, where applicable.

### **Recommendation 42**

The Committee recommends that the ACT government ensure that housing programs publish key milestones, including expected completion dates, to allow evaluation of program achievements.

### **Recommendation 43**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual detailed financial breakdown of how the WAC is expended.

### **Recommendation 44**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should publish the share of revenue from WAC that comes from NSW vs ACT and where it is expended each year.

### **Recommendation 45**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual ACT Water Report.

### **Recommendation 46**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate the appropriateness of plants in the floating wetlands, to ensure they do not return nutrients to the water if they die off.

### **Recommendation 47**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide updates on how the EV strategy is contributing to achieving the ACT Government's emissions reduction targets.

### **Recommendation 48**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government discuss with the automotive industry, their ability to meet the requirement to only supply new electric powered vehicles in the ACT by 2035.

### **Recommendation 49**

The Committee recommends that the Government fully fund the implementation and ongoing support for the ACT Disability Strategy and include the indicative costs associated with this in future budgets, as separate line items within the Health or Disability budgets.

### **Recommendation 50**

The Committee recommends that the Government table the ACT Disability Strategy listening report in the Assembly on completion.

### **Recommendation 51**

The Committee recommends that the Government identify in future budgets all funding allocations for community service organisations and individual advocacy groups provided within the disability sector.

### **Recommendation 52**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to work with the community sector on a long-term solution in respect to the Community Sector Indexation formula.

### **Recommendation 53**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who access or participate in Family Group Conferencing.

### **Recommendation 54**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish achievements towards Welcoming Cities Advanced Status.

### **Recommendation 55**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with local stakeholders on new programs to be funded in upcoming budgets to support seniors.

### **Recommendation 56**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve the reporting of the Age-Friendly City Plan so that a formal update is provided on each action listed in the plan.

### **Recommendation 57**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake research into the potential criminalisation of coercive control in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 58**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise a community education campaign around recent amendments to the Crimes Act regarding affirmative consent.

### **Recommendation 59**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to prioritise the delivery of agreed recommendations of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee.

### **Recommendation 60**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report back to the Assembly on progress of the pilot service to support children (5-12 years) and mothers who have been victims of domestic and family violence.

### **Recommendation 61**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly on the Return to Work Program.

### **Recommendation 62**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake detailed economic rental market analysis of the proposed minimum rental standards on the rental supply, rental prices, energy efficiency standards and energy costs in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 63**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with ACT gambling venues to implement the bet and load limits of poker machines in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 64**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a 10–15-year vision for the future of poker machines in the ACT to provide clarity to the community.

### **Recommendation 65**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with every club group and individual club to ensure that reporting on the Gambling Incident Register is consistent across clubs in line with the legislation, in particular around reporting on red flag behaviours.

### **Recommendation 66**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission publicly report data that is collected (as directed by legislation) from gambling venues in the ACT (including from the Gambling Incident Register, self-exclusion data).

### **Recommendation 67**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission revise and clearly define strategic objectives and accountability objectives in future papers to include clear objectives to reduce harm.

### **Recommendation 68**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate why women appear to be self-excluding from gambling venues at far less the rate of men, and allocate funding to enable women equal opportunity to self-exclude.

### **Recommendation 69**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide in-venue information, in a range of languages, to inform people harmed by gambling who do not speak English that materials are available in their language on-line and how to access these.

### **Recommendation 70**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government in its development of any smoke and heat relief legislation strongly consider the potential for harm in this proposal in encouraging individuals in times of great stress to enter clubs that are providers of gambling and alcohol products.

### **Recommendation 71**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the racing industry through the MOU to determine a long-term trajectory for Canberra's racing codes to become self-sufficient.

### **Recommendation 72**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify via a public statement who is involved in the negotiations of the Racing MOU.

### **Recommendation 73**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the forensic psychologist service at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) to the management case unit to provide group guidance on dealing with difficult clients.

### **Recommendation 74**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a timeline for the construction of the Reintegration Centre.

### **Recommendation 75**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise resources to finding a quality tenderer for the provision of education at the AMC.

### **Recommendation 76**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the new provider to ensure the new offering is aligned with skills shortages or industries in demand.

### **Recommendation 77**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase addiction counselling at the AMC.

### **Recommendation 78**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures it meets legislative requirements in the *Corrections Management Act 2007* and the *Human Rights Act 2004* in respect to accommodating sentenced and unsentenced detainees.

### **Recommendation 79**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase FTE funding to the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services to ensure they can comply with their legislated requirements of oversight particularly as the workload of critical incidents has increased significantly.

### **Recommendation 80**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an independent review of recruitment practices to ensure they are fit for purpose and don't discriminate against women applying for the ACT Fire and Rescue Service.

### **Recommendation 81**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the report from the University of Canberra research study on PTSD for Emergency Services Personnel in the Assembly when it is completed.

### **Recommendation 82**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides the detail of its progress on the Joint Emergency Services Centre in Gungahlin within their annual reports.

### **Recommendation 83**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the use of spit hoods by ACT Policing.

### **Recommendation 84**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an independent review of bail and sentencing outcomes in the ACT and table the report in the Assembly.

### **Recommendation 85**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appropriately fund the taskforce 'Operation Toric' to address the issue of car thefts in the ACT, and report progress on the taskforce to the Assembly.

### **Recommendation 86**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government police numbers continue to be increased in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 87**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the investment in police resources, both accommodation and sworn police officers (particularly those operating under the Police Services Model), is distributed appropriately across the ACT and consider a new police station in the Molonglo Valley.

### **Recommendation 88**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the ACT Police 131 444 number is adequately resourced to ensure that calls are taken in timeframes that would align with community expectations.

### **Recommendation 89**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government progress criminal legislative reform, in particular, with respect to 'trespass' in a motor vehicle.

### **Recommendation 90**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider increasing legal aid funding to expand the Legal Aid College Lawyer Program and evaluate the benefits of the Legal Aid lawyers in schools program.

### **Recommendation 91**

The Committee recommends that the Public Trustee and Guardian continue to rollout the CRM as expeditiously as possible.

### **Recommendation 92**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide annual update to the Assembly on the number of additional teachers employed against the recruitment targets as covered in the Teacher Shortage Taskforce Final report.

### **Recommendation 93**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish detailed plans to address teacher shortages.

### **Recommendation 94**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government annually update the Assembly on progress of the use of inbuilt relief teachers across all schools to support schools in managing teacher absences.

### **Recommendation 95**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly any exceptions to the Education Directorate and Australian Education Union (AEU) Class Sizes Policy and Class Sizes Procedures.

### **Recommendation 96**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that in the event of any incidents of serious violence occurring in ACT schools, that the Minister is briefed immediately.

### **Recommendation 97**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider in new schools and school modernisation projects the importance of after-school care facilities and spaces, including access to kitchen facilities.

### **Recommendation 98**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider in new schools and school modernisation projects the importance of community spaces and facilities.

### **Recommendation 99**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a forward plan for new facilities, and workforce requirements to meet the future needs for ACT early education.



### **Recommendation 100**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work to ensure that drug limits in the Drug of Dependence legislation and regulations are below Commonwealth trafficking amounts.

### **Recommendation 101**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand eligibility criteria and the number of available places for The Canberra Hospital continuity of care midwife program.

### **Recommendation 102**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase transparency around the ARInS public service remuneration.

### **Recommendation 103**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish bi-annual statements of CHS compliance with nurse-to-patient ratios.

### **Recommendation 104**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Legislative Assembly on progress to increase elective surgery capacity.

### **Recommendation 105**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assess the impact of the Digital Health Record program on improving efficiency of elective surgery outcomes and report to the Legislative Assembly once data is available.

### **Recommendation 106**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently move the CAMHS Southside from the Callam Offices in Woden.

### **Recommendation 107**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work to deliver the MyHome project in Curtin and clearly articulate to the Assembly dates for stages and progress for delivery of the project.

### **Recommendation 108**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the delivery of the Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility within the stated timeframes.

### **Recommendation 109**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, through Justice Health, publish a plan for the creation of space in line with demand at the Hume Health Centre (HHC) with an aim to increase health services resources.

### **Recommendation 110**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to actively recruit to achieve a fully staffed custodial mental health team.

### **Recommendation 111**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that Dhulwa Mental Health Unit safety procedures conform to best practice.

### **Recommendation 112**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit increased ongoing funding to mowing resources.

### **Recommendation 113**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government retain separate accountability indicators for community paths and cycle lanes.

### **Recommendation 114**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an annual audit of community paths and publish the results, and consider introducing specific measurable indicators such as:

- state of community paths (90 percent in good condition); and
- maintenance of community paths (km of path repaired per annum).

### **Recommendation 115**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release the report, or a summary, based on the 2021 audit of paths in the ACT.

### **Recommendation 116**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government move the public transport services off the interim timetable and to the permanent timetable as soon as possible.

### **Recommendation 117**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government insert into future transport Canberra surveys a question that asks respondents who are dissatisfied with the public transport service—why are they dissatisfied.

### **Recommendation 118**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the public with information about a proposed crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve, including whether the proposal includes a gas-fired or water-powered crematorium, and what the impact on the nature reserve would be, as well as what impact community concerns have had on the considerations so far.

### **Recommendation 119**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund an expansion of the streetlight infill program.

### **Recommendation 120**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work towards ensuring that the same timeframe for broken streetlights to be fixed is applied across the ACT.

### **Recommendation 121**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government listen to community feedback and ensure that weekly rubbish collections continue for households Canberra-wide under the FOGO rollout.

### **Recommendation 122**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide performance reporting of shrub and ground cover plantings.

### **Recommendation 123**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider a Canberra-wide maintenance program involving installing AI technology on garbage trucks to better detect potholes in suburb areas as soon as possible.

### **Recommendation 124**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the Multi-modal Network Plan when complete and provide more information to the community about what the plan is for and how it will be implemented.

### **Recommendation 125**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve the active travel linkages between Gungahlin Town Centre and Yerrabi Pond as part of the Active Travel Plan.

### **Recommendation 126**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more funding for weed management within TCCS to ensure that they are able to reach more areas.

### **Recommendation 127**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with Weston Valley Archery club to ensure a positive outcome for the club in the expansion of the City Services Holder Depot.

### **Recommendation 128**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate how to improve communication between Domestic Animals Services and individuals with open investigations.

### **Recommendation 129**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with Woden businesses to ensure that local business developments are integrated into ACT Government developments.

### **Recommendation 130**

The Committee recommends that the space available for community hire in the new CIT Woden facility:

- is suitable for live music including consideration on whether it should be a live entertainment precinct; and

- includes kitchen facilities which are available for community groups to prepare food for events.

### **Recommendation 131**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider student safety at the forefront of design and during construction of CIT campus in Woden, with further consideration being given to implement student safety plans on the campus from the outset.

### **Recommendation 132**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update its website for the expected completion and opening date for the CIT Woden campus.

### **Recommendation 133**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government details the elements of the \$31 million expenditure for the Woden CIT Major Project within the Annual Report.

### **Recommendation 134**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly, the disruption taskforce plan for managing disruption during stage 2A of light rail works, when completed.

### **Recommendation 135**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the impact of workforce capacity limits in MPC and private industry on its ability to deliver the program of infrastructure projects.

### **Recommendation 136**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund OLA to provide end-of-trip facilities in the building, and upgrades to the public entrance and building signage.

### **Recommendation 137**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office include in the 2022-23 priorities a line item for educating and raising ACT Government awareness of lessons learnt from audit reports.

### **Recommendation 138**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office consider conducting an audit on whether the ACT Government has successfully completed actions that it had agreed to undertake in response to earlier audits.

### **Recommendation 139**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office consider consulting with members on development of the forward audit program and write to all committees to seek their input.

### **Recommendation 140**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Integrity Commission has sufficient funding to meet its workload.

### **Recommendation 141**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government includes consideration of telephone intercept powers in its review of legislative reform for the ACT Integrity Commission.

### **Recommendation 142**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Ombudsman keep close oversight on reporting to the Reportable Conduct Scheme and potentially look at nuances in the reporting data to provide insight into gaps and strengths in reporting.

### **Recommendation 143**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Ombudsman explore ways to allow oversight of whether the lessons learned from individual complaints are actually being applied in a manner that does not disclose personal information.

# Finding

## Finding 1

The Committee recommends using the Ministerial Administrative Arrangements as the basis for scheduling ministerial appearances at future Estimates budget inquiries.

# 1. Introduction

## Presentation of Bills

- 1.1. The [Financial Management Act 1996](#) sets the framework for Territory appropriations and budgets. Government expenditure must be authorised by the Assembly through an Appropriation Bill.<sup>1</sup> Immediately after the presentation of an Appropriation Bill, the Treasurer must present to the Assembly the proposed budget for the Territory and for each directorate for the year.<sup>2</sup> The Act specifies information that must be included in the proposed budget, and requires that it be in a form that assists a comparison with the budget for the previous financial year.<sup>3</sup> The financial statements included in the proposed budget must include budget estimates for each of the next three financial years.<sup>4</sup>
- 1.2. On 2 August 2022 the [Appropriation Bill 2022-2023](#) and [Appropriation \(Office of the Legislative Assembly\) Bill 2022-2023](#) were presented in the Assembly<sup>5</sup>, and the related Budget papers were tabled and published on the Treasury website.<sup>6</sup>

## Conduct of inquiry

- 1.3. The motion establishing the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 (the Committee) to inquire into the ACT Budget 2022-2023 was passed by the Assembly on 24 March 2022.<sup>7</sup>
- 1.4. This motion was amended on 15 August 2022 requiring the Committee to report on a date that is two weeks after its last public hearing has been held or the date when the last answer to a question taken on notice or question on notice has been received, whichever is the latter.<sup>8</sup> The Assembly further amended the motion on 21 September 2022 requiring the Committee to report by 30 September 2022<sup>9</sup> and to be dissolved on 31 October 2022.<sup>10</sup>
- 1.5. During the inquiry the Committee was required to examine the expenditure proposals in the main appropriation bills for the Territory, as outlined in ACT Budget Statements A-I and Statement of Intent—ACT Long Service Leave Authority and Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority.
- 1.6. The Committee commenced in person hearings on Friday 12 August 2022 with the appearance of witnesses from community and industry groups.

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<sup>1</sup> *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 6.

<sup>2</sup> *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 10.

<sup>3</sup> *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 11.

<sup>4</sup> *Financial Management Act 1996*, s11.

<sup>5</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings No 54](#), 2 August 2022, pp 751–752.

<sup>6</sup> Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Budget Papers*, <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2022-23/budget-2022-23> (accessed 15 August 2022).

<sup>7</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 42](#), 24 March 2022, pp 550–552.

<sup>8</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 57](#), 15 August 2022, p 794.

<sup>9</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 59](#), 21 September 2022, p 804.

<sup>10</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 59](#), 21 September 2022, p 820.

- 1.7. On the afternoon of 12 August 2022, officers from WorkSafe ACT conducted a site inspection at the Legislative Assembly. As a result of this inspection a Prohibition Notice was served on the Speaker prohibiting the Assembly from carrying on the following activity, or the carrying on of the activity in a specified way:
- Undertaking any hearings or committee meetings at Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory until a risk assessment has been undertaken, adequate control measures are implemented in line with the Hierarchy of Control, and consultation has been undertaken with all affected workers.<sup>11</sup>
- 1.8. The Committee had to meet offsite to discuss the implications of the Prohibition Notice as no meetings were allowed in the Assembly Building under the 12 August 2022 notice.
- 1.9. The WorkSafe ACT Prohibition Notice was amended on Monday, 15 August 2022 to allow for private committee meetings to occur in the building. The amended notice prohibited the Assembly from carrying on the following activity, or the carrying on of the activity in a specified way:
- Conducting committee hearings at the Legislative Assembly of the Australian Capital Territory, at which participants attend in person, until a risk assessment has been undertaken, adequate control measures are implemented in line with the Hierarchy of Control, and consultation has been undertaken with all affected workers and others.<sup>12</sup>
- 1.10. The annual budget estimates inquiry process is an important opportunity for members, particularly from the opposition and crossbench, to scrutinise the performance of the government and its directorates. The Office of the Legislative Assembly already had a significant number of COVID safety measures in place. The Committee determined that they would take all necessary action to hold hearings in the Assembly and ensure the safety of all participants.
- 1.11. The Committee advised that public hearings for Estimates would recommence on Monday 22 August 2022.<sup>13</sup>
- 1.12. The Committee agreed to a relocation of the public hearings to the Legislative Assembly chamber using a hybrid model of in person and Webex meetings. Hearings recommenced on 22 August 2022 and ended on 2 September 2022.

## Committee comment

- 1.13. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should revert to pre-COVID timeframes for the presentation of the ACT budget, if possible.
- 1.14. The timelines for the Committee are outlined in table 1.

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<sup>11</sup> Select Committee on Privileges 2022, *Submission 4.03*, p 2.

<sup>12</sup> Select Committee on Privileges 2022, *Submission 4.12*, p 2.

<sup>13</sup> Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023, 'Estimates 2022-23 Committee statement', *Media Release*, 16 August 2022.



**Table 1: Inquiry timelines for Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Action</b>
24 March 2022	Resolution of Establishment for the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023.
1 July 2022	Committee commencement date Letters sent to Ministers requesting details of availability by 8 July 2022. The Committee also agreed to depart from the previous practice of basing the schedule on budget outputs due to scheduling problems this has caused in the past.
20 July 2022	Committee provided feedback on the initial draft of the hearing schedule.
27 July 2022	Committee agreed to schedule. Invitation letters sent to Ministers and statutory officers with times allocated.
2 August 2022	Treasurer presents the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023.
4 August 2022	Committee considered changes to schedule due to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• resolution of Assembly to consider a motion of no confidence resulting in a delay in the start time on 15 August (2<sup>nd</sup> day of schedule); and</li> <li>• changes requested by Mr Gentleman due to Policing operational requirements.</li> </ul>
8 August 2022	Budget output statement provided by Manager of Government Business.
10 August 2022	Committee agreed to a revised schedule as determined on 4 August 2022. Committee agreed to Community and industry groups to be invited to the public hearings on 12 August 2022.
11 August 2022	Community groups invited.
12 August 2022	Public hearings for community and industry groups in the Prince Edward Island Room.
15 August 2022	Committee resolved to further amend schedule due to the Prohibition Notice from the Work Health and Safety Commissioner. This involved moving the hearings scheduled for 15 and 16 August to 29 and 30 August 2022 respectively.
16 August 2022	The Committee resolved to move the hearings scheduled for 17,18 and 19 August to 31 August and 1-2 September 2022 in order to meet the requirements of the prohibition notice.
17 August 2022	The Committee agreed to changes in the draft schedule noting further changes were required for the week starting 29 August 2022.

22 August - 2 September 2022	Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 public hearings for the Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022-2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022-2023 held in the Legislative Assembly Chamber.
30 September 2022	Reporting date—The Assembly resolution of 24 March 2022 establishing the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 was amended (twice) to change the original reporting date of 9 September 2022, to:  the Committee is to report by Friday, 30 September 2022. <sup>14</sup>
31 October 2022	The Committee to be dissolved.

- 1.15. The Committee departed from the practice in previous years of basing the hearing schedule on the budget output statement provided by Manager of Government Business. The reasons for this were that:
- in previous years it has resulted in a schedule that caused problems for members asking questions, it wasn't always clear which budget output was the correct session for asking particular questions, with members often being told they were in the wrong session; and
  - it was potentially inappropriate for the Committee to be required to use an internal government document to develop the schedule.
- 1.16. The Committee was of the view that the breakdown of hearings by the Ministerial Administrative Arrangements for this inquiry, instead of by budget outputs as done in the past, provided greater flexibility for the Committee and visiting members to scrutinise topics of interest and ensure that a higher proportion of questions were effectively put and answered.

### Finding 1

The Committee recommends using the Ministerial Administrative Arrangements as the basis for scheduling ministerial appearances at future Estimates inquiries.

- 1.17. Scheduling problems also arose from:
- some Ministers providing limited availability despite knowing about the schedule on the Assembly calendar for the year;
  - some Ministers making several changes to their availability resulting in changes to the schedule (reflected in table 1 above);
  - the postponement of the hearing dates due to the Prohibition Notice and the no confidence motion; and

<sup>14</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 59](#), 21 September 2022, p 804.

- the tight timeframe between the budget and start of hearings when inviting community and industry representatives.

### Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review timelines for the presentation of the ACT Budget, with consideration to the time required for committees to conduct a budget estimates process and write a report.

## Privilege

- 1.18. On Monday, 15 August 2022 the ‘Speaker made a statement concerning the serving of a prohibition notice by WorkSafe ACT to the Speaker, in relation to the conduct of committee hearings and meetings in the Assembly precincts. The Speaker informed the Assembly that she is seeking legal advice in relation to this matter and will keep Members up to date as the situation unfolds.’<sup>15</sup>
- 1.19. A motion to establish a Select Committee on Privileges 2022 to ‘examine whether there has been a breach of privilege relating to the actions of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner and any other person, and whether they have improperly interfered with the free exercise of the authority of the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023 or breached any other privileges of the Assembly’<sup>16</sup> was passed by the Assembly on 15 August 2022. The Committee will report back to the Assembly by the last sitting day in 2022.<sup>17</sup>
- 1.20. The Committee wrote to the Speaker regarding ‘two more alleged matters of unprecedented interference in Committee business. One is against Ms Jacqueline Agius, Work Health and Safety Commissioner, and the other against Mr Mick Gentleman MLA’.<sup>18</sup> On 21 September 2022, the Assembly resolved to refer the latter issue to the Privileges Committee.<sup>19</sup>

## Committee comment

- 1.21. The Committee noted that the ‘Assembly has inherent powers of inquiry through Committees; this power adheres to the constitutional design of our system of government. The Estimates Committee firmly believes that there have been multiple counts of interference in its constitutional ability to conduct its inquiry’.<sup>20</sup>

<sup>15</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 57](#), 15 August 2022, p 792.

<sup>16</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 57](#), 15 August 2022, p 794.

<sup>17</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 59](#), 21 September 2022, p 804.

<sup>18</sup> Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023, ‘Estimates 2022-23 Committee statement’, *Media Release*, 19 August 2022.

<sup>19</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 59](#), 21 September 2022, p 820.

<sup>20</sup> Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023, ‘Estimates 2022-23 Committee statement’, *Media Release*, 19 August 2022.

## Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the Speaker resolve the constitutional rights of committees to conduct their business so that future inquiries do not encounter the same issues that impacted the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023.

## Specialist Budget Advisor

- 1.22. The Resolution of Establishment for the Committee allows funds to 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.<sup>21</sup> For the 2022-2023 ACT Budget the Committee selected the Pegasus Economics to provide the Specialist Budget Adviser function. The Committee has published the written analysis provided to it by Pegasus Economics on the [inquiry webpage](#).<sup>22</sup>

## Public hearings

- 1.23. The ACT Budget 2022-2023 public hearings were held on 12 August 2022 (community and industry groups) and from 22 August to 2 September 2022. At the hearings the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers and their accompanying Directorate officials; Officers of the Legislative Assembly; statutory officers; and members of governing boards.
- 1.24. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at Appendix A. Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Legislative Assembly website.
- 1.25. The Committee found undertaking hearings in the chamber was an improvement over hearings in the Prince Edward Island Room in many respects:
- large numbers of officials could be involved without the need to swap in and out of chairs, saving time, creating a smoother flow and more conversational style to proceedings;
  - more visiting members, witnesses, and visitors could be accommodated; and
  - it lent gravitas to proceedings with the bringing of officials into the heart of ACT democracy as part of the oversight process.

## Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the Speaker authorise the use of the chamber for future public hearings for inquiries into ACT Budget Estimates and Annual and Financial Reports.

<sup>21</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No. 42](#), 24 March 2022, pp 550–552.

<sup>22</sup> Pegasus Economics, [Review of the ACT Budget 2022-23](#), August 2022.

- 1.26. The use of Webex in the Chamber with current equipment, in conjunction with appearances in person, detracted from the hearing process with issues including:
- the small screen used for Webex;
  - Webex dropping out;
  - questions had to be repeated for the benefit of Webex users;
  - the handover from witnesses giving evidence in the room to those attending via Webex was slow, involved people talking over each other, and disrupted the flow of proceedings;
  - witnesses forgetting to turn off their mute; and
  - difficulty for members and witnesses sitting further from the screen to hear the evidence being provided.

#### **Recommendation 4**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund improvements to the Chamber so that it has suitable audio-visual functionality.

## **Questions taken on notice at hearings and questions placed on notice**

- 1.27. A total of 359 questions were lodged during the inquiry. 174 questions were taken on notice by Ministers, statutory office holders and a community group during the hearings, and 185 questions on notice were submitted by Committee Members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.28. The answers to questions, and a list of questions (by subject, submitter, recipient) are available at Appendix B, and on the inquiry webpage.

## **References to Hansard Transcripts**

- 1.29. Footnotes in the report generally reference the proof transcripts of evidence. Page numbers may vary between the proofs and the final Hansard transcript.

## **Acknowledgements**

- 1.30. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes ACT Government Ministers, directorate officials, statutory officers, members of governing boards, community groups, Members of the Legislative Assembly, Members' staff, and staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly. The Committee extends a special thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

## 2. Community and industry groups

2.1. The Committee invited the following community and industry groups to appear at a public hearing for the ACT Budget 2022-2023 on 12 August 2022:

- Australian Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS);
- Canberra Business Chamber;
- Multicultural Association of Canberra; and
- Advocacy for Inclusion and Women with Disabilities ACT.

### ACTCOSS

#### Matters considered

2.2. During the appearance of ACTCOSS before the Committee on 12 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Housing Growth and Renewal Project;<sup>23</sup>
- independent advocacy voice for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans;<sup>24</sup>
- funding gaps for supports for older Canberrans;<sup>25</sup>
- ACT public housing maintenance budget;<sup>26</sup>
- budget for additional public housing;<sup>27</sup>
- community housing providers (CHP) participation in build-to-rent;<sup>28</sup>
- Justice Reinvestment Strategy resourcing;<sup>29</sup>
- public transport;<sup>30</sup>
- community facilities;<sup>31</sup>
- domestic and family violence and sexual violence services funding;<sup>32</sup>
- Targeted Assistance Strategy;<sup>33</sup> and
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community housing providers.<sup>34</sup>

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<sup>23</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 1–3.

<sup>24</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>25</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 3–4.

<sup>26</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 4.

<sup>27</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 4.

<sup>28</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 4–5.

<sup>29</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 5.

<sup>30</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 5 and p 6.

<sup>31</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 5–6.

<sup>32</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 7.

<sup>33</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 8.

<sup>34</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 8.

## Key Issues

### Independent advocacy voice for people of migrant and refugee backgrounds

- 2.3. The Committee noted that in their pre-budget submission ATCOSS highlighted the lack of dedicated funding for an independent advocacy voice for culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans in the ACT.<sup>35</sup>
- 2.4. ACTCOSS told the Committee that the ACT does not have an independent voice for its multicultural communities and that this:
- limits the ability for migrant and refugee communities in Canberra to advocate on behalf of the people that they represent in a truly independent way. It also limits their ability to connect with organisations in other states.<sup>36</sup>
- 2.5. ACTCOSS also noted that the Federation of Ethnic Communities Councils of Australia (FECCA):
- represents all of those peak bodies in other states and territories, and the ACT has limited participation because we do not have one of those peak bodies.<sup>37</sup>
- 2.6. ACTCOSS stated that the advantage of having such a body in the ACT would be to provide increased consultation opportunities on issues that are important to migrant and refugee communities. They provided the example of the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion Inquiry into racial vilification that people in the community wanted to make submissions to, but had limited capacity to do so.<sup>38</sup> ACTCOSS also noted that while the Multicultural Community Forum does do some work in this area, they are not funded to do this and lack the necessary resources to engage properly.<sup>39</sup>
- 2.7. In evidence provided to the Committee on 25 August 2022, Ms Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation, CSD advised that individual advocacy funding provided for the disability sector is ongoing at \$400,000 a year.<sup>40</sup> She also stated:
- There is also the ongoing systemic advocacy for AFI [Advocacy for Inclusion]. It incorporates People with Disabilities ACT, Women with Disabilities ACT, Carers ACT and the NDIA [National Disability Insurance Agency].<sup>41</sup>

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<sup>35</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>36</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>37</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>38</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>39</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 3.

<sup>40</sup> Ms Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation, Community Services Directorate (CSD) *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 491.

<sup>41</sup> Ms Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation, CSD *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 491.

### Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide funding for an independent voice to advocate on behalf of migrant and refugee communities.

## Canberra Business Chamber

### Matters considered

2.8. During the appearance of the Canberra Business Chamber before the Committee on 12 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- the importance of the business sector to the ACT economy;<sup>42</sup>
- support for business;<sup>43</sup>
- cost of housing;<sup>44</sup> and
- translocation of businesses into the ACT.<sup>45</sup>

## Multicultural Association of Canberra

### Matters considered

2.9. During the appearance of the Multicultural Association of Canberra before the Committee on 12 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- multicultural centre in Gungahlin;<sup>46</sup>
- ethnic-appropriate aged care;<sup>47</sup>
- role of multicultural ambassador;<sup>48</sup>
- Multicultural Recognition Bill and the Multicultural Advisory Council;<sup>49</sup> and
- health services for the multicultural community.<sup>50</sup>

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<sup>42</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 10–11.

<sup>43</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 11 and pp 13–14.

<sup>44</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 11–13.

<sup>45</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 13.

<sup>46</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 15–17 and pp 18–19.

<sup>47</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 17–18.

<sup>48</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 19.

<sup>49</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 19–21.

<sup>50</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, p 21.



# Advocacy for Inclusion and Women with Disabilities ACT

## Matters considered

2.10. During the appearance of Advocacy for Inclusion and Women with Disabilities ACT before the Committee on 15 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Disability Strategy;<sup>51</sup>
- Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT) obligations in the Office of the Inspector of Corrections;<sup>52</sup> and
- isolation of disability community due to COVID.<sup>53</sup>

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<sup>51</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 25–26.

<sup>52</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022, pp 26–27.

<sup>53</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 August 2022 p 27.

### 3. Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- 3.1. Budget Statements B states that the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) ‘...leads the ACT Public Service (ACTPS). We work collaboratively within government and with the community to deliver government priorities and drive initiatives aimed at making Canberra a better place to live. CMTEDD also leads the strategic direction of the ACTPS to ensure it is well positioned to shape and respond to change, and to continue to deliver against government priorities, now and in the future.’<sup>54</sup> Funding for CMTEDD is set out in [Budget Statements B](#).

#### Chief Minister—Administrative Arrangements

- 3.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- ACT Public Service (ACTPS);
  - Chief Minister’s Charitable Fund and philanthropy encouragement;
  - Commissioner for International Engagement (including sister city agreements, local diplomatic and consular liaison, inbound and outbound trade mission delivery, trade and export growth);
  - communication and community engagement;
  - diversity and equal opportunity;
  - enterprise bargaining;
  - Government strategy and policy;
  - integrity policy;
  - intergovernmental relations and engagement with capital cities and the Canberra region;
  - LGBTIQ+ affairs, policy and services;
  - National Cabinet and the National Federation Reform Council;
  - national security;
  - social inclusion and equality policy;
  - support to cabinet; and
  - wellbeing framework.

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<sup>54</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements B*, p 1.

## Matters considered

3.3. During the Chief Minister's appearance before the Committee on 30 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Cultural Facilities Corporation;<sup>55</sup>
- Built for CBR website branding;<sup>56</sup>
- Office of the Coordinator-General for the Whole of Government (Non-Health) COVID-19 Response funding;<sup>57</sup>
- labour market;<sup>58</sup>
- Capital of Equality Strategy;<sup>59</sup>
- Public Sector Management Act disclosures;<sup>60</sup>
- LGBTIQ+ psychosocial safety and wellbeing;<sup>61</sup>
- flexible workplaces;<sup>62</sup>
- ACT public sector staff survey;<sup>63</sup>
- ACTPS minority group employment targets;<sup>64</sup>
- bullying and harassment in ACT Policing;<sup>65</sup>
- *Our Canberra* newsletter;<sup>66</sup>
- ACT budget decision-making framework;<sup>67</sup>
- National Cabinet;<sup>68</sup>
- Better Regulation Taskforce report;<sup>69</sup> and
- International Engagement Strategy.<sup>70</sup>

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<sup>55</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 705–706, pp 709–712 and pp 714–716.

<sup>56</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 706–708.

<sup>57</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 708–709.

<sup>58</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 712–713.

<sup>59</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 713–714.

<sup>60</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 716–718.

<sup>61</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 718–719.

<sup>62</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 719–721 and pp 734–735.

<sup>63</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 721–725.

<sup>64</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 725–726 and pp 736–737.

<sup>65</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 726–727.

<sup>66</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 727–729.

<sup>67</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 729–731.

<sup>68</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 731–732.

<sup>69</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 732–734.

<sup>70</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 735–736.

## Key Issues

### Built for CBR website branding

3.4. The Committee questioned the Chief Minister about ACT Government branding used on the Built for CBR website.

3.5. The Chief Minister told the Committee that:

There is no normal ACT government branding. We have different branding for different campaigns, and the process is one that ultimately comes through my office, as I am the responsible minister.<sup>71</sup>

### Committee comment

3.6. The Committee is of the view that the use of white text on red squares on the Built for CBR website could be confused with political party advertising and risks being too closely aligned with one political party and potentially politicises the ACT public service.

#### Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government considers its branding decisions to maintain apolitical public service outputs.

### Wellbeing framework

3.7. The Committee asked questions of multiple ministers across the Estimates hearings in relation to the wellbeing indicators.

3.8. The ACT Government Wellbeing Framework acknowledges that while economic indicators are important, they do not capture all the important community issues relating to the quality of life in the ACT. After consultation with the community, the Government developed the 12 domains of wellbeing for the ACT:

- access and connectivity;
- economy;
- education and life-long learning;
- environment and climate;
- governance and institutions;
- health;
- housing and home;
- identity and belonging;
- living standards;

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<sup>71</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, p 706.

- safety;
- social connection; and
- time.<sup>72</sup>

3.9. The Minister for Women told the Committee that:

...gender is considered in the budget process through the wellbeing impact statements. Those impact assessments are compulsory for all business cases that are presented to budget and to the government to consider.<sup>73</sup>

3.10. Ms Frey O'Brien, Acting Branch Manager, Social and Community Inclusion, Community Services Directorate (CSD) told the Committee that there is a wellbeing team within CMTEDD and CSD works closely with them to ensure that the wellbeing indicators are embedded in the budget process, including 'looking at women from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and really looking at diversity, using that broader wellbeing lens.'<sup>74</sup>

3.11. The Treasurer told the Committee that:

We are continuing to embed the indicators and the assessment against those, in business case development, in ERC and cabinet deliberations. It is not a case of just being snapped in, in one budget round. I think we have made good progress over the past few years in implementing those parameters, as part of decision-making.<sup>75</sup>

3.12. The Assistant Minister for Economic Development advised that events funding applications 'are assessed against evaluation criteria which include economic benefit but also social and community benefit. I think it is incumbent on the applicant to demonstrate how they think that benefit is going to be provided.'<sup>76</sup>

3.13. The Chief Minister advised the Committee that:

Budget business cases now have to be prepared and assessed against the wellbeing criteria. So there is a sort of immediate change in that each one, each business case, seeks to demonstrate how it will improve one or more of the wellbeing indicators.<sup>77</sup>

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<sup>72</sup> ACT Government, [ACT Wellbeing Framework](#), 2020, p 7.

<sup>73</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 185.

<sup>74</sup> Ms Frey O'Brien, Acting Branch Manager, Social and Community Inclusion, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 185.

<sup>75</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 575.

<sup>76</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Assistant Minister for Economic Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 637.

<sup>77</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, p 729.

## Committee comment

- 3.14. The Committee found it difficult to determine the effectiveness of the wellbeing indicators used by the Government when budget funding decisions and would like to see more reporting against these indicators in future budgets.

### Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate how to improve the effectiveness of wellbeing indicators and gender responsive budgeting and demonstrate that they are influencing budget decisions.

## Gender responsive budgeting

- 3.15. During the hearing the topics of gender impact assessment and gender responsive budgeting were discussed.
- 3.16. Gender responsive budgeting has recently been introduced by the Victorian Government<sup>78</sup> as well as the Federal Government.<sup>79</sup> The ACT Government is reportedly consulting with them, as well as with academics and other states, concerning how the gender impacts of budgets are being measured.<sup>80</sup>
- 3.17. The gender impact assessment (GIA) tool is one such way to measure the effect of budget and policy decisions on equity. The Minister explained how it is currently used in the ACT:
- [Ge]nder is considered in the budget process through the wellbeing impact statements. Those impact assessments are compulsory for all business cases that are presented to budget and to the government to consider. The gender impact assessment tool is available, and it assists in considering gender as part of a budget process, with additional support available if it is requested. The tool was developed to support ACT public service employees and, more broadly, ACT businesses and community sectors to make sure that they undertook a better analysis of the impact of their programs and services and how that impact would occur for men, women and gender diverse individuals in the ACT.<sup>81</sup>
- 3.18. Further, Ms Freya O'Brien, Acting Executive Manager at CSD, noted that directorates are not required to 'show their work' when providing their business cases in preparation of the budget:

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<sup>78</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 185.

<sup>79</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 185.

<sup>80</sup> Ms Christine Murray, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 187.

<sup>81</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 185.

[T]he wellbeing impact analysis was informed by the gender impact assessment tool. So, that is not provided to treasury.<sup>82</sup>

### Committee comment

- 3.19. The Committee understand that the GIA is provided to Government directorates for their use in preparing wellbeing impact statements that inform the budget. However, the Committee is concerned that without an understanding of how the GIA is used and how the data it provides is considered, the Government cannot sufficiently track its effectiveness at contributing towards gender equity in tangible, measurable ways.

#### Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government encourage the use of the Gender Impact Analysis Tool.

#### Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government record and report against how many times directorate staff seek support and training in using the gender assessment tool and which agencies seek support.

- 3.20. The Committee also explored how the gender impact assessment tool might assist in decreasing the pay and employment gender gap.
- 3.21. Officials told the Committee that each case is assessed individually and that:

...changes to gender equality take time and we have not established any particular measures and do not expect to see changes in the pay gap immediately. We are building on our understanding of how to measure those as we go forward.<sup>83</sup>

#### Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government track objective measures like the gender pay gap and employment pay gap as part of the gender responsive budgeting measures.

## Treasurer—Administrative Arrangements

- 3.22. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- borrowing, funds management and infrastructure finance;
  - budget process and financial reporting;

<sup>82</sup> Ms Freya O'Brien, Executive Group Manager, Social and Community Inclusion, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 190.

<sup>83</sup> Ms Freya O'Brien, Executive Group Manager, Social and Community Inclusion, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 186.

- concessions;
- directions relating to authorisation thresholds for land acquisition by the City Renewal Authority (CRA) or Suburban Land Agency (SLA);
- fiscal and economic strategy and policy;
- government business enterprises;
- infrastructure policy frameworks and coordination of infrastructure planning;
- jobs for Canberrans;
- Revenue Office, including administration of rental bonds;
- taxation and revenue policy;
- ICON water; and
- Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC).

## Matters considered

3.23. During the Treasurer's appearance before the Committee on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- budget deficit;<sup>84</sup>
- infrastructure spend;<sup>85</sup>
- labour market;<sup>86</sup>
- affordable housing;<sup>87</sup>
- interest on existing borrowings;<sup>88</sup>
- racing codes Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) and wellbeing indicators;<sup>89</sup>
- superannuation liability;<sup>90</sup>
- employee expenses;<sup>91</sup>
- Targeted Assistance Strategy;<sup>92</sup>
- consumption/betting operations tax;<sup>93</sup>
- wellbeing indicators;<sup>94</sup>

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<sup>84</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 560–562, pp 580–583 and pp 583–589.

<sup>85</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 562–564.

<sup>86</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 564–566.

<sup>87</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 566–569.

<sup>88</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 569–570.

<sup>89</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 570–576.

<sup>90</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 576–579.

<sup>91</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 579–583.

<sup>92</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 583–584.

<sup>93</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 590–591.

<sup>94</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 597–598.



- GST revenue and ACT population forecasts;<sup>95</sup>
- gender pay gap;<sup>96</sup>
- payroll tax;<sup>97</sup>
- stamp duty;<sup>98</sup>
- inflation and budget estimates;<sup>99</sup>
- land tax;<sup>100</sup>
- build-to-rent schemes;<sup>101</sup> and
- Residential Tenancy Energy Efficiency legislation.<sup>102</sup>

## Key Issues

### Employee expenses

3.24. An issue raised by the Committee in its examination on 29 August 2022 was that of employee expenses, with the committee noting they are rising on average about 2.5 percent. This included questioning on how much of that rise was due to staffing profile changes or potential wage increases for employees.<sup>103</sup> It also examined the impact of the upcoming enterprise bargaining on the budget if the Government adopted the ACT Labor Party position of a 5.5 percent or Consumer Price Index (CPI) increase, whichever is higher.<sup>104</sup>

3.25. The Treasurer told the Committee that:

There is a desire to have wage growth that is higher than previously, so there is not an arbitrary cap, unlike some other governments. But, at the same time, the idea that the territory could afford three years of 5.5 to seven per cent is not realistic either. That is very clear: the outcomes will need to be less than that and they will be more than is the current agreement.<sup>105</sup>

### Committee Comment

3.26. The Committee found it difficult to properly examine employee expenses in future years as Appendix K (Whole of Government Staffing) of the Budget Outlook, only provides for staff numbers changing over a limited number of years instead of the entirety of the budget.<sup>106</sup>

<sup>95</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 598–600.

<sup>96</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 601–604.

<sup>97</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 606–611.

<sup>98</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 612–616.

<sup>99</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 616–621.

<sup>100</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 621–624.

<sup>101</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 624–626.

<sup>102</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 626–628.

<sup>103</sup> Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 579.

<sup>104</sup> Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 579.

<sup>105</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 580.

<sup>106</sup> Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 579.

- 3.27. The Committee also found it difficult due to the lack of clarity around the impact in the budget from increases to employee and superannuation expenses following the Enterprise Bargaining Agreement. The Committee is not able to evaluate this risk because whilst the Treasurer has said there is some allowance for this in the budget, he stated that:

I am not about to reveal in estimates the government's bargaining strategy. That will of course play out over the next six months. Once we have an agreed enterprise outcome, then the necessary funding for that will be updated in the next budget round.<sup>107</sup>

- 3.28. Whilst the Committee understands the need for the Government not to disclose its position in relation to the upcoming enterprise bargaining round, the Committee would find it useful for future budgets to include Full Time Equivalent (FTE) projections by directorate and agency for each year of the forward estimates. This would then allow the committee, as well as the Government, to be better able to examine expected changes in employee expenses.
- 3.29. The lack of transparency around budgeted increases in staff expenses means the Committee cannot evaluate the risk to the budget from higher than anticipated wage rises. This risk could have serious repercussions for the ACT Government budget position as staff and superannuation expenses form such a significant component of expenses.

### Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider providing in future budgets the FTE projections by directorate and agency for each year of the forward estimates (Appendix K).

## Payroll tax

- 3.30. The Committee asked the Treasurer if the Government has considered adopting a tiered payroll tax system.
- 3.31. The Treasurer confirmed that the Government had looked at a tiered payroll tax with options for a tax-free threshold, a taxation rate up to a certain payroll tax and a higher rate beyond that about 10 years ago.<sup>108</sup> He told the Committee that the Government at the time decided not to introduce a tiered payroll tax system because:
- of the level of complexity in the system; and
  - it might act as a disincentive for businesses to grow their payroll above a certain level.<sup>109</sup>

<sup>107</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 579.

<sup>108</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 606.

<sup>109</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 606.

- 3.32. The Treasurer told the Committee that the Government at that time made the decision to further raise the tax-free threshold but maintain a single rate of payroll tax above that threshold. He stated that:

The policy rationale in the end being that we largely wanted to focus payroll tax on the larger businesses and to provide an opportunity for a tax-free environment for small- and medium-sized businesses.<sup>110</sup>

### Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should review its position on tiered payroll taxation as the previous work into the subject is a decade old.

## Minister for the Arts—Administrative arrangements

- 3.33. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- arts and cultural policy and services;
- community arts facilities; and
- Cultural Facilities Corporation.

### Matters considered

- 3.34. During the Minister for the Arts appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Cultural Facilities Corporation;<sup>111</sup>
- investment in the arts;<sup>112</sup>
- remuneration for artists and artworks;<sup>113</sup> and
- Kingston Arts Precinct.<sup>114</sup>

## Key Issues

### Remuneration for artists and artworks

- 3.35. A key issue examined by the Committee was the tangible policy outcomes the government was expecting from its remuneration principles and practices for artists and art works and how they are tracking in reality.
- 3.36. The Minister stated that the ACT Government has released the [Remuneration Principles and Practices for Artists and Arts Workers](#) to provide ‘clarity about how artists should be

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<sup>110</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 606.

<sup>111</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 405–410 and pp 415–418.

<sup>112</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 412–415.

<sup>113</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 418–420.

<sup>114</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 423–424.

engaged across government and indeed across the entire community'. The Minister also stated that in terms of tracking, the government does not have anything in place yet.<sup>115</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 3.37. The Committee is of the view that given the level of investment in the arts by the Government, it needs to document the economic impact of the arts in the ACT as a matter of urgency.

#### Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collect and publish data on the economic impact of the arts in the ACT.

### Recognising Significant Women Through Public Art Initiative

- 3.38. The Committee noted that forward estimates for the budget show that the Recognising Significant Women through Public Art initiative shows zero funding in 2023-24, 2024-25, and 2025-26. It also notes that \$200 000 allocated for this program in the 2021-22 budget was not spent.<sup>116</sup>
- 3.39. The Minister stated in her answer to [Question on Notice No. 135](#) that:
- the woman chosen for the public art commission through this initiative was the Hon. Susan Ryan AO, announced by the ACT Government on 28 August 2022. Until this had been confirmed the project was unable to proceed. It has now commenced and is expected to be completed in mid-2023;
  - future funding for the program will be determined in line with the usual budget processes that consider the Government's priorities. A new public art strategy will be developed by the Government in 2023-24 and will aim build the public art collection to reflect the diversity of human identity and experience, including better representation of women and Traditional Custodians.<sup>117</sup>

#### Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit ongoing funding to the 'Recognising Significant Women through Public Art' initiative.

## Minister for Business and Better Regulation— Administrative arrangements

- 3.40. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

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<sup>115</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for the Arts, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 419.

<sup>116</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements B*, p 59.

<sup>117</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for the Arts, *answer to QON 135*, 9 September 2022 (received 9 September 2022).

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander business development;
- Access Canberra (exception in relation to planning development, land and lease regulation);
- Better Regulation Taskforce;
- business advocacy and liaison;
- business development;
- Choose CBR;
- construction, building and utilities regulation;
- controlled sports registration, inspection, notifications, and regulatory services;
- environmental protection, water regulation and clinical waste controller;
- electricity and natural gas, water and sewerage industry technical regulation;
- fair trading and registration, inspection and regulatory services (including transport regulation and licensing);
- food safety licensing and regulation;
- improving ease of doing business with government;
- occupational licensing;
- public unleased land regulation (permits);
- racing and gaming regulation;
- registration of civil unions, domestic relationships and parentage; and
- small business.

## Matters considered:

3.41. During the Minister for Business and Better Regulation's appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- support for business;<sup>118</sup>
- environmental protection;<sup>119</sup>
- Choose CBR;<sup>120</sup>
- business regulation;<sup>121</sup>
- Better Regulation Taskforce;<sup>122</sup>

<sup>118</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 442–446.

<sup>119</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 446–449.

<sup>120</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 449 and p 452.

<sup>121</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 449–452.

<sup>122</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 452–454 and pp 456–458.

- drone delivery services;<sup>123</sup>
- Access Canberra;<sup>124</sup>
- Environment Protection Authority (EPA);<sup>125</sup> and
- workforce planning.<sup>126</sup>

3.42. During the Minister for Business and Better Regulation's appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- EPA compliance monitoring and regulatory oversight;<sup>127</sup>
- Better Regulation Taskforce;<sup>128</sup>
- toxic waste disposal options for ACT schools;<sup>129</sup>
- Access Canberra compliance and enforcement policy;<sup>130</sup>
- Working with Vulnerable People (Background Checking) Act;<sup>131</sup>
- smells from the tip;<sup>132</sup>
- cooperative and social enterprises;<sup>133</sup> and
- EasyPark uptake.<sup>134</sup>

## Key issues

### Access Canberra

- 3.43. An issue examined by the committee was the ability of vulnerable Canberrans to access ACT Government services through Access Canberra. One committee member noted the example of a constituent who was unable to access ACT Government services via Access Canberra due to their age and autism.<sup>135</sup>
- 3.44. Access Canberra noted that they have dedicated concierge staff who can assist vulnerable people on entering an Access Canberra shopfront. They also noted that during covid they have implemented a booking service which is part of a longer-term strategy in which Access Canberra is thinking about ways in which they can determine client's needs before they need to come in.<sup>136</sup> Access Canberra has suggested as part of this they could then

<sup>123</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 454.

<sup>124</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 454–456.

<sup>125</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 458–462.

<sup>126</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 462–464.

<sup>127</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 965–968.

<sup>128</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 965–968.

<sup>129</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 969–971.

<sup>130</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 971–973.

<sup>131</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 973–976.

<sup>132</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 976–977.

<sup>133</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 977–978.

<sup>134</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 978–979.

<sup>135</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 454.

<sup>136</sup> Mr David Pryce, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 455.

even determine whether they deliver some form of outreach service for vulnerable persons with carers who cannot travel.<sup>137</sup>

### Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, through Access Canberra, explore an outreach service for vulnerable Canberrans.

## Toxic waste disposal options for ACT schools

- 3.45. The Committee queried options for ACT schools to dispose of toxic waste, generated from their chemistry curriculum. The Committee understands that schools must pay \$1,000 to transport toxic waste to Sydney or dispose of small amounts in water waste or landfill.<sup>138</sup> Questions were raised regarding why ACT does not have a facility schools can use to dispose of their toxic waste.<sup>139</sup> The Committee also understands that schools cannot reduce their use of, or use alternative chemicals, as this would mean they are not meeting requirements in the Australian Curriculum.<sup>140</sup>
- 3.46. The Minister noted the polluter-pays and waste-minimalization principles in the Environment Protection Act.<sup>141</sup> Reference was also made to the Work Health and Safety Regulation, as the regulation determines waste disposal methods based on the type of hazardous waste.<sup>142</sup> The Minister also explained the approval process through Icon Water for discharging liquid trade waste.<sup>143</sup>
- 3.47. Dr Sue Wild-River, Senior Director, EPA, commented on the increased risks of transporting large amounts of toxic waste from the ACT to Sydney, given the possibility of a road accident.<sup>144</sup> Dr Wild-River also commented on the work she completed at the Australian National University (ANU) substituting hazardous for less hazardous chemicals.<sup>145</sup> Comments were also made that ACT students could look at how to reduce the toxic nature of their investigations as a chemistry project.<sup>146</sup> Dr Wild-River encouraged creative thinking regarding the issue.<sup>147</sup>

## Committee comment

- 3.48. The Committee is of the view that schools need some support in coming to a cost-effective solution to waste disposal that minimises harm to the environment. Not having a cost-effective solution may create an inequity of chemistry learning outcomes between schools.

<sup>137</sup> Mr David Pryce, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 455.

<sup>138</sup> Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 969.

<sup>139</sup> Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 969.

<sup>140</sup> Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 969.

<sup>141</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September, p 969.

<sup>142</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 968–970.

<sup>143</sup> Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for Business and Better Regulation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 968.

<sup>144</sup> Dr Sue Wild-River, Senior Director, EPA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 970.

<sup>145</sup> Dr Sue Wild-River, Senior Director, EPA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 971.

<sup>146</sup> Dr Sue Wild-River, Senior Director, EPA *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 971.

<sup>147</sup> Dr Sue Wild-River, Senior Director, EPA *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 971.

This is an issue the government is working to resolving in the current budget, as stated in Strategic Objective 1.<sup>148</sup>

### **Recommendation 16**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with schools to examine processes for toxic waste disposal.

## **Minister for Climate Action—Administrative arrangements**

3.49. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Big Canberra Battery;
- climate action (Coordinator-General);
- climate change adaption and resilience; and
- sustainable household package.

### **Matters considered**

3.50. During the Minister for Climate Action’s appearance before the Committee on 30 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Big Canberra Battery;<sup>149</sup>
- Sustainable Household Scheme;<sup>150</sup> and
- business improving sustainability through participating in government initiatives.<sup>151</sup>

## **Minister for Economic Development—Administrative arrangements**

3.51. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Brand Canberra;
- Canberra Economic Recovery Advisory Group;
- elite sporting performance and venue agreements;
- event attraction;
- Future Jobs Fund (and Priority Investment Fund);
- implementation and delivery of economic objectives and economic recovery;
- innovation policy and CBR Innovation Network;

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<sup>148</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements E – Education Directorate*, Strategic outcome 1, p 5.

<sup>149</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 759–765.

<sup>150</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 765–771.

<sup>151</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 771–774.



- international education (including Study Canberra);
- investment facilitation and attraction;
- Special Events Fund;
- strategic infrastructure projects (including Academy of Interactive Entertainment, University of New South Wales (NSW), and Venues Canberra infrastructure upgrades); and
- university and research policy.

## Matters considered

3.52. During the Minister for Economic Development's appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- elite sport;<sup>152</sup>
- Canberra Switched On Strategy—innovation investment;<sup>153</sup>
- university students in the ACT;<sup>154</sup>
- city stadium;<sup>155</sup>
- Future Jobs Fund;<sup>156</sup> and
- Economic Development output classes.<sup>157</sup>

## Assistant Minister for Economic Development— Administrative arrangements

3.53. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- ACT events fund;
- advanced technologies;
- community events;
- creative industries;
- key industry capability area sector development;
- manufacturing;
- science; and
- Screen Canberra.

<sup>152</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 775–779.

<sup>153</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 785–787.

<sup>154</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 787.

<sup>155</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 789–793.

<sup>156</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 799–801.

<sup>157</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 801–802.

## Matters considered

3.54. During the Assistant Minister for Economic Development's appearance before the Committee on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Events Fund;<sup>158</sup>
- Future Jobs Fund;<sup>159</sup> and
- Screen Canberra.<sup>160</sup>

## Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety— Administrative arrangements

3.55. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- ACT Public Sector Workers Compensation (including self-insurance);
- private sector industrial relations and workers compensation;
- secure local jobs code;
- work health and safety policy; and
- work health and safety regulation (including the Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner).

## Matters considered

3.56. During the Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety's appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- licence fees and fines;<sup>161</sup>
- PTSD in emergency services personnel;<sup>162</sup>
- Geocon site wall collapse, Phillip;<sup>163</sup>
- prohibition notices;<sup>164</sup>
- rollover of funding for improved operational efficiency and effectiveness;<sup>165</sup>
- in-house legal function;<sup>166</sup>
- Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy;<sup>167</sup>

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<sup>158</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 629–631 and pp 636–640.

<sup>159</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 631–634.

<sup>160</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 634–636.

<sup>161</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 898–899.

<sup>162</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 899–900.

<sup>163</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 900–901.

<sup>164</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 901–903, pp 905–907 and pp 910–911.

<sup>165</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 903.

<sup>166</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 903–904.

<sup>167</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 904–905.

- portable long service leave arrangements;<sup>168</sup> and
- Secure Employment Framework.<sup>169</sup>

## Minister for Planning and Land Management— Administrative arrangements

3.57. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Access Canberra (only in relation to planning, development, land and lease regulation); and
- planning, development, land and lease regulation.

### Matters considered

3.58. During the Minister for Planning and Land Management’s appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matter was considered:

- NSW/ACT proposed border change.<sup>170</sup>

## Minister for Skills—Administrative arrangements

3.59. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT);
- skilled migration;
- State Training Authority; and
- vocational education and training;

### Matters considered

3.60. During the Minister for Skills’ appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- skills list;<sup>171</sup>
- ministerial role in CIT contracts;<sup>172</sup>
- JobTrainer—User Choice and Skilled Capital;<sup>173</sup>
- CIT enrolments;<sup>174</sup>

<sup>168</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 907–909.

<sup>169</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 909–910.

<sup>170</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 933–934.

<sup>171</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 30–31, pp 36–37, pp 40–42 and pp 50–51.

<sup>172</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 32–35.

<sup>173</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 35–36 and pp 57–60.

<sup>174</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 37–39 and pp 64–65.

- CIT Board;<sup>175</sup>
- CIT governance framework;<sup>176</sup>
- CIT graduate outcomes;<sup>177</sup>
- space industry skills;<sup>178</sup>
- monitoring apprentice and trainee targets;<sup>179</sup>
- renewable energy sector skills;<sup>180</sup>
- women working in construction;<sup>181</sup>
- CIT electric vehicle (EV) training laboratory;<sup>182</sup>
- disconnecting from gas on CIT campuses;<sup>183</sup> and
- Woden community centre.<sup>184</sup>

## Key Issues

### Skills list

- 3.61. During the hearings the Committee questioned the Minister about the skills list 2022-2023.
- 3.62. The ACT Government maintains a Skills Needs List which ‘identifies skills and workforce needs,’ and ‘informs ACT funding priorities at a qualification level for vocational education and training, and subsidy levels for the ACT Australian Apprenticeships (User Choice) program.’<sup>185</sup> According to Ms Arthy, Deputy Director-General, CMTEED, this list is compiled through conversations with industry as well as through modelling what skills are forecast to be in need in the ACT labour market.<sup>186</sup>
- 3.63. One of the listed skills for 2022-23 is gas fitting.<sup>187</sup> While this skill may be in high demand currently, the ACT Government aims to phase out fossil fuel use in the Territory by 2045, including having no new gas mains connections to greenfield and infill developments from as early as next year.<sup>188</sup>

<sup>175</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 39–40, pp 48–50, pp 52–53, p 57, pp 62–63 and pp 68–69.

<sup>176</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 42–44.

<sup>177</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 51–52.

<sup>178</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 53–55.

<sup>179</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 55–56.

<sup>180</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 60.

<sup>181</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 60–62.

<sup>182</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 60–62.

<sup>183</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 69–70.

<sup>184</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 69–70.

<sup>185</sup> ACT Government, *Skills Needs List*, <https://www.act.gov.au/skills/employers/skills-needs-list> (accessed 25 August 2022).

<sup>186</sup> Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, CMTEED, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 31.

<sup>187</sup> ACT Government, *Skills Needs List 2022-2023*, <https://www.act.gov.au/skills/employers/skills-needs-list> (accessed 25 August 2022).

<sup>188</sup> Parliamentary and Governing Agreement—10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, Appendix 1.

- 3.64. During the hearing on 22 August 2022, the Committee questioned whether the Government's gas reduction policy was taken into consideration in the modelling of demand for gas fitters when the Skills Needs List 2022-23 was developed. Ms Arthy, CMTEDD, indicated that it had not:

In terms of the model, I do not think we would get down into that level of detail.<sup>189</sup>

- 3.65. In contrast, it was reported to the Assembly that the Government has prioritised building the Territory's industries in the renewable electricity, space, cybersecurity and digital technologies in the future.<sup>190</sup> The Committee notes that these sectors are well represented on the current Skills Needs List,<sup>191</sup> and the Government is consulting with universities and vocational education facilities about how to train people in these fields.<sup>192</sup> For example, CIT has invested in specialised facilities to re-train diesel mechanics from both Transport Canberra and the private sector on electric vehicles, in line with the Government's objective to reduce transport emissions.<sup>193</sup>

### Committee comment

- 3.66. The Committee supports the proactive approach the Government is taking to anticipated industry growth in sectors such as renewable energy, as outlined above in paragraph 3.57. The Committee would like to see this level of analysis brought to future planning for skills for which demand is expected to decline in coming years, such as gas fitters. This is necessary to enable informed decision making by individuals who are considering applying for a course on the Skills Needs List, and will also support one of the intentions of CIT, which is to:

create a more agile CIT that is able to effectively respond to the changing Vocational Education and Training (VET) environment<sup>194</sup>

### Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government demonstrate planning which balances short-term demand for skills with long-term demand, and how they are affected by Government objectives such as the transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

- 3.67. During the hearings the Committee also heard evidence about the skilled migration list.

<sup>189</sup> Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 31.

<sup>190</sup> Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 54.

<sup>191</sup> ACT Government, *Skills Needs List 2022-2023*, <https://www.act.gov.au/skills/employers/skills-needs-list> (accessed 25 August 2022).

<sup>192</sup> Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 54.

<sup>193</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 66.

<sup>194</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements B, Canberra Institute of Technology – Purpose*, p 135.

- 3.68. The Minister told the Committee that there are two skills lists, that have slightly different purposes:
- one is used to inform where government subsidies for training local people are directed; and
  - the other identifies areas of critical skills needs, and if local skilled workers are not available, then the list is used for pathways for attracting skilled migration.<sup>195</sup>
- 3.69. A question on notice to the Minister noted that accountability indicators in past budgets have included numbers of migrants, Employer Sponsored Nominated, Skilled Independent Nominated, and average number of monthly visits to Canberra Create Your Future website and asked why these indicators have been changed.
- 3.70. The Minister stated in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 14](#) that:
- accountability indicators are regularly reviewed to ensure they represent the outcomes of ACT Government responsibility and investment;
  - the two accountability indicators for 2022-2023 (which are the same indicators used in 2021-2022) can be found under ACT Budget Output 3.1—Economic Development—Skilled Migration Attraction and Facilitation:
    - Skilled Independent Nominated; and
    - average processing time for applications across all skilled migration program streams.<sup>196</sup>

### Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government re-introduce the accountability indicators for the Skilled Migration Output Class and to report on these in the annual reports.

## JobTrainer—User Choice and Skilled Capital

- 3.71. The Committee was interested in the JobTrainer funding arrangements between the ACT Government and the Commonwealth Government.
- 3.72. The Minister advised the Committee that JobTrainer supports new programs that provide fee-free places for students to train identified skills areas that are needed by the economy.<sup>197</sup> JobTrainer ‘is a fifty-fifty joint partnership with the Australian government to fund free training places in the ACT across a wide variety of skill sets and qualifications.’<sup>198</sup> He also advised that new investment would result from the Commonwealth national skills

<sup>195</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 37.

<sup>196</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *answer to QON 14*, 31 August 2022 (received 31 August 2022).

<sup>197</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 40.

<sup>198</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 36.

summit, and that the government will work with its federal counterpart to further invest in the CIT, and to help deliver the Commonwealth commitment of fee free training places.<sup>199</sup>

### Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the details of JobTrainer in its annual reports, with specific reference to overall cost to the Government, number of additional enrolments due to the program, and number of completions.

- 3.73. The Committee questioned the Minister in relation to subsidies for trade apprenticeships.
- 3.74. The Minister told the Committee that the User Choice Australian apprenticeship program is demand driven. The Government helps fund apprentices, and as the demand for skills increases, more apprenticeships are funded to meet the demand in the economy.<sup>200</sup>
- 3.75. Officials told the Committee that funding is also available through Skilled Capital, which supports courses that train people in areas of identified skill shortages. Ms Arthy advised that this is done:

...either through an expression of interest or through direct application, for private Registered Training Organisations (RTO) and CIT to compete to deliver the training that we have set at the subsidies that we have set. In 2022-23 the budget for Skilled Capital is \$2½ million, and that is open to both CIT and private RTOs.<sup>201</sup>

- 3.76. The Minister provided the proportion of funding for CIT and RTOs eligible for government funding in 2021-22 in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 3](#), see table 2.<sup>202</sup>

**Table 2: Apprenticeship program funding 2022-2023**

	CIT	RTO
User Choice	49 percent	51 percent
Skilled Capital	16 percent	84 percent

### Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government identify for clarity the funding allocated for each area of Skilled Capital and User Choice within the budget and report on how this is distributed between CIT and Independent RTOs in the Annual Reports.

<sup>199</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 36.

<sup>200</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 40.

<sup>201</sup> Ms Kareena Arthy, Deputy Director General, Economic Development, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 41–42.

<sup>202</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, *answer to QON 3*, 29 August 2022 (received 30 August 2022).

## Committee comment

- 3.77. The Committee noted that the Study Canberra website that the government uses to promotes the ACT as a place to study includes universities and the CIT, however it does not promote courses that can be done through RTOs.

### Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include direct links to Independent RTOs on its Study Canberra Website as part of its review.

## CIT Board

- 3.78. During the hearing the Committee asked the Minister about the CIT governance and management of procurement and contracts.
- 3.79. The Minister stated:

that this matter is currently under investigation by the Integrity Commission. As such, it would be inappropriate for me to comment in relation to the contracts while they are under investigation. I think you are aware of the duties that can be applied by the Integrity Commissioner, not just on me but on other members, not to interfere in relation to their investigation. I am happy to, at a later time, provide you with some information, if that is appropriate, but it would not be appropriate right now.<sup>203</sup>

## Committee comment

- 3.80. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should continuously strengthen governance and procurement processes.

### Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, whilst awaiting the ACT Integrity Commission report into the CIT consultancy contracts, ensures that governance arrangements for all future CIT procurement decisions are fit for purpose.

## CIT graduate outcomes

- 3.81. The Committee noted the Vocational Education and Training (VET) services outcomes for 2020-2021 in the budget papers.<sup>204</sup>
- 3.82. According to the ACT Governments' Budget Statement B, the CIT's 2021 annual Student Outcomes Survey indicates that of students who had been employed before their enrolment at CIT, just over 80 per cent were employed after their training. Of students

<sup>203</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 32–33.

<sup>204</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements B, Canberra Institute of Technology*, p 141.



who had not been employed before training, only just above 50 percent were employed after finishing their course.<sup>205</sup> This disparity appears to be a continuing trend, according to the below graph from the 2020 CIT Annual Report:

Graph 2 CIT graduate outcomes 2016 to 2020

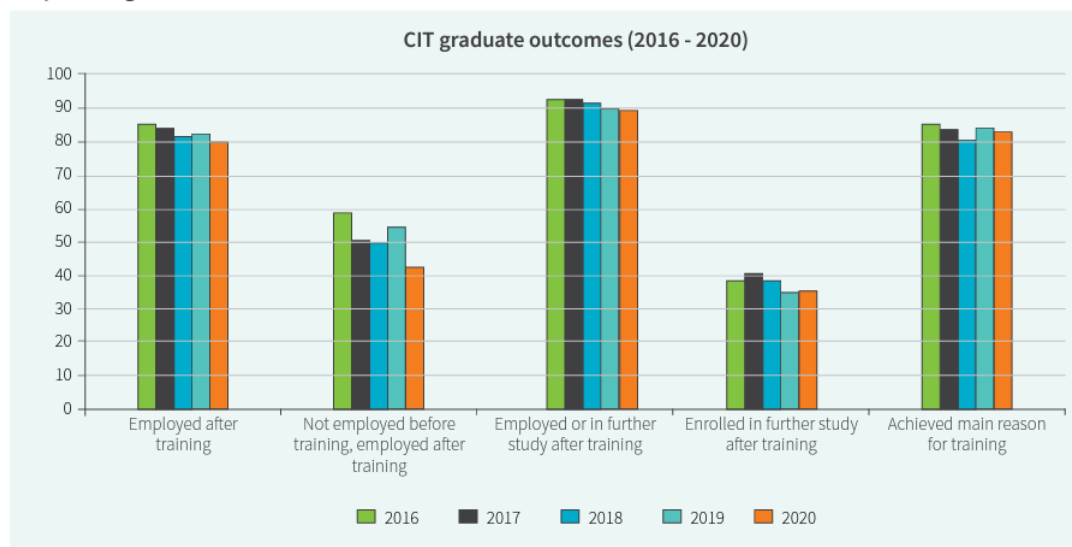


Figure 1: CIT graduate outcomes 2016 to 2020<sup>206</sup>

- 3.83. During the public hearings, CIT officials gave an overview of what the organisation is doing to support students to gain employment after graduation. This mainly included connecting students with potential employers through information nights, workshops and assessments at business premises, and informally through the industry connections of the course teachers.<sup>207</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 3.84. The Committee is of the view that CIT students who enrol while unemployed should be offered targeted assistance to enable them to gain employment at a rate comparable to their peers. As well as supporting the individual students to achieve their vocational aims, this would also increase the number of skilled workers entering the workforce.

#### Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government focus on supporting vulnerable students who have not been in employment prior to graduating their course, in terms of achieving employment after graduating.

<sup>205</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements B, Canberra Institute of Technology – Strategic Objectives and Indicators*, p 141.

<sup>206</sup> CIT, *Annual Report 2020*, p 33.

<sup>207</sup> Mr Andrew Whale, Executive Director, Education and Training Services, CIT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 52.

## Women working in construction

- 3.85. Recent figures reported to the Committee show that only 5.72 percent of apprentices in the ACT's building and construction industry are women.<sup>208</sup>
- 3.86. Organisation such as the CIT, Skills Canberra and the National Association of Women in Construction use a variety of methods to inform and encourage women to pursue training in the trades, such as:
- practical informational events for school students;
  - CIT open days;
  - Career Expos; and
  - scholarships.<sup>209</sup>
- 3.87. Further support is also necessary once female students are engaged in apprentices to support them to enter the workforce as qualified workers. Examples of this support can range from ensuring that worksites have female toilets to encouraging women in the industry to become teachers.<sup>210</sup> The Committee was advised that Skills Australia, which is the branch of Government responsible for the overall management of VET in the ACT, have field officers who 'visit newly commencing school-based apprentices in particular very early on in their apprenticeship to ensure that they feel safe and that the right provisions are in place to support an inclusive workplace.'<sup>211</sup>

### Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government support women in construction to ensure safe workplaces, women are encouraged to enter teaching roles, and diversity for work placement, and encourage female participation in teaching staff.

## Minister for Sport and Recreation—Administrative arrangements

- 3.88. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- aquatic facilities management;
  - community sports infrastructure; and
  - sport and recreation;

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<sup>208</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 61.

<sup>209</sup> Ms Josephine Andersen, Acting Executive Director, Strategic Projects and Industry Engagement, CIT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 61.

<sup>210</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 62.

<sup>211</sup> Ms Josephine Andersen, Acting Executive Director, Strategic Projects and Industry Engagement, CIT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 62.

## Matters considered

3.89. During the Minister for Sport and Recreation's appearance before the Committee on 23 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- community and indoor sports facilities;<sup>212</sup>
- ice rink complex;<sup>213</sup>
- Stromlo Leisure Centre;<sup>214</sup>
- sports facilities management plan;<sup>215</sup>
- Phillip pool;<sup>216</sup>
- Orima report;<sup>217</sup>
- Gungahlin pool;<sup>218</sup>
- cricket facilities;<sup>219</sup>
- tennis facilities;<sup>220</sup> and
- sports lobbying.<sup>221</sup>

## Key Issues

### Indoor sports facilities

3.90. The Committee inquired about additional funding in the budget for community or indoor sports facilities.

3.91. The Minister advised the Committee that there is funding in this budget for the Tuggeranong ice sports complex, which in addition to the rink, will have a range of other indoor sports facilities such as a rock-climbing gym.<sup>222</sup> She also noted other funding in the budget for sports facilities, including to:

- Basketball ACT to upgrade their Belconnen stadium; and
- a new tennis facility in Amaroo.<sup>223</sup>

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<sup>212</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 160–162.

<sup>213</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 163–164.

<sup>214</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 164–165.

<sup>215</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 165–168 and pp 173–175.

<sup>216</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 168.

<sup>217</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 169–170.

<sup>218</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 170–172.

<sup>219</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 172–173.

<sup>220</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 175–177.

<sup>221</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 178–180.

<sup>222</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 160.

<sup>223</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 160.

- 3.92. The Minister told the Committee that there is other investment in ACT sports facilities by both the private sector and Commonwealth Government, such as the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) precinct. The Government can partner with these organisations to develop facilities across the ACT to ensure a good balance across the city.<sup>224</sup>

### Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide its plan for future indoor sports facilities across the ACT and allocate funding in the 2023-2024 budget for indoor sports.

## Ice rink complex

- 3.93. The Committee inquired further into the project for the new ice rink complex.
- 3.94. The Minister observed that the current facility at Woden is not appropriate for ice sports and ice-skating in the ACT, it is too small for teams such as the Canberra Brave which requires special dispensation to play there as part of the national league. She also noted that ice sports rinks are usually Olympic size, twin-sheet facilities.<sup>225</sup>
- 3.95. Ms Rebecca Kelley, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEDD, stated in relation to the new facility that:

it is a multipurpose facility in many respects, not just the twin sheet. Rock climbing is part of the plans. There will also be a dedicated curling capacity within the rink, which is a unique facility. We expect that it will be an attractive place to bring fairly unique events to Canberra, when we have interest from the international Curling Federation and the Australian Curling Federation.<sup>226</sup>

### Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reports timeframes for the Ice Rink Complex and indicate:

- when details of the confirmed site will be released;
- whether the facility will be a joint venture with external parties and sporting groups;
- details of who will be responsible for the management and maintenance; and
- a timeframe for when budget allocations will be made and report back to the Assembly.

<sup>224</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 161.

<sup>225</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 163.

<sup>226</sup> Ms Rebecca Kelley, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 163.

## Stromlo Leisure Centre

- 3.96. During the hearing the Committee also received an update on work planned for the Stromlo Leisure Centre.
- 3.97. The Minister told the Committee that when the Stromlo Leisure Centre was being developed, space was reserved to expand the facility to include a future indoor dive pool. The Government is commencing some early feasibility and design costing work for a new dive pool at Stromlo.<sup>227</sup>
- 3.98. Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Property and Shared Services, CMTEDD stated that:
- consultation on the project will start shortly;
  - discussions will be had with people who might utilise the pool, such as the diving community, water polo and other multi-use groups; and
  - there will be a feasibility study.<sup>228</sup>

### Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise:

- the extent of the proposed feasibility study to determine the parameters for a new pool, featuring a dive pool, in the Stromlo Leisure Centre complex;
- the extent of consultations that have already taken place with key interest groups about new or additional pool facilities; and
- the likely timeframe for the study, timelines for consideration of the results by government and the allocation of any budget funding for the expansion of current pool facilities and report back to the Assembly.

## Sports facilities management plan

- 3.99. The Committee noted that on 22 April 2021, the Assembly passed a resolution in relation to sports and active recreation which included the following direction to the ACT Government:
- to develop a comprehensive sport and recreation facilities management plan.<sup>229</sup>

<sup>227</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Sport and Recreation, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 164.

<sup>228</sup> Mr Graham Tanton, Executive Group Manager, Property and Shared Services, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 165.

<sup>229</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 11*, 22 April 2021, pp 139–140.

- 3.100. In April 2022, the Assembly was updated on the response to this resolution<sup>230</sup> and tabled an infrastructure ‘roadmap’ which was an interim report in the development of a strategic plan for the sports sector and lists needed infrastructure projects for the 2020-2024 period. This strategic plan was delayed due to COVID and is expected to be finalised at the end of the year:

I would anticipate that perhaps by the end of the year, in accordance with the release of the strategic plan, that will be in a better position to either have something ready or certainly anticipate a timeframe.<sup>231</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 3.101. The Committee is of the view that Government could take more direct actions towards achieving the direction of the resolution in a more timely manner.
- 3.102. A distinct plan for facilities management has not yet been finalised. The Committee is of the view that this needs to be finalised in order to provide a clear plan that shows the commitment in the Labor-ACT Greens Parliamentary and Governing Agreement is being met.

#### Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government upgrade the sports facilities roadmap to a comprehensive sports facilities management plan to ensure that maintenance of existing facilities and establishment of new facilities meets community need.

#### Phillip enclosed oval

- 3.103. During the hearing, the Committee enquired as to the progress of the promised enclosed oval in Phillip, noting that the construction was originally planned for the start of 2022 but it had not commenced, and that there is no allocated funding in the 2022-2023 budget for it.<sup>232</sup> Ms Kelley gave an update on the works:

We had some unexpected work on site in terms of in order to fit the facility in we did have to have a technical amendment made to allow a corner of the block to be available for the size of the pavilion, so we had to work through all that process, in which case just we were not ready for a business case for the current budget for the construction, but we anticipate that that will be ready in the forward budget.<sup>233</sup>

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<sup>230</sup> ACT Legislative Assembly, [Minutes of Proceedings, No 45](#), 7 April 2022, pp 591–591.

<sup>231</sup> Ms Rebecca Kelley, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 166–167.

<sup>232</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 168.

<sup>233</sup> Ms Rebecca Kelley, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 168.

### Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise funding for the commencement of the build of the Phillip enclosed oval in the 2023-2024 budget.

## Phillip Pool

- 3.104. The Committee was updated on the Phillip Pool, which has been closed since last summer and which Woden Valley residents have been eager to see re-opened:<sup>234</sup>

[W]e have been working quite closely with EPSDD, given that it is a leasing and regulation matter and also with Access Canberra. So the expectation is at this point in time under their lease obligations is that the pool is open for this summer and so that is the current understanding and certainly has been the correspondence that has gone back to the owner.<sup>235</sup>

### Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government hold the owner of the Phillip Pool to account to its lease conditions to open the pool for the summer of 2022-23.

## Minister for Tourism—Administrative arrangements

- 3.105. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- aviation industry development;
- major events (Floriade, Enlighten, Innovation Festival);
- tourism policy; and
- Visit Canberra.

## Matters considered

- 3.106. During the Minister for Tourism's appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Canberra Switched On Strategy—aviation;<sup>236</sup>
- Qatar Airways;<sup>237</sup>
- scope 3 emissions—aviation;<sup>238</sup> and

<sup>234</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 168.

<sup>235</sup> Ms Rebecca Kelley, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, CMTEED, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 168.

<sup>236</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 779–784.

<sup>237</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 784–785.

<sup>238</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 787–789.

- mountain biking and cycle tourism strategy.<sup>239</sup>

## Special Minister of State—Administrative arrangements

3.107. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- access to government information;
- ACT Insurance Authority;
- audit policy;
- Chief Digital Officer, Digital and Data Strategy, including Cyber security;
- community facilities charging policy;
- community facilities property services;
- government accommodation and property services (including facility management and operations for Venues Canberra);
- insurance policy (including Motor Accident Injury Insurance and Lifetime Care and Support Scheme);
- procurement; and
- Shared Services, including transactional services and ICT services.

## Matters considered

3.108. During the Special Minister of State's appearance before the Committee on 26 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Government Procurement Board;<sup>240</sup>
- community facilities;<sup>241</sup>
- Motor Accident and Injuries Scheme;<sup>242</sup>
- Stromlo Forest Park (SFP) Masterplan;<sup>243</sup>
- human resource information management project (HRIMS);<sup>244</sup>
- ACT Government archives;<sup>245</sup>
- cyber security;<sup>246</sup>
- ACT Government buildings gas to electric transition;<sup>247</sup>

<sup>239</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 794–799.

<sup>240</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 520–523.

<sup>241</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 523–525.

<sup>242</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 526–527.

<sup>243</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 529–530.

<sup>244</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 530–532 and pp 540–542.

<sup>245</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 534–535.

<sup>246</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 535–537.

<sup>247</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 537–540.



- cabinet records;<sup>248</sup> and
  - modern slavery in procurement.<sup>249</sup>
- 3.109. During the Special Minister of State's appearance before the Committee on 30 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Freedom of Information (FOI) statutory timeframes;<sup>250</sup>
  - open access to government data and information;<sup>251</sup>
  - JACS electoral inquiry;<sup>252</sup>
  - community facilities charging policy;<sup>253</sup>
  - SFP;<sup>254</sup> and
  - procurement policy.<sup>255</sup>

## Key Issues

### Motor Accident and Injuries Scheme

3.110. The Committee inquired about community engagement with the Motor Accident and Injuries Scheme.

3.111. The Minister advised the Committee that:

The intent of the scheme, which is only still fairly new in its operation, was to try to provide support to a greater range of people through the no-fault scheme, but also to streamline the process to be able to get support in the event of an accident or injury.<sup>256</sup>

3.112. Ms Lisa Holmes, Acting Motor Accident Injuries Commissioner, told the Committee that she is aware that some people are having difficulties navigating the scheme. She noted that they always work towards improving the operation of the scheme, this includes ensuring streamlining access to information required from investigatory bodies. She also noted that while there is a 13 week application period, there is the ability to put in a late application for up to a year.<sup>257</sup>

<sup>248</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 542–543.

<sup>249</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 543.

<sup>250</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 679–682, pp 685–690, pp 690–691, pp 694–696 and pp 699–700.

<sup>251</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 682–685.

<sup>252</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, p 690.

<sup>253</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 691–694.

<sup>254</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 696–699.

<sup>255</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 700–703.

<sup>256</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 526.

<sup>257</sup> Ms Lisa Holmes, Acting Motor Accident Injuries Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 527.

## Committee comment

- 3.113. The Committee is of the view that the application process for the Motor Accident and Injuries Scheme be streamlined, including the provision of information held by government bodies such as registration details, to help reduce stress on families engaging with this process under difficult circumstances.<sup>258</sup>

### Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures the Motor Accident Insurance Scheme is supportive of distressed families by expediting the process to access claims.

## Stromlo Forest Park Masterplan

- 3.114. The Committee questioned the Minister and officials about the SFP Masterplan and consultation on this with the community who use the park.
- 3.115. The Minister told the Committee that community consultation was done when during the development of the Masterplan.<sup>259</sup> Officials also stated that they have ongoing meetings with specific user groups.<sup>260</sup>
- 3.116. The Minister stated in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 102](#) that the development of the 2016 SFP Masterplan included public consultation via an online survey. He also stated that SFP regularly consults with the Stromlo Stakeholder Consultative Committee (SSCC), whose role is to provide stakeholder input on behalf of their membership groups. The SSCC works from a Terms of Reference which allows for the group to work towards decision making via consensus. Each user group will consult with their membership and provide feedback to SFP on topics as requested. The SSCC user groups are:
- Canberra Off-Road Cyclists;
  - Pedal Power ACT;
  - Indigenous Marathon Foundation;
  - Triathlon ACT;
  - AusCycling;
  - WeRide;
  - TRI Running Group; and
  - ACT Equestrian Associated Incorporated.<sup>261</sup>

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<sup>258</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 527.

<sup>259</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 529.

<sup>260</sup> Mr Scott Saddler, Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 529.

<sup>261</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *answer to QON 102*, 8 September 2022 (received 8 September 2022).

3.117. The Minister also outlined in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 102](#) that SFP has identified eight projects from the 2016 Masterplan to explore and undertake analysis on before getting the projects to shovel ready for implementation into the future:

- Stromlo Boulevard and Access Link (central north and south road);
- central hub and tourist accommodation facility;
- a criterium circuit extension (currently under construction);
- mountain bike track review;
- a Sister Pavilion Link Bridge;
- 12km cycling circuit;
- equestrian facilities in Block 514; and
- a BMX and Bike Park.<sup>262</sup>

#### Committee comment

3.118. The Committee is of the view that there is a large community of people who use SFP, but do not belong to the SSCC, therefore there is a need for broader consultation on work being undertaken at SFP beyond the identified user groups.

#### Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult broadly with the community on the Stromlo Forest Park Master Plan and any proposed developments in relation to Stromlo Forest Park.

#### ACT Government archives

3.119. During the hearings, the Committee heard about storage and digitisation of ACT government records.

3.120. Officials told the Committee that there was a proposal for funding a Territory Archive in 2016, however funding for centralised storage has not been pursued since that time. They stated that the:

...way that the archival regime is established in the ACT is that the ACT government and agencies retain responsibility for storing their records. The Territory Records Office has a role in setting the standard by which they do that.<sup>263</sup>

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<sup>262</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *answer to QON 102*, 8 September 2022 (received 8 September 2022).

<sup>263</sup> Ms Dani Wickman, Executive Branch Manager and Director, Territory Records Office, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 535.

- 3.121. Official also told the Committee there are facilities to store archival records in Mitchell, which are managed by Shared Services, which are used by agencies and directorates. They also advised that small digitisation projects have been completed in response to particular requests from the public for records, and we have established the means to make those available.<sup>264</sup>

### Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase funding for ACT Archives to proactively digitise records for access by the community.

## Icon Water Limited

### Matters considered

- 3.122. During Icon Water's appearance on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- drinking water quality;<sup>265</sup>
  - Water Abstraction charge,<sup>266</sup> and
  - water consumption.

### Key Issues

#### Drinking water quality

- 3.123. A key issue discussed by the committee was water quality, particularly in relation to recent complaints about water taste and odour. The Committee heard from Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water that the taste and odour in the water is caused by an organic compound (2-Methylisoborneol (MIB)) in Icon Water's Bendora Catchment. Mr Hezkial also stated:

That [it] is a naturally occurring compound that we believe has been stirred up within the sediment of Bendora catchment, we feel, as a consequence of the cooler weather. We are really seeing the sediments mixing through the entire depth of the reservoir, whereas in warmer temperatures we would actually see quite clear layers or stratification, which would then allow us to select and extract more water at selected points to avoid that.<sup>267</sup>

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<sup>264</sup> Ms Dani Wickman, Executive Branch Manager and Director, Territory Records Office, CMTEDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 535.

<sup>265</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 591–595.

<sup>266</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 595.

<sup>267</sup> Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 591.

- 3.124. The Committee also heard from ICON Water that they are currently are in the process of examining the MIB issue in further depth in order to ‘understand how big the issue is and how persistent the issue might be’.<sup>268</sup> The Committee also heard that the issue with the water at the Bendora catchment was ‘absolutely aesthetic in nature and there is no impact to health.’<sup>269</sup>

#### Committee Comment

- 3.125. The Committee is of the view that ICON Water needs to clarify if the water fully meets the Australian Drinking Water Guidelines (ADWG), which states ‘the Guidelines are concerned with the safety and aesthetic quality of drinking water for consumers’.<sup>270</sup> In this case the water being supplied does not meet the aesthetic quality as mentioned in the ADWG. The ADWG also states ‘system operators must be able to respond quickly and effectively to adverse monitoring signals’.<sup>271</sup>
- 3.126. The committee is of the view that Icon Water should either treat the water or change the source of water to another catchment in order to improve drinking water quality.

#### Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that ICON Water examine reasons for the MIB contamination and how to supply long term high quality drinking water.

- 3.127. The committee heard that Icon Water had received to date 137 complaints by phone call and about 300 social media inquiries.<sup>272</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 3.128. The committee noted that when customers phone ICON Water about drinking water quality they receive a recorded message with no options to progress to leaving a message or feedback.

#### Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that ICON Water should provide as part of the recorded message on known issues a pathway option to leave customer feedback.

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<sup>268</sup> Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 593.

<sup>269</sup> Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 592.

<sup>270</sup> NHMRC, NRMMC (2011) *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Paper 6 National Water Quality Management Strategy*, National Health and Medical Research Council, National Resource Management Ministerial Council, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, p 6.

<sup>271</sup> NHMRC, NRMMC (2011) *Australian Drinking Water Guidelines Paper 6 National Water Quality Management Strategy*, National Health and Medical Research Council, National Resource Management Ministerial Council, Commonwealth of Australia, Canberra, p 3.

<sup>272</sup> Mr Ray Hezkial, Managing Director, Icon Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 591.

## 4. Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- 4.1. Budget Statements E states that the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate (EPSDD) ‘is responsible for strategic and statutory planning, development assessments, building policy, land strategy, policy and economics, climate change policy and programs, energy policy, nature conservation, natural resource management, environment protection policy, agriculture and biosecurity, heritage and water policy and programs.’<sup>273</sup> Funding for EPSDD is set out in [Budget Statements E](#).

### Chief Minister—Administrative arrangements

- 4.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- City Renewal Authority (CRA); and
  - Suburban Land Agency (SLA) (as it relates to declared urban renewal sites).

### Matters considered

- 4.3. During the Chief Minister’s appearance before the Committee on 30 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Odgers Lane redevelopment;<sup>274</sup>
  - National Capital Authority (NCA) responsibilities in areas that overlap with ACT Government;<sup>275</sup>
  - public art priorities for place-making;<sup>276</sup>
  - CRA interests register;<sup>277</sup>
  - Northbourne Avenue design strategy;<sup>278</sup>
  - land sales in Indicative Land Release Program (ILRP);<sup>279</sup>
  - Lonsdale Street, Braddon;<sup>280</sup>
  - foot traffic in Civic pre and post COVID-19;<sup>281</sup>
  - CRA staffing;<sup>282</sup>

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<sup>273</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements E*, p 4.

<sup>274</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 737–740.

<sup>275</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 740–741.

<sup>276</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 741–743.

<sup>277</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 743–744.

<sup>278</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 744–746.

<sup>279</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 746–748.

<sup>280</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 748–751.

<sup>281</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 751–753.

<sup>282</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 753–754.

- SLA sales register;<sup>283</sup>
- Woolley Street, Dickson;<sup>284</sup>
- Canberra Theatre Precinct;<sup>285</sup>
- fountains;<sup>286</sup>
- City Centre Marketing and Improvements Levy;<sup>287</sup> and
- Civic stadium.<sup>288</sup>

## Key Issues

### Fountains

- 4.4. The Committee inquired why fountains have not been included in recent city renewal projects.
- 4.5. Mr Malcolm Snow, CEO, City Renewal Authority, agreed with the value of integrating water into the urban landscape, stating:

I think there are opportunities for us to integrate that [water] as a landscape element within our future public space strategies for the city centre. I think people, particularly in our climate, respond well to water. We see many examples around the world where during summer it is a wading pool for children and in winter it is an ice-skating rink.<sup>289</sup>

### Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government look to improve its offering of fountains and water features through the City Renewal Authority.

## Minister for the Environment—Administrative arrangements

- 4.6. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- agriculture;
  - biodiversity policy;
  - Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment;
  - conservation and promotion of native flora and fauna;

<sup>283</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 754–755.

<sup>284</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 755–756.

<sup>285</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 756–756.

<sup>286</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 756–757.

<sup>287</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, p 757.

<sup>288</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, pp 757–759.

<sup>289</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 August 2022, p 757.

- environment protection policy;
- native animal welfare;
- pest, weed and feral animal management policy;
- support to the Conservator of Flora and Fauna; and
- urban agriculture policy.

## Matters considered

4.7. During the Minister for the Environment’s appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- kangaroo management;<sup>290</sup>
- weeds and invasive species;<sup>291</sup>
- wombats in the Molonglo Valley;<sup>292</sup>
- FOI;<sup>293</sup>
- feral animal control;<sup>294</sup>
- EPA;<sup>295</sup>
- Capital Food and Providers Strategy;<sup>296</sup>
- Threatened Species Strategy;<sup>297</sup>
- Samba deer and feral pig control;<sup>298</sup>
- animal friendly netting;<sup>299</sup>
- ACT Biodiversity Conservation Forum;<sup>300</sup> and
- planning system review.<sup>301</sup>

## Key Issues

### Kangaroo management

4.8. The Committee questioned the Minister about the management of kangaroos in relation to the culling program.

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<sup>290</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 981–988.

<sup>291</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 988–992.

<sup>292</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 992–994.

<sup>293</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 994–995.

<sup>294</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 995–1000.

<sup>295</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1000–1001.

<sup>296</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1001–1002.

<sup>297</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1002–1003.

<sup>298</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1003–1005.

<sup>299</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1005.

<sup>300</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1006.

<sup>301</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1006–1007.



- 4.9. The Minister advised the Committee that significant body of science research sits behind the kangaroo management plan, including count methodologies to establish kangaroo numbers on across Canberra. She also noted that the Government has recently responded to a petition in relation to kangaroo culling and this is available on the Assembly's petition website ([Petition 17-22 Kangaroo culling—Moratorium and independent review—Government response](#)). The Government response outlines the methodologies used for kangaroo surveys and population estimates.<sup>302</sup>
- 4.10. Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD told the Committee that regular reviews are done on the program, including independent reviews against the National Code of Practice for Humane Shooting of Kangaroos and Wallabies for Non-commercial Purposes. He also noted that:

We have a series of reviews and independent peer-reviewed papers on our website, where we have teamed up with the Institute for Applied Ecology at UC [University of Canberra], the Fenner School at ANU [Australian National University], the CSIRO [Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation], the University of Sydney, the University of Melbourne, and the Centre for Invasive Species Solutions. So we have made a big effort.<sup>303</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 4.11. The Committee is of the view that due to high levels of community interest, the ACT Government must ensure all information in relation to the culling program, including how populations are estimated and reasons behind each site selected for culling, are publicly available every year.

#### Recommendation 37

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to improve transparency on kangaroo cull programs particularly in relation to methodology and data.

## Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

### Matters considered

- 4.12. During the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022,<sup>2</sup> the following matters were considered:
- *State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT* report;<sup>304</sup>

<sup>302</sup> Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 981.

<sup>303</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 982.

<sup>304</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 829–831 and pp 832–833.

- accountability indicators;<sup>305</sup>
- Commissioner initiated investigations;<sup>306</sup>
- complaints received;<sup>307</sup> and
- environmental volunteering.<sup>308</sup>

## Minister for Gaming—Administrative arrangements

4.13. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- club buildings energy efficiency fund.

### Matters considered

4.14. During the Minister for Gaming’s appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matter was considered:

- Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund.<sup>309</sup>

## Minister for Heritage—Administrative arrangements

4.15. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- heritage.

### Matters considered

4.16. During the Minister for Heritage’s appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- ACT Heritage Council review;<sup>310</sup>
- First Nations heritage protection;<sup>311</sup>
- sustainable building and heritage;<sup>312</sup> and
- accountability indicators.<sup>313</sup>

<sup>305</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 831–832.

<sup>306</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 832.

<sup>307</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 833–835.

<sup>308</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 835–836.

<sup>309</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 124–126.

<sup>310</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 837–841.

<sup>311</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 841–843.

<sup>312</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 843–844.

<sup>313</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 844–846.

## Minister for Housing and Suburban Development— Administrative arrangements

4.17. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- housing strategy and policy;
- Suburban Land Agency (with the exception of those matters assigned to the Chief Minister); and
- suburban land development.

### Matters considered

4.18. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development's appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- land sales;<sup>314</sup>
- stormwater management in new development areas;<sup>315</sup>
- wombats in Molonglo Valley;<sup>316</sup>
- ILRP;<sup>317</sup>
- Oaks Estate;<sup>318</sup>
- Parliamentary and Governing Agreement commitments;<sup>319</sup>
- SLA interests register;<sup>320</sup>
- SLA contributions to 30 percent tree canopy;<sup>321</sup>
- Whitlam shopping centre;<sup>322</sup>
- active travel;<sup>323</sup>
- public housing;<sup>324</sup>
- affordable housing;<sup>325</sup>
- engagement with traditional custodians;<sup>326</sup>

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<sup>314</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1050–1051.

<sup>315</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1051–1053.

<sup>316</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1053–1054.

<sup>317</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1054–1055.

<sup>318</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1056.

<sup>319</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1064–1066.

<sup>320</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1066.

<sup>321</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1072–1073.

<sup>322</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1073–1075.

<sup>323</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1075–1076 and pp 1078–1079.

<sup>324</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1077, pp 1066–1070 and pp 1087–1088.

<sup>325</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1079–1080.

<sup>326</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1080–1082.

- Housing ACT staffing;<sup>327</sup>
- energy efficiency program;<sup>328</sup>
- development in Woden;<sup>329</sup> and
- Kingston Arts Precinct.<sup>330</sup>

## Key Issues

### Wombats

4.19. The Committee questioned Ministers about the management and removal of wombats in the Molonglo Valley development areas, noting there is no program to identify wombats living on sites that are being bulldozed for potential removal or culling if removal is not possible.

4.20. Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, advised that this issue potentially sits outside of her environment portfolio, however she stated that:

In terms of my responsibilities, I have been very much focused on ensuring that we are tapping into our citizen science, to ensure that we have a good understanding of where wombats are within the landscape, and that we support wombat rescue and the management agencies.<sup>331</sup>

4.21. Mr Bren Burkevics, Acting Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, EPSDD advised that 'wombats actually have multiple burrows'.<sup>332</sup> He also stated that he had no information on wombats on housing development sites, however he has become aware of the threat to wombats from road traffic accidents in the area.<sup>333</sup>

4.22. Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, stated in relation to the issues of wombats that:

Of course, it is very important, when we are building and developing land, that we make sure that we are take into account (sic) some of the residents who might have been there before us, and that includes wombats and other native flora and fauna. Significant work is done prior to machinery rolling in, around understanding who is there and—knowing that we are obviously going to be moving animals into different homes—making sure that we are not injuring or endangering them any further whilst we are doing the development.<sup>334</sup>

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<sup>327</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1082–1085 and pp 1088–1090.

<sup>328</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1085–1087.

<sup>329</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1090–1092.

<sup>330</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1093–1094.

<sup>331</sup> Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, Minister for the Environment, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 992.

<sup>332</sup> Mr Bren Burkevics, Acting Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 994.

<sup>333</sup> Mr Bren Burkevics, Acting Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 994.

<sup>334</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1053.

4.23. Mr Simon Tennent, Development Director, Development Delivery—Molonglo, SLA, told the Committee that all new development requires significant ecological surveys prior to work commencing. This includes surveys of endangered and threatened wildlife and botanical species, tree values and other wildlife that exists on the site. He indicated that ‘measures are usually put in place to relocate any wildlife that we find’, noting that contractors are also carefully briefed about looking out for wildlife when they commence work on the site.<sup>335</sup>

4.24. The Minister stated in her answer to [Question Taken on Notice No. 309](#) that:

A Wombat Stakeholder Working Group is planned to be convened in 2023, which will include internal government staff, community groups, external researchers, rural leaseholders and Ngunnawal representatives. This group will help inform the development of the ACT wombat management strategy and will work collaboratively to ensure stakeholders interests are considered while conserving viable populations of wombats as part of our native biodiversity.<sup>336</sup>

### Committee comment

4.25. The Committee is of the view that it is within the Government’s remit to protect wildlife. The Committee noted that the nature reserves and the land around Molonglo Valley are being mapped through citizen science and there is a large wombat population. There is an urgent need to protect wombats and identify at risk wombat burrows in these development areas in the Molonglo Valley.

### Recommendation 38

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that wombats are located and either relocated or culled before any SLA development in new suburbs in the ACT, with particular urgent attention to be given to the current suburb development in the Molonglo Valley.

### Recommendation 39

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a strategy for wombat removal from all future green field sites.

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<sup>335</sup> Mr Simon Tennent, Development Director, Development Delivery—Molonglo, SLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1053.

<sup>336</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *answer to QON 309*, 12 September 2022 (received 12 September 2022).

## Public housing

4.26. During the hearing the Committee inquired about the decreased satisfaction with public housing and why this had occurred, noting that the drop in satisfaction was more than 10 percent.<sup>337</sup>

4.27. Ms Louise Gilding, Executive Group Manger, Housing ACT, CSD, told the Committee that:

The 2021-22 annual tenant survey was undertaken by Lonergan Research, with 2,348 randomly sampled households asked to complete the survey. So, 606 households responded to the survey, with results showing 60 per cent of public housing tenants were satisfied or very satisfied with the overall services provided by Housing ACT. The actual result was 16 below the target of 76 per cent, which equates to a 21 per cent variance. Of the 23 per cent of tenants who were dissatisfied or very dissatisfied overall, almost half identified maintenance-related issues as the reason.<sup>338</sup>

4.28. Ms Catherine Rule, Director-General, CSD stated that the survey measures satisfaction but ‘the measurement that we take does not ask why our people are less satisfied’.<sup>339</sup> Officials observed that they will be undertaking measures to better understand the satisfaction and customer experience. The Directorate hypothesis is that the pandemic made it difficult for clients to be fully serviced, particularly in relation to property maintenance.<sup>340</sup>

### Recommendation 40

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures in its Housing ACT surveys that there is a question about tenants’ satisfaction/dissatisfaction with the service—and if dissatisfied, why.

## Energy Efficiency Program

4.29. During the hearings, the Committee heard about the energy efficiency program to replace hot-water heat pumps and reverse cycle air conditioners for Housing ACT tenants who received letters notifying them about the program.

4.30. Officials advised that this program was delivered through a contract that ended on 30 June 2022. The program had specific funding, once the money was exhausted no further upgrades were completed under the contract. Ms Catherine Loft, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts, CSD, stated that:

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<sup>337</sup> Mr Mark Parton MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1077.

<sup>338</sup> Ms Louise Gilding, Executive Group Manger, Housing ACT, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1077.

<sup>339</sup> Ms Catherine Rule, Director-General, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1077.

<sup>340</sup> Mr Geoff Aigner, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1077.

It was either opt-in or we would then initiate the upgrade, based on the property condition audits that I was talking about previously, or housing managers or subcontractors reporting faulty equipment.<sup>341</sup>

### Committee comment

- 4.31. The Committee noted that there was no information on the date of conclusion of the program in the letter. This resulted in tenants believing that they were going to receive upgrades, however this did not occur because the program had closed as available funds had already been spent. The Committee is of the view that this needed to be better communicated to tenants.

#### Recommendation 41

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that ACT Public Housing letters, sent to tenants, include due dates/deadline information, where applicable.

### Government Programs

- 4.32. During the hearings, the Committee heard information about a range of housing programs which did not have clearly defined delivery dates.
- 4.33. The Minister advised that in relation to the ‘government’s agreement under the asset recycling initiative, we needed to replace, roof for roof, 1,288 properties. And we did that.’<sup>342</sup> She noted that the sale of properties vacated as part of the program was within EPSDD, and part of that sale was going to the 15 per cent as part of the Commonwealth government asset recycling initiative.<sup>343</sup> She also noted that this is the previous program that has been completed and there is now a new program of growth and renewal.<sup>344</sup>
- 4.34. Mr Mark Parton MLA asked in relation to public housing repairs and maintenance:

The \$80 million budgeted in 2021-22 was across three years. My understanding is that it was split into \$40 million, \$20 million and \$20 million. In the 2022-23 budget there is an additional \$57 million announced for 2022-23, with money being brought forward from 2022-23 and 2023-24. Can you outline exactly how much money was spent in 2021-22 under this program and how much is budgeted in the following two years.<sup>345</sup>

<sup>341</sup> Ms Catherine Loft, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1086.

<sup>342</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1059.

<sup>343</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1059.

<sup>344</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1058.

<sup>345</sup> Mr Mark Parton MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1063.

4.35. In response to Mr Parton's question officials advised that:

Housing ACT had \$82.348 million of repairs and maintenance committed or expended at 30 June 2022. Of this, expenditure of \$77.291 million has been incurred. That means filled, complete; and \$5.057 million has been committed to works in progress. We were able to spend it and bring that money forward; the \$57 million is budgeted for this year.<sup>346</sup>

4.36. Mr Geoff Aigner, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services, CSD, advised in relation to the Growth and Renewal Program that 388 tenants had been relocated. There were around 148 refusals to relocate, 62 requests for relocation exemptions were submitted, of which 22 have been heard to date, and 15 of those 22 were approved.<sup>347</sup> Ms Catherine Loft, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts, CSD advised that the:

...target is to renew 1,000 dwellings and then grow the portfolio by 400. The total program to do this is that we need to build 700 new properties; 420 of those will be built on new land, and then purchase 140 from the market, and then purchase another 140 committed under the parliamentary and governing agreement.

...we commenced in 2019. So to 30 June 2022 the program has sold 343 properties. We have received \$93.8 million in capital injections. We have expended \$260.1 million in capital works. We have demolished 167 dwellings for redevelopment. We have purchased 101 land sites for redevelopments. We have purchased 93 dwellings from the private market. We have completed construction of 219 dwellings. As Mr Aigner said we relocated just over 380 tenants to be able to do that.

...

The 400 growth for public housing through growth and renewal will not be realised till the end of the program. This is something that we touched on as well. It is not a linear program. We need to sell and demolish in order to construct and there is a time lag for that.<sup>348</sup>

### Committee comment

4.37. The Committee is of the view that it is difficult to evaluate the numerous housing programs without accountability indicators or other measures to determine how each program is tracking.

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<sup>346</sup> Ms Catherine Loft, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1063.

<sup>347</sup> Mr Geoff Aigner, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1067

<sup>348</sup> Ms Catherine Loft, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1071.



### Recommendation 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT government ensure that housing programs publish key milestones, including expected completion dates, to allow evaluation of program achievements.

## Minister for Planning and Land Management— Administrative arrangements

4.38. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Government Architect;
- land release policy (including land release program);
- Parks and Conservation;
- planning and development;
- planning and development enforcement policy;
- site identification and facilitation for major land and property;
- strategic land use; and
- survey and leasing.

### Matters considered

4.39. During the Minister for Planning and Land Management’s appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- McKellar shops development;<sup>349</sup>
- planning review;<sup>350</sup>
- aerial culling of feral animals;<sup>351</sup>
- land sales;<sup>352</sup>
- Western Edge and environmental studies;<sup>353</sup>
- land releases in Gungahlin;<sup>354</sup>
- Parks and Conservation budget;<sup>355</sup>

<sup>349</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 912–915.

<sup>350</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 915–922.

<sup>351</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 922–924.

<sup>352</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 924.

<sup>353</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 924–928.

<sup>354</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 928–929.

<sup>355</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 929–932.

- Molonglo Group Centre;<sup>356</sup>
- meeting EPSDD objective for a compact and efficient city;<sup>357</sup>
- ILRP;<sup>358</sup>
- invasive species management;<sup>359</sup> and
- forestry industry value to the ACT.<sup>360</sup>

## Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction— Administrative arrangements

4.40. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Asbestos Response Taskforce;
- building and construction industry liaison;
- Building Code of Australia ACT appendix;
- building policy;
- building quality;
- living infrastructure projects; and
- universal design standards.

## Matters considered

4.41. During the Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction's appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Building Fund levy;<sup>361</sup>
- star energy rating;<sup>362</sup>
- Master Builders Fidelity Fund;<sup>363</sup>
- engineer registration;<sup>364</sup>
- appropriation for building quality reform;<sup>365</sup>
- CFMMEU survey;<sup>366</sup>

<sup>356</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 932–933.

<sup>357</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 934.

<sup>358</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 934–936.

<sup>359</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 936–937.

<sup>360</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 937–938.

<sup>361</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1007–1008.

<sup>362</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1008–1012.

<sup>363</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1012–1015.

<sup>364</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1015.

<sup>365</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1015–1019.

<sup>366</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1019–1020.

- Asbestos Response Taskforce;<sup>367</sup>
- cladding concessional loan scheme;<sup>368</sup> and
- scope 3 greenhouse gas emissions report.<sup>369</sup>

## Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction— Administrative arrangements

4.42. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- climate change policy;
- energy policy and energy efficiency programs (including zero emissions vehicle policy);
- sustainability of government services and assets;
- water efficiency programs; and
- water policy.

### Matters considered

4.43. During the Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction's appearance before the Committee on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- water abstraction charge;<sup>370</sup>
- Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy;<sup>371</sup>
- Office for Water;<sup>372</sup>
- Healthy Waterways initiative;<sup>373</sup>
- electricity network;<sup>374</sup> and
- electric vehicle (EV) apartment buildings installation.<sup>375</sup>

<sup>367</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1020–1021.

<sup>368</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1021–1024.

<sup>369</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1024–1025.

<sup>370</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 641–643 and pp 649–650.

<sup>371</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 643–645 and pp 655–65.

<sup>372</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 645–646.

<sup>373</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 646–648 and pp 653–655.

<sup>374</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 650–653.

<sup>375</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 656–657.

## Key Issues

### Water abstraction charge

- 4.44. Another key issue examined by the Committee is the Water Abstraction Charge (WAC). The Committee noted that the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment recommended in the [State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT](#) that the ACT Government ‘publish an annual detailed breakdown of how the Water Abstraction Charge revenue is expended.’<sup>376</sup>
- 4.45. Officials noted that the Government has not yet fully considered a response to that recommendation, and that the Directorate already provides details for expenditure to the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) as part of their national reporting requirements.<sup>377</sup>
- 4.46. The committee also examined the amount of revenue collected via the WAC coming from NSW.
- 4.47. The Minister provided information about the WAC in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 303](#), stating:
- Queanbeyan-Palerang Regional Council (QPRC) is Icon Water’s only customer in NSW—Icon Water pays a WAC to the ACT based on the total volume of water abstracted;
  - WAC revenue from QPRC—in 2021-2022 this was \$2,324,230.90 and in 2020-2021 this was \$1,704,805.83;
  - average revenue collected from WAC each year between 2015-2016 and 2020-2021 was \$31.16 million;
  - WAC revenue is not assigned directly to specific environmental activities; and
  - expenditure for water planning and management activities in 2020-21, related to WAC, was \$12.3 million and contributed towards supporting environmental outcomes, for example the Healthy Waterways projects, Waterwatch and stormwater management.<sup>378</sup>

### Committee comment

- 4.48. The Committee is of the view that whilst the Government already provides these figures to the ACCC, the Government should implement the Commissioner’s recommendation with a view of making this breakdown readily available to the public.

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<sup>376</sup> Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment, *State of the Lakes and Waterways in the ACT*, Canberra, 2022, p. 397.

<sup>377</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 649.

<sup>378</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, *answer to QON 303*, 12 September 2022 (received 12 September 2022).

- 4.49. In breaking down the WAC, the Committee is of the view that there should also be a breakdown in the degree of revenue collected from New South Wales versus the ACT, and where these revenues are respectively expended each year.

### **Recommendation 43**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual detailed financial breakdown of how the WAC is expended.

### **Recommendation 44**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should publish the share of revenue from WAC that comes from NSW vs ACT and where it is expended each year.

## **Office for Water**

- 4.50. The Committee inquired about the decision to establish an Office for Water.
- 4.51. The Minister told the Committee that the primary objective of the Office for Water will be to improve coordination and expertise by bringing staff together into one agency to ensure better outcomes in terms of water planning, water management, and water quality in the territory.<sup>379</sup> In the ACT Budget 2022-2023 the Government has committed '\$4.2 million over the next two years to establish this new office to strengthen our working arrangements to the best outcomes for waterways and the ACT community.'<sup>380</sup>
- 4.52. The Minister also told the Committee that an annual water report has not been specifically contemplated as a separate report, rather he would expect that the Office for Water would report through a dedicated section in the EPSDD annual report.<sup>381</sup>

## **Committee comment**

- 4.53. The Committee notes that there is no statutory requirement to produce an annual ACT Water Report, currently a variety of reporting is being done by multiple agencies, including the EPA through the CMTEDD annual report, the Catchment Health Indicator Report (CHIP) by Waterwatch and on websites managed by the agencies responsible for water quality monitoring.

### **Recommendation 45**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish an annual ACT Water Report.

<sup>379</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 645.

<sup>380</sup> ACT Government, 'Dedicated office of Water at the forefront of water initiatives in the ACT', *Joint Media Release*, 15 July 2022.

<sup>381</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 646.

- 4.54. During the hearings the Committee heard about the Healthy Waterways program.
- 4.55. Officials told the Committee that the current delivery of the Healthy Waterways program will be managed by the Office of Water, stating:

the rationale for the Office of Water is to ensure that from policy inception through to delivery and maintenance is done in a seamless fashion. So the Office of Water will continue to monitor, both in a science sense but also in an amenity sense, our healthy waterways assets, going forward.<sup>382</sup>

- 4.56. The Minister announced a two-year trial of a floating wetland for Lake Tuggeranong which is designed to help reduce algal blooms by creating competition 'with algae for nutrients and light, making it much harder for algal blooms to spread.'<sup>383</sup> Minister Rattenbury stated that:

- the wetland will cover approximately 500m<sup>2</sup>;
- it will absorb nutrients entering the area during low flows when algal blooms are more likely to form;
- the floating wetland is made of a fibrous recycled plastic base covered with a matt of coconut fibre;
- local native plants will be used and will grow through the layers of material, their roots extending into the water; and
- the plants, and the fungi and bacteria that grow on the plant roots, take up nutrients from the water, therefore improving water quality.<sup>384</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 4.57. The Committee noted that the trial did not include plans to harvest vegetation growth across the entirety of the platform over the life of the trial, the harvest is limited to sampling to evaluate nutrient uptake. The Committee also noted that plants which have taken up the nutrients die off in the winter, so consideration needs to be given to removing vegetation before they die off as this has the potential to return nutrients to the water.

#### Recommendation 46

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate the appropriateness of plants in the floating wetlands, to ensure they do not return nutrients to the water if they die off.

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<sup>382</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 653–654.

<sup>383</sup> ACT Government, 'Dedicated office of Water at the forefront of water initiatives in the ACT', *Joint Media Release*, 15 July 2022.

<sup>384</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, 'Trial floating wetland for Lake Tuggeranong', *Media Release*, 29 March 2021.

## Zero Emissions Vehicles Strategy

- 4.58. The Committee examined the Zero Emissions Vehicle (ZEV) Strategy in the context of the Government's emissions reductions target, in particular how the Government is working with the automotive industry on implementing the strategy.
- 4.59. The Minister told the Committee that the Government has the most ambitious targets in Australia and no other state or territory government has yet set a date to begin the phase-out of internal combustion engines (ICE).<sup>385</sup>
- 4.60. Officials advised that the Government currently has no updated modelling on the targets set out in the strategy; however, the Minister annually releases 'a "where we are up to", and we did make the 2020 targets.'<sup>386</sup> They also noted that there are interim targets going forward, noting that there is currently a short-term supply problem in getting EVs into the country.<sup>387</sup>

### Committee comment

- 4.61. The Committee supports the ZEV Strategy, however the Government needs to provide more information to the community on how it will contribute to achieving the ACT Government's emissions reductions targets.

#### Recommendation 47

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide updates on how the EV strategy is contributing to achieving the ACT Government's emissions reduction targets.

- 4.62. The Committee also inquired about the consultations that have been undertaken with the automotive industry.
- 4.63. The Minister observed that many automotive manufacturers have announced timelines for phasing out the production of ICE vehicles, noting that it will be hard to buy one by 2035, and this was a major consideration of the Government when setting the 2035 target.<sup>388</sup> He also noted that, while there had been no specific consultations with the automotive industry in the ACT, now that a target has been set, the Government's intention is to work very closely with the industry to get there.<sup>389</sup>

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<sup>385</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 643.

<sup>386</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 643.

<sup>387</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director-General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 643.

<sup>388</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 656.

<sup>389</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 655.

4.64. Officials expanded on the supply issues in the EV market, stating that:

In 2035 we will be in a very different market. If I look at the UK, which is also a right-hand drive vehicle market, they will not be doing new car sales of petrol vehicles from 2030. That is a good predictor, I would think, that vehicles will be made available to the global right-hand drive market by 2030. Five years after that, the non-registration of new petrol vehicles will be one element, but I think for the next two years—and I think what we are seeing right now—demand for EVs in Australia will far outstrip supply. I would not want to model a 2035 outcome whilst we are getting this supply constraint of 2022-2023.<sup>390</sup>

#### **Recommendation 48**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government discuss with the automotive industry, their ability to meet the requirement to only supply new electric powered vehicles in the ACT by 2035.

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<sup>390</sup> Mr Geoffrey Rutledge, Deputy Director General, Water and Emissions Reduction, EPSDD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 644.



## 5. Community Services Directorate

- 5.1. The primary purpose of the Community Services Directorate 'is to empower people to meet their full potential within an inclusive and equitable community by: intervening early to support people to be safe; delivering services that are human centred, holistic, tailored and integrated; building strong communities; fostering inclusive participation; and driving collaboration and partnerships.'<sup>391</sup> Funding for the CSD is set out in [Budget Statements G](#).

### Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs— Administrative arrangements

- 5.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs policy and services; and
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body secretariat.

#### Matters considered

- 5.3. During the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs appearance before the Committee on 23 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- engagement with traditional owners in the ACT in relation to the treaty process;<sup>392</sup>
  - Yarramundi Cultural Centre;<sup>393</sup>
  - construction of the purpose-built facility, co-designed with the Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation;<sup>394</sup>
  - Healing and Reconciliation Fund;<sup>395</sup> and
  - Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm.<sup>396</sup>

### Minister for Disability—Administrative arrangements

- 5.4. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- disability inclusion and participation;
  - disability policy;
  - disability reform and services; and
  - Senior Practitioner for the reduction and elimination of restrictive practices.

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<sup>391</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements G*, p 1.

<sup>392</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 195–198.

<sup>393</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 198–199.

<sup>394</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 199–200.

<sup>395</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 200–201.

<sup>396</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 201.

## Matters considered

5.5. During the Minister for Disability's appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- ACT disability strategy;<sup>397</sup> and
- disability advocacy funding.<sup>398</sup>

## Key issues

### ACT Disability Strategy

5.6. An issue examined by the Committee was the ACT Disability Strategy, and whether any associated funding was allocated in the budget for the disability strategy. The Minister advised the Committee the Strategy has not yet been completed and published, and that the Directorate was currently in the process of consultation with the aim of producing an interim listening report in December around I-day and a final report in early 2023.<sup>399</sup> The Minister also told the Committee that this will be a ten year plan and the Government will need to discuss the funding priorities for the final strategy.<sup>400</sup>

### Committee comment

5.7. The Committee expressed its view that following the publication of the listening report and the strategy, the Government should fully fund the implementation of the ACT Disability Strategy, and include the indicative costs as separate line items in future Health or Disability budgets.

#### Recommendation 49

The Committee recommends that the Government fully fund the implementation and ongoing support for the ACT Disability Strategy and include the indicative costs associated with this in future budgets, as separate line items within the Health or Disability budgets.

#### Recommendation 50

The Committee recommends that the Government table the ACT Disability Strategy listening report in the Assembly on completion.

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<sup>397</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 487–488.

<sup>398</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 490–491.

<sup>399</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Disability, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 487.

<sup>400</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Disability, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 488.

## Disability advocacy funding

- 5.8. The committee examined disability advocacy funding. The Committee heard from the Minister that the Government has sought to provide funding in previous budgets for individual advocacy services such as ADACAS and Advocacy for Inclusion owing to the complexities of the NDIS. The committee however found it unclear how much funding in the budget was allocated to individual advocacy in the disability space.<sup>401</sup>

### Recommendation 51

The Committee recommends that the Government identify in future budgets all funding allocations for community service organisations and individual advocacy groups provided within the disability sector.

## Minister for Early Childhood Development—Administrative arrangements

- 5.9. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- child and family centres;
  - child development service;
  - childhood early intervention and development policy; and
  - childhood early intervention and development services.

## Matters considered

- 5.10. During the Minister for Early Childhood Development's appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:
- impact of COVID-19 on young people;<sup>402</sup>
  - child and family centres;<sup>403</sup>
  - Child Development Services funding,<sup>404</sup> and
  - Children and Young People Equipment Loan Scheme.<sup>405</sup>

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<sup>401</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 490–491.

<sup>402</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1038–1039.

<sup>403</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1043–1044 and pp 1046–104.

<sup>404</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1047–1048.

<sup>405</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1048–1049.

## Minister for Education and Youth Affairs—Administrative arrangements

5.11. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- Youth Advisory Council;
- youth affairs policy; and
- Youth InterACT engagement, scholarships and grants.

### Matters considered

5.12. During the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Youth Assembly request for dedicated school buses;<sup>406</sup>
- Youth Week in the ACT;<sup>407</sup> and
- voting rights for 16 to 17-year-olds.<sup>408</sup>

## Minister for Families and Community Services—Administrative arrangements

5.13. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- children and young people protection policy and services;
- children, youth and family policy and support services;
- community sector policy and services;
- community sector reform; and
- safe and connected youth.

### Matters considered

5.14. During the Minister for Families and Community Services appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Children and Young People Act 2008;<sup>409</sup>
- Next Steps for Our Kids strategy;<sup>410</sup>
- community sector indexation formula;<sup>411</sup>

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<sup>406</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 425–427.

<sup>407</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 428–430.

<sup>408</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 437–438.

<sup>409</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 139–141.

<sup>410</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 141–142, pp 144–147, p 151 and pp 154–155.

<sup>411</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 142–144.

- out of home care targets;<sup>412</sup>
- commissioning for outcomes;<sup>413</sup>
- family group conference;<sup>414</sup>
- Our Booris, Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee;<sup>415</sup>

## Key Issues

### Community Sector Indexation Formula

- 5.15. The Committee inquired about the alteration to the community sector indexation formula in this budget.
- 5.16. An ACTCOSS report from February of this year found that Government funding of the community sector was inadequate and had not increased in line with real world costs.<sup>416</sup> The report noted that the community sector indexation formula, used to adjust funding based on inflation, was insufficient following a period of increased demands from COVID-19, bushfires, rising property prices, increased levels of mental illness in the community, and other factors which were putting strain on community services.<sup>417</sup>
- 5.17. The community sector indexation formula is normally based on an 80 percent wage price index and 20 percent consumer price index, but the Minister said that a different approach was taken for the 2022-23 budget:

We are considering how that indexation arrangement will work, going forward; but, given the real fluctuation at the moment in wages and costs and everything, we have made a single-year decision, again, to replace the wage price index element of that with the award wage indexation, which is 4.6 per cent. So that and then Treasury's estimate of CPI is combined to get the new indexation for this year. We will continue to work with the sector to look at what a longer-term arrangement will be for indexation, as well as working through the other recommendations of the *Counting the Costs* report.<sup>418</sup>

### Committee comment

- 5.18. Community services provide an essential safety net for the most vulnerable in our community. The Committee is concerned about feedback from the sector that they are underfunded and believes that it is vital that this be remediated.

<sup>412</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 147–149.

<sup>413</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 149–151.

<sup>414</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 151–153.

<sup>415</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 155–158.

<sup>416</sup> UNSW Sydney Social Policy Research Centre, *Counting the Costs: Sustainable funding for the ACT community services sector*, December 2021.

<sup>417</sup> *Counting the Costs*, p. 29.

<sup>418</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Families and Community Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 143.

### Recommendation 52

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to work with the community sector on a long-term solution in respect to the Community Sector Indexation formula.

### Family group conference

- 5.19. The Committee inquired about family group conferences for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families engaging with or entering the Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS).
- 5.20. The Minister stated in her answer to [Question Taken on Notice No. 27](#) that Family Group Conferencing:
- is a voluntary service to which all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families involved with CYPS can be referred;
  - referrals for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family by CYPS staff can be provided if the family accepts a referral to participate;
  - data is collected following the family's acceptance of a referral and does not capture circumstances where a Family Group Conference was offered and discussed with a family, but the family declined the referral;
  - data on children and young people is collected by CYPS, however data is not specifically collected on the number of families involved in CYPS, due to the complexity of defining a family, especially where children and young people may have shared custody arrangements;
  - the percentage of families who have been referred to (and not accepted) Family Group Conferencing is unable to be provided; and
  - for the reporting period (July 2021 – June 2022) were 35 families that accepted a referral to Family Group Conferencing, and of these, 33 families participated in a Family Group Conference at a time that was negotiated with each individual family.<sup>419</sup>

### Recommendation 53

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families who access or participate in Family Group Conferencing.

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<sup>419</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Families and Community Services, *answer to QON 27*, 31 August 2022 (received 1 September 2022).

## Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services— Administrative arrangements

5.21. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- carers strategy and policy;
- community recovery and emergency relief;
- volunteering statement and policy; and
- youth justice policy and services (Bimberi).

### Matters considered

5.22. During the Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Carers Recognition Act;<sup>420</sup>
- carers strategy;<sup>421</sup>
- Family Therapy Youth Justice Program;<sup>422</sup>
- funding for Roundabout Canberra;<sup>423</sup>
- social recovery from COVID;<sup>424</sup>
- volunteering strategy;<sup>425</sup>
- Healthy Centre review of Bimberi;<sup>426</sup>
- staffing levels for Franklin House;<sup>427</sup> and
- raising the age of criminal responsibility.<sup>428</sup>

## Minister for Housing and Suburban Development— Administrative arrangements

5.23. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- housing strategy and policy;
- Suburban Land Agency (with the exception of those matters assigned to the Chief Minister); and

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<sup>420</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 474–475.

<sup>421</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 475.

<sup>422</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 479–481.

<sup>423</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 481.

<sup>424</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 482–484.

<sup>425</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 484–485.

<sup>426</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 485–487.

<sup>427</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 488–490.

<sup>428</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 492–495.

- suburban land development.

## Matters considered

5.24. During the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development's appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- public housing renewal program;<sup>429</sup> and
- public housing repairs and maintenance;<sup>430</sup>

## Minister for Multicultural Affairs—Administrative arrangements

5.25. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- multicultural affairs policy and services.

## Matters considered

5.26. During the Minister for Multicultural Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Welcoming Cities Framework;<sup>431</sup> and
- Multicultural Festival.<sup>432</sup>

## Key Issues

### Welcoming Cities Framework

5.27. A key issue examined by the Committee was the strategies implemented by the ACT Government to address racism, as articulated in paragraph 2.15 of the Welcoming Cities Standard. Officials noted that the ACT is a member of the Welcoming Cities network, and that the Government has committed to moving to the level of advanced accreditation standards and is in the process of providing evidence on Canberra's fulfilment of the requirements for the 'sense of belonging' category.<sup>433</sup>

### Recommendation 54

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish achievements towards Welcoming Cities Advanced Status.

<sup>429</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1057–1061 and pp 1066–1072.

<sup>430</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1061–1064 and p 1078.

<sup>431</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 410–412.

<sup>432</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 420–422.

<sup>433</sup> Mrs Jessica Summerrell, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Children and Families, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 411.



## Minister for Veterans and Seniors—Administrative arrangements

5.28. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- seniors and ageing policy; and
- veterans.

### Matters considered

5.29. During the Minister for Veterans and Seniors' appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- initiatives for seniors;<sup>434</sup>
- dementia-friendly plan in Access Canberra;<sup>435</sup>
- veterans' wellbeing centre;<sup>436</sup> and
- age-friendly cities program.<sup>437</sup>

### Key issues

#### Initiatives for Seniors

5.30. The committee discussed the number of support programs for Seniors in the Canberra Community, given the increase of seniors as a proportion of the Canberra population.

#### Committee comment

5.31. The Committee noted that there are no new initiatives for seniors being funded in this budget.<sup>438</sup> The Committee believes that new programs for supporting seniors be funded, recognising that seniors constitute an increasing proportion of Canberra's population.

#### Recommendation 55

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with local stakeholders on new programs to be funded in upcoming budgets to support seniors.

#### Age-Friendly cities program

5.32. The committee discussed the progress on the Age-friendly City Program, and how the initiative is tracked and reported. The way in which these initiatives were both tracked and outcomes reported was not immediately clear to the Committee.

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<sup>434</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 466–468.

<sup>435</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 468–469.

<sup>436</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 469–474.

<sup>437</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 476–478.

<sup>438</sup> Ms Nicole Lawder MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 466.

## Committee comment

- 5.33. The Committee is of the view that the reporting of the Age-Friendly City Plan needs to be improved, so that a formal update is regularly provided in the Assembly.

### Recommendation 56

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve the reporting of the Age-Friendly City Plan so that a formal update is provided on each action listed in the plan.

## Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence—Administrative arrangements

- 5.34. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- women's affairs policy and services;
- family safety (Coordinator-General); and
- domestic violence agencies.

## Matters considered

- 5.35. During the Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence's appearance before the Committee on 23 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Safer Families Levy,<sup>439</sup>
- criminalising coercive control;<sup>440</sup>
- gender responsive budgeting;<sup>441</sup>
- Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Program;<sup>442</sup> and
- children and victims/survivors of domestic violence trauma counselling in refugees.<sup>443</sup>

## Key Issues

### Criminalising coercive control

- 5.36. Several states and territories around Australia are working towards criminalising coercive control, which is a form of domestic abuse. During the hearing it was reported that:

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<sup>439</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 180–183 and pp 184–185.

<sup>440</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 183–184 and p 189.

<sup>441</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 185–187 and pp 189–191.

<sup>442</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 187–189.

<sup>443</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 191–193.

The ACT is now working with the commonwealth, states and territories to progress the national principles to address coercive control. These will support the development of a nationally consistent understanding of coercive control. Those principles align with advice from the Domestic Violence Prevention Council that, prior to committing to a position on criminalisation of coercive control as a standalone offence, the ACT government should monitor how the other jurisdictions are implementing the criminalisation of the offence, continue to engage in community-led consultation and conduct more research, and take other non-legislative measures to address coercive control.<sup>444</sup>

- 5.37. Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety advised that the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) had advised the Minister to evaluate the work of other jurisdictions before considering criminalising coercive control in the ACT, due to the possibility of unintended consequences for people in culturally and linguistical diverse backgrounds.<sup>445</sup> Minister Berry advised the Committee that she is unable to publish this advice,<sup>446</sup> but that the DVPC may choose to put it on their website.<sup>447</sup>

### Recommendation 57

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake research into the potential criminalisation of coercive control in the ACT.

- 5.38. *Crimes (Consent) Amendment Act 2022*, which was passed by the Assembly in May, amended the *Crimes Act 1990* to 'align with community understandings and expectations of consensual sexual activity.'<sup>448</sup> Specifically, it provides a definition of consent which was not previously present in the Crimes Act.
- 5.39. During the hearing, the Committee was advised that an education campaign was being developed to inform the community of the changes, and that it would be delivered as part of the curriculum of schools.<sup>449</sup>

### Recommendation 58

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise a community education campaign around recent amendments to the Crimes Act regarding affirmative consent.

<sup>444</sup> Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 183.

<sup>445</sup> Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 183.

<sup>446</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, Minister for Women, p 184.

<sup>447</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, *answer to QTON 174*, 2 September 2022 (received 2 September 2022)

<sup>448</sup> Crimes (Consent) Amendment Bill 2022, Explanatory Statement, *Overview of the Bill*, p 1.

<sup>449</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence and Ms Kirsty Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 189.

## Sexual Assault Prevention and Response

5.40. A report published by the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee in December 2021 made 24 recommendations, mostly to the ACT Government,<sup>450</sup> of which the Government agreed to 13, agreed in principle to 9, and did not agree with one.<sup>451</sup>

5.41. Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women, updated the Committee on the funding allocations within the budget that support the implementation of some of the recommendations:

This budget allocates \$10 million over four years around reform activities. And that is responding to a few of the recommendations in the report that was provided to me, to the government, around a whole range of different areas.<sup>452</sup>

5.42. Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, also gave an update on the response to recommendation 15, which concerned the examination of ACT policing cases that did not progress to charge:

(T)hat review of cases has commenced. And is overseen by a committee which consists of independent co-chairs, the Director of Public Prosecutions, the Chief Police Officer, the Victims of Crime Commissioner and I, in my position, and I am also on that oversight committee.

The review of cases reported to ACT Policing is crucial to inform system development in sexual assault matters. There has been a couple of meetings of the Oversight Committee, and the committee has looked at the process that will happen in order to undertake the review.

Yes, that process is—firstly that the Director of Public Prosecutions will look at the cases that are sent by ACT Policing with a view to whether or not those cases should progress to charge. And then the second phase of the process will for a Process Review Team which will consist of a broader cohort of people looking at those cases in order to address and identify any systemic issues in the undertaking of those cases by ACT Policing, and whether or not there needs to be changes.<sup>453</sup>

### Recommendation 59

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to prioritise the delivery of agreed recommendations of the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Steering Committee.

<sup>450</sup> ACT Government, *Listen. Take Action to Prevent, Believe and Heal.*, December 2021, p 5.

<sup>451</sup> ACT Government, *Government Response to the Listen. Take Action to Prevent Believe and Heal Report.*

<sup>452</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 188.

<sup>453</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 189.

## Pilot program for child survivors of domestic violence

- 5.43. The ACT Government is trialling a pilot program which provides group counselling for survivors of domestic violence aged 5 to 12 years old. It is being done ‘in partnership with the community sector’ (Australian Childhood Foundation won the tender process to deliver the program)<sup>454</sup> and it is being developed in response to calls from the community services and specialists support services for children experiencing domestic violence.<sup>455</sup> Ms Windeyer, CSD, explained at the hearing:

The service is for supporting children to recover from domestic and family violence by providing a safe space for them to talk and connect with others. It is for children, with a mothers’ group designed to provide them with tools to support their children.<sup>456</sup>

- 5.44. The program is targeted at this age group because they have specific needs which were not being met by the sector. There are other services available for older children, in particular Got Your Back, a program delivered through Relationships Australia, which is more self-directed by the young people.<sup>457</sup>
- 5.45. The pilot will be held for the fourth term of 2022 and then evaluated for expansion in 2023.<sup>458</sup>

### Recommendation 60

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report back to the Assembly on progress of the pilot service to support children (5-12 years) and mothers who have been victims of domestic and family violence.

## Return to Work Program

- 5.46. A question on notice was asked about the Return to Work Program, noting that funding the NSW Return to Work Program offered a \$5000 grant, while the equivalent program in the ACT only had a \$1000 grant. The Minister for Women stated in her answer to [Question on Notice No. 143](#) that:
- the ACT Women’s Return to Work (RTW) Grants Program is an ongoing program that receives \$160,000 annually and the \$1000 supports up to 160 women to return to the workforce. The NSW RTW Program is a response to the COVID-19 pandemic; and
  - in the last four financial years numbers of women in the program were:
    - 2020-2021—177;
    - 2019-2020—164;

<sup>454</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 191.

<sup>455</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 193.

<sup>456</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 191.

<sup>457</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 192.

<sup>458</sup> Ms Kristy Windeyer, Coordinator-General for Family Safety, CSD, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p193.

- 2018-2019—147; and
- 2017-2018—135.<sup>459</sup>

### **Recommendation 61**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly on the Return to Work Program.

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<sup>459</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Women, *answer to QON 143*, 12 September 2022 (received 12 September 2022).

## 6. Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- 6.1. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) seeks to maintain a fair, safe and peaceful community in the ACT where people's rights and interests are respected and protected. This is achieved through maintaining the rule of law, promoting the protection of human rights in the Territory and providing effective offender management and opportunities for rehabilitation. The Directorate is further committed to protecting and preserving life, property and the environment and providing an effective and cohesive emergency response service. Funding for JACS is set out in [Budget Statements D](#).<sup>460</sup>

### Attorney-General—Administrative arrangements

- 6.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- administration of justice;
  - civil and criminal law;
  - justice reinvestment;
  - policy relating to incorporation of associations;
  - policy relating to liquor;
  - policy relating to sex work;
  - policy relating to security;
  - policy relating to the registration of deeds and charitable collections;
  - policy relating to the registration of land titles and tenancies;
  - reducing recidivism;
  - restorative justice; and
  - Sentencing Administration Board.

### Matters considered

- 6.3. During the Attorney-General's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Exposure Draft on the Residential Tenancies Legislation Amendment Bill;<sup>461</sup>
  - minimum standard of comfort in the ACT for homes;<sup>462</sup>
  - physical location site for hearings of the Sentence Administration Board;<sup>463</sup>

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<sup>460</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements D*.

<sup>461</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 349 and pp 359–360.

<sup>462</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 352.

<sup>463</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 353.

- sentences for dangerous and culpable driving;<sup>464</sup>
- Reintegration Centre at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC);<sup>465</sup>
- trends in recidivism following the introduction of the reducing recidivism strategy;<sup>466</sup>
- video recordings of domestic violence perpetrators gesturing in court proceedings;<sup>467</sup>
- Drug and Alcohol Sentencing List;<sup>468</sup>
- funding for the women's legal service to help prevent family violence;<sup>469</sup>
- cases finalised in the Supreme Court under the target;<sup>470</sup>
- campaign to raise the age of criminal responsibility;<sup>471</sup>
- Victim Impact Statements and victims engaging with the Sentence Administration Board;<sup>472</sup>
- progress towards implementing the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child and Sexual Abuse;<sup>473</sup>
- impact of the stealthing legislation;<sup>474</sup> and
- coronial reform.<sup>475</sup>

## Key Issues

### Residential Tenancies

6.4. The Committee asked the Attorney-General if the ACT government had done any detailed analysis on the effect on the market of proposed rental reforms, noting that consultation on the Exposure Draft of the Residential Tenancies Legislation Amendment Bill closed on 6 August 2022. The Committee heard that the Government has undertaken detailed analysis of the effect on the market of the proposed rental reforms as part of the regulatory impact statement.<sup>476</sup> The Attorney-General advised:

Yes, certainly we have obviously looked around at other jurisdictions. As I touched on earlier, we undertook a detailed regulatory impact statement. We commissioned ACIL Allen to do it for the ACT government. It is more on the range of possible impacts on tenants and rental providers, and it made some quite useful findings. It identified that tenants were generally better off, benefiting

<sup>464</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 354.

<sup>465</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 358.

<sup>466</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 359.

<sup>467</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 361.

<sup>468</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 363.

<sup>469</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 364.

<sup>470</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 365.

<sup>471</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 366.

<sup>472</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 366.

<sup>473</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 368.

<sup>474</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 369.

<sup>475</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 370.

<sup>476</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 349.



from reduced energy costs and by improved health and wellbeing. This is the case even where full costs are passed through with increased rents. The introduction of minimum standards is unlikely to have sizeable impacts on the rental returns for rental providers. The impact on annual rental returns is likely to be small for most investors. The analysis also showed that the proposed standard will not drive large numbers of rental providers to withdraw their property from the rental market. It showed that, overall, the community would be better off as a result of the introduction of this standard.<sup>477</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.5. The Committee observed that the ACIL Allen report incorporated into the Regulation Impact Statement notes: ‘The full extent of the impacts on the rental market is beyond the scope of this report.’<sup>478</sup> The Committee noted views from the Real Estate Institute of potential withdrawals from the rental market and experiences in other jurisdictions, particularly Victoria.<sup>479</sup>

#### Recommendation 62

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake detailed economic rental market analysis of the proposed minimum rental standards on the rental supply, rental prices, energy efficiency standards and energy costs in the ACT.

## Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Gaming— Administrative arrangements

- 6.6. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- fair trading policy relating to Australian consumer law, fuel prices and licensing motor vehicle repairers;
  - policy relating to retirement villages, egg labelling, sale of goods and uncollected goods;
  - policy relating to the licensing of agents, hawkers, pawnbrokers, motor vehicle dealers, second-hand dealers and x-films; and
  - gaming policy.

### Matters considered

- 6.7. During the Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Gaming’s appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

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<sup>477</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 350.

<sup>478</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 351, ACIL Allen, *Minimum standards for residential rental properties, Regulation Impact Statement*, 6 September 2021, p 53.

<sup>479</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 351

- electronic gambling machines;<sup>480</sup>
- EV Strategy impact on motor vehicle dealers;<sup>481</sup>
- gambling incident register;<sup>482</sup>
- gambling self-exclusion;<sup>483</sup>
- real-time fuel price monitoring scheme;<sup>484</sup>
- ethical investing;<sup>485</sup>
- gambling support materials in other languages;<sup>486</sup>
- Diversification and Sustainability Fund;<sup>487</sup>
- electricity supply and affordability;<sup>488</sup>
- national online gaming laws;<sup>489</sup>
- minimising gambling harm;<sup>490</sup>
- gambling venues;<sup>491</sup>
- consumer law policy;<sup>492</sup> and
- sale of Canberra casino.<sup>493</sup>

## Key Issues

### Electronic gambling machines

6.8. The Committee questioned the Minister in relation to planned legislation for a central monitoring system and bet and load limits for electronic gaming machines.

6.9. Another target of the Parliamentary Agreement is to:

...introduce the harm reduction measures of \$5 bet limits and \$100 load-up limits following a thorough review and transitional plan to manage impacts on clubs, particularly smaller clubs that upgrade machines less regularly. A staged rollout of this reform should commence by the end of 2022 at the latest.<sup>494</sup>

<sup>480</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 109–112, pp 116–117, pp 126–128, pp 129–130 and pp 132–133.

<sup>481</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 113.

<sup>482</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 113–115.

<sup>483</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 113–115 and pp 134–135.

<sup>484</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 117–118.

<sup>485</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 118–121.

<sup>486</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 122.

<sup>487</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 122–124.

<sup>488</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 128–129.

<sup>489</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 131–132.

<sup>490</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 132.

<sup>491</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 135–136.

<sup>492</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 136–137.

<sup>493</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 137–138.

<sup>494</sup> *Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory*, Appendix 1.

- 6.10. The ACT Government engaged an independent organisation, BMM Australia, to consult on the technological and financial aspects of re-fitting ACT electronic gaming machines to make them compatible with the new bet and load up limits.<sup>495</sup> A discussion paper was made available for public consultation in April 2022<sup>496</sup> and the Government intended to introduce legislation during Legislative Assembly sittings in August; however, this was delayed after feedback from the gaming sector.<sup>497</sup> The Government is establishing a working group to continue to look at details of the limit implementation including the potential impacts on clubs, how the technological upgrades should be financed, and questions on how to best implement the limits to reduce harm in the community.<sup>498</sup>

### Recommendation 63

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with ACT gambling venues to implement the bet and load limits of poker machines in the ACT.

- 6.11. Electronic gaming machines that are currently in operation are not compatible with \$5 bet and \$100 load limits. The Government's preferred way forward is a Central Monitoring System, which will require that games be programmed and re-loaded onto the machines and that hardware in clubs such as cabling be upgraded.<sup>499</sup>
- 6.12. The ACT Government also has a target of reducing the number of electronic gaming machines in total down to 3 500 by mid 2025.<sup>500</sup>
- 6.13. Feedback from clubs in the ACT indicates that these policies have made them uncertain about the future of gaming machines in their clubs:

I guess their concern is about spending all this money on machines when, in 10 years' time, the policy may be no more machines in the ACT. They have a real concern about where things are going and there is no long-term plan.<sup>501</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.14. Issues such as what form the implementation of these policies will take, when legislation will be introduced, and what compensation if any will be provided for clubs to upgrade their old machines or buy new ones are yet to be finalised. The Committee believes that this is making clubs unsure about how to plan for the future because they need details in order to develop strategies around these considerable financial investments.

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<sup>495</sup> Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *ACT Government, Discussion Paper: Lowering bet and credit limits for electronic gaming machines*, p 6.

<sup>496</sup> Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *ACT Government, Discussion Paper: Lowering bet and credit limits for electronic gaming machines*.

<sup>497</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Gaming, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 111.

<sup>498</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Gaming, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 111.

<sup>499</sup> Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *ACT Government, Discussion Paper: Lowering bet and credit limits for electronic gaming machines*, p 2.

<sup>500</sup> *Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory*, Appendix 1.

<sup>501</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 111.

### Recommendation 64

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a 10–15-year vision for the future of poker machines in the ACT to provide clarity to the community.

### Gambling incident register

- 6.15. Gambling harm in the ACT can be measured in several ways. Gambling venues are required to enter details of gambling harm or possible harm into a Gambling Incident Register, which is held by the Gambling and Racing Commission (the Gambling Commission).<sup>502</sup> Since 2018-19 there has been a 25 percent increase in reports to the register, with the bulk of reports coming from four venues. Ms Chan, CEO of the Gambling Commission, explained to the Committee that the increase is probably due to an education campaign which has been running to inform clubs of their reporting responsibilities and how to use the Register. She also noted that different clubs will have varying reporting levels based on their size, patronage etc.<sup>503</sup>
- 6.16. The Committee heard that the Gambling Commission are planning to work with clubs who have smaller numbers of instance reporting to understand the reasons behind the lower levels of instances.<sup>504</sup>
- 6.17. The ACT also runs a Gambling Exclusion Scheme which ‘provides a means for people to be excluded from gambling at gambling venues in the ACT.’<sup>505</sup> The exclusion can be initiated by the individual or the gambling venue and the details are lodged with the Gambling Commission. The Committee also heard that under the new system of reporting, clubs are able to get a better holistic picture of patron’s interactions to better help the clubs support patrons.<sup>506</sup>
- 6.18. A more direct way of measuring gambling harm which has been used in the ACT is surveys. In 2019 an ACT Gambling Survey was conducted in which random residents of certain postcodes were phoned and questioned on their gambling habits, and this informed a report which was published by the ANU Centre for Gambling Research.<sup>507</sup> This survey continues to serve as the base research against which the Gambling and Racing Commission measures its Strategic Indicator 1: Prevent and Reduce Gambling Harm in the ACT. The next gambling prevalence survey will be conducted in 2024.<sup>508</sup> The Committee raised concerns during the hearings at the lack of detail in the Commission’s strategic objectives:

<sup>502</sup> Ms Yu Lan Chan, CEO, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Justice and Community Safety Committee Hansard, Inquiry into Annual Reports 2020-21*, p 175.

<sup>503</sup> Ms Yu Lan Chan, CEO, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 113.

<sup>504</sup> Ms Yu Lan Chan, CEO, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 114.

<sup>505</sup> ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *ACT Gambling Exclusion Scheme Fact Sheet*, p 1.

<sup>506</sup> Ms Yu Lan Chan, CEO, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 114.

<sup>507</sup> M Paterson, P Leslie, M Taylor, *2019 ACT Gambling Survey*, ANU Centre for Gambling Research.

<sup>508</sup> ACT Government, Statements B, *Strategic Objectives and Indicators*, p 102.

[In] the gambling and racing part of the budget, page 101 on budget statement B, strategic objective number 1 is to take meaningful action to prevent gambling harm. And basically the two pages are just a reiterating of the research on this that was conducted in 2019 including the strategic indicator.

[...]

There appears to be very little depth in comparison to other areas of the budget in terms of strategic objectives or meeting strategic objectives I guess on a yearly basis.<sup>509</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.19. The Committee is of the view that the data on problem gambling which is reported by venues is critical for conducting meaningful research on gambling harm trends and on the effects of harm reduction policies. The Committee believes that more work needs to be done to ensure that this data is accurate, update to date, and meaningfully analysed to inform clearly defined harm reduction targets.

#### **Recommendation 65**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with every club group and individual club to ensure that reporting on the Gambling Incident Register is consistent across clubs in line with the legislation, in particular around reporting on red flag behaviours.

#### **Recommendation 66**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission publicly report data that is collected (as directed by legislation) from gambling venues in the ACT (including from the Gambling Incident Register, self-exclusion data).

#### **Recommendation 67**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission revise and clearly define strategic objectives and accountability objectives in future papers to include clear objectives to reduce harm.

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<sup>509</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 132.

## Gambling self-exclusion

- 6.20. As noted above in paragraph 6.19, self-exclusion is a practice whereby a problem gambler self-identifies and volunteers to self-exclude from gambling venues in the ACT.<sup>510</sup>
- 6.21. The Committee noted during the hearings that data and anecdotal evidence show that women in the ACT are self-excluding from gambling at a far lower rate than men, which is different from the national average where the split is 50/50.<sup>511</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.22. The Committee is of the view that such a disparity in self-exclusion rates between men and women in the ACT merits special attention in order to find out if women need extra support in that area.

#### Recommendation 68

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate why women appear to be self-excluding from gambling venues at far less the rate of men, and allocate funding to enable women equal opportunity to self-exclude.

## Gambling support materials in other languages

- 6.23. During the Inquiry into the 2020-21 Annual Reports, the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission reported that they had been told that people in the community wanted gambling support materials to be available in languages other than English. The Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety subsequently recommended that 'the ACT Government provide gambling harm and support services information in other languages to assist those communities that do not speak English'.<sup>512</sup>
- 6.24. During the hearings of the current Inquiry, Ms Chan, provided an update to the Committee on the progress of this. She said that the Gambling and Racing Commission is working with gambling support services and local multicultural community groups on this and that they do not have an estimated finalisation date for the project. She also noted that Gambling Help Online, a nationwide information and support organisation, has help materials in various languages available on their website.<sup>513</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.25. The Committee is concerned that some people in the community will continue to be unable to access gambling support materials in their languages, as they are not aware that these materials exist online.

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<sup>510</sup> Exclusion Support, <https://www.gamblingandracing.act.gov.au/gambling-help/exclusion-support>, (accessed 26 August 2022).

<sup>511</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 134.

<sup>512</sup> Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21*, May 2022, p 11.

<sup>513</sup> Ms Yu Lan Chan, CEO, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 122.

### Recommendation 69

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide in-venue information, in a range of languages, to inform people harmed by gambling who do not speak English that materials are available in their language on-line and how to access these.

## Gambling venues

- 6.26. One of the targets of the current ACT Government, as noted in the 10th Assembly Parliamentary and Governing Agreement, is to:

...support clubs to become heat and smoke refuges for local communities. This will include ensuring appropriate air filtration systems, and financial payments for venues designated as official extreme weather refuge sites.<sup>514</sup>

- 6.27. The Attorney-General provided an update on this work during the public hearings. A subcommittee of the Ministerial Advisory Council (the Heat and Smoke Refuge Working Group) has been established to consider the issues surrounding this policy and is due to report to the Assembly at the end of 2023.<sup>515</sup>

## Committee comment

- 6.28. The Committee supports the establishment of community clubs as smoke and heat refuges, but believes that for some members of the community, seeking refuge in a gambling venue during a time of high stress may trigger unhealthy gambling behaviours. The Committee would like to ensure that this issue is mitigated in line with the Government's overarching policy of gambling harm reduction.

### Recommendation 70

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government in its development of any smoke and heat relief legislation strongly consider the potential for harm in this proposal in encouraging individuals in times of great stress to enter clubs that are providers of gambling and alcohol products.

## Special Minister of State—Administrative arrangements

- 6.29. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- electoral policy; and
- racing policy.

<sup>514</sup> *Parliamentary & Governing Agreement: 10th Legislative Assembly Australian Capital Territory*, Appendix 1.

<sup>515</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Minister for Gaming, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 136.

## Matters considered

6.30. During the Special Minister of State's appearance before the Committee on 26 August 2022, the following matter was considered:

- ACT racing codes Memorandum of Understanding (MOU).<sup>516</sup>

## Key Issues

### ACT Racing codes MOU

6.31. During hearings, the Committee asked the Special Minister of State about the MOU for ACT racing codes, including the horse racing and harness industries.

6.32. The Minister told the Committee that the ACT Government has:

...signed an MOU for five years to provide them with funding and also to work on a range of animal welfare issues throughout that five years and following the end of that five years I can imagine we will look at what the opportunities are beyond that and also the performance of the racing clubs against the MOU KPIs.<sup>517</sup>

6.33. The Minister also noted that the level of KPIs in the current MOU are more extensive than previous MOUs. This will assist the Government and the industry to develop a new governance framework that will include, amongst other things, long-term opportunities for financial self-sufficiency for the ACT racing industry.<sup>518</sup>

6.34. The Committee noted that the ICRC completed a report titled *Investigation into the ACT racing industry* in 2011 which included a recommendation for the racing codes to become self-sufficient for funding.

6.35. The Minister told the Committee that since he has been the Minister, he has observed the racing codes actively working towards improving their financial positions. Specifically in relation to the ICRC report, he noted that the government did not agree on the exact recommendation that funding indexation adjustment of CPI minus one per cent adjustment, rather they continued with the same funding level of CPI minus 0.5 percent.<sup>519</sup>

### Recommendation 71

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the racing industry through the MOU to determine a long-term trajectory for Canberra's racing codes to become self-sufficient.

<sup>516</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 527–529 and 532–534.

<sup>517</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 528.

<sup>518</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 528.

<sup>519</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Special Minister of State, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 533.



- 6.36. The Committee heard that an MOU with various racing clubs on funding for the next five years and animal welfare issues was recently negotiated.<sup>520</sup> The MOU is more extensive than previously due to the level of KPIs included. The MOU also includes a new governance framework.<sup>521</sup> There have also been discussions on financial self-sufficiency with the ACT racing industry.
- 6.37. Minister Steel noted that Justice and Community Safety Directorate officials were involved in negotiations on the MOU as well as racing clubs. However, involvement of non-executive members of the government was indirect.<sup>522</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.38. The Committee is of the view that an MOU with the racing industry is balancing a number of objectives and there needs to be transparency for those involved.

#### Recommendation 72

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify via a public statement who is involved in the negotiations of the Racing MOU.

## Minister for Corrections—Administrative arrangements

- 6.39. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- corrective services.

#### Matters considered

- 6.40. During the Minister for Corrective Service's appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- education options for detainees;<sup>523</sup>
- use of spit hoods at the AMC;<sup>524</sup>
- responses to the Inspector of Corrective Services critical incident reports;<sup>525</sup>
- case management unit;<sup>526</sup>
- ACT Corrective Services Blueprint for Change;<sup>527</sup>
- Smoke-free AMC plan;<sup>528</sup>

<sup>520</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 528.

<sup>521</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 532–533.

<sup>522</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 528.

<sup>523</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 864–866.

<sup>524</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 866.

<sup>525</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 867–868.

<sup>526</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 868–871.

<sup>527</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 871–872.

<sup>528</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 872–874.

- detainee visitation and contact with family and friends policies;<sup>529</sup>
- recruitment and retention of women in corrective services;<sup>530</sup>
- timeline for the reintegration centre and the transitional release centre;<sup>531</sup>
- treatment of addiction to alcohol and other drugs;<sup>532</sup> and
- funding for the Inspector of Corrective Services.<sup>533</sup>

## Key Issues

### Forensic psychologist services

- 6.41. The Committee heard that there was funding for 10 case workers at ACT Corrective Services with significant workloads. There is some specific funding in the 2022-23 ACT Budget to target intensive care case management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees. To assist with the complexity of planning and release planning two additional case managers have been added with funding for a total of three over two years as part of a pilot program.<sup>534</sup>
- 6.42. There is currently one forensic psychologist working with the therapeutic teams but not with the case management team. There are contracted services with one forensic psychologist and one specialist sex offender psychologist.<sup>535</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.43. The Committee is of the view that the case management team at the AMC should be supported though guidance from forensic psychologist services to help them deal with detainees as occurs in other jurisdictions.

#### Recommendation 73

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand the forensic psychologist service at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) to the management case unit to provide group guidance on dealing with difficult clients.

<sup>529</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 874–875.

<sup>530</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 875–877.

<sup>531</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 877–880.

<sup>532</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 880–882.

<sup>533</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 882–883.

<sup>534</sup> Ms Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, JACS Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 869–870.

<sup>535</sup> Ms Narelle Pamplin, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration, ACT Corrective Services, JACS Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 870.

## Reintegration Centre

6.44. The ACT Corrective Services transitional release program supports rehabilitation and prepares detainees for return to the community and aims to reduce the disadvantage that custody provides to securing employment.<sup>536</sup>

6.45. The Reintegration Centre was an initiative in the 2019-20 ACT Budget:

The Government will increase the capacity of the Alexander Maconochie Centre by constructing a Reintegration Centre to deliver more transitional release programs. The Reintegration Centre will provide accommodation for up to 80 low risk detainees and support them to improve living skills, re-establish connections with family and friends and pursue employment, rehabilitation and education opportunities. This initiative is part of the Government's efforts to reduce recidivism by helping more detainees onto new pathways after leaving a custodial sentence.<sup>537</sup>

6.46. In the 2021-2022 ACT Budgets the government announced it would further invest in a Reintegration Centre to support pathways out of the justice system.<sup>538</sup>

6.47. However, at the hearings, the Committee heard that the Reintegration Centre had been put on hold to allow for repairs and improvements following storm damage an assessment on the long-term future of the accommodation needs for the facility.<sup>539</sup> The ACT Corrective Services website states:

The Reintegration Centre is under development.

The Reintegration Centre operating model is expected to be finalised in 2021.<sup>540</sup>

6.48. ACT Corrective Services, however, are focusing on increasing use of the existing Transitional Release Centre (TRC):

Since April this year, when the program was reinstated, post COVID, we have had eight people come through. Seven men and one woman have completed the TRC program. We are currently piloting an intensive reintegration program with the women detainees, which is based around alcohol and other drug intensive treatment.<sup>541</sup>

6.49. While the Reintegration Centre was planned for a capacity for up to 60 beds, the TRC has capacity for 15-20 beds. Work is currently being done on infrastructure planning, which is expected to be completed at the end of this year and feed into the budget cycle next year.

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<sup>536</sup> ACT Corrective Services, *Transitional Release Program*, <https://correctiveservices.act.gov.au/reintegration-and-release/transitional-release-program> (accessed 19 September 2022).

<sup>537</sup> ACT Government, *2021-22 Budget Outlook*, p 158.

<sup>538</sup> ACT Government, *2021-22 Budget Outlook*, p 341.

<sup>539</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 877.

<sup>540</sup> ACT Corrective Services, *Reintegration Centre* <https://correctiveservices.act.gov.au/reintegration-and-release/reintegration-centre> (accessed 19 September 2022).

<sup>541</sup> Ms Narelle Pamplin, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 878.

- 6.50. In response to the Standing Committee for Justice and Community Safety report no. 6 on its *Inquiry into the Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21*, recommendation 15 to restart the reintegration centre project, the Government noted:

Significant program of reform is underway to reduce recidivism in the ACT and support the provision of a leading correctional service. ACT Corrective Services (ACTCS) is working to enhance reintegration opportunities for detainees returning to the community, including accommodation priorities, that best manage the current detainee numbers and profiles. Another focus this term has been the addressing the underutilisation of the Transitional Release Centre. Work is also being undertaken to modernise and improve programs and services available to detainees. This includes the development of an Integrated Offender Management Model. Investment in these areas will assist in reducing recidivism and will better support detainees transitioning back into the community from a custodial setting. The Government is committed to exploring reintegration and recidivism programs that equally apply to both male and female detainees, noting the proposed Centre was only designed to accommodate male detainees.<sup>542</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.51. The Committee is of the view that, given budget commitments were made several budgets ago to the building of the Reintegration Centre, and the ongoing delays, the ACT Government should be clearer on when it expects the Reintegration Centre to be operational.

#### Recommendation 74

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a timeline for the construction of the Reintegration Centre.

#### Education at the AMC

- 6.52. The Committee heard that the contract for the provision of educational and vocational training expired in June 2021 and was extended for a further six months as a tender process was to be conducted. While the contractor withdrew from the contract in October 2021, it was noted that education activities had been suspended since June 2021 due to lockdowns and other events. At the time of the hearing, ACT Corrective Services were in discussions with tenderers following going out to market.<sup>543</sup> Five organisations submitted a bid.<sup>544</sup>

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<sup>542</sup> ACT Government, *Report No.6 of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21—Government Response*, p 8.

<sup>543</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 864.

<sup>544</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *answer to QON 326*, 15 September 2022, (received 15 September 2022).

6.53. The Commissioner stated that the procurement has taken some time to finalise:

The negotiation process with potential preferred tenderers has been a long process. A number of people who bid in the first process did not put sufficient material in their tender bid to be considered. So we were limited by who we had on our panel and we need to get the service we need to get. I will not say anything more about it, because we have not finished discussions with potential tenderers. I hope to bring that to a conclusion very soon. But that is where we are. If you ask me why it takes so long; the tender process is a long and complicated one. One has to make sure that you provide government with value for money through a process and this is a fairly significant contract for us.<sup>545</sup>

6.54. Some construction programs (Certificate II) have been running during this time by education provider Quality Training in Construction. As of 14 September, there were 12 detainees engaged in distance tertiary education and another 67 enrolled in vocational training.<sup>546</sup> Therefore, there has been limited education since June 2021 with activities limited ad hoc programs and support for tertiary studies undertaken through external providers.<sup>547</sup>

6.55. This is of concern given that detainees often have limited education and education is an important part of rehabilitation:

It has been a year now that there have been no education services in the AMC, and that includes vocational services too. So we are not just talking about basic literacy and numeracy; we are talking about trades and important skills for rehabilitation....

...When people are in jail, keeping them busy is obviously a really important thing. Education is part of that; it is not the whole solution. But it is a huge gap.<sup>548</sup>

6.56. Detainee feedback received as part of the Healthy Prison Review was that some of the education at the AMC was not relevant to them finding employment once released.<sup>549</sup> Educational requirements in terms of employment opportunities were part of the statement of requirements for the tender process.<sup>550</sup>

#### Committee comment

6.57. The Committee is of the view that given it is nearly a year since education has last been available to detainees on a substantive level and the critical role this plays in rehabilitation and successful transition back into the community on release that the provision of education at the AMC should be addressed as a matter of urgency.

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<sup>545</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 865.

<sup>546</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *answer to QON 326*, 15 September 2022, (received 15 September 2022).

<sup>547</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 865.

<sup>548</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September, p 858.

<sup>549</sup> ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, *Healthy Prison Review*, November 2019 p 21, p 85, p 87, and pp 124–125.

<sup>550</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 865.

### Recommendation 75

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise resources to finding a quality tenderer for the provision of education at the AMC.

### Recommendation 76

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the new provider to ensure the new offering is aligned with skills shortages or industries in demand.

## Smoking at the AMC

- 6.58. The 'Transition of AMC to a smoke-free environment' was announced on 1 September 2022 which will involve stakeholder engagement and the transition to take around 12 months.<sup>551</sup>
- 6.59. The Committee heard that there is a detailed plan to support detainees in a smoke-free environment at the AMC.<sup>552</sup> A high proportion of AMC detainees are smokers, noting a national survey indicating that up to 82 percent of detainees are smokers.<sup>553</sup> 14 percent of detainees first took up smoking while they were in detention.<sup>554</sup> Of these, many detainees would like to give up smoking but have not yet been able to do so.<sup>555</sup>
- 6.60. Counselling support is required to provide support to detainees in giving up smoking for those who want it:

There will need to be a degree of tailoring of a program for the individual. They will all have had different experiences with smoking. Some of them may have given it up and then gone back to it; some may have never had a chance and experience of giving it up. There will be a reasonable amount of tailoring to individuals, and a good deal of ongoing support to individuals—and, of course, the staff as well. Ultimately, this does not require them to give up, but it does require them to not smoke for periods during shift. Staff are roundly supportive of no-smoking in the facility, but some smokers will find that challenging, and we need to make sure that they are also provided with sufficient support to undertake this work.<sup>556</sup>

- 6.61. The Committee were told that resourcing from Justice Health to support the AMC Smoke Free Project would be a single nurse to assist with smoking cessation.<sup>557</sup> While the role of this nurse is under review, it is expected that the role will facilitate the following:

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<sup>551</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, 'Transition of AMC to smoke-free environment', Media release, 1 September 2022.

<sup>552</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 872.

<sup>553</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 874.

<sup>554</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, 'Transition of AMC to smoke-free environment', Media release, 1 September 2022.

<sup>555</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 873.

<sup>556</sup> Mr Ray Johnson, Commissioner, ACT Corrective Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 873.

<sup>557</sup> Ms Katie McKenzie, Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 328.

- provide 'nursing intervention' such as, but not limited to, the provision of advice, counselling, and/or strategies to help people quit smoking;
- provide health information regarding the negative health effects of smoking including smoking related causes of death, disease, and disability;
- discuss the health and psychosocial benefits of quitting;
- support with the management of symptoms of nicotine withdrawal; and
- provide Nicotine Replacement Therapy (NRT).<sup>558</sup>

6.62. The Committee were also told that the allocated budget for counselling, psychology and nursing support is also under review.<sup>559</sup>

#### Committee comment

6.63. The Committee is of the view that for the transition to a smoke-free environment at the AMC to be successful given the high percentage of detainees who smoke that detainees need to be adequately supported.

#### Recommendation 77

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase addiction counselling at the AMC.

#### Accommodation of sentenced and unsentenced detainees

6.64. The Committee heard that the ACT Human Rights Commission drew the issue of sentenced and unsentenced detainees accommodated together to the attention of the Inspector of Corrective Services as part of a submission to the Healthy Prisons Review. In the Human Rights Commissioner's view, there had not been any exceptional circumstances leading to the two groups being incarcerated together since the prison was opened in 2009:

Since its inception, remand and sentenced detainees have been managed in a mixed custodial setting within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). The separation of remanded and sentenced detainees remains a challenge due to the high numbers of remand detainees and the complexities of managing a range of detainee cohorts in one facility. While the above does not allow for complete separation to occur, ACT Corrective Services continues to separate detainees where necessary based on risk, while recognising the status of remandees as unconvicted persons. The primary consideration when housing detainees is the

<sup>558</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Justice Health, *answer to QON 274*, 9 September 2022, (received 9 September 2022).

<sup>559</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Justice Health, *answer to QON 274*, 9 September 2022, (received 9 September 2022).

safety of all detainees irrespective of whether they are on remand or sentenced.<sup>560</sup>

- 6.65. The Commissioner also noted that the issue could be open to legal challenge as a breach of human rights, although they were not aware of any such cases or intervened in any.<sup>561</sup>
- 6.66. As of 9 September 2022, at the AMC there were 11 sentenced women detainees in the AMC and 12 women detainees on remand.<sup>562</sup> The Committee heard that there were around 400-500 males in this group.<sup>563</sup>
- 6.67. The Blueprint for Change Oversight Committee has responsibility for addressing reforms for staffing matters in the AMC and Court Transport Unity (CTU).<sup>564</sup> The Committee considered the issue of detaining sentenced and unsentenced detainees together noting the impact on detainee tensions, and subsequently, staff working conditions as a concern:

The most pressing of the issues arising from this situation is housing sentenced detainees with those on remand and the limited accommodation options for female detainees. A new facility or facilities would enable many of the above issue to be addressed through separate specialist facilities rather than the current insufficient solution.<sup>565</sup>

- 6.68. As part of recommendation 8 of the Blueprint for Change report, accommodation changes are proposed with a view to accommodating detainees in accordance with their human rights.<sup>566</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.69. The Committee is of the view that the government is vulnerable to a legal challenge over a potential breach of human rights noting the views of the Human Rights Commissioner and recommendations arising out of the Inspector of Corrective Services Healthy Prisons review.

#### Recommendation 78

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures it meets legislative requirements in the *Corrections Management Act 2007* and the *Human Rights Act 2004* in respect to accommodating sentenced and unsentenced detainees.

<sup>560</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *answer to QON 329*, 14 September 2022, (received 15 September 2022).

<sup>561</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 943.

<sup>562</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Corrections, *answer to QON 329*, 14 September 2022, (received 15 September 2022).

<sup>563</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 943.

<sup>564</sup> Justice and Community Safety Directorate <https://www.justice.act.gov.au/safer-communities/blueprint-change-oversight-committee> (accessed 15 September 2022).

<sup>565</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights President, *Answer to Question Taken on Notice 321* dated 7 September 2022 (received 8 September 2022). Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Blueprint for Change* report, p 28.

<sup>566</sup> Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Blueprint for Change* report, p 30.



## ACT Inspector of Correctional Services

- 6.70. The ACT Inspector of Correctional Services provides independent oversight of ACT correctional and youth justice facilities. The Inspector of Correctional Services provides this oversight through conducting reviews of ACT correctional facilities and services and reviewing critical incidents.<sup>567</sup>

### Matters considered

- 6.71. During the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- staffing levels;<sup>568</sup>
- ACT Watch House;<sup>569</sup>
- Healthy Prisons Review;<sup>570</sup>
- working with Indigenous detainees;<sup>571</sup>
- education and vocational training for detainees;<sup>572</sup>
- health based approach to drug use and addition;<sup>573</sup>
- Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture;<sup>574</sup> and
- Government responses to critical incident reports.<sup>575</sup>

### Key Issues

#### Staff funding for ACT Inspector of Correctional Services

- 6.72. The Committee raised the issue of current full-time employment (FTE) funding for the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services (ICS).<sup>576</sup> The Committee heard that the ICS has sought funding for an additional staff member in three budget bids.<sup>577</sup> ICS is funding a third person using operational funding, and that funding has not increased since 2017 to include an additional centre, Bimberi.<sup>578</sup> The Committee also heard the ICS has no Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander staff member, despite legislative requirements, and that the ICS are outsourcing input to NSW based organisations.<sup>579</sup>

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<sup>567</sup> ACT Inspector of Correctional Services, <https://www.ics.act.gov.au/about-us> (accessed 19 September 2022).

<sup>568</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 855–856.

<sup>569</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 856 and p 861.

<sup>570</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 856.

<sup>571</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 857.

<sup>572</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 858.

<sup>573</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 858.

<sup>574</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 859–862.

<sup>575</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 862–863.

<sup>576</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 855.

<sup>577</sup> Mr Neil McAllister, Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 855.

<sup>578</sup> Mr Neil McAllister, Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 855–856.

<sup>579</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 855–857.

- 6.73. The Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, Rebecca Minty, commented that the ACT ICS is jointly designated as the National Preventative Mechanism (NPM), with the ACT Ombudsman.<sup>580</sup> The Committee heard that while there is establishment funding from the Commonwealth (\$71,500) for the ICS, the ICS has no further funding from the ACT Government.<sup>581</sup>
- 6.74. The Committee heard that it was initially envisaged that the ICS would be required to review one critical incident per year under the legislation, but it has averaged to three or four.<sup>582</sup> This has impacted on the ICS' ability to conduct regular visits for Bimberi.<sup>583</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.75. The Committee is concerned that the ICS does not have adequate FTE funding, despite significant increases in workload and critical incidents.<sup>584</sup> These factors suggest that funding is limiting the ICS' capacity for oversight.

#### Recommendation 79

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase FTE funding to the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services to ensure they can comply with their legislated requirements of oversight particularly as the workload of critical incidents has increased significantly.

## Minister for Human Rights—Administrative arrangements

- 6.76. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- ACT Human Rights Commission;
  - human rights and anti-discrimination policy;
  - Policy relating to births, deaths, parentage, marriages, civil unions, domestic relationships, voluntary assisted dying/end of life; and
  - Victims of Crime Commissioner.

## Matters considered—Emergency Services

- 6.77. During the Minister for Human Rights appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Standing Committee on JACS report—Inquiry into petition 32-21,<sup>585</sup>

<sup>580</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 859.

<sup>581</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 859.

<sup>582</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 859.

<sup>583</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 859–860.

<sup>584</sup> Ms Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 859–860.

<sup>585</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 953–954 and pp 964–965.

- ACT Policing and the Human Rights Act;<sup>586</sup>
- Territory Rights Bill in the Australian Senate;<sup>587</sup>
- child safe standards;<sup>588</sup>
- Our Booris, Our Way report;<sup>589</sup>
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Commissioner;<sup>590</sup>
- housing sentenced and unsentenced detainees;<sup>591</sup>
- Corrections Management Act;<sup>592</sup>
- complaints management;<sup>593</sup> and
- Discrimination Amendment Bill.<sup>594</sup>

## Human Rights Commission

6.78. The ACT Human Rights Commission handles complaints in relation to health, disability and community services, abuse of vulnerable people and complaints under discrimination law. The Commission also increases awareness of the rights and responsibilities of service users and service providers, provides advice to government and others regarding their human rights obligations, and advocates for children, young people, adults experiencing vulnerability and victims of crime.<sup>595</sup>

## Matters considered

- 6.79. During the ACT Human Rights Commission’s appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Government response to the recommendations of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse;<sup>596</sup>
  - spit hoods;<sup>597</sup>
  - donor conceived people;<sup>598</sup>.
  - funding for legal advice;<sup>599</sup>.

<sup>586</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 954.

<sup>587</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 954–957.

<sup>588</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 957–958.

<sup>589</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 959–960.

<sup>590</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 960–961.

<sup>591</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 961.

<sup>592</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 961–962.

<sup>593</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 962–963.

<sup>594</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 963–964.

<sup>595</sup> ACT Human Rights Commission webpage: <https://hrc.act.gov.au> (accessed 6 September 2022).

<sup>596</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 939–940.

<sup>597</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 940–942.

<sup>598</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 942.

<sup>599</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 943.

- housing of sentenced and unsentenced detainees;<sup>600</sup>
- complaints funding;<sup>601</sup>
- Territory Rights Bill in the Australian Senate;<sup>602</sup>
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children’s Commissioner;<sup>603</sup>
- status of the victims of crimes register;<sup>604</sup>
- community education on LGBT conversion practices;<sup>605</sup>
- cosmetic surgery complaints;<sup>606</sup> and
- elder abuse.<sup>607</sup>

## Minister for Policing and Emergency Services— Administrative arrangements

6.80. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:

- bushfire and other natural disaster resilience and response;
- emergency management and the Emergency Services Agency (ACT Fire and Rescue, ACT Ambulance Service, State Emergency Service, Rural Fire Service); and
- policing policy and ACT Policing.

## Matters considered—Emergency Services

6.81. During the Minister for Policing and Emergency Services appearance before the Committee on 1 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- funding for staff wellbeing;<sup>608</sup>
- Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD);<sup>609</sup>
- redeployment opportunities;<sup>610</sup>
- recruitment of firefighters;<sup>611</sup>
- firefighting vehicles;<sup>612</sup>

<sup>600</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 943–944.

<sup>601</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 944–945.

<sup>602</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 945.

<sup>603</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 945–946.

<sup>604</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 946–948.

<sup>605</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 948–949.

<sup>606</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 949–951.

<sup>607</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 951–952.

<sup>608</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 886.

<sup>609</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 887–890.

<sup>610</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 888–889.

<sup>611</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 890–892.

<sup>612</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 892–894.

- Joint Emergency Service Centre at Gungahlin;<sup>613</sup>
- Regional Emergency Service Centres;<sup>614</sup>
- recruitment of ambulance service paramedics;<sup>615</sup> and
- recruitment of female firefighters.<sup>616</sup>

## Key Issues

### Independent recruitment review for ACT Fire and Rescue Service

- 6.82. The Committee raised the recruitment practices of ACT Fire and Rescue services.<sup>617</sup> Discussions examined gender balances and the recruitment of female firefighters.<sup>618</sup>
- 6.83. The Committee heard that the percentage of successful female recruits has not increased, however, there has been an increase in females seeking to apply.<sup>619</sup> Ms Whelan, Commissioner, outlined ACT Fire and Rescue's strategy over the last 18 months consisting of a pre-application boot camp and fitness program, and follow up provided to unsuccessful applicants with a view to working with them to increase their fitness levels to pass the test in the future.<sup>620</sup> The Commissioner spoke on behalf of female firefighters in ACT Fire and Rescue, stating, they did not believe current testing perpetrated a culture problem.<sup>621</sup> The Committee also heard that the service is part of the National Coalition for Change.<sup>622</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.84. The Committee is of the view that an independent review of ACT Fire and Rescue's recruitment practices are needed. This is to ensure practices do not discriminate against women, whilst upholding physical fitness standards to ensure the safety of the community and firefighters.

### Recommendation 80

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an independent review of recruitment practices to ensure they are fit for purpose and don't discriminate against women applying for the ACT Fire and Rescue Service.

<sup>613</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 894.

<sup>614</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 894–896.

<sup>615</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 896.

<sup>616</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 896–897.

<sup>617</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 896.

<sup>618</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Committee Member, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 896–897.

<sup>619</sup> Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 897.

<sup>620</sup> Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, pp 896–897.

<sup>621</sup> Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 897.

<sup>622</sup> Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 897.

## Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder research study

- 6.85. The Committee examined issues regarding management and support for Emergency Services personnel (ESP) experiencing PTSD.<sup>623</sup> The Commissioner for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) told the Committee that:

...we are very proud to say that we have had a number of paramedic and firefighters attend the ADF arts program, which is a program run with the University of Canberra. That is a four-week program that is undergoing a PhD study at the moment to support the efficacy of the program. We have four applicants ready for the next program. That will start in a couple of months.<sup>624</sup>

- 6.86. The program aims to address a range of wellbeing issues through the arts.<sup>625</sup> The Committee were advised that the ESA has a Memorandum of Understanding with the Australian Defence Force (ADF) who offer the ESA four places each year.<sup>626</sup>
- 6.87. The ADF has commissioned the University of Canberra to complete a study to examine the Defence AARTS Program efficacy using an Applied Arts Based Research methodology.<sup>627</sup> Program evaluations have indicated psychological and psychosocial benefits to participants.<sup>628</sup>

## Committee comment

- 6.88. The Committee is of the view that the government table the report from the University of Canberra so the AARTS program efficacy can be considered by the Assembly.

### Recommendation 81

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the report from the University of Canberra research study on PTSD for Emergency Services Personnel in the Assembly when it is completed.

## Joint Emergency Services Centre Gungahlin

- 6.89. The Committee raised the Joint Emergency Services Centre (JESC) in Gungahlin, questioning if funding has been allocated and when the project will start.<sup>629</sup> The Minister for Policing and Emergency Services stated that the total project value for a four-year period, 2021-22 to 2024-25 is \$8.227 million and that there is \$7.930 million remaining for

<sup>623</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, Committee Chair, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 887.

<sup>624</sup> Ms Georgeina Whelan, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 888.

<sup>625</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 308*, 1 September (received 13 September 2022), p 2.

<sup>626</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 308*, 1 September (received 13 September 2022), p 2.

<sup>627</sup> University of Canberra, *Creative Arts and Trauma*, [Defence ARRTS 21-23 — University of Canberra Research Portal](#) (accessed 15 September 2022).

<sup>628</sup> University of Canberra, *Creative Arts and Trauma*, [Defence ARRTS 21-23 — University of Canberra Research Portal](#) (accessed 14 September 2022).

<sup>629</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 894.

the project for 2022-23 to 2024-25 (three years).<sup>630</sup> Expenditure cessation mentioned in the Budget Outlook on page 31 and page 33 reflect the estimated project completion in 2024-25.<sup>631</sup>

6.90. Ms Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, JACS, commented a three-phase approach to the JESC is currently being implemented:

- identifying a site for relocation of the volunteer services;
- retrofit the space this frees up and expand Policing footprint in the JECS facility; and
- preliminary options and design work on relocation for Ambulance/Fire and Rescue Services in the JESC.<sup>632</sup>

6.91. Ms Doran commented that design work and site identification have commenced.<sup>633</sup> Discussions indicated that relocation of volunteers would occur in mid-2023, which would then allow the retrofitting and expansion to occur.<sup>634</sup>

### Committee comment

6.92. The Committee is of the view that it is critical for the government to provide evidence of progress on the JESC in Gungahlin.

#### Recommendation 82

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides the detail of its progress on the Joint Emergency Services Centre in Gungahlin within their annual reports.

### Matters considered—Policing

6.93. During the Minister for Policing and Emergency Services' appearance before the Committee on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- calls to police on emergency and operational phonelines;<sup>635</sup>
- online reporting;<sup>636</sup>
- spit hoods;<sup>637</sup>

<sup>630</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QON 279*, 2 September 2022 (received 15 September 2022)

<sup>631</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QON 279*, 2 September 2022 (received 15 September 2022)

<sup>632</sup> Ms Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, JACS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 894.

<sup>633</sup> Ms Karen Doran, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety, JACS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 894.

<sup>634</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 894.

<sup>635</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 658–660.

<sup>636</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 660.

<sup>637</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 660–662 and pp 667–668.

- DNA evidence and motor vehicle offences;<sup>638</sup>
- budget funding for the joint organised crime taskforce;<sup>639</sup>
- bail processes;<sup>640</sup>
- strategic accommodation study for police;<sup>641</sup>
- drug offences;<sup>642</sup>
- body-worn cameras;<sup>643</sup> and
- reportable conduct and complaints.<sup>644</sup>

## Key Issues

### Spit hoods

- 6.94. The Committee heard that spit hoods are governed by the Australian Federal Police Commissioner's Order 3 on operational safety and used seldomly to prevent a person in custody from spitting or biting officers. Once a person is placed in a holding cell, the spit hood is removed.<sup>645</sup> They are only likely to occur during the process of custodial intake at the ACT Watchhouse:

As an example, we had a person in the watchhouse recently who, when being charged, was biting the inside of their mouth until such time as it started to bleed, and then they spat at my officers. A spit hood was used in that circumstance to stop that person from spitting. They were placed in a cell and then the spit hood was removed.<sup>646</sup>

- 6.95. There have been 26 reports of police being spat on or bitten between 1 March 2020 and 14 August 2022 with 31 police members affected.<sup>647</sup> While spit hoods are not normally used on children, there was an instance of spit hood being used on a 16-year-old in the watchhouse.<sup>648</sup>

- 6.96. Use of spit hoods is only used in certain circumstances:

A combination of the AFP's Use of Force training and equipment carried by ACT Policing officers can be used to avoid physical harm to both police and the person in custody dependent on the nature of the threat.

<sup>638</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 662–664.

<sup>639</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 664–665.

<sup>640</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 666–667.

<sup>641</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 668–672.

<sup>642</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 672–674.

<sup>643</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 674–675.

<sup>644</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 676–677.

<sup>645</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 660.

<sup>646</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 661.

<sup>647</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 661.

<sup>648</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 662.



A number of considerations are given before any type of restraint is used on a person in custody. These considerations include the safety of the person in custody, the safety of others (including other persons in custody), threats made to expel bodily fluid, recorded history of spitting, aggressive or threatening behaviour, the likelihood of injury to any person and the circumstances of the incident.<sup>649</sup>

6.97. There are some views that there are no effective alternatives for spit hoods:

This the challenge we have. If I put a Perspex on a police officer, they cannot see down. These options have been considered and at the moment the best alternative we find for an efficient use—and, as I said, they are very seldomly used—is the spit hood.<sup>650</sup>

ACT Policing are unaware of any other practical alternatives to spit hood that prevents saliva being expelled from a person in custody. Spit hoods protect police officers whilst they are in the process of physically handling a person in custody who chooses to be violent, spit and/or bite.

Spit hoods, in the same manner as all AFP's use of force (UoF) options, are reasonably and proportionately applied in direct response to the actions and demeanour being exhibited by the subject, in accordance with the guidelines and legislation.<sup>651</sup>

6.98. Advice from Government is that spit hoods are safe when used in accordance with the instructions. There are two types in use by ACT Policing - the SAFARILAND Spit Net (Code: LP8310-0-2C) and the SAFARILAND Tranzport Hood (Code: LP8320-0-2C).<sup>652</sup> These are shown below:<sup>653</sup>

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<sup>649</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 262*, 16 September 2022, (received 16 September 2022).

<sup>650</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p661.

<sup>651</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 302*, 13 September 2022, (received 13 September 2022).

<sup>652</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 214*, 6 September 2022, (received 13 September 2022).

<sup>653</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 211*, 6 September 2022, (received 13 September 2022).

Image 1: Safariland - Tranzport Hood



Figure 2: SAFARILAND Tranzport Hood<sup>654</sup>

Image 2: Safariland - Spit Net

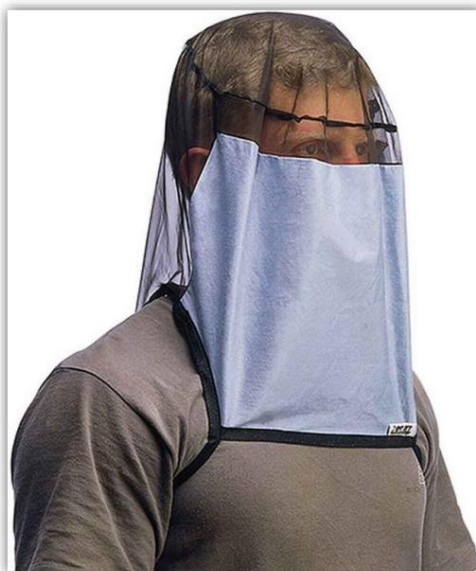


Figure 3: SAFARILAND Spit Net<sup>655</sup>

6.99. However, there are concerns about the use of spit hoods:

There was the case of the death of the individual in South Australia due to a spit hood, because you cannot identify respiratory distress or other concerns associated with the individual when they are in a spit hood.<sup>656</sup>

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<sup>654</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 211*, 6 September 2022, (received 13 September 2022).

<sup>655</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 211*, 6 September 2022, (received 13 September 2022).

<sup>656</sup> Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 661.

I think that they are inhumane and dehumanising. I think there would be a strong case for saying that they would not meet the convention against torture standards. When Four Corners aired a show on Don Dale and showed someone in a spit hood and a restraint chair, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said that it was a shame on Australia for that behaviour, and they thought it was a breach of those standards.<sup>657</sup>

- 6.100. It is also argued that in many cases personal protective equipment would be adequate and spit hoods are not always used as a last resort.<sup>658</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.101. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should ensure that use of spit hoods need to consider the human rights and the safety of people in custody and the protection of police officers.

#### Recommendation 83

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the use of spit hoods by ACT Policing.

#### Bail and sentencing laws

- 6.102. The Committee heard that there are some aspects of the current legislation in regard to bail which should be reviewed:

I think that legislation should never be set and forget. There should always be continuous review of legislation, and certainly that is my strong view. I mean, the operating environment changes, criminal behaviour changes; we need to think whether legislation is fit for purpose and reflects current community expectations and views. I think that is a given, in my view.

I think that certain aspects of the Bail Act need to be looked at. I do not think the whole thing needs to be thrown out. I think, certainly, magistrates have an extremely challenging job, and I am glad it is not me that makes those decisions whether to allow a person liberty or not.

Certainly, for instance, I think section 44 of the act can be looked at.<sup>659</sup>

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<sup>657</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 941.

<sup>658</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 942, Ms Karen Toohey, Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community Services Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 942.

<sup>659</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 667.

6.103. Section 44 of the *Bail Act 1992* applies in respect of a decision by a court in relation to bail for an accused person charged with a family violence offence or a serious offence. The Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) may apply to the Supreme Court for a review of that decision in exceptional circumstances where there is a public interest. However this must be done within two hours of the decision.<sup>660</sup>

6.104. The Attorney-General has asked the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to review this aspect of the operation of section 44 of the Bail Act:

The issue is that two hours is possibly not enough, in terms of authorisation hierarchies within the organisations. I have now asked the directorate to examine whether we can review that time frame. There might be a slightly different approach so that, for example, a verbal indication has to be given within a certain time frame, with a little more time for the written authority to follow through afterwards.<sup>661</sup>

6.105. Advice from the DPP is that there has not been a bail approval challenge during his term, and that any decisions are made by the DPP himself unless he is absent where the decision must be made by the chief crown prosecutor or deputy director.<sup>662</sup>

#### Committee comment

6.106. The Committee is of the view that the bail laws need to be fit for purpose in the current environment noting the challenges identified with section 44 in the Bail Act as an example and noting that there may be other issues that might be identified if this matter was considered further.

#### Recommendation 84

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an independent review of bail and sentencing outcomes in the ACT and table the report in the Assembly.

#### Operation Toric

6.107. Operation Toric was established on 1 August 2022 by ACT Policing to address the following:

- the increased risk to the community due to the driving behaviours of offenders regardless of a police presence;
- the increased risk to the community, offenders and police due to the unpredictable and dangerous lengths offenders are reaching in order to avoid arrest;
- the significant diversion of police resources to respond to dangerous driving events - which affects our ability to support the rest of the community; and

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<sup>660</sup> *Bail Act 1992*, s 44.

<sup>661</sup> Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 357.

<sup>662</sup> Mr Shane Drumgold SC, Director of Public Prosecutions, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 277–278.

- offenders showing a total disregard for both personal and public property, including deliberately causing damage to stolen vehicles and police vehicles to avoid apprehension.<sup>663</sup>
- 6.108. The team has been set up from staff working in the proactive intervention and diversion team, raid policing, general duties and intelligence teams with support from the Australian Federal Police. The Committee were told that since then, 29 offenders had been charged with more than 105 offences.<sup>664</sup> According to media reports, since July last year, 1,700 cars have been stolen in the ACT.<sup>665</sup> Since July last year, there have been incidents of 29 police vehicles deliberately damaged putting police and the public in danger.<sup>666</sup>
- 6.109. In the 2019-20 ACT budget, the government provided ACT Policing with funding for \$33.9 million over four years which will fund 71 additional positions, 61 for operational roles and 10 in support roles. Forty-five have been recruited so far, and of the 26 yet to be recruited, the final ten of these will be sworn in for the proactive intervention and diversion team for Operation Toric.<sup>667</sup> According to media reports, there are 40 officers working in the taskforce.<sup>668</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.110. The Committee is of the view that given high rates of motor vehicle theft reported in the media and incidents of dangerous driving that it is essential that the Operation Toric taskforce be appropriately funded.

### Recommendation 85

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appropriately fund the taskforce 'Operation Toric' to address the issue of car thefts in the ACT, and report progress on the taskforce to the Assembly.

<sup>663</sup> ACT Policing, Online News: Stolen vehicles and dangerous driving targeted by new taskforce, Operation Toric, 19 August 2022 <https://www.policenews.act.gov.au/news/media-releases/stolen-vehicles-and-dangerous-driving-targeted-new-taskforce> (accessed 20 September 2022).

<sup>664</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 663.

<sup>665</sup> ABC News Canberra has the second-highest car theft rate in the country as taskforce launched to target stolen cars, dangerous driving: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-19/act-police-vehicles-being-rammed-cars-stolen-in-canberra/101349504> (accessed 20 September 2022).

<sup>666</sup> ACT Policing, Online News: Stolen vehicles and dangerous driving targeted by new taskforce <https://www.policenews.act.gov.au/news/media-releases/stolen-vehicles-and-dangerous-driving-targeted-new-taskforce> (accessed 20 September 2022)

<sup>667</sup> Mr Peter Whowell, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 670.

<sup>668</sup> ABC News Canberra has the second-highest car theft rate in the country as taskforce launched to target stolen cars, dangerous driving: <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-08-19/act-police-vehicles-being-rammed-cars-stolen-in-canberra/101349504> (accessed 20 September 2022).

## Policing resources

- 6.111. The Committee raised issues around funding of police in the ACT. There was \$2.522 million in funding over four years to recruit an additional three people for the joint organised crime taskforce.<sup>669</sup> This builds on prior year investments under the Police Services Model (PSM).
- 6.112. As of 30 June 2022, ACT Policing had 691 sworn officers, of these 305 were general duties police officers, 123 were investigators, and 88 were sergeants, protective services sergeants, or team leaders.<sup>670</sup>
- 6.113. In the 2019-20 ACT Budget, the ACT Government announced \$33.9 million in funding including for more police over four years for ACT Policing reforms under the PSM.<sup>671</sup> This funding supported 61 positions in operational roles and 10 in support roles.<sup>672</sup>
- 6.114. In terms of accommodation for police services, the Committee heard that there are priority accommodation projects under the master accommodation plan, mainly the joint emergency centre at Gungahlin, then focusing on the Winchester police headquarters, the City Police Station.<sup>673</sup>
- 6.115. When asked about police services for the south side of Canberra, the Minister for Policing and Emergency Services said:
- We want to make sure, as I said, that we have the best accommodation for our staff and officers into the future. Also, as we further roll out the police services model, in the next iteration, police services model 2, we want to make sure that we can service those police out in the suburbs at the same time. Whilst they will be attached, if you like, to a station for rostering purposes and their accommodation, we want to see them out on the streets as much as possible, interacting with our community.<sup>674</sup>
- 6.116. A decision has not yet been made on whether there will be a police station in Molonglo and population projections are not yet available to the public.<sup>675</sup>

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<sup>669</sup> Mr Peter Whowell, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 664.

<sup>670</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, *answer to QON 280*, 20 September 2022 (received 20 September 2022)

<sup>671</sup> ACT Policing, *Police Services Model*, [Police Services Model | Australian Capital Territory Policing \(act.gov.au\)](https://www.act.gov.au/police-services-model) (accessed 21 September 2022).

<sup>672</sup> Mr Peter Whowell, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 670.

<sup>673</sup> Mr Peter Whowell, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services, ACT Policing, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 668.

<sup>674</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 669.

<sup>675</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 671.

### Recommendation 86

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government police numbers continue to be increased in the ACT.

### Recommendation 87

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the investment in police resources, both accommodation and sworn police officers (particularly those operating under the Police Services Model), is distributed appropriately across the ACT and consider a new police station in the Molonglo Valley.

## Emergency phone line

- 6.117. The Committee asked about times taken to respond to calls to the emergency phone lines. The Committee heard that there are two phone lines, the 000 phone line and 131 444 for police operational matters,<sup>676</sup> with the following statistics provided:

During the first five months of 2022, ACT Policing received, on average, about 22,000 calls per month, including, on average, 3,000 calls to 000 and 11,000 calls to 131 444. Of the 000 calls received between January and May 2022, 90 per cent were answered within 11 seconds.<sup>677</sup>

Between 1 January and 30 June 2022, ACT Policing received 55,391 calls to 131 444. On average, calls during this period were answered in two minutes and 12 seconds. During the same period, there were 14,965 calls to Triple-Zero. On average, Triple-Zero calls were answered during this period in 9 seconds.<sup>678</sup>

- 6.118. Eight additional operators started at the time of the hearings and will be working in the call centre, responsible for taking calls for the 000 number or the 131 444 number.<sup>679</sup>

## Committee comment

- 6.119. The Committee is of the view that both phone lines need to be adequately resourced noting the number of 131 444 calls and the two-minute time delay in responding to the 131 444 number.

### Recommendation 88

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the ACT Police 131 444 number is adequately resourced to ensure that calls are taken in timeframes that would align with community expectations.

<sup>676</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 659.

<sup>677</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 659.

<sup>678</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman, MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 210*, 6 September 2022 (received 6 September 2022).

<sup>679</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 659–660.

## Motor Vehicle 'Trespass'

6.120. The Committee raised recent Supreme Court finding *R v Carpenter* [2019] ACTSC 169 in which the question arose of whether DNA evidence was sufficient to establish that a person was driving or riding in a vehicle. This was described as a gap in the legislation by the Chief Police Officer.<sup>680</sup>

6.121. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate are considering legislative reform:

So we have been in an active discussion over the last several months about the Carpenter decision and whether there are legislative options to be able to address the limitations that that decision places upon prosecution. One area that we have been looking at is the idea of trespass to motor vehicle, which is to increase the range of offences that could be charged in a situation where there is DNA evidence the person has been in the vehicle but there is not visual evidence of them actually being there, which is the issue that arises through that decision. We have been working that up and providing some advice to government.<sup>681</sup>

6.122. It was acknowledged that this was a known issue in the criminal community and being exploited, and motor vehicle theft issue was a significant issue in the ACT:

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics overview of crime across Australia in 2021, the victimisation rate for motor vehicle theft in the ACT is the highest nationally and the ACT were above the national average for that type of theft.<sup>682</sup>

6.123. However, police were adjusting their approach in response and there had been a number of arrests in the weekend prior to the hearing.<sup>683</sup>

## Committee comment

6.124. The Committee is of the view that given the high rates of motor vehicle theft in the ACT, and the finding in the *R v Carpenter* case, that reforms are required to adapt to gaps in the legislation.

### Recommendation 89

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government progress criminal legislative reform, in particular, with respect to 'trespass' in a motor vehicle.

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<sup>680</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 663.

<sup>681</sup> Mr Richard Glenn, Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 663.

<sup>682</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 663.

<sup>683</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, Chief Police Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 664.



## Director of Public Prosecutions

### Matters considered

6.125. During the Director of Public Prosecutions appearance before the Committee on 4 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- case filing time frames;<sup>684</sup>
- decisions to prosecute;<sup>685</sup>
- review of sentencing and bail;<sup>686</sup> and
- retention rate of lawyers.<sup>687</sup>

## Legal Aid ACT

6.126. Legal Aid ACT is an independent statutory authority established under the *Legal Aid Act* 1977. The Commission's primary function is to provide vulnerable and disadvantaged Australians with access to justice through a range of legal services.<sup>688</sup>

### Matters considered

6.127. During Legal Aid ACT's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- accommodation and lease procurements;<sup>689</sup>
- support for Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders, and culturally and linguistically diverse communities;<sup>690</sup>
- Legal Aid College Lawyer Program;<sup>691</sup>
- expenditures;<sup>692</sup> and
- family violence case loads.<sup>693</sup>

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<sup>684</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 273–274.

<sup>685</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 274–275.

<sup>686</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 275–278.

<sup>687</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 278–279.

<sup>688</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022–2023, *Budget Statements D*, p 54.

<sup>689</sup> Dr John Boersig PSM, CEO, Legal Aid ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 280–281.

<sup>690</sup> Dr John Boersig PSM, CEO, Legal Aid ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 281–282.

<sup>691</sup> Dr John Boersig PSM, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 282–284.

<sup>692</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 284–286.

<sup>693</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 286–288.

## Key Issues

### Legal Aid College Lawyer Program

- 6.128. Legal Aid ACT lawyers attend ACT public colleges once a fortnight to provide college students and their families with free and confidential legal advice, assistance and information.<sup>694</sup> It is part of a strategy to develop and implement legal education programs tailored to the needs of people experience a high incidence of adverse legal events, and those working in community organisations that assist them.<sup>695</sup> The Committee heard that the program is funded by the Education Department and has been working well with about 130 young people and mothers using the service.<sup>696</sup> Participation statistics for term 1 and term 2 of 2022 are as follows:

**Table 3: Assistance provided to staff and students in term 1 and 2 under the Legal Aid College Lawyer Program<sup>697</sup>**

Help to	Service Count
Staff	10
Student	120
Total	130

**Table 4 Assistance provided to staff and students in term 1 and 2 under the Legal Aid College Lawyer Program by college<sup>698</sup>**

College	Service Count
Canberra College	21
Dickson College	13
Erindale College	22
Gungahlin College	38
Hawker College	4
Lake Ginninderra	11
Lake Tuggeranong	14
Melba Copland College	1
Narrabundah College	6
Total	130

<sup>694</sup> Legal Aid Website: [Lawyers in Colleges Program | Legal Aid ACT](#), accessed 29 August 2022.

<sup>695</sup> ACT Government 2022-23 Budget Statements D, p 62.

<sup>696</sup> Dr John Boersig, CEO, ACT Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 282.

<sup>697</sup> Dr John Boersig, CEO, ACT Legal Aid Commission, *answer to QTON 55*, 29 August 2022, (received 29 August 2022).

<sup>698</sup> Dr John Boersig, CEO, ACT Legal Aid Commission, *answer to QTON 55*, 29 August 2022, (received 29 August 2022).

- 6.129. The Committee also heard that the program has been successful due to it being conducted within the college environment where young people feel more comfortable. In the past it has been difficult getting this same level of success. The program has assisted in family violence, care and protection, bullying, sexual harassment, driving and traffic and minor criminal matters with family violence being the major issue.<sup>699</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 6.130. The Committee is of the view that given the success and uptake of the Legal Aid College Lawyer program and the critical work it is doing in assisting young people and others who are vulnerable, that it should be adequately funded.

#### Recommendation 90

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider increasing legal aid funding to expand the Legal Aid College Lawyer Program and evaluate the benefits of the Legal Aid lawyers in schools program.

## Public Trustee and Guardian

- 6.131. The Public Trustee and Guardian is an independent statutory authority responsible for providing the ACT Government and the community with guardianship/management, executor, trustee and financial services.<sup>700</sup>

#### Matters considered

- 6.132. During the Public Trustee and Guardian's (PTG) appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- publication of the Investment Board Charter on the PTG's website;<sup>701</sup>
  - parking reimbursed to board members;<sup>702</sup>
  - development of the Customer Relation Management (CRM) system;<sup>703</sup>
  - issues arising in Queensland in relation to dementia and mental assessments;<sup>704</sup>
  - contracts for investment strategy reviews;<sup>705</sup>
  - examination of accounts by managers and reminders issued;<sup>706</sup>
  - public awareness of the role of the PTG and the importance of estate planning;<sup>707</sup>

<sup>699</sup> Dr John Boersig, CEO, ACT Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 282.

<sup>700</sup> ACT Government 2022-23 *Budget Statements D*, p 80.

<sup>701</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 307.

<sup>702</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 308.

<sup>703</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 308–309.

<sup>704</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 309–310.

<sup>705</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 310–311.

<sup>706</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 311–314.

<sup>707</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 314–315.

- use of powers of attorney and elder abuse;<sup>708</sup> and
- after hours access to the public.<sup>709</sup>

## Customer Relation Management (CRM) system

- 6.133. In 2022-23 the PTG will engage a contractor to complete the implementation of the CRM with the intention that it will be completed at the end of this financial year.<sup>710</sup>
- 6.134. The Committee heard that the CRM will provide a single source of data and information about every client of the public trustee. Last year, five modules had been implemented which includes will drafting software to ensure that the same questions are asked of every client and therefore a consistent approach. Other modules include attorney drafting software, guardianship responsibilities, product manager examinations, and unclaimed money.
- 6.135. Modules still to be implemented include deceased estate administration and one for the financial management services unit, noting that they are likely to be the most complex. The PTG have sufficient funding to complete one of those modules and are planning to seek funding for the other module.<sup>711</sup>

### Committee comment

- 6.136. The Committee is of the view that implementing the CRM is important to improve business processes and information for PTG services.

#### Recommendation 91

The Committee recommends that the Public Trustee and Guardian continue to rollout the CRM as expeditiously as possible.

## Solicitor-General for the ACT

### Matters considered

- 6.137. During the Solicitor-General's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- funding for staff;<sup>712</sup>
  - legal advice provided to the Work Health and Safety Commissioner;<sup>713</sup>
  - Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill;<sup>714</sup>

<sup>708</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 315.

<sup>709</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 316–317.

<sup>710</sup> ACT Government 2022-23 *Budget Statements D*, p 82.

<sup>711</sup> Mr Andrew Taylor, Public Trustee and Guardian, *Proof Committee Hansard*, pp 308–309.

<sup>712</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 266.

<sup>713</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 268 and pp 270–271.

<sup>714</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 268–269.

- involvement by the Solicitor-General in development approvals and disputes and amount spent on depending EPSDD;<sup>715</sup>
- outposted lawyers in agencies;<sup>716</sup> and
- resourcing impacts involved in the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety Inquiry into the ‘No Rights without Remedy’ petition.<sup>717</sup>

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<sup>715</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 269–270.

<sup>716</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 271.

<sup>717</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 271–272.

## 7. Education Directorate

- 7.1. The Education Directorate 'is a leading learning organisation where our people are valued and work together to deliver high quality early childhood education and public school education in accessible and inclusive environments. Empowering children and young people to learn has a lifelong impact. By fostering student engagement and centring teaching and learning around students as individuals we enable educational growth for every child year on year. By focusing on engagement and learning growth we will strengthen equity across our system and ensure that all children and young people get a great education and the life opportunities that flow from that.'<sup>718</sup> Funding for the Education Directorate is set out in [Budget Statements F](#).

### Administrative Arrangements

- 7.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- Board of Senior Secondary Studies;
  - early childhood development and education (including early childhood education and care regulated services; preschool programs; and Koori preschool programs);
  - Government and non-government schools;
  - home education;
  - schools education; and
  - Teacher Quality Institute.

### Matters considered

- 7.3. During the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Teacher Shortage Taskforce;<sup>719</sup>
  - school safety;<sup>720</sup>
  - school infrastructure—including new schools, school upgrades, vertical schools and sporting facilities;<sup>721</sup>
  - teacher workloads;<sup>722</sup>
  - sustainability of Tharwa Preschool;<sup>723</sup>

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<sup>718</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements F*, p 1.

<sup>719</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 71–77 and pp 86–89.

<sup>720</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 77–78.

<sup>721</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 78–83, pp 89–94 and pp 95–101.

<sup>722</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 83–86.

<sup>723</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 94–95.

- class sizes;<sup>724</sup>
- ventilation in schools.<sup>725</sup>

7.4. During the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs' appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- student enrolments projections;<sup>726</sup>
- Education Directorate FTE staffing;<sup>727</sup>
- land set aside for schools;<sup>728</sup>
- electronic devices policy in schools;<sup>729</sup>
- vaping in schools;<sup>730</sup>
- affirmative consent;<sup>731</sup> and
- FOI.<sup>732</sup>

7.5. During the Minister for Early Childhood Development's appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:

- four-year-old pre-school program;<sup>733</sup>
- three-year-old Koori pre-school program;<sup>734</sup> and
- early childhood teacher shortages.<sup>735</sup>

## Key Issues

### Teacher Shortage Taskforce

- 7.6. During the hearing the Committee inquired into the recommendation for the Teacher Shortage Taskforce report that the Education Directorate develop a five-year strategy to attract and retain teachers.
- 7.7. The Minister noted that the collaboration between the Australian Education Union and the Education Directorate concerning the findings of the Union's 2019 survey of its membership that led to the taskforce.<sup>736</sup>

<sup>724</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 101–105.

<sup>725</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 105–107.

<sup>726</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 427–428 and pp 431–433.

<sup>727</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 430–431.

<sup>728</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 433–435.

<sup>729</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 435–437.

<sup>730</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 438–439.

<sup>731</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 439–440.

<sup>732</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 440–441.

<sup>733</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1035–1038.

<sup>734</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1039–1040 and pp 1044–1046.

<sup>735</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1040–1043.

<sup>736</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 72.

- 7.8. An ACT Government official told the Committee that the strategy, scheduled for tabling in the Assembly at the beginning of 2023, includes:
- the reduction of workplace pressures on teachers;
  - an inbuilt relief model characterised by the recruitment of additional teachers so that they are available for unplanned absences; and
  - the annual employment of approximately 250 to 300 teachers.<sup>737</sup>
- 7.9. Officials told the Committee that the staffing numbers in the budget papers reflected an additional 108 FTEs between the 2021-22 budget and the 2022-23 budget.<sup>738</sup>

### **Recommendation 92**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide annual update to the Assembly on the number of additional teachers employed against the recruitment targets as covered in the Teacher Shortage Taskforce Final report.

### **Recommendation 93**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish detailed plans to address teacher shortages.

### **Recommendation 94**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government annually update the Assembly on progress of the use of inbuilt relief teachers across all schools to support schools in managing teacher absences.

## **Class sizes**

- 7.10. The Committee heard, in relation to Recommendation 13 of the taskforce report, in relation to class sizes, and the associated policy of the Education Directorate.<sup>739</sup>

### **Recommendation 95**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Assembly any exceptions to the Education Directorate and Australian Education Union (AEU) Class Sizes Policy and Class Sizes Procedures.

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<sup>737</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 75.

<sup>738</sup> Mr David Matthews, Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 430–431.

<sup>739</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 101–105.



## School Safety

- 7.11. During the hearing the Committee heard about the recommendations of the [Special Purpose Review](#) and the [Safe@School Taskforce](#). The latter is informed by a systemic overview through a work health and safety lens as well as consultation with an advisory group.<sup>740</sup>
- 7.12. The Committee inquired about the provision in the budget for improved ventilation and cleaning in schools as a COVID-safety measure.<sup>741</sup>

### Recommendation 96

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that in the event of any incidents of serious violence occurring in ACT schools, that the Minister is briefed immediately.

## School infrastructure

- 7.13. During hearings the Committee heard about the issue raised by local communities regarding school design is the provision for adequate space for outside of school hours care. In older schools such as Garran Primary, this service cannot be offered due to lack of physical space.<sup>742</sup>

### Committee comment

- 7.14. The Committee is of the view that, due to land constraints in the ACT, views of the local community should be integrated into the design and development of new schools, to enable them to be build multi-use facilities which operate as community spaces as well as education facilities.

### Recommendation 97

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider in new schools and school modernisation projects the importance of after-school care facilities and spaces, including access to kitchen facilities.

### Recommendation 98

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider in new schools and school modernisation projects the importance of community spaces and facilities.

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<sup>740</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 77–78; and *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 440–441.

<sup>741</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 105–107.

<sup>742</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 95–97.

## Shortages of early childhood teachers

- 7.15. During the hearing the Committee inquired into shortages of early childhood teachers.
- 7.16. The Minister noted that attracting teachers to work in the early childhood sector has been an ongoing challenge for many years due to the 'low pay and a lack of awareness of the work that they do'.<sup>743</sup>
- 7.17. ACT Government officials told the Committee that the ACT Government has an Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program.<sup>744</sup> The program is aimed at increasing the number and profile of degree-qualified educators in the ACT and offers:
- funding of up to \$25,000 per scholarship, for full-time or part-time study;
  - encouragement to employers to contribute to the funding, enabling higher numbers of scholarships to be offered;
  - funding to employers to backfill staff while they are on study placement;
  - funding to employers for students to attend a four-week placement in CECA in their final year of study; and
  - an Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program Deed between the student, employer and ACT Government.<sup>745</sup>
- 7.18. Officials also told the Committee that under this program, as at June 2022, 32 scholarship holders have completed their degrees, 23 scholarship holders are currently studying for their early childhood education degrees, with another eight about to commence.<sup>746</sup> The Minister also noted that the Government has the [Set up for Success: An Early Childhood Strategy for the ACT](#) which is being implemented, and that it is doing workforce consultations to understand the pressures within the early childhood sector in the ACT.<sup>747</sup>
- 7.19. The Committee inquired about the change in demand for centres outside of the major employment centres due to the shift to more flexible work arrangements. Officials stated that this is not something that they have mapped, however anecdotally the sector is not reporting major shifts in demand.<sup>748</sup>

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<sup>743</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Early Childhood Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1041.

<sup>744</sup> Mr Sean Moysey, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1041.

<sup>745</sup> ACT Government Education Directorate, *Early Childhood Degree Scholarship Program*, 2022, <https://www.education.act.gov.au/early-childhood/set-up-for-success-an-early-childhood-strategy-for-the-act/careers-and-training> (accessed 8 September 2022).

<sup>746</sup> Mr Sean Moysey, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1041.

<sup>747</sup> Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Early Childhood Development, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1042.

<sup>748</sup> Mr Sean Moysey, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1043.

### **Recommendation 99**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a forward plan for new facilities, and workforce requirements to meet the future needs for ACT early education.

## 8. ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services

- 8.1. The ACT Health Directorate ‘provides strategic leadership, policy advice and oversight of the public health system, supporting and enabling clinical excellence and research to improve health service delivery in the ACT. The Directorate engages with its partners and stakeholders to ensure better health outcomes for all in the ACT and surrounding regions.’<sup>749</sup>
- 8.2. The Canberra Health Services ‘partners with the community and consumers, creating exceptional health care together, by: delivering personal health services; working in partnerships to improve people’s health; improving the experience of our consumers by engaging and listening; providing leadership in research, education, and clinical excellence; and designing models of care that deliver the highest standards of safety and quality.’<sup>750</sup> Funding for the ACT Health Directorate and Canberra Health Services is set out in [Budget Statements C](#).

### Minister for Health—Administrative Arrangements

- 8.3. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- acute health policy;
  - aged care and rehabilitation policy;
  - cancer policy;
  - child health development;
  - commissioning health services;
  - community health policy and programs (excluding justice health);
  - digital health;
  - drug and alcohol policy;
  - health protection;
  - health services and facilities operated by the ACT Government;
  - health system policy, planning and performance monitoring;
  - local hospital network arrangements;
  - medical and health research policy and programs;
  - population health; and
  - regulation of health services.

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<sup>749</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements C*, p 1.

<sup>750</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements C*, p 31.

## Matters considered

8.4. During the Minister for Health's appearance before the Committee on 23 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- the offering of condolences to the family of Rozalia Spadafora who died in hospital;<sup>751</sup>
- the paediatric cardiology ward of the Canberra Hospital;<sup>752</sup>
- investment in alcohol and other drug treatments and the Drug and Dependence Bill;<sup>753</sup>
- the Canberra Hospital master plan;<sup>754</sup>
- specialist staff and the cardiology department in the Canberra Hospital;<sup>755</sup>
- transition of services from the Zita Mary Clinic (Calvary Hospital);<sup>756</sup>
- the number of senior executive and non-senior executive staff in the Canberra Health Services and ACT Health Directorate and associated enterprise agreements;<sup>757</sup>
- affordability of medical and surgical abortions;<sup>758</sup>
- Good Life with Osteoarthritis program;<sup>759</sup>
- elective surgery joint replacements;<sup>760</sup>
- Minister's travel to Singapore;<sup>761</sup>
- ACT Preventative Health Plan;<sup>762</sup>
- the engagement of Ms Barbara Deegan to lead the Cardiology Review;<sup>763</sup>
- transfer of Canberra Hospital patients to aged-care homes;<sup>764</sup>
- gender-based health care;<sup>765</sup>
- COVID-19;<sup>766</sup>
- survey results of Canberra Hospital's intensive care unit;<sup>767</sup>
- the Speaking up Safely program;<sup>768</sup>

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<sup>751</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 201.

<sup>752</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 203–204.

<sup>753</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 204–206.

<sup>754</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 206–208.

<sup>755</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 208–211.

<sup>756</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 211–213.

<sup>757</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 211–216.

<sup>758</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 216.

<sup>759</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 217.

<sup>760</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 218–219.

<sup>761</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 220–223 and p 257.

<sup>762</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 223–224.

<sup>763</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 228–229.

<sup>764</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 229–231.

<sup>765</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 231–232.

<sup>766</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 232–235.

<sup>767</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 235–236.

<sup>768</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 236–237.

- increasing the number of nurse practitioners;<sup>769</sup>
- Canberra Health Services at Molonglo;<sup>770</sup>
- development of a critical services building at Canberra Hospital to support older patients;<sup>771</sup>
- specialist services for children and young people;<sup>772</sup>
- nurse-to-patient ratios;<sup>773</sup>
- elective surgery;<sup>774</sup>
- Enhanced Recovery After Surgery program;<sup>775</sup>
- capacity of private hospitals to pick up additional work;<sup>776</sup>
- northside hospital development;<sup>777</sup>
- disability health strategy;<sup>778</sup>
- Canberra Health Services: workplace culture survey;<sup>779</sup>
- Culture Review Implementation program;<sup>780</sup>
- understaffing of midwives and the Maternity in Focus report;<sup>781</sup>
- air quality sensors;<sup>782</sup>
- primary care for vulnerable Canberrans with complex and chronic health conditions;<sup>783</sup>
- paediatric and general surgery wait times;<sup>784</sup> and
- hydrotherapy pool.<sup>785</sup>

8.5. During the Solicitor-General's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matter was considered:

- Drugs of Dependence legislation.<sup>786</sup>

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<sup>769</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 237–239.

<sup>770</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 239.

<sup>771</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 239–240.

<sup>772</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 240–246.

<sup>773</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 241–243.

<sup>774</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 243.

<sup>775</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 246.

<sup>776</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 246–247.

<sup>777</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 247–249.

<sup>778</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 249–251.

<sup>779</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp.251–253.

<sup>780</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 253.

<sup>781</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 253–258.

<sup>782</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 258–259.

<sup>783</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 259–261.

<sup>784</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 261–263.

<sup>785</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 263–264.

<sup>786</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 268–269.

## Key Issues

### Drugs of Dependence

- 8.6. The Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021 is currently before the Assembly. The Bill proposes to include other common illicit drugs (currently limited to cannabis) to the decriminalised arrangements that currently apply for personal use of cannabis.<sup>787</sup> The Bill includes personal possession limits for a range of illicit drugs.<sup>788</sup>
- 8.7. The Committee heard that consistency between that law and Commonwealth laws was a key consideration.<sup>789</sup>

The commonwealth law—this is testing my memory—permits state and territory laws to operate. As to any view that the commonwealth may take in relation to those laws and, indeed, discretions that may be exercised by the Australian Federal Police in making decisions around prosecution, it is consistent with the position that pertained earlier.

I cannot take it much further than that, because I have not been asked to look at the most recent iterations of it. But the issue of a difference between the operation of the limits in ACT laws and the limits in commonwealth laws was well-ventilated.

- 8.8. Between 1 July 2021 and 30 June 2022, there were 134 charges (including cases of multiple drug possession charges – an individual can be counted multiple times if they have multiple drug apprehensions) for possessing a quantity less than the trafficable amount. There were 127 individuals apprehended with drug possession of quantities less than the trafficable amount (where this was the only type of charge).<sup>790</sup>
- 8.9. Deputy Commissioner Gaughan advised that ACT Policing's approach is to treat smaller offences as a health issue and focus on drug trafficking and organised crime,<sup>791</sup> with police having the power to divert someone to treatment.<sup>792</sup>

### Committee comment

- 8.10. The Committee is of the view that care needs to be taken in setting personal use limits for illicit drugs, noting that there should be consistency with Commonwealth laws.

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<sup>787</sup> Explanatory Statement, Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021.

<sup>788</sup> Drugs of Dependence (Personal Use) Amendment Bill 2021, section 170.

<sup>789</sup> Mr Peter Garrisson, Solicitor-General for the ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 269.

<sup>790</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 215*, 7 September 2022 (received 8 September 2022).

<sup>791</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 672.

<sup>792</sup> Deputy Commissioner Neil Gaughan, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 673.

### Recommendation 100

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work to ensure that drug limits in the Drug of Dependence legislation and regulations are below Commonwealth trafficking amounts.

### Availability of midwives

- 8.11. According to a Canberra Times article, there has been a shortage of staffing in experienced midwives, described as being ‘at breaking point’, causing stress for staff and resulting in more ‘drastic’ events.<sup>793</sup> The Minister described this as a ‘national issue’ and are seeking to address this through graduate recruitment, with 18 graduate midwives employed in 2020-21 as graduates and 30 in 2022.<sup>794</sup>
- 8.12. The continuity of midwifery care program enables a woman to have a primary midwife to care for them throughout the pregnancy, labour, birth and afterwards.<sup>795</sup> It is highly competitive for midwives to work in this area and for women to get into the program.<sup>796</sup>
- 8.13. To make it easier for women to enter the program, The Canberra Hospital (TCH) is in the process of moving from it being a low-risk model where very few women would qualify to an all-risk model.<sup>797</sup>
- 8.14. Under the First Action Plan 2022-2025 in the Maternity in Focus plan, there are four actions/initiatives to support the government’s goal of expanding midwifery-led and midwifery-coordinated continuity of care models to improve access. These include:

8.1—Expand continuity of care, with appropriate postnatal transition, to improve access for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples, individuals experiencing vulnerability or disadvantage, and those with complex medical issues or a disability.

8.2—Work with consumers, relevant NGOs, community organisations and disability support services to ensure the maternity system can evolve to meet the needs of individuals with disability.

8.3—Grow a sustainable continuity of care workforce through a clinical education plan that increases opportunities for upskilling and transition to practice in this model.

<sup>793</sup> Lucy Bladen, ‘Canberra midwives raise alarm about maternity health services’, *The Canberra Times*, 7 August 2022.

<sup>794</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Committee Proof Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 255.

<sup>795</sup> Canberra Health Services, *Continuity of midwifery care – all risk*, [Continuity of midwifery care - all risk - Canberra Health Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au/continuity-of-midwifery-care-all-risk) accessed 23 September 2022.

<sup>796</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 257.

<sup>797</sup> Ms Susan Freiberg, Executive Director, Women, Youth and Children, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 257.



8.4—Implement the system-level changes required to support endorsed privately practicing midwives to provide continuity of care within our public maternity system.<sup>798</sup>

### Committee comment

- 8.15. The Committee is of the view that women should be able to more easily access the continuity of midwifery care option, so that women can come to know their midwives and improve their labour and birth experience.

#### Recommendation 101

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government expand eligibility criteria and the number of available places for The Canberra Hospital continuity of care midwife program.

### Attraction and retention incentives

- 8.16. The Committee sought a breakdown of what employees at the Canberra Health Service are being paid.
- 8.17. The Attraction and Retention Incentives (ARIns) ACTPS Policy document (prepared by Workforce capability and governance, CMTEDD in August 2019), sets out the mandatory guidelines to the policy. The policy applies to all ACT Government Directorates and public sector bodies in relation to employees covered by an Enterprise Agreement.
- 8.18. Directors General have a responsibility to ensure each ARIn:
- complies with the ARIns Framework in the Enterprise Agreements;
  - can be justified based on relevant market comparators;
  - is properly approved and reviewed; and
  - is consistent with the requirements of this policy.<sup>799</sup>
- 8.19. Some aggregated information about the number of ARIns paid to staff at the Canberra Health Service was provided:

Canberra Health Services' (CHS) staff who are currently receiving an Attraction and Retention Incentive (ARIn) are covered under the Medical Practitioners, Health Professional and Administrative and Related Classifications enterprise agreements. There are 87 ARIns currently being paid to staff at CHS, 83 to medical practitioners and 4 to non-medical practitioners.

<sup>798</sup> ACT Health, Calvary, Canberra Health Services, *Maternity in Focus: First Action Plan 2022-2025*, p 9.

<sup>799</sup> Workforce capability and governance, CMTEDD, *Attraction and Retention Incentives (ARIns) ACTPS Policy*, August 2019, p 3.

The number represents individuals on ARIns or individuals included under a group ARIn. The relevant classifications covered include, specialists, senior specialists, health professionals and administrative.<sup>800</sup>

8.20. However, the Committee were not provided with further breakdowns on privacy grounds.

#### Committee comment

8.21. The Committee is of the view that there should be transparency over payments to senior staff at Canberra Health Services, noting that a large proportion of staff are receiving ARIns.

#### Recommendation 102

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase transparency around the ARIns public service remuneration.

#### Compliance with nurse-to-patient ratios

8.22. The issue of compliance with nurse-to-patient ratios was considered by the Committee. Nursing ratios aim to support safe nursing care, provide adequate resourcing, and improve patient outcomes and working conditions for staff.<sup>801</sup> The ratio framework was established through an Enterprise Agreement framework, and was a commitment of the government in partnership with the union.<sup>802</sup> A shift is considered compliant if the following conditions are met:

- morning shift: one nurse for every four patients, one nurse team leader, no more than 25 percent Enrolled Nurses/Midwives used,<sup>803</sup> and
- night shift: one nurse for every six patients, no more than 25 percent Enrolled Nurses/Midwives used.<sup>804</sup>

8.23. The Minister for Health commented that work is being undertaken to report through shifts, rather than roster or start of shifts.<sup>805</sup> The Committee heard that Canberra Health Services had recruited an additional 90 FTE to deliver ratios, more than the required 55.<sup>806</sup> Full compliance was required by July 2022, however, during this month only 35 percent of shifts were compliant at Calvary Public Hospital Bruce (CPHB).<sup>807</sup> The Minister for Health cited COVID-19, influenza, and Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) as impacting compliance

<sup>800</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON45 and 46*, 13 September 2022 (received 13 September 2022).

<sup>801</sup> [Nurse/Midwife-to-Patient Ratios | Health \(act.gov.au\)](#) accessed 23 September 2022

<sup>802</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 242.

<sup>803</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 52*, 11 September 2022, (received 11 September 2022), p 1.

<sup>804</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 52*, 11 September 2022, (received 11 September 2022), p 2.

<sup>805</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 241.

<sup>806</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 241.

<sup>807</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health *answer to QTON 52*, 11 September 2022, (received 11 September 2022), p 1.

with nursing ratios.<sup>808</sup> 70 percent of the conditions for ratio shift compliance were met across the CPHB.<sup>809</sup> The Minister commented that every jurisdiction in Australia is facing ratio challenges.<sup>810</sup>

### Recommendation 103

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish bi-annual statements of CHS compliance with nurse-to-patient ratios.

## Elective Surgery

- 8.24. The Committee heard about elective surgery within the ACT.<sup>811</sup> Part of the six per cent increase in the 2021-22 estimated outcome from the original budget was to support elective surgery (\$2.426 million).<sup>812</sup> Estimates suggest 1,364 patients have waited longer than clinically recommended timeframes for elective surgery during the 2021-22 period.<sup>813</sup> The ACT Government has not achieved elective surgery targets for the periods 2019-20.<sup>814</sup> Estimated outcomes suggest 2021-22 targets will not be met, as detailed below:

#### Strategic Indicator 2.1 - Performing more Elective Surgery

Increasing the number of elective surgery procedures performed.

Table 5: Number of elective surgeries performed

Strategic Indicator	2021-22 Target	2021-22 Estimated Outcome <sup>1</sup>	2022-23 Target
Number of elective surgeries performed	14,800	14,014	14,800

**Note:**

1. The inability to reach the target number of elective surgeries can be attributed to the impacts of COVID-19 on the health system, particularly the workforce and bed availability, including the suspension of some Category 2 and Category 3 elective surgeries in January and February 2022.

#### Figure 4: Strategic Indicator 2.1—Performing more Elective Surgery<sup>815</sup>

- 8.25. Between 10 January and 21 February 2022 there was a slowdown in category two and three surgeries at Calvary Public Hospital in Bruce in response to bed utilisation.<sup>816</sup> This impacted on approximately 500 elective surgeries.<sup>817</sup> The Minister commented that surgeries were suspended due to insufficient staff to complete planned loads for elective surgery, emergency and other hospitalisations.<sup>818</sup> The Committee heard that when public surgeries are not operating it does not generate unspent funds, as the workforce remains employed.<sup>819</sup> There was discussion on the impacts of COVID-19 and staffing difficulties on

<sup>808</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 241.

<sup>809</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 52*, 11 September 2022, (received 11 September 2022), p 2.

<sup>810</sup> Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 242.

<sup>811</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 218–219 and pp 243–245.

<sup>812</sup> ACT Government, Budget 2022-23, *Budget Statements C*, p 62.

<sup>813</sup> ACT Government, Budget 2022-23, *Budget Statements C*, p 7.

<sup>814</sup> Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21*, May 2022, p 19.

<sup>815</sup> ACT Government, Budget 2022-23, *Budget Statements C*, p 6.

<sup>816</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 243–244.

<sup>817</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 243–244.

<sup>818</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 244.

<sup>819</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 244.

elective surgeries performed.<sup>820</sup> The ACT Government agreed to provide regular updates on elective surgery targets and waitlists in the response to Annual Reports 2020-21.<sup>821</sup> The government also has a private provider program including three private hospitals.<sup>822</sup>

- 8.26. The Committee also heard that the Digital Health Record implementation had had an impact on elective surgery when it came to joint replacements:

There is a reduction in the elective joint number for this year on the back of last year, to allow for the implementation of the Digital Health Record and the associated slowdown with that. We are finalising numbers at the moment on what the final number will be in the joints program. It will be in the region of 340 joints for this year, to allow for some slowdown for the Digital Health Record implementation.<sup>823</sup>

- 8.27. The Minister explained that the reason elective surgery in the private system had been impacted by the implementation of the Digital Health Record in the public system was due to some of the public surgeries that were to have been conducted in the public system were transferred to the private system. There are currently 340 surgeries scheduled to be conducted, with many more on the waiting list.<sup>824</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 8.28. The Committee is of the view that steps need to be taken to understand and reduce the pressure on elective surgery capacity.

#### Recommendation 104

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report to the Legislative Assembly on progress to increase elective surgery capacity.

#### Recommendation 105

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assess the impact of the Digital Health Record program on improving efficiency of elective surgery outcomes and report to the Legislative Assembly once data is available.

## Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health— Administrative Arrangements

- 8.29. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- justice health;

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<sup>820</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 218–219 and pp 243–245.

<sup>821</sup> ACT Government, Report No. 6 of the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21 - Government response*, (Recommendation 4), p 4.

<sup>822</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 245.

<sup>823</sup> Janet Zagari, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, pp 218–219.

<sup>824</sup> Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 August 2022, p 219.

- mental health services, facilities and programs operated by the ACT;
- mental health (Coordinator-General); and
- mental health policy.

## Matters considered

8.30. During the Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- Federal and ACT Government involvement in Mental Health Package;<sup>825</sup>
- Preventative Mental Health Services and Early Intervention;<sup>826</sup>
- National Mental Health Service Planning Framework and ACT workforce;<sup>827</sup>
- MyHome proposal in Curtin;<sup>828</sup>
- Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility;<sup>829</sup>
- AMC smoke-free within 12 months;<sup>830</sup>
- Custodial Mental Health staffing at AMC;<sup>831</sup>
- Hume Medical Centre suitability for number of detainees at AMC;<sup>832</sup>
- Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service, Callam Offices;<sup>833</sup>
- eating disorder treatment services—clinical hub;<sup>834</sup>
- bleach power access for detainees at AMC;<sup>835</sup>
- Justice Health approach to drug use and addiction;<sup>836</sup>
- dinner with friends funding;<sup>837</sup>
- psychological distress rates in Budget Outlook compared to Australian Bureau of Statistics;<sup>838</sup>
- security guard intervention at Dhulwa Mental Health Unit;<sup>839</sup>
- average inpatient stay in Dhulwa Mental Health Unit;<sup>840</sup>

<sup>825</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 319.

<sup>826</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 321–322.

<sup>827</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 323.

<sup>828</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 324.

<sup>829</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 325–326.

<sup>830</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 327.

<sup>831</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

<sup>832</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 330.

<sup>833</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 331.

<sup>834</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 333.

<sup>835</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 334.

<sup>836</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 335.

<sup>837</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 336.

<sup>838</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 337.

<sup>839</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 339.

<sup>840</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 340.

- dental services at AMC;<sup>841</sup>
- Dhulwa nurses credentialed through the College of Mental Health Nurses;<sup>842</sup>
- AMC detainees and COVID-19;<sup>843</sup>
- support for mental health carers;<sup>844</sup>
- restrictive practices in ACT mental health settings;<sup>845</sup>
- number of positive prohibited drug tests at AMC;<sup>846</sup>
- Dhulwa Chief Psychiatrists guidelines;<sup>847</sup>
- safe haven efficacy;<sup>848</sup> and
- mental health services on university campus.<sup>849</sup>

## Key Issues

### Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service Southside, Callam Offices

- 8.31. The Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAHMS) provides assessment and treatment for children and young people up to 18 years of age who are experiencing moderate to severe mental health difficulties.<sup>850</sup> CAHMS Southside is in the Callam Office, Woden. The Committee heard that the government had plans to relocate the Callam Office.<sup>851</sup>

...the ultimate goal, as the minister said, is to move to a more therapeutic environment that is fit for purpose for the young people and their families who visit there. So I too, am hopeful we will have some detail on that soon.<sup>852</sup>

- 8.32. The Minister for Mental Health was not able to provide detail or timeframes for when relocation would occur.<sup>853</sup> Ms Kate McKenzie, Executive Director, Canberra Health Services, commented that in the last three months the department had addressed immediate concerns for a safe work environment.<sup>854</sup>

<sup>841</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 340.

<sup>842</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 341.

<sup>843</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 341.

<sup>844</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 342.

<sup>845</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 342.

<sup>846</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 342.

<sup>847</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 344.

<sup>848</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 345.

<sup>849</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 347.

<sup>850</sup> ACT Government Canberra Health Services, *Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service (CAMHS) Community Teams*, [Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service \(CAMHS\) Community Teams - Canberra Health Services \(act.gov.au\)](https://act.gov.au/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-service-camhs-community-teams) (accessed 30 August 2022).

<sup>851</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 331-332.

<sup>852</sup> Ms Kate McKenzie, Executive Director, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 331.

<sup>853</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, Ms Kate McKenzie, Executive Director, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 331-332.

<sup>854</sup> Ms Kate McKenzie, Executive Director, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 332.

- 8.33. The Committee questioned the timeframes for the office's relocation, impacts to service delivery and staff experience due to the Callam Offices building itself:

[I] have heard reports of lots of problems with the building that makes their [staff's] ability to function as service providers challenging, is the government working with members of that service to ensure that it is, one, a safe environment but also, conducive to good mental health outcomes for children and adolescence?<sup>855</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 8.34. The Committee is of the view that the CAHMS Southside Callam Office should be urgently relocated. The Committee is of the view that the current building impacts service delivery, and safety, and is not conducive to good mental health.

#### Recommendation 106

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently move the CAMHS Southside from the Callam Offices in Woden.

#### MyHome Project, Curtin

- 8.35. The Committee requested an update on the delivery of the MyHome proposal in Curtin and questioned whether a business case will be ready for the next budget<sup>856</sup>. The MyHome project in Canberra is modelled from the community-based initiative HOME in Queanbeyan<sup>857</sup> and is part of the ACT Parliamentary and Governing Agreement<sup>858</sup>.
- 8.36. The Committee heard there have been numerous discussions between MyHome and the ACT Government.<sup>859</sup> Discussions indicated the Minister is waiting on a decision regarding the Model of Care before progressing to the next stage of the project.<sup>860</sup> The Minister for Mental Health was not able to provide information on timeframes or indicate whether a business case will be ready for the next budget.<sup>861</sup> The MyHome president stated in an interview that the 2017 Model of Care draft<sup>862</sup> is the same as HOME in Queanbeyan and would work in Canberra, as detailed in an ACT Government study<sup>863</sup>.

#### Committee comment

- 8.37. The Committee is of the view that, given the success of the MyHome project in Queanbeyan, a similar facility is required in the Act. The Committee would like to see the ACT Government progress this important initiative more quickly.

<sup>855</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson, Committee Member, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 331.

<sup>856</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson, Committee Member, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 325.

<sup>857</sup> MyHome, *About MyHome*, [About MyHome : MyHome in Canberra](#) (accessed 5 September 2022).

<sup>858</sup> Dr Marisa Paterson, Committee Member, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 324.

<sup>859</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 324.

<sup>860</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 325.

<sup>861</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 325.

<sup>862</sup> MyHome, *Attachment B – Model of Care Drafted 2017*, [MyHome-Att-B-model-of-care-drafted-in-2017.pdf](#) ([myhomeincanberra.org.au](#)) (accessed 5 September 2022).

<sup>863</sup> Adam Shirley, *"Statistics are showing more like 4,000 people are at risk of being homeless" says President of MyHome in Canberra*, *ABC Radio Canberra*, 31 August 2022.



### Recommendation 107

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work to deliver the MyHome project in Curtin and clearly articulate to the Assembly dates for stages and progress for delivery of the project.

## Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility

- 8.38. An issue examined by the Committee was the delivery of the community-based Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility.<sup>864</sup> The Committee questioned why construction had not started and requested the timeline for the project,<sup>865</sup> noting that the budget papers state the physical completion dated has moved from June 2023 to December 2023. Minister Davidson commented that the ACT government is meeting obligations to the Commonwealth within the agreed timeline.<sup>866</sup> The Minister noted that all funding for the facility has been provided by the Commonwealth's \$13.5 million contribution.<sup>867</sup>
- 8.39. The Committee examined the \$8.5 million rollover from the 2021-22 to the 2022-23 financial year.<sup>868</sup> The Minister for Mental Health indicated the rollover was due to funding not being required until work was completed, and construction was commencing in 2022-23 and finalised in the 2023-24 financial year.<sup>869</sup> The Minister also stated land acquisition processes would start once the design stage is completed,<sup>870</sup> and \$4.725 million has been appropriated to cover the value of the land.<sup>871</sup>

### Committee comment

- 8.40. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should work to ensure construction of the Eating Disorder Rehabilitation facility is completed as reflected in Commonwealth deadlines and the 2022-23 Budget Papers.<sup>872</sup> The Committee is of the view that it is critical for the government to adhere to project management plans for the Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility, to ensure delivery within the stated timeframes.

### Recommendation 108

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the delivery of the Eating Disorder Rehabilitation Facility within the stated timeframes.

<sup>864</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 325-326.

<sup>865</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 327.

<sup>866</sup> Minister Davidson, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 326.

<sup>867</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 334.

<sup>868</sup> ACT Government, Budget Statements C, Table 21, p 19.

<sup>869</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer* to QTON: Health (Mental Health) Eating Disorders Funding Rollover, 24 August 2022 (received 5 September), p 1.

<sup>870</sup> Minister Davidson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 326.

<sup>871</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer* to QON 130: Health (Mental Health) Eating Disorders Centre – Acquisition of Land, (received 5 September), p 1.

<sup>872</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer* to QTON: Mental Health Timelines for building of eating disorder treatment centres, 24 August 2022 (received 31 August 2022), p 3.



## Hume Health Facility in AMC

- 8.41. The Committee questioned whether the Hume Health Centre (HHC) was still fit for purpose and appropriate, given the increase in the detainee population since it was first built.<sup>873</sup> The Committee heard there has been an increased demand for health services to HHC. Minister Davidson commented that best practice for delivery of health services in detention improves over time.<sup>874</sup> The importance of location of services was mentioned, while acknowledging the importance of the size and layout of the HHC. The Minister commented that these three factors would be considered as part of the Justice Health Strategy for the rest of this year.<sup>875</sup> Ms McKenzie commented on the Minister's ongoing commitment to look at service delivery in the HHC.<sup>876</sup>
- 8.42. The HHC is physically located in middle of the AMC and is close to capacity. There is a trend for increased demand due to increased number of inmates and increased complexity of medical/ physical health needs.<sup>877</sup> The ACT Government recently noted the previous recommendation to publish a plan to expand the facilities at the HHC.<sup>878</sup>

### Committee comment

- 8.43. The Committee is of the view that the ACT Government should develop a plan for the creation of space with an aim to increase health services and resources.

#### Recommendation 109

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, through Justice Health, publish a plan for the creation of space in line with demand at the Hume Health Centre (HHC) with an aim to increase health services resources.

## Custodial mental health team

- 8.44. The Committee questioned when the Custodial Mental Health Team (CMHT) would be fully staffed, given the increase of 174 CHS employees from 2020-21 to 2022-23.<sup>879</sup> The Committee also questioned why, for the last four years the CMHT has never been fully staffed.<sup>880</sup> The Auditor-General's April 2021 report identified that 30 percent of custodial mental health positions were unfilled, and 50 per cent of psychologist positions were unfilled.<sup>881</sup> Minister Davidson commented that there was a justice health strategy in

<sup>873</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 330.

<sup>874</sup> Minister Davidson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 330.

<sup>875</sup> Minister Davidson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 330.

<sup>876</sup> Ms Katie McKenzie, Executive Director, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 330.

<sup>877</sup> Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21*, May 2022, p 19.

<sup>878</sup> ACT Government, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-21 – Government Response*, 16 September 2022.

<sup>879</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

<sup>880</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

<sup>881</sup> Mr James Milligan MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

development to understand the gaps in resourcing.<sup>882</sup> There was discussion around recruitment difficulties across Mental Health and Justice Health portfolios.<sup>883</sup>

- 8.45. Staffing allocation for CMHT is 14 FTE, with an additional 1.6 FTE psychiatry.<sup>884</sup> However, the current staffing for CMHT is 12.5 FTE and 1.6 FTE for psychiatry.<sup>885</sup> The Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) have commented on the impacts of chronic understaffing on workers in other government departments, burnout risks, imbalance between administrative workloads and critical task completion rates.<sup>886</sup>

### Committee comment

- 8.46. The Committee is of the view that Justice Health should actively recruit to achieve a fully staffed custodial mental health team.

### Recommendation 110

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to actively recruit to achieve a fully staffed custodial mental health team.

### Best practice safety at Dhulwa Mental Health Unit

- 8.47. The Committee questioned the need for security guards to be given permission to intervene and stop violent and aggressive behaviour between patients and staff.<sup>887</sup> The Committee also queried the procedure for security guard intervention when a staff member is unable to voice their concern and give verbal permission for intervention.<sup>888</sup> Staff indicating reports of occupational violence reported on RiskMan are included below:

Financial Year	OV Physical	OV verbal
2016/17	13	4
2017/18	21	8
2018/19	48	4
2019/20	133	3
2020/21	99	10
2021/22 (to 02/02/22)	70	9

Figure 5: Staff indicating reports of occupational violence reported on RiskMan<sup>889</sup>

<sup>882</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

<sup>883</sup> Mr David Pepper, Chief Executive Officer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 329.

<sup>884</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer to QON 273*, (received 9 September 2022).

<sup>885</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer to QON 273*, (received 9 September 2022).

<sup>886</sup> Doug Dingwall, 'Chronic understaffing causing security, burnout risks for Australian Border Force, CPSU warns Home Affairs Minister Karen Andres', *Canberra Times*, 25 October 2021, [Chronic understaffing causing security, burnout risks for Australian Border Force, CPSU warns Home Affairs Minister Karen Andrews | The Canberra Times | Canberra, ACT](#) (accessed 21 September 2022).

<sup>887</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 339.

<sup>888</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 339.

<sup>889</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, *answer to QTON 11*, 21 February 2022 (received 6 March 2022).

- 8.48. The Committee heard that in all response situations with a consumer or patient, that permission and direction to intervene must come from the clinical team.<sup>890</sup> Ms McKenzie commented that debriefing and support are available to support staff following traumatic situations, and noted the importance of workplace safety.<sup>891</sup> The ACT Government announced an inquiry into Dhulwa Mental Health Unit in May 2022. The inquiry is to review the legislative, clinical and governance frameworks to ensure the facility operates under best practice in a safe environment for all workers and patients.<sup>892</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 8.49. The Committee is of the view that the Dhulwa Mental Health Unit should ensure best practice in safety for staff and appropriate intervention.

#### **Recommendation 111**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that Dhulwa Mental Health Unit safety procedures conform to best practice.

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<sup>890</sup> Ms Katie McKenzie, Executive Director, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 339-340.

<sup>891</sup> Ms Katie McKenzie, Executive Director, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 340.

<sup>892</sup> Ms Emma Davidson MLA, Minister for Mental Health, 'Inquiry into Dhulwa Mental Health Unit', *Media Release*, 2 May 2022.

## 9. Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate

- 9.1. Budget Statements H states that the Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate (TCCS) ‘assists Canberrans to move around the city and provides high quality city services to the community. Delivery of these services is citizen-focused with a goal of improving the liveability of our city through the provision of core services and an integrated transport network, ensuring Canberra remains a great place to live, work and relax.’<sup>893</sup> Funding for the TCCS Directorate is set out in [Budget Statements H](#).

### Administrative Arrangements

- 9.2. The areas of responsibility covered by this Directorate are:
- active travel (including road crossing supervision);
  - Autonomous Vehicle policy;
  - community transport;
  - footpaths;
  - mowing and verge maintenance;
  - municipal services;
  - neighbourhood democracy projects;
  - parking policy;
  - policy relating to transport regulation and safety;
  - public space amenity;
  - recycling and waste policy (including clinical waste policy);
  - roads and bridges;
  - sports ground management;
  - stormwater;
  - Transport Canberra; and
  - transport planning and reform.

### Matters considered

- 9.3. During the Minister for Transport and City Services appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

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<sup>893</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 1.

- mowing program;<sup>894</sup>
- community paths and cycle lanes;<sup>895</sup>
- public transport network;<sup>896</sup>
- Southern Memorial Park and a crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve;<sup>897</sup> and
- new ticketing system.<sup>898</sup>

9.4. During the Minister for Transport and City Services appearance before the Committee on 26 August 2022, the following matters were considered:

- laneways in Hall;<sup>899</sup>
- streetlight network;<sup>900</sup>
- food organics and garden organics (FOGO) and recycling;<sup>901</sup>
- income from tip waste;<sup>902</sup>
- waste audits;<sup>903</sup>
- tip fees and illegal dumping;<sup>904</sup>
- planting of trees, shrubs and ground cover;<sup>905</sup>
- Molonglo library;<sup>906</sup>
- technology to detect potholes;<sup>907</sup>
- multi-modal network plan;<sup>908</sup>
- community paths priority list;<sup>909</sup>
- active travel links;<sup>910</sup>
- recycling solar panels and batteries;<sup>911</sup>
- weed management;<sup>912</sup> and

<sup>894</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 380–384.

<sup>895</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 384–387.

<sup>896</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 388–392.

<sup>897</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 392–393.

<sup>898</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 393–397.

<sup>899</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 497–498.

<sup>900</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 498–502.

<sup>901</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 502–507.

<sup>902</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 507–508.

<sup>903</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 510–511.

<sup>904</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 511–515.

<sup>905</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 515–516.

<sup>906</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 516–519.

<sup>907</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 519–520.

<sup>908</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 546–547.

<sup>909</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 547.

<sup>910</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 547–553.

<sup>911</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 553.

<sup>912</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 556–557.

- City Services Holder depot.<sup>913</sup>
- 9.5. During the Special Minister of State's appearance before the Committee on 26 August 2022, the following matter was considered:
- end-of trip facilities and EV charging.<sup>914</sup>

## Key Issues

### Mowing

- 9.6. The Committee noted the changes to appropriation for the 'More mowing for Canberra' program in the budget papers.<sup>915</sup>
- 9.7. The Minister told the Committee that the Government is trialling an additional team to respond to community concerns and increased grass growth due to higher rainfall.<sup>916</sup> He stated that this initiative is targeted at improving amenity, and is in response to issues raised by the community, so a team is sent out to deal with that issue.<sup>917</sup> The Minister also noted that:

We will also look at where the hotspots are and patterns where we know an extra little bit of mowing may be required in order to ensure safety and amenity of the community and be able to send teams out to those particular hotspots on a more regular basis than the general passes that are already programmed.<sup>918</sup>

- 9.8. The Minister confirmed to the Committee that while there is ongoing funding for mowing, the 'More mowing for Canberra' initiative is a pilot, funded for one year, and it will be evaluated by the Government when it concludes.<sup>919</sup> He stated that:

We will see whether this pilot, the model that has been deployed in the pilot, is a good one to take forward before we invest further resources in it.<sup>920</sup>

### Recommendation 112

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government commit increased ongoing funding to mowing resources.

<sup>913</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 557–559.

<sup>914</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 525–526.

<sup>915</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 30.

<sup>916</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 381.

<sup>917</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 381.

<sup>918</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 383.

<sup>919</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 381–382.

<sup>920</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 382.

## Community paths and cycle lanes

- 9.9. The Committee noted that the individual accountability indicators ‘g’<sup>921</sup> and ‘h’<sup>922</sup> for output 2.1: Roads and Infrastructure, will be ceasing in 2021-22 and in future will be combined in accountability indicator ‘i’.<sup>923</sup>
- 9.10. Officials identified two issues with the old indicators:
- no clear distinction between community paths and cycle paths—all paths are classed as community paths and are used by cyclists; and
  - difficulty of reporting against these indicators, particularly in relation to on-road cycling.<sup>924</sup>
- 9.11. The Minister stated that safe, separated and protected path infrastructure for walking and riding is a high priority of the Active Travel plan, and meaningful indicators will help measure progress towards this goal.<sup>925</sup>

## Committee comment

- 9.12. The Committee is of the view that combining both on-road and off-road paths under one indicator reduces visibility on progress towards the goal of safe, separated and protected path infrastructure.

### Recommendation 113

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government retain separate accountability indicators for community paths and cycle lanes.

- 9.13. The Committee noted the accountability indicator for road resurfacing and highlighted that there is no equivalent indicator for path maintenance.
- 9.14. Officials noted that:
- ...the maintenance of road resurfacing is mainly aimed at ensuring it is waterproof and therefore protecting the very expensive road pavement underneath, whereas, again, in the case of cycle paths, the maintenance of that surfacing treatment is aimed eliminating issues and deficiencies that prevent that surfacing from being a useable, safe, wearing surface for traffic.<sup>926</sup>

<sup>921</sup> g. increase in length (km) of community paths, ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 23.

<sup>922</sup> h. increase in length (km) of cycle lanes, ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 23.

<sup>923</sup> i. increase in length (km) of community paths, including cycle lanes, ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 23.

<sup>924</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 384.

<sup>925</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 385.

<sup>926</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 386.

- 9.15. Officials also noted that community paths are mostly concrete and TCCS does not have a preventative treatment program, but a corrective maintenance program. While arterial paths are predominantly asphalt, they only have one function, which is to provide a serviceable and safe wearing surface. They do not require the same level of maintenance necessary to protect the structural and load bearing elements of roads.<sup>927</sup>

#### **Recommendation 114**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an annual audit of community paths and publish the results, and consider introducing specific measurable indicators such as:

- state of community paths (90 percent in good condition); and
- maintenance of community paths (km of path repaired per annum).

- 9.16. The Committee questioned the Minister and officials about the path audit completed in 2021 on the state of the path network.
- 9.17. The Minister advised the Committee that this report is an internal document, and is used for operational purposes.<sup>928</sup> Officials noted that ‘the intent of the audit was to identify issues to inform corrective programs’, not to comprehensively assess the condition of the whole network. They also noted that the audit is a snapshot in time to identify issues and sites where a contractor could be engaged to fix the worst defects within the available resourcing.<sup>929</sup>

#### **Committee comment**

- 9.18. The Committee is of the view that the audit report could provide a baseline on the state of the path network to help inform decisions on priority areas for future maintenance programs.

#### **Recommendation 115**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release the report, or a summary, based on the 2021 audit of paths in the ACT.

<sup>927</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 386.

<sup>928</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 386.

<sup>929</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 387.



## Public transport

- 9.19. During the hearing the Committee inquired about the interim bus timetable.
- 9.20. The Minister told the Committee that the interim timetable remains in operation to provide flexibility to Transport Canberra so that timetabled services can be reliably delivered despite ongoing workforce shortages due to COVID-19.<sup>930</sup> The Minister also noted that while other states are operating timetables with reduced reliability because of staffing shortages, the ACT network has:

...a very strong level of reliability, and I think that is the right approach. The interim network gives us that flexibility while we do have workforce availability issues to deliver those reliable services. But of course, we will step up services when that is possible, based on the workforce availability which we continue to monitor very closely.<sup>931</sup>

### Recommendation 116

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government move the public transport services off the interim timetable and to the permanent timetable as soon as possible.

- 9.21. The Committee asked the Minister about Strategic Indicator 1.1: Customer satisfaction with Transport Canberra bus services.<sup>932</sup>
- 9.22. Official told the Committee that there was a slump in customer satisfaction in 2019, 'which was mainly based on the fact that we did a dramatic change to the bus timetable and people were getting used to that.'<sup>933</sup> Since that time they noted that satisfaction has been increasing:

...the new figures are actually a very progressive and satisfying result to show that there is that increased satisfaction emerging and that customers are seeing an improvement in the services.<sup>934</sup>

### Recommendation 117

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government insert into future transport Canberra surveys a question that asks respondents who are dissatisfied with the public transport service—why are they dissatisfied.

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<sup>930</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 388.

<sup>931</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 391.

<sup>932</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 8.

<sup>933</sup> Ms Judith Sturman, Executive Branch Manager, Transport Canberra, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 390.

<sup>934</sup> Ms Judith Sturman, Executive Branch Manager, Transport Canberra, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 391.

## Crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve

- 9.23. During the hearing the Committee asked about a proposed crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve.
- 9.24. The Minister noted that the proposed crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve is a private facility and that it was a matter that should be asked of the Minister for Planning and Land Management.<sup>935</sup>
- 9.25. The Minister for Planning and Land Management stated in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 138](#) that:
- the Southern Memorial Park development proposal was referred to the Commonwealth Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment (the Department) under the Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act in relation to matters of national environmental significance—on 26 May 2020, the Department determined that the development was not a controlled action;
  - on 3 July 2020 the proponent applied for an Environmental Significance Opinion (ESO) from the Conservator of Flora and Fauna (the Conservator) and the ACT Heritage Council (the Council) to determine if the proposal was likely to have a significant adverse environmental or heritage impact;
  - on 18 August 2020 the Conservator determined the impacts to threatened species from the clearing of native vegetation were unlikely to have a significant adverse environmental impact;
  - on 31 August 2020 the Heritage Council determined that the proposal is unlikely to have a significant adverse heritage impact;
  - on 23 August 2021, the proponent submitted a development application (DA202138789) for the proposal in the merit track—where an ESO has been granted, the relevant triggers for the impact track no longer apply, and the proponent can submit a merit track development application; and
  - DA202138789 is currently under assessment with the independent planning and land authority—consideration of both the ESOs and any further potential on-site and offsite impacts are included as part of the assessment process.<sup>936</sup>

### Recommendation 118

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the public with information about a proposed crematorium near Callum Brae Nature Reserve, including whether the proposal includes a gas-fired or water-powered crematorium, and what the impact on the nature reserve would be, as well as what impact community concerns have had on the considerations so far.

<sup>935</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 393.

<sup>936</sup> Mr Mick Gentleman MLA, Minister for Planning and Land Management, *answer to QON 138*, 7 September 2022 (received 9 September 2022).

## Streetlight network

- 9.26. During the hearing the Committee inquired into accountability indicators for the infill program for street lighting.
- 9.27. ACT Government officials told the Committee that accountability indicators are built into the contractual arrangements, including key performance indicators, which are required to be met by the contracted company. The contract is primarily for maintenance and operation of the network, and includes the upgrade of half the streetlight network to LED (Light Emitting Diode) to reduce energy consumption.<sup>937</sup>
- 9.28. Official also told the Committee that there is an infill program to address poor lighting areas identified by the public, stating that the:
- ...program is continuous and ongoing and it assesses requests from the public based on a range of criteria to prioritise them in terms of their contribution to safety and amenity around trip generators, their feasibility in terms of access to power from the existing network and a range of other factors. They are prioritised and the highest priority projects each year are progressed.<sup>938</sup>
- 9.29. The Minister stated in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 32](#) that under the 2021-2022 Streetlight Infill Program approximately 70 lights were installed. He also advised that the average cost for installing a new streetlight is around \$5,500 and that the 2022-2023 budget for streetlight urban infill is:
- \$250,000—recurrent streetlight infill;
  - \$100,000—Better infrastructure Fund; and
  - \$500,000—Local Roads and Community Infrastructure Program (non-ongoing Commonwealth funding).<sup>939</sup>

### Recommendation 119

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund an expansion of the streetlight infill program.

- 9.30. During the hearing the Committee inquired into time taken to fix streetlights.
- 9.31. ACT Government officials advised that delays in fixing the streetlight network are currently being experienced due to:
- workforce, equipment and resource shortages due to COVID-19; and
  - wet weather resulting in water ingress into underground cabling.<sup>940</sup>

<sup>937</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 499.

<sup>938</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 600.

<sup>939</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QON 32*, 30 August 2022 (received 30 August 2022).

<sup>940</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 501–502.

- 9.32. Officials also told the Committee that reports made through Fix My Street are immediately transmitted electronically so that there is no delay in the contractor becoming aware of the outages. The contractor responsible for completing the work also has surveillance of the network and are often already aware of the reported problem.<sup>941</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations advised that:

At the moment I believe that the work in progress, so unresolved reported and unresolved issues on the network, is sitting in the 800 to 900 range, which is probably around double what we would normally expect to see. That means that the contractor is struggling to meet those KPIs [Key Performance Indicators]...There is discretion, of course, in the contract for circumstances over which the contractor has no control, and those will be applied as well.<sup>942</sup>

### **Recommendation 120**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work towards ensuring that the same timeframe for broken streetlights to be fixed is applied across the ACT.

## **FOGO and recycling**

- 9.33. The Committee was interested in the FOGO trial in Belconnen and changes to bin collection schedules as part of this trial.
- 9.34. The Minister told the Committee that the government is currently considering community feedback on the FOGO trial. This includes the option of having a weekly collection of the green bins and adjustments in the capacity of bins that are collected every fortnight, however no final decision has yet been made.<sup>943</sup>

### **Recommendation 121**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government listen to community feedback and ensure that weekly rubbish collections continue for households Canberra-wide under the FOGO rollout.

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<sup>941</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 500.

<sup>942</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 500–501.

<sup>943</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 505.

## Plantings

- 9.35. During hearings, the Committee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services if there are any performance metrics on secondary level plantings such as shrubs and ground cover which complement the tree planting program. Officials told the Committee that there are no explicit performance metrics, however there is an indirect indication through grants to local community groups, such as the Adopt a Park program, who complete many of these plantings.<sup>944</sup>
- 9.36. The Minister stated in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 76](#) that the Urban Parks Program currently has 78 registered volunteer groups, and of the 22 Adopt-a-Park grants awarded to groups in 2021-22, 12 plan to deliver new plantings of shrubs and grasses.<sup>945</sup>

### Recommendation 122

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide performance reporting of shrub and ground cover plantings.

## Technology to detect potholes

- 9.37. The Committee made inquiries about a pilot of artificial intelligence (AI) on garbage trucks to detect potholes.
- 9.38. The Minister advised the Committee that the government had undertaken a trial using artificial intelligence technology to look at road condition to provide information on the condition of the road pavement.<sup>946</sup> Officials advised that, while analysis of the trial has not yet been completed, the pilot is aimed at supporting ‘a program of road pavement condition assessment that sees a third of the road network inspected by various means on a rolling annual basis and that program increasingly, also, does include automated assessment and vehicle mounted assessment technology.’<sup>947</sup> Any expansion of the program would be subject to future procurement processes as the technology used for the pilot was a proprietary system and product.<sup>948</sup>

### Recommendation 123

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider a Canberra-wide maintenance program involving installing AI technology on garbage trucks to better detect potholes in suburb areas as soon as possible.

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<sup>944</sup> Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 516.

<sup>945</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QON 76*, 1 September 2022 (received 2 September 2022).

<sup>946</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 519.

<sup>947</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 519.

<sup>948</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 519.

## Multi-modal network plan

- 9.39. During hearings, the Committee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services about the Multi-modal Network Plan.
- 9.40. The Minister told the Committee that this is used by transport planners as a tool for better transport planning for all modes of travel in the ACT.<sup>949</sup> He also noted that it is a practitioner's tool, rather than being a transport plan, used to inform their work in transport planning across the ACT.<sup>950</sup>
- 9.41. Officials noted that it is an operational tool used to assist the government in implementing the Transport Strategy, stating:

It aims, essentially, to take a much more holistic view of the attributes that a future transport network will need to have in order to realise the objectives that are outlined in the transport strategy and other strategic documents...rather than individually planning for, for example, public transport network, active travel network, general traffic, and then, I guess, stitching those planning processes together.<sup>951</sup>

- 9.42. Official also told the Committee that the plan enables gaps in the existing infrastructure to be identified and the government to plan for future infrastructure needs across the network to assist in the implementation of the Transport Strategy.<sup>952</sup>

### Recommendation 124

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the Multi-modal Network Plan when complete and provide more information to the community about what the plan is for and how it will be implemented.

## Active travel

- 9.43. The Committee noted that the draft active travel plan did not include active travel links between the Gungahlin Town Centre and Yerrabi Pond.
- 9.44. The Minister told the Committee that there has been consultation with the community to determine priority path connections for both pedestrian and cyclists in Gungahlin. This has predominantly been done through the 'Your Say Interactive Walking and Cycling maps'. The Minister stated that the government had received over 1,400 comments on the maps, and that the feedback is being reviewed to identify locations with missing active travel links that the community would like to see implemented.<sup>953</sup>

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<sup>949</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 546.

<sup>950</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 547.

<sup>951</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 546.

<sup>952</sup> Mr Ken Marshall, Executive Branch Manager, City Operations, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 546.

<sup>953</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 547–548.

### Recommendation 125

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve the active travel linkages between Gungahlin Town Centre and Yerrabi Pond as part of the Active Travel Plan.

## Weed management

- 9.45. The Committee was interested in the role of TCCS in managing weeds, noting that recent wet weather has seen a proliferation in weed growth across the ACT.
- 9.46. During the hearings officials told the Committee that weed management is a focus during the off-mowing season for TCCS staff, and that they also partner with community groups to help with weed management.<sup>954</sup> They also advised the Committee that TCCS can never get to all weeds, so a priority list is used to determine activities undertaken annually to control weeds. Priority is determined according to levels of use, so areas of high use, such as playgrounds, arterial roads, and large open spaces including the lakes and parks have more frequent weed control activities than areas with lower community use.<sup>955</sup>

### Recommendation 126

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more funding for weed management within TCCS to ensure that they are able to reach more areas.

## City Services depot, Holder

- 9.47. The Committee inquired about the expansion of the City Services depot in Holder and how the Government is consulting with the neighbouring archery club to ensure a smooth transition for all parties.
- 9.48. The Minister noted that the Western Valley Archery Club is co-located with the Holder depot, which needs to be expanded due to growth in the Molonglo region, increasing responsibilities for the urban forest, and more staff in the urban treescaping team.<sup>956</sup>
- 9.49. Officials noted that design and planning approvals for the expansion of the depot are being worked through and the government is in discussion with the club on a range of issues. Impacts on the archery club include a shortening of the current archery green and the need to relocate a shipping container used for their stores and equipment. There are also improvements planned for the amenity of the site, for example; of toilet facilities that the club would be able to use on the edge of the depot itself, something the club does not currently have. Mr Jeremy Smith, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery stated that:

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<sup>954</sup> Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 556.

<sup>955</sup> Mr Daniel Iglesias, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 557.

<sup>956</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 558.

We will continue to work with them through the life of the planning and design and then, as we move through to construction of that project.<sup>957</sup>

### Recommendation 127

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with Weston Valley Archery club to ensure a positive outcome for the club in the expansion of the City Services Holder Depot.

## Domestic Animal Services

- 9.50. The Committee was interested in Domestic Animal Services in Output 2.4: City Maintenance and Services.<sup>958</sup>
- 9.51. Budget Statements H—Output 2.4 provided a new accountability indicator for Domestic Animal Services:

Percentage of seized dog cases where the holding period has not exceeded the statutory period of 28 day (70%)—This is a new indicator measuring the ability of Domestic Animal Services to conduct investigations into alleged matters in a timely manner.<sup>959</sup>

- 9.52. A question on notice was asked in relation to the communication between Domestic Animal Services and individuals under investigation. The Minister noted in his answer to [Question on Notice No. 136](#) that:

- the average time for an investigation is influenced by a number of factors including the:
  - type and severity of offence or incident;
  - cooperation of third parties from whom evidence needs to be collected; and
  - unpredictability of incoming jobs in a triaged response environment; and
- there are no reportable metrics related to communications with residents about open investigations.<sup>960</sup>

### Recommendation 128

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate how to improve communication between Domestic Animals Services and individuals with open investigations.

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<sup>957</sup> Mr Jeremy Smith, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery, TCCS, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 558.

<sup>958</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 27.

<sup>959</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements H*, p 27.

<sup>960</sup> Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport and City Services, *answer to QON 136*, 9 September 2022 (received 9 September 2022).



## 10. Major Projects Canberra

- 10.1. Budget Statements I states that Major Projects Canberra (MPC) ‘was established on 1 July 2019 as the ACT Government’s specialist infrastructure delivery directorate. MPC’s strategic objectives (and purpose) are stated in Major Projects Canberra’s Strategic Plan 2020-25. MPC’s purpose is to build infrastructure for our community that makes Canberra the world’s most liveable city.’<sup>961</sup> Funding for MPC is set out in [Budget Statements I](#).

### Administrative Arrangements

- 10.2. The areas of responsibility covered are:
- Chief engineer;
  - Delivery of physical capital works projects in coordination with government agencies;
  - Direct delivery of designated major capital works projects:
    - CIT campus redevelopment;
    - TCH expansion;
    - Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment project; and
    - City to Woden light rail project and finalisation of the Gungahlin to the City light rail project.

### Matters considered

- 10.3. During the Minister for Skills’ appearance before the Committee on 22 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- CIT Woden campus;<sup>962</sup>
  - CIT contribution to Woden Town Centre;<sup>963</sup> and
  - student safety.<sup>964</sup>
- 10.4. During the Minister for Transport and City Services’ appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matter was considered:
- light rail project.<sup>965</sup>
- 10.5. During the Minister for the Arts’ appearance before the Committee on 25 August 2022, the following matter was considered:
- Canberra Theatre development.<sup>966</sup>

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<sup>961</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements I*, p 6.

<sup>962</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 30 and pp 31–33.

<sup>963</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, pp 44–48.

<sup>964</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 56.

<sup>965</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 397–404.

<sup>966</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, pp 412–415.

- 10.6. During the Minister for Transport and City Services appearance before the Committee on 26 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- light rail project;<sup>967</sup>
  - light rail vehicles;<sup>968</sup> and
  - raising of London Circuit.<sup>969</sup>
- 10.7. During the Treasurer's appearance before the Committee on 29 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- labour market;<sup>970</sup>
  - Public Sector Management Act disclosures;<sup>971</sup> and
  - MPC employee survey.<sup>972</sup>

## Key Issues

### Development of the CIT Woden campus

- 10.8. The Committee questioned the Minister about the plan for CIT to contribute to the social and cultural fabric of the Woden Town Centre.
- 10.9. Officials from MPC updated the Committee on the development of the new CIT campus and public interchange in Woden during the public hearings. The Minister for Skills indicated that the Government has been consulting with the Scentre Group (who own Westfield) and the Hellenic Club about how they will be developing their sites along with the Woden Centre.<sup>973</sup> Mr Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, MPC explained how smaller scale businesses and organisations are being considered in the design process:

Of course, the teaching and learning spaces are extremely important, but we are also very cognisant that what we are doing needs to fit into the broader community, so it is for that reason that we are spending a lot of time talking to surrounding businesses, large and small, but we are also, through the design process, thinking about not only what happens with our building itself but how it may interact with others in the vicinity.<sup>974</sup>

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<sup>967</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 508–510.

<sup>968</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 544–546.

<sup>969</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, pp 553–556.

<sup>970</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 564–566.

<sup>971</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 596–597, pp 600–601 and pp 604–605.

<sup>972</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 604–605.

<sup>973</sup> Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 47.

<sup>974</sup> Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 85.

### Recommendation 129

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to work with Woden businesses to ensure that local business developments are integrated into ACT Government developments.

- 10.10. Included in the design for the CIT building is a large (575 m<sup>2</sup>) hall which the Committee understands will be used as a teaching area, for example for hospitality students, as well as being available for hire by outside groups.<sup>975</sup>
- 10.11. One example of a community organisation which could use the space is the Multicultural Association of Canberra, which has struggled to find in Canberra appropriate community meeting spaces that are big enough for their events, are affordable and offer cooking facilities or choice of catering.<sup>976</sup>

### Committee comment

- 10.12. The Committee notes that objective 2.7 of the 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly Parliamentary agreement states that the Government will 'include a live music and arts precinct in the construction of the new Woden CIT campus'.<sup>977</sup> The Committee believes that if the CIT hall had music and cooking facilities available for hire, it could be a valuable multi-use facility for the live music industry and for community groups in a convenient South Canberra location.

### Recommendation 130

The Committee recommends that the space available for community hire in the new CIT Woden facility:

- is suitable for live music including consideration on whether it should be a live entertainment precinct; and
- includes kitchen facilities which are available for community groups to prepare food for events.

- 10.13. Feedback from the community consultation about the Woden development has revealed that people are concerned for their safety in the centre and in the bus interchange, indicating that the area is seen as dark, enclosed, and hard to navigate.<sup>978</sup> According to Ms Rebecca Power, Project Director, CIT Campus Woden Project, MPC, the design of the new public spaces has been informed by this feedback:

We did have four safety and design workshops throughout the design process, which focuses on all of those elements, including the elements for the students themselves, as well as for the general population of the Woden Town Centre. There is strong focus on CCTV coverage, on lighting, appropriate lighting, we have

<sup>975</sup> Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 47.

<sup>976</sup> Ms Nishi Puri, President, Multicultural Association of Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 12 September 2022, p 16.

<sup>977</sup> Parliamentary and Governing Agreement—10<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory, Appendix 4.

<sup>978</sup> ACT Government, *Design & Values Survey Snapshot – City Campus – Woden*, July 2020, p 14.

a focus on the security, accessing a lot of passive surveillance and making sure that we have as much activation as possible to increase passive surveillance.<sup>979</sup>

### Committee comment

- 10.14. The Committee is of the view that student safety should be a primary consideration in the design and development of the CIT campus in Woden, in order to address the perception of the area as unsafe. This is necessary to encourage the community to use the new campus grounds and facilities to their full potential.

#### Recommendation 131

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider student safety at the forefront of design and during construction of CIT campus in Woden, with further consideration being given to implement student safety plans on the campus from the outset.

- 10.15. The Committee asked about the timelines for the completion of the CIT Woden campus project.

- 10.16. Mr Edgehill outlined the following timeline milestones:

- the new temporary bus interchange will be in operation at the beginning of 2023;
- the demolition of the existing bus interchange will commence once the new interchange is in use in early 2023;
- in early 2023 the excavation of the bottom level, for basement car parking will also start, and will be followed by the superstructure coming out of the ground (the building itself); and
- in 2024 the predominant works will be the fit-out, and everything that needs to happen inside the superstructure, with a view to the facility opening during calendar year 2025.<sup>980</sup>

#### Recommendation 132

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update its website for the expected completion and opening date for the CIT Woden campus.

- 10.17. The Committee noted the \$31 million allocated in the budget for the CIT Woden campus.

- 10.18. The Minister advised the Committee that further investment in the budget was in response to:

...community feedback that we have received during the consultation process.

The community told us that they would like to see a focus on good shelter being

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<sup>979</sup> Ms Rebecca Power, Project Director, of the CIT Campus Woden Project, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 56.

<sup>980</sup> Mr Duncan Edgill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 32.

provided in the new CIT campus, particularly as it is an integrated development, together with a new transport interchange. There will be quite a number of people traversing from the interchange through the campus and into different parts of the town centre, whether that is Westfield or some of the government office accommodation there. We have certainly been reflecting those changes and updates to the design as we have gone through that iterative design process.<sup>981</sup>

### Recommendation 133

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government details the elements of the \$31 million expenditure for the Woden CIT Major Project within the Annual Report.

## Raising London Circuit

10.19. During hearings, the Committee asked the Minister for Transport and City Services about the project to raise London Circuit.

10.20. The Minister told the Committee that the ACT Government has signed contracts with Abergeldie for raising London Circuit, which will take a couple of years.<sup>982</sup> Officials stated that the Government is still in discussion with Abergeldie about the timelines for the delivery of that construction project. These discussions include consideration for:

- maintaining the traffic flow along Commonwealth Avenue during the build process;
- Establishment of the construction compounds—this will commence in the next one month to two months;
- works associated with the temporary signalisation of Vernon Circle and the City Hill Park—expected to commence in this calendar year;
- estimated work in 2023-2024, in broad terms, noting that at all times there will be at least one bridge open to enable north-south traffic movement to happen:
  - building up the earth next to the existing bridges so that the eastern bridge can be demolished first;
  - once the eastern bridge is demolished that then allows the fill to be brought in to raise London Circuit on that side;
  - switching to the demolition of the western bridge to build up London Circuit on that side;
  - bringing the road into its final alignment; and
  - landscaping adornments, the street furniture and other finishing structures, to complete the project.<sup>983</sup>

<sup>981</sup> Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Skills, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 August 2022, p 31.

<sup>982</sup> Mr Chris Steel, Minister for Transport and City Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 508.

<sup>983</sup> Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 26 August 2022, p 554.

10.21. Officials also stated that:

The intention is, as best we can, to roll from construction associated with the raising of London Circuit into the construction of stage 2A. If that is the case...raising London Circuit is expected to tail off in the back half of 2024, if we then roll straight into 2A, realistically, the stage 2A process will take at least a couple of years.<sup>984</sup>

### Recommendation 134

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly, the disruption taskforce plan for managing disruption during stage 2A of light rail works, when completed.

## Labour market

- 10.22. A key issue discussed by the Committee was the planned expansion of MPC's workforce by 15 percent in a tight labour market to meet the requirements of the Government's ambitious infrastructure spend.
- 10.23. The Treasurer noted in his response that the challenges faced in delivering against infrastructure budgeting are usually around gearing up for new projects, and that once a major project is underway it is usually delivered effectively.<sup>985</sup> The Treasurer also noted that for major projects, a tier 1 contractor has been required to be on site as they can provide both a local and interstate workforce, as using local capacity only would not be enough to deliver large infrastructure projects.<sup>986</sup>
- 10.24. The Committee also examined the dependence of the infrastructure program on the MPC expansion. The Treasurer in response commented that while the expansion of Major Projects Canberra is important, this will largely affect the pace of delivery as opposed to the capacity to deliver a project.<sup>987</sup>

## Committee Comment

- 10.25. Committee is of the view that there is a risk to the expected schedule of infrastructure projects the Government intends to deliver given workforce capacity limits in both the MPC and private industry, meaning achievement of the full infrastructure program is unlikely. This is particularly the case given the Treasurer's comment that, in the last fiscal year, approximately 80 per cent of the program was delivered.<sup>988</sup>

<sup>984</sup> Mr Duncan Edghill, Chief Projects Officer, Major Projects Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 25 August 2022, p 403.

<sup>985</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, pp 562–563.

<sup>986</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 563.

<sup>987</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 564.

<sup>988</sup> Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 August 2022, p 562.

### **Recommendation 135**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the impact of workforce capacity limits in MPC and private industry on its ability to deliver the program of infrastructure projects.

## 11. Office of the Legislative Assembly

- 11.1. The Office of the Legislative Assembly (OLA) is established by the *Legislative Assembly (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Act 2012* (the Act) and provides a statutory basis for its independence from the Executive. Under Section 6 of the Act, OLA's function is to provide impartial advice and support to the Legislative Assembly and committees and members of the Assembly.<sup>989</sup> Funding for OLA is reflected in [Budget Statements A](#).

### Matters considered

- 11.2. During the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT appearance before the Committee on 2 September 2022, the following matters were considered:
- Worksafe ACT Prohibition Notice;<sup>990</sup>
  - COVID-19 safety plan;<sup>991</sup>
  - new parliamentary portal;<sup>992</sup>
  - electorate offices;<sup>993</sup>
  - digital transformation projects;<sup>994</sup>
  - committee office restructure;<sup>995</sup>
  - Office of the Legislative Assembly future priorities;<sup>996</sup> and
  - information communications technology capabilities.<sup>997</sup>

### OLA appropriations

- 11.3. The Committee received an additional submission from the Speaker in relation to questioning about the future priorities of OLA in future.
- 11.4. The Speaker advised that OLA sought funding for end of trip facilities in the recent budget which did not receive appropriation. She stated that:

The absence of end of trip facilities discourages take-up of active transport and impacts our ability to be an employer of choice. It also means Members and staff will find it challenging to use active transport to minimise the impact of disruption caused by the nearby light rail project over the coming years. Therefore, we will seek funding for these facilities again in the future.<sup>998</sup>

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<sup>989</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements A*, p 37.

<sup>990</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1026.

<sup>991</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1026–1028.

<sup>992</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1028–1029.

<sup>993</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1029–1030.

<sup>994</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, p 1030.

<sup>995</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1031–1032.

<sup>996</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1032–1033.

<sup>997</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 2 September 2022, pp 1033–1034.

<sup>998</sup> Ms Joy Burch MLA, Speaker, Office of the Legislative Assembly, *Submission 5*, 15 September 2022.



11.5. The Speaker also highlighted two projects for which funding will be requested in the future include:

- upgrading the public entry to address security vulnerabilities; and
- signage to improve identification of the building as the home of the Legislative Assembly.<sup>999</sup>

### **Recommendation 136**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund OLA to provide end-of-trip facilities in the building, and upgrades to the public entrance and building signage.

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<sup>999</sup> Ms Joy Burch MLA, Speaker, Office of the Legislative Assembly, *Submission 5*, 15 September 2022.

## 12. Officers of the Legislative Assembly

### ACT Audit Office

- 12.1. The ACT Auditor-General is an independent Officer of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The ACT Audit Office supports the Auditor-General in carrying out activities. The Audit Office aims to promote public accountability for the effective and efficient provision of ACT public services by providing independent, evidenced-based audit reports to the ACT Legislative Assembly and ACT community.<sup>1000</sup> Funding for the ACT Auditor Office is set out in [Budget Statements A](#).

### Matters considered

- 12.2. During the ACT Auditor-General's appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- budgeted employee expenses;<sup>1001</sup>
  - lessons learned from audit reports;<sup>1002</sup>
  - liaison between the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner;<sup>1003</sup>
  - audits;<sup>1004</sup> and
  - FOI.<sup>1005</sup>

### Key issues

#### Lessons learned from audit reports

- 12.3. The Committee noted that the ACT Audit Office's priorities do not include broad implications of the lessons learnt from Auditor-General's reports.
- 12.4. Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, told the Committee that:
- he is responsible for reporting to the Assembly and the Standing Committee on Public Accounts through the reports that are tabled; however
  - there is an associated discussion concerning which government entity is responsible for following up and being held accountable for these report recommendations.<sup>1006</sup>
- 12.5. Mr Harris observed in relation to following up on recommendations of Auditor-General reports that:

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<sup>1000</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements A*, p 29.

<sup>1001</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 847–848.

<sup>1002</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 848–848.

<sup>1003</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 849–850.

<sup>1004</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 850–853.

<sup>1005</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 853–854.

<sup>1006</sup> Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 848–849.

I think the line somewhere is a joint responsibility, where I need perhaps to more actively track what is happening to recommendations and perhaps provide separate advice to the public accounts committee or any other committee, for that matter, as to whether or not I think sufficient action has been taken so that the Assembly itself can follow up on those things and hold the government to account. It is not listed as a priority and perhaps it should be, so I will contemplate that.<sup>1007</sup>

### **Recommendation 137**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office include in the 2022-23 priorities a line item for educating and raising ACT Government awareness of lessons learnt from audit reports.

### **Recommendation 138**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office consider conducting an audit on whether the ACT Government has successfully completed actions that it had agreed to undertake in response to earlier audits.

## **Audits**

- 12.6. The ACT Audit Office is responsible for a range of audits: mandatory, grant acquittals (where the commonwealth provides money to the ACT, for example, for roads infrastructure), performance and limited assurance.<sup>1008</sup> Mr Harris noted that with additional funding, the Auditor-General could undertake more performance audits and provide a higher level of support to the Legislative Assembly. He told the Committee that:

We provide a fairly high level of support to the public accounts committee, but we do not provide broader support to parliamentary committees like the estimates committee, for example, or the education committee or the justice and community safety committee. We do performance reports that cover the broad range of committees. We do not interact that much with the other committees, except by invitation, and we are always happy to do so, of course.<sup>1009</sup>

- 12.7. The Auditor-General told the Committee that ACT Audit Office consultation to date has been limited to the Speaker, leaders of each of the political parties, chairs of committees and the public accounts committee. Mr Harris stated that he plans to meet with every member of the Assembly this year to discuss with them what the office could be doing to assist them with their committee work.<sup>1010</sup>

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<sup>1007</sup> Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 849.

<sup>1008</sup> Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 850.

<sup>1009</sup> Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 851.

<sup>1010</sup> Mr Michael Harris, Auditor-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, p 852.

### Recommendation 139

The Committee recommends that the ACT Audit Office consider consulting with members on development of the forward audit program and write to all committees to seek their input.

## ACT Electoral Commission

- 12.8. The ACT Electoral Commission is an independent statutory authority with responsibility for the:
- conduct of elections and referendums for the ACT Legislative Assembly;
  - determination of electoral boundaries for the ACT; and
  - provision of electoral advice and services to a wide range of clients.<sup>1011</sup>
- 12.9. The Commission comprises three statutory office holders – a part-time Chairperson, a fulltime Electoral Commissioner and another part-time member. The members of the Commission are independent officers of the ACT Legislative Assembly. The Commission reports to the Legislative Assembly through the Speaker.<sup>1012</sup> Funding for the ACT Electoral Commission is set out in [Budget Statements A](#).

## Matters considered

- 12.10. During the ACT Electoral Commissioner's appearance before the Committee on 31 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- funding for IT systems;<sup>1013</sup>
  - fines for not voting;<sup>1014</sup>
  - electorate boundary redistribution;<sup>1015</sup>
  - Standing Committee on JACS—ACT election report;<sup>1016</sup> and
  - social media misinformation.<sup>1017</sup>

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<sup>1011</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements A*, p 1.

<sup>1012</sup> ACT Government Budget 2022-2023, *Budget Statements A*, p 1.

<sup>1013</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 804–805.

<sup>1014</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 805–807.

<sup>1015</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 807–809.

<sup>1016</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 809–811.

<sup>1017</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 August 2022, pp 811–812.

## ACT Integrity Commission

- 12.11. The ACT Integrity Commission deals with reports relating to conduct that involves corruption, maladministration (which is substantial mismanagement) or conduct that poses a substantial and specific danger to public health or safety, or the environment. The Commission also oversights the application of the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*, ensuring that whistleblowers are protected and their information is investigated.<sup>1018</sup> Funding for the ACT Integrity Commission is set out in [Budget Statements A](#).

### Matters considered

- 12.12. During the ACT Integrity Commission's appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- increased funding in this year's budget and forward estimates;<sup>1019</sup>
  - telephone intercept powers;<sup>1020</sup>
  - messaging in media releases;<sup>1021</sup> and
  - investigations being carried out on the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and Campbell school.<sup>1022</sup>

### Key issues

#### Resourcing for the ACT Integrity Commission

- 12.13. The Committee heard that while the ACT Integrity Commission received a modest increase in funding in the Budget, and there was an underspend in the previous year, the agency was significantly under resourced.
- 12.14. The underspend in the previous year was due to a lack of telephone interception powers and an inability to recruit, noting that it was not permissible to recruit persons who had worked in the ACT public service in the previous five years.<sup>1023</sup>
- 12.15. The Committee also heard that the investigation into the CIT has been significantly more resource intensive than expected and has been challenging for existing staff resources. This has had the impact of pushing out completion timeframes. The Campbell School investigation had also been substantial. At the same time, government procurement is proving to be an area that needs significant attention.<sup>1024</sup>

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<sup>1018</sup> ACT Integrity Commission Website: [Home - ACT Integrity Commission](#) (accessed 5 September 2022).

<sup>1019</sup> The Hon. Michael Adams, QC Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 301–303.

<sup>1020</sup> The Hon. Michael Adams, QC Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 304–305.

<sup>1021</sup> The Hon. Michael Adams, QC Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 305–306.

<sup>1022</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 302.

<sup>1023</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 301–302.

<sup>1024</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 302–303.

- 12.16. The Commissioner told the Committee that the workload of the Commission was unknown when work started. It is likely that more staffing resources will be required in the next budget.

#### Committee comment

- 12.17. The Committee is of the view that the role of the ACT Integrity Commission in strengthening public confidence in the integrity of the ACT Government by preventing, investigating, and exposing corruption is essential. As the Commission becomes more established, its funding needs are likely to increase.

#### Recommendation 140

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Integrity Commission has sufficient funding to meet its workload.

#### Telephone intercept powers

- 12.18. The Committee heard that the ACT Integrity Commission is seeking telephone interception powers to assist in its investigations. The telephone interception powers would be used to obtain information about communications with persons of interest on matters relevant to investigations. The Commissioner explained that they were needed as soon as possible, noting that while he was able to perform his function without them, having the powers would make the role less difficult. The telephone interception powers are included as part of a package of legislative reforms that have been documented in the ACT Integrity Commission's annual report.
- 12.19. The need for the powers has been discussed with the Chief Minister, and referred to the Justice and Community Safety Committee for consideration. The Commissioner is now seeking a meeting with the Chief Minister.
- 12.20. The Committee heard that the Australian Federal Police use these powers on a regular basis, and have told the Commission they have material that would be of interest but cannot be shared as the ACT Integrity Commission are not an agency under the Commonwealth telecommunications intercept legislation.<sup>1025</sup>

#### Committee comment

- 12.21. The Committee is of the view that access to telephone interception powers would make the ACT Integrity Commission more efficient and effective in carrying out its role.

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<sup>1025</sup> The Hon. Michael Adams, QC Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, Proof Committee Hansard, 24 August 2022, pp 304–305.

### Recommendation 141

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government includes consideration of telephone intercept powers in its review of legislative reform for the ACT Integrity Commission.

## ACT Ombudsman and Inspector of the Integrity Commission

- 12.22. The ACT Ombudsman manages complaints about unfair treatment by ACT government agencies, by working with government and organisations to:
- improve their decision-making and complaints-handling;
  - ensure they comply with their obligations of reporting allegations of misconduct towards children; and
  - encourage them to take a pro-active approach to disclosing information to the public.<sup>1026</sup>
- 12.23. The ACT Ombudsman is the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission (the Inspector). Funding for the ACT Ombudsman is set out in [Budget Statements B](#).

### Matters considered

- 12.24. During the ACT Ombudsman's (and Inspector of the Integrity Commission) appearance before the Committee on 24 August 2022, the following matters were considered:
- reviewing implementation of recommendations made;<sup>1027</sup>
  - additional funding provided in the Budget;<sup>1028</sup>
  - complaints received in respect of the Master Builder's Fidelity fund;<sup>1029</sup>
  - planned investigations;<sup>1030</sup>
  - engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and culturally and linguistically diverse communities;<sup>1031</sup>
  - Reportable Conduct Scheme;<sup>1032</sup> and
  - commitments under the Healing Foundation.<sup>1033</sup>

<sup>1026</sup> ACT Ombudsman website: [Who we are | ACT Ombudsman](#) (accessed 29 August 2022)

<sup>1027</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 289–291.

<sup>1028</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 291–292.

<sup>1029</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 292.

<sup>1030</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 292–293.

<sup>1031</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 293–294.

<sup>1032</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 295–297 and p 300.

<sup>1033</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, pp 297–298.

## Key issues

### Reportable Conduct Scheme

- 12.25. The Reportable Conduct Scheme covers allegations or convictions of child abuse or misconduct toward children. Organisations must report allegations of reportable conduct by an employee or volunteer. If an allegation, suggests that reportable conduct has occurred or may have occurred, the Ombudsman must be notified.<sup>1034</sup>
- 12.26. The Committee heard that the number of entities that are complying with their obligation to report within 30 days is lower than it should be. The Ombudsman has sought to rectify this through outreach to agencies and developing web-based training to be widely available.<sup>1035</sup>
- 12.27. The ACT Ombudsman told the Committee that they are planning to do an audit of policies and procedures for entities to assist them with reporting as required under the legislation.<sup>1036</sup>
- 12.28. The Committee noted that current reporting systems are not able to provide granular information around the timeliness of the reporting and in the last financial year, only 68 percent of notifications were made within the required timeframe.<sup>1037</sup> Some information was able to be provided on notice regarding average times:

In 2021-22, for those designated entities who complied with the 30-day notification timeframe, the average number of days taken to notify the Office from when the allegation was known is 19 days. In 2021-22, for all notifications, the average number of days taken for designated entities to notify the Office from when the allegation was known is 35 days. Designated entities advised the Office the common causes for delay in notification are gathering information and staffing and resource issues.<sup>1038</sup>

- 12.29. In 2021-22 the ACT Ombudsman received 136 notifications under the Reportable Conduct Scheme. Of those, 43 reports were from Government and non-government schools, 34 reports were from kinship and foster care providers, and the remainder were from other types of designated entities.

### Committee comment

- 12.30. The Committee were concerned that, given the gravity of the issues required to be reported under a mandatory system, there was a lack of granular data available to analyse trends, including whether the ACT Ombudsman was being notified of urgent cases in an appropriate timeframe, cases that were reported late, and trends for reporting agencies.

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<sup>1034</sup> ACT Ombudsman website: [Reportable conduct | ACT Ombudsman](#) (accessed 29/8/22)

<sup>1035</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 295.

<sup>1036</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 295.

<sup>1037</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 296.

<sup>1038</sup> Ian Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *answer to QTON 58*, 31 August 2022, (received 2 September 2022).



## Recommendation 142

The Committee recommends that the ACT Ombudsman keep close oversight on reporting to the Reportable Conduct Scheme and potentially look at nuances in the reporting data to provide insight into gaps and strengths in reporting.

## ACT Police Watch House

- 12.31. In 2017, Australia ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture (OPCAT), which requires every jurisdiction to set up or designate bodies to monitor detention. The ACT Human Rights Commission, the ACT Ombudsman and the Human Rights Commission have been designated as the ACT's NPM (National Preventative Mechanism).<sup>1039</sup>
- 12.32. The Committee heard that the UN SubCommittee for the Prevention of Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) will be visiting Australia, possibly including the ACT, for two weeks from 17 October 2022.<sup>1040</sup> The ACT Human Rights Commissioner advised that the SPT will visit a number of jurisdictions and may carry out unannounced inspections.<sup>1041</sup>
- 12.33. Responsibility for the ACT Police Watch House falls under the Office for the Ombudsman, both in its capacity representing the Commonwealth Ombudsman, and as the Commonwealth NPM and the ACT Ombudsman, as part of the multi-body ACT NPM.<sup>1042</sup>

## Lessons from individual complaints

- 12.34. The Committee heard how the ACT Ombudsman followed up with agencies on the implementation of recommendations or suggestions such as changes in agency practices and procedures made in respect of complaints where similar issues arise across cohorts of individuals in similar situations.<sup>1043</sup>
- 12.35. The ACT Ombudsman also monitors individual complaints to identify trends and emerging problem areas. Individual data is published, with the data de-identified to some extent to protect the privacy of complainants.<sup>1044</sup>

## Committee comment

- 12.36. The Committee is of the view that learnings from individual complaints need to be monitored to ensure that suggestions for improvement are incorporated into business practices of relevant agencies. Noting the role that committees of the Legislative Assembly,

<sup>1039</sup> Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 1004, Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 1101.

<sup>1040</sup> Rebecca Minty, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 1005.

<sup>1041</sup> Dr Helen Watchirs, ACT Human Rights Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 1 September 2022, p 1101.

<sup>1042</sup> Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *answer to QON 261*, 12 September 2022, (received 12 September 2022).

<sup>1043</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 298.

<sup>1044</sup> *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 August 2022, p 299.

in particular the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety have in overseeing the role of the ACT Ombudsman, there also needs to be oversight of the process.

### **Recommendation 143**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Ombudsman explore ways to allow oversight of whether the lessons learned from individual complaints are actually being applied in a manner that does not disclose personal information.

James Milligan MLA

Chair

28 September 2022

# Appendix A: Witnesses

Friday, 12 August 2022

## ACTCOSS

- **Dr Gemma Killen**, Head of Policy

## Canberra Business Chamber

- **Mr Graham Catt**, Chief Executive Officer

## Multicultural Association of Canberra

- **Ms Nishi Puri**, President
- **Mr Kranti Amar**, Treasurer

## Advocacy for Inclusion and Women with Disabilities ACT

- **Mr Nicolas Lawler**, Chief Executive Officer, Advocacy for Inclusion
- **Mr Craig Wallace**, Head of Policy, Advocacy for Inclusion

Monday, 22 August 2022

## Ministers

**Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Minister for Skills

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA**, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

**Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA**, Minister for Consumer Affairs and Minister for Gaming

**Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**, Minister for Families and Community Services

## Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Glenn Carter**, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Building Construction Industry Training Fund Authority
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet, Economic Development
- **Mr Mark Harriott**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Skills Canberra, Economic Development
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy, Economic Development
- **Mr Andre Diez De Aux**, Senior Director, Skills Policy and Strategy, Economic Development
- **Ms Kate Lundy**, Chair, CIT Board
- **Ms Christine Robertson**, Interim Chief Executive Officer, CIT

- **Mr Andrew Whale**, Executive Director, Training and Education Services, CIT
- **Ms Josephine Andersen**, A/g Executive Director, Strategic Projects and Industry Engagement, CIT
- **Mr Greg Tong**, Senior Director, CIT Finance, CIT

## Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer, Project Development and Support Group
- **Ms Rebecca Power**, Project Director, CIT Campus Woden Project

## Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director-General
- **Ms Jo Wood**, Deputy Director-General, Programs and Operations
- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Deputy Director General, Reform
- **Ms Christine Murray**, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Ms Jessica Summerrell**, Executive Branch Manager, Children Youth and Families
- **Ms Freya O'Brien**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Mr Ricky Zhao**, Director, Finance and Budget
- **Ms Melanie Saballa**, Executive Branch Manager, Next Steps – Reform and Strategy Implementation
- **Ms Sally Gibson**, Executive Branch Manager, Quality, Complaints and Regulation
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Maria Kanellopoulos**, Senior Director, Practice and Performance
- **Ms Sarah Kirk**, Senior Director, Children Youth and Families

## Education Directorate

- **Ms Katy Haire**, Director-General
- **Ms Jane Simmons**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Deb Efthymiades**, Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Reform
- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Kate McMahon**, Executive Group Manager, Safe at Schools
- **Ms Sam Seton**, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery
- **Mr Ian Turnbull**, Chief Finance Officer, Business Services
- **Mr David Matthews**, Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division

- **Mr Mark Huxley**, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement
- **Ms Coralie McAlister**, Chief Executive Officer, Teacher Quality Institute
- **Mr Martin Watson**, Executive Director, Board of Senior Secondary Studies

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Chief Executive Officer, Gambling and Racing Commission
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registration
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Strategy
- **Mr Guiseppe Mangeruca**, Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance

## Tuesday, 23 August 2022

### Ministers

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA**, Minister for Sport and Recreation, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence

**Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for Health

### Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet, Economic Development
- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Stephen Miners**, Deputy Under Treasurer, Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services (ERIPSS), Treasury
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations, Economic Development
- **Ms Rebecca Kelley**, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, Economic Development
- **Mr Graham Tanton**, Executive Group Manager, Property and Shared Services; Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services (ERIPSS), Treasury

- **Ms Belinda Hedley**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT Property Group, ERIPPS, Treasury

## Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer, Project Development and Support Group
- **Mr Adrian Piani**, ACT Chief Engineer, Project Director, Canberra Theatre Redevelopment and Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery Partners
- **Mr Martin Little**, Project Director, Canberra Hospital Expansion

## Transport Canberra and City Services

- **Mr Jim Corrigan**, Deputy Director-General, City Services
- **Mr Ken Marshall**, Executive Group Manager, City Operations
- **Mr Daniel Iglesias**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation

## Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director-General
- **Ms Jo Wood**, Deputy Director-General, Programs and Operations
- **Ms Christine Murray**, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Ms Freya O'Brien**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Mr Ricky Zhao**, Director, Finance and Budget
- **Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis**, Executive Branch Manager, Family Safety
- **Ms Kirsty Windeyer**, Coordinator-General for Family Services, Coordinator-General for Family Services, Coordinator-General for the Prevention of Sexual Violence and ACT Domestic Death Review, Family Safety
- **Ms Tamara Graham**, Executive Branch Manager, Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

## ACT Health

- **Ms Rebecca Cross**, Director-General
- **Ms Deborah Anton**, Deputy Director-General
- **Dr Kerry Coleman**, Chief Health Officer
- **Ms Jacinta George**, Executive Group Manager, Health System Planning and Evaluation
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Infrastructure
- **Mr Sasith Wickramasinghe**, A/g Chief Finance Officer, Corporate and Governance
- **Mr John Fletcher**, Executive Group Manager, Corporate and Governance
- **Mr Peter O'Halloran**, Chief Information Officer, Digital Solutions

- **Mr Michael Culhane**, Executive Group Manager, Policy, Partnerships and Programs
- **Ms Fiona Barbaro**, Executive Group Manager, Population Health
- **Ms Maria Travers**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Population Health
- **Ms Robyn Walker**, Executive Group Manager, COVID-19 Response
- **Mr Victor Martin**, Executive Branch Manager, Health Protection Service
- **Dr Dinesh Arya**, Chief Medical Officer, Office of Professional Leadership and Education
- **Mr Anthony Dombkins**, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Office of Professional Leadership and Education

## Canberra Health Services

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Cathie O'Neill**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Ms Kate Chambers**, A/g Chief Finance Officer
- **Dr Grant Howard**, Executive Director, Medical Services
- **Ms Susan Freiberg**, Executive Director, Women, Youth and Children
- **Mr Colm Mooney**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Health Support Services
- **Dr Ashwin Swaminathan**, A/g Executive Director, Medicine
- **Ms Jo Morris**, Executive Director, Allied Health/Rehabilitation, Aged and Community Services
- **Ms Kalena Smitham**, Executive Group Manager, People and Culture
- **Ms Katie McKenzie**, Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drug Services

## Wednesday, 24 August 2022

### Solicitor-General

**Mr Peter Garrison**, Solicitor-General, Office of the Solicitor-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

### Director of Public Prosecutions

**Mr Shane Drumgold SC**, Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

### Legal Aid ACT

**Dr John Boersig PSM**, Chief Executive Officer

**Mr Brett Monger**, Chief Finance Officer

## **ACT Ombudsman/ Inspector of the Integrity Commission**

**Mr Iain Anderson**, ACT Ombudsman, Inspector of the Integrity Commission

**Ms Penny McKay**, Deputy Ombudsman

**Mr David Fintan**, Senior Assistant Ombudsman, Program Delivery Branch

## **ACT Integrity Commission**

**The Hon Michael Adams**, QC, Commissioner of the ACT Integrity Commission

**Ms Judy Lind**, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Integrity Commission

**Mr Scott Hickey**, Chief Finance Officer, ACT Integrity Commission

**Mr John Hoitink**, Former Chief Executive Officer, ACT Integrity Commission, ACT Ombudsman

## **Public Trustee and Guardian**

**Mr Andrew Taylor**, Public Trustee and Guardian

**Mr Callum Hughes**, Senior Director/Deputy Public Trustee and Guardian (Finance)

## **Ministers**

**Ms Emma Davidson MLA**, Minister for Justice Health and Minister for Mental Health

**Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA**, Attorney-General

## **The ACT Health Directorate**

- **Ms Rebecca Cross**, Director-General
- **Ms Deb Anton**, Deputy Director-General
- **Dr Elizabeth Moore**, Coordinator-General, Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing
- **Ms Cheryl Garrett**, Executive Branch Manager, Mental Health Policy
- **Dr Dinesh Arya**, Chief Psychiatrist
- **Mr Sasith Wickramasinghe**, A/g Chief Finance Officer, Corporate & Governance Division
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure, Communication and Engagement Division

## **Canberra Health Services**

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Cathie O'Neill**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Ms Kate Chambers**, A/g Chief Finance Officer, Chief Financial Officer Group



- **Ms Katie McKenzie**, Executive Director, Mental Health, Justice Health, Alcohol and Drug Services

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, Acting Director-General, Justice
- **Ms Karen Doran**, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Amanda Nuttall**, Principal Registrar & CEO, ACT Courts & Tribunal
- **Mr Peter Garrisson SC**, Solicitor-General
- **Mr Shane Drumgold**, Director of Public Prosecutions
- **Ms Robyn Hakelis**, Executive Branch Manager, Criminal Law, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Kathryn Johnson**, Executive Branch Manager, Justice Reform, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Gabrielle McKinnon**, Senior Manager, Civil Law, Policy & Programs Division
- **Mr Richard Dening**, Senior Director, Restorative Justice Unit, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Bianca Kimber**, Parliamentary Counsel
- **Mr Jon Peach**, Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division
- **Ms Claire Halim**, Executive Branch Manager, Security, Security and Emergency Management Division
- **Mr Kuga Kugathas**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Capital Works & Infrastructure, Corporate Services Group

## Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr David Pryce**, Registrar-General
- **Mr Fred Arugay**, Director, Land Titles

## Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Ms Fiona Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy
- **Ms Carolyn Goonrey**, Director, Sustainability Policy

**Thursday, 25 August 2022**

## Ministers

**Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Minister for Transport and City Services

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Minister for the Arts, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Business and Better Regulation

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA**, Minister for Education and Youth Affairs

**Ms Emma Davidson MLA**, Assistant Minister for Families and Community Services, Minister for Veterans and Seniors and Minister for Disability

## Transport Canberra and City Services

- **Ms Alison Playford**, Director-General
- **Mr Jim Corrigan**, Deputy Director-General, City Services
- **Mr Ben McHugh**, Deputy Director-General, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Mr Ken Marshall**, Executive Group Manager, City Operations
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure, Delivery and Waste
- **Mr Jeremy Smith**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- **Ms Judith Sturman**, Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Mr Daniel Childs**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Ms Kirra Cox**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy and Customer
- **Mr Andrew Pederson**, Chief Finance Officer
- **Mr Geoff Davidson**, Executive Branch Manager, Development and Coordination
- **Mr Daniel Iglesias**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation
- **Mr Michael Trushell**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT NoWaste
- **Mr Ian McGlinn**, Executive Branch Manager, Bus Operations
- **Ms Cherie Hughes**, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Operating Officer Group
- **Mr Anthony Haraldson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Light Rail Operations
- **Ms Sarah Taylor-Dayus**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Delivery

- **Ms Vanessa Little**, Executive Branch Manager, Libraries ACT
- **Ms Kerry McMurray**, Acting CEO and Executive Branch Manager, Canberra Cemeteries
- **Mr Neal Guthrie**, Chair Board of the Canberra Memorial Parks

## Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Project Director, Light Rail Project
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer, Project Development and Support Group
- **Mr Adrian Piani**, ACT Chief Engineer, Project Director, Canberra Theatre Redevelopment and Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery Partners
- **Mr Jeff Hart**, Senior Director, Project Development and Support

## Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet
- **Mr David Pryce**, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra
- **Dr Damian West**, Deputy Director-General, General & Secure Local Jobs Registrar
- **Ms Janet Wilson**, Executive Branch Manager, ACTPS Centre for Leadership and Innovation
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy
- **Ms Caroline Fulton**, Executive Branch Manager, artsACT
- **Mr Gordon Ramsey**, Chief Executive Office, Cultural Facilities Corporation
- **Mr Ian Tidy**, Chief Finance Office, Cultural Facilities Corporation
- **Mr Alex Budd**, Director, Canberra Theatre Centre, Cultural Facilities Corporation
- **Ms Margaret McKinnon**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction Operations Registrar and Architects Registrar
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Strategy
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Coordinator General, Economic and Regional Policy
- **Mr David Clapham**, Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Regional Policy
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT Commissioner for Fair Trading, Controlled Sports Registrar, Registrar of Co-operatives
- **Ms Emily Springett**, Executive Branch Manager, Engagement, Compliance and COVID-19 Response

- **Dr Su Wild-River**, Senior Director, Environment Protection Authority, Delegate for Lakes
- **Mr Craig Neiberding**, Executive Branch Manager, Customer Coordination
- **Ms Jenny Priest**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation
- **Ms Karen Stewart-Moore**, Executive Branch Manager, Communications and Engagement
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Executive Branch Manager, Corporate Support and Capability, Access Canberra
- **Mr Ash Balaretnaraja**, Senior Director, Innovation, Investment and Tertiary Education
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Senior Director, Regulation and Productivity

### Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Mr Rodney Dix**, Assistant Director, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection

### Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director-General
- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Deputy Director General, Reform
- **Ms Christine Murray**, Executive Group Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Ms Jessica Summerrell**, Executive Branch Manager, Children Youth and Families
- **Ms Freya O'Brien**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Mr Ricky Zhao**, Director, Finance and Budget
- **Mr Shaun Kelly**, Executive Branch Manager, Inclusion and Participation
- **Dr Louise Bassett**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Sally Gibson**, Executive Branch Manager, Quality, Complaints and Regulation
- **Ms Tracey Harkness**, Senior Practitioner, Quality, Complaints and Regulation
- **Ms Maria Kanellopoulos**, Senior Director, Practice and Performance
- **Ms Tina Brendas**, Executive Branch Manager, Bimberi Residential Services
- **Ms Alison Grace**, Deputy Centre Manager, Bimberi Residential Services

### Education Directorate

- **Ms Katy Haire**, Director-General
- **Ms Jane Simmons**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Deb Efthymiades**, Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Reform

- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Kate McMahon**, Executive Group Manager, Safe at Schools
- **Ms Sam Seton**, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery
- **Mr Ian Turnbull**, Chief Finance Officer
- **Mr David Matthews**, Executive Group Manager, Business Services Division
- **Mr Mark Huxley**, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement
- **Ms Coralie McAlister**, Chief Executive Officer, Teacher Quality Institute
- **Mr Martin Watson**, Executive Director, Board of Senior Secondary Studies

**Friday, 26 August 2022**

## **Ministers**

**Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Minister for Transport and City Services and Special Minister of State

## **Transport Canberra and City Services**

- **Ms Alison Playford**, Director-General
- **Mr Jim Corrigan**, Deputy Director-General, City Services
- **Mr Ben McHugh**, Deputy Director-General, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Mr Ken Marshall**, Executive Group Manager, City Operations
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure, Delivery and Waste
- **Mr Jeremy Smith**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Delivery
- **Ms Judith Sturman**, Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Mr Daniel Childs**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Transport Canberra and Business Services
- **Ms Kirra Cox**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Policy and Customer
- **Mr Andrew Pederson**, Chief Finance Officer
- **Mr Geoff Davidson**, Executive Branch Manager, Development and Coordination
- **Mr Daniel Iglesias**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation
- **Mr Michael Trushell**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT NoWaste
- **Mr Ian McGlenn**, Executive Branch Manager, Bus Operations
- **Ms Cherie Hughes**, Chief Operating Officer, Chief Operating Officer Group
- **Mr Anthony Haraldson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Light Rail Operations

- **Ms Sarah Taylor-Dayus**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Delivery
- **Ms Vanessa Little**, Executive Branch Manager, Libraries ACT
- **Ms Kerry McMurray**, Acting CEO and Executive Branch Manager, Canberra Cemeteries
- **Mr Neal Guthrie**, Chair Board of the Canberra Memorial Parks

### Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Project Director, Light Rail Project
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer, Project Development and Support Group

### Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Under Treasurer
- **Ms Bettina Konti**, Deputy Director-General and Chief Digital Officer, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Cabinet
- **Ms Leesa Croke**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Alana Lundy**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions
- **Mr Mark Whybrow**, Executive Group Manager, Finance, Procurement Contracts: Digital, Data and Technology Solutions
- **Mr Damon Hall**, Acting Deputy Under Treasurer, Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, A/g Motor Accident Injuries Commissioner and A/g Lifetime Care and Support Commissioner, Acting Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial; Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services
- **Ms Nicola Clark**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Insurance Branch (MAI Commission, LTCS Commission), Economic and Financial; Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services
- **Mr Graham Tanton**, Executive Group Manager, Property and Shared Services; Economic, Revenue, Insurance, Property and Shared Services (ERIPSS), Treasury
- **Ms Penny Shields**, General Manager, ACT Insurance Authority
- **Ms Sue Vroombout**, Deputy Under Treasurer, Budget, Procurement, Infrastructure and Finance
- **Mr Glenn Bain**, Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT; Budget, Procurement, Infrastructure and Finance

- **Ms Sanaz Mirzabegian**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Procurement Reform; Budget, Procurement, Infrastructure and Finance
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Chief Executive Officer, Gambling and Racing Commission
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations, Economic Development
- **Mr Matthew Elkins**, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra
- **Mr Scott Saddler**, Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park
- **Mr Dave Purser**, Executive Branch Manager, Goods and Services Procurement; Budget, Procurement, Infrastructure and Finance
- **Ms Kyla Kerkow**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Procurement Policy and Capability; Budget, Procurement, Infrastructure and Finance
- **Ms Sam Tyler**, Executive Branch Manager, Cabinet, Assembly and Government Business
- **Ms Dani Wickman**, Executive Branch Manager and Director, Territory Records Office

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Civil Law; Legislation, Policy and Programs

## Monday, 29 August 2022

### Ministers

**Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Treasurer

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Assistant Minister for Economic Development

**Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA**, Minister for Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction

**Mr Mick Gentleman MLA**, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services

### Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Under Treasurer
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-general, Economic Development
- **Ms Sue Vroombout**, Deputy Under Treasurer

- **Mr Damon Hall**, A/g Deputy Under Treasurer
- **Mr Kim Salisbury**, Executive Group Manager, Revenue Management
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive group Manager, Policy & Strategy
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial
- **Mr Patrick McAuliffe**, Executive Branch Manager, Investments and Borrowings
- **Mr Mitchell Pirie**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Finance and Reform
- **Ms Kathy Goth**, Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Financial Analysis
- **Mr Chris Roberts**, Executive Branch Manager, Macroeconomics, Modelling and Federal Financial Relations
- **Ms Jenny Priest**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation
- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT
- **Mr Ash Balaretnaraja**, Senior Director, Innovation, Investment and Tertiary Education

### Major Projects Canberra

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer
- **Mr Adrian Piani**, ACT Chief Engineer, Project Director, Canberra Theatre Redevelopment and Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure Delivery partners
- **Ms Nikki Pulford**, A/g Executive Group Manager

### Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission

- **Mr Joe Dimasi**, Senior Commissioner
- **Dr Annette Weier**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Lachlan Phillips**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer

### Icon Water Limited

- **Mr Ray Hazkial**, Managing Director
- **Ms Alison Pratt**, General Counsel
- **Ms Joy Yau**, Chief Financial Officer

### Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment



- **Ms Fiona Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change and Energy
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Mr Daniel Harding**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy Policy
- **Ms Ros Malouf**, Senior Director, Climate Change and Energy Programs
- **Ms Carolyn Goonrey**, Director, Sustainability Policy

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Ms Karen Doran**, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Mr Niel Gaughan**, Chief Police Officer
- **Mr Peter Crozier**, Deputy Chief Police Officer
- **Mr Peter Whowell**, Executive General Manager, Corporate Services
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs
- **Ms Robyn Hekelis**, Executive Branch Manager, Criminal Law
- **Ms Kathryn Johnson**, Executive Branch Manager, Justice Reform
- **Mr Jon Peach**, Executive Group Manager, Security
- **Ms Claire Halim**, Executive Branch Manager, Security

## Tuesday, 30 August 2022

### Ministers

**Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Chief Minister and Minister for Climate Action

**Mr Chris Steel MLA**, Special Minister of State

### Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kathy Leigh**, Head of Service, Director-General
- **Mr Stuart Hocking PSM**, Under Treasurer
- **Ms Sue Vroombout**, Deputy Under Treasurer
- **Mr Damon Hall**, A/g Deputy Under Treasurer
- **Ms Bettina Konti**, Deputy Director-General and Chief Digital Officer
- **Ms Leesa Croke**, Deputy Director-General

- **Dr Damian West**, Deputy Director-General, General & Secure Local Jobs Registrar
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Coordinator-General, Office for Climate Action
- **Mr Mark Whybrow**, Executive Group Manager, Finance, Procurement and Contracts
- **Mr Graham Tanton**, Executive Group Manager, Property and Shared Services
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations
- **Mr Glenn Bain**, Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT
- **Mr Robert Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Corporate
- **Ms Trish Johnston**, Executive Group Manager, Communications and Engagement
- **Mr David Morgan**, A/g Chief Finance Officer (Executive Group Manager)
- **Ms Alana Lundy**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Digital, Data and Technology Solutions
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, A/g MAI Commissioner and A/g LTCS Commissioner, A/g Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial
- **Ms Sanaz Mirzabegian**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Procurement Reform
- **Ms Penny Shields**, General Manager, ACT Insurance Authority
- **Mr Brendan Smyth**, Commissioner for International Engagement
- **Mr Ian McPhee**, ACT Public Standards Commissioner
- **Mr Russel Noud**, Executive Group Manager, Industrial Relations and Public Employment Sector
- **Mr Michael Young**, Executive Group Manager, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations
- **Mr Dave Purser**, Executive Branch Manager, Goods and Services Procurement Branch
- **Ms Sam Tyler**, Executive Branch Manager, Cabinet, Assembly and Government Business
- **Mr Matthew Elkins**, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra
- **Mr Scott Saddler**, Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum and Stromlo Forest Park
- **Ms Nicola Clark**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Insurance Branch (MAI Commission, LTCS Commission)
- **Ms Kyla Kerkow**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Procurement Policy and Capability Branch
- **Ms Dani Wickman**, Executive Branch Manager and Director, Territory Records Office

- **Ms Christina Thompson**, Executive Branch Manager, Professional Standards Unit
- **Ms Janet Wilson**, Executive Branch Manager ACTPS Centre for Leadership and Innovation
- **Mr Andrew Mehrton**, Executive Branch Manager, Social Policy branch
- **Mr Kieran Lawton**, Executive Branch Manager, Program Delivery, Office for Climate Action
- **Mr Peter Robinson**, Executive Branch Manager, Wellbeing Indicators Project
- **Ms Wilhelmina Blount**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Cabinet Division

### Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Ms Dragana Cvetkovski**, Chief Finance Officer
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, A/g Executive Group Manager
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Civil Law
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Chief Executive Officer, Gambling and Racing Commission
- **Mr Jon Peach**, Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division

### City Renewal Authority

- **Mr Malcolm Snow**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Craig Gillman**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr David Putt**, Finance Director

### Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr John Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Irena Sharp**, Program Manager

### Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment
- **Mr Daniel Harding**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy Policy

**Wednesday, 31 August 2022**

### **ACT Electoral Commission**

- **Mr Damien Cantwell**, Electoral Commissioner
- **Mr Rohan Spence**, Deputy Electoral Commissioner
- **Mr Scott Hickey CA**, Chief Finance Officer

### **Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment**

- **Dr Sophie Lewis**, Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment
- **Mr Sean Grimes**, Director, Sustainability, Environmental Assessments and Reporting
- **Mrs Miranda Gardner**, Director, Complaints and Investigations

### **ACT Audit Office**

- **Mr Michael Harris**, Auditor-General
- **Ms Caroline Smith**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Mr Basu Banka**, Chief Finance Officer Director, Finance & Quality Assurance

### **Ministers**

**Mr Andrew Barr MLA**, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism

**Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA**, Minister of Homelessness and Housing Services and Minister for Heritage

### **Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate**

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development
- **Mr Daniel Bailey**, Executive Group Manager, Operations
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy and Strategy
- **Mr Ross Triffitt**, Executive Branch Manager, Events ACT
- **Mr Jonathan Kobus**, Executive Branch Manager, Visit Canberra
- **Ms Jenny Priest**, Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation (Previously Executive Group Manager, Business Support Grants)
- **Mr Matthew Elkins**, Executive Branch Manager, Venues Canberra
- **Mr Scott Saddler**, Executive Branch Manager, National Arboretum Canberra and Stromlo Forest Park
- **Mr Ash Balaretnaraja**, Senior Director, Innovation, Investment and Tertiary Education

### **Community Services Directorate**

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director-General

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Deputy Director General, Programs and Operations
- **Ms Ann Maree Sabellico**, Executive Group Manager, Reform
- **Ms Louise Gilding**, Executive Group Manager, Housing ACT
- **Mr Shane Nielsen**, Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Business Transformation
- **Mr Geoff Aigner**, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services
- **Ms Catherine Loft**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts
- **Ms Lauren Callaghan**, Financial Controller, Infrastructure and Contracts
- **Mr Ricky Zhao**, Director, Finance and Budget

## Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Ms Edwina Jans**, Senior Director
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection, Access Canberra

## Thursday, 1 September 2022

### Inspector of Correctional Services

- **Mr Neil McAllister**, Inspector of Correctional Services
- **Ms Rebecca Minty**, Deputy Inspector of Correctional Services

### Human Rights Commission

- **Dr Helen Watchirs**, President and Human Rights Commissioner
- **Ms Karen Toohey**, Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community Services Commissioner
- **Ms Heidi Yates**, Victims of Crime Commissioner

### Ministers

**Mr Mick Gentleman MLA** Minister for Corrections, Minister for Policing and Emergency Services, Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety and Minister for Planning and Land Management

**Ms Tara Cheyne MLA**, Minister for Human Rights and Minister for Business and Better Regulation

## Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Richard Glenn**, Director-General
- **Ms Karen Doran**, Deputy Director-General, Community Safety
- **Ms Danielle Krajina**, Chief Operating Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Dragana Cvetovski**, Chief Finance Officer, Corporate Services Group
- **Ms Kym Copeman**, Senior Director, Strategic Policy and Programs, Community Safety, Office of the Deputy Director-General, Community Safety
- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Commissioner Corrective Services
- **Ms Narelle Pamplin**, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration, Corrective Services
- **Mr Bruno Aloisi**, Acting Assistant Commissioner, Community Corrections, Corrective Services
- **Ms Georgeina Whelan**, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Jason Jones**, Assistant Commissioner, Operations, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Wayne Phillips**, Assistant Commissioner, Corporate, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Howard Wren**, Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Glen Brewer**, A/g Chief Office, ACT Fire & Rescue, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Rohan Scott**, Chief Officer, ACT Rural Fire Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Anthony Draheim**, Chief Officer, ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Robyn White**, Executive Branch Manager, Finance, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Ms Maree O’Neale**, Executive Branch Manager, Capability, Coordination and Support, ACT Emergency Services Agency
- **Mr Jon Peach**, Executive Group Manager, Security and Emergency Management Division
- **Mr Cameron Beresford**, Executive Branch Manager, Emergency Management, Security and Emergency Management Division
- **Ms Kelly Williams**, A/g Deputy Director-General, Justice
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division

- **Ms Kathryn Johnson**, Executive Branch Manager, Justice Reform, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division
- **Ms Gabrielle McKinnon**, Senior Manager, Civil Law, Legislation, Policy & Programs Division

## Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development
- **Ms Lisa Teburea**, Executive Group Manager, Planning and Urban Policy
- **Mr James Bennett**, Executive Group Manager, Building, Design and Projects
- **Mr Craig Weller**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Statutory Planning
- **Mr Matthew Kamarul**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning System Review and Reform
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Mr George Cilliers**, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Development and Implementation
- **Ms Lynette Marsh**, Executive Branch Manager, Development and Implementation
- **Mr Stephen Alegria**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- **Mr Stuart Jeffrees**, Senior Director, Parks and Partnerships, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- **Ms Michaela Watts**, A/g Senior Director, Parks and Partnerships, ACT Parks and Conservation Service
- **Mr Justin Foley**, A/g Senior Director, fire, Forests and Road , ACT Parks and Conservation Service

## Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD)

- **Mr Michael Young**, Executive Group Manager, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations (WSIR)
- **Mr Russell Noud**, Executive Group Manager, Industrial Relations and Public Sector Management (WCAG)
- **Dr Damian West**, Deputy Director General, Registrar, Workforce Capability and Governance (WCAG) Secure Local Jobs Code

- **Ms Jen Campbell**, Executive Group Manager, Secure Local Jobs Code
- **Ms Cassandra Webeck**, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Long Service Leave Authority
- **Ms Crystal Wang**, Chief Financial Officer, ACT Long Service Leave Authority
- **Ms Jacqueline Agius**, Work Health and Safety Commissioner, Worksafe ACT
- **Ms Amanda Grey**, Deputy Work Health and Safety Commissioner, Worksafe ACT
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection, Access Canberra
- **Mr David Pryce**, Deputy Director-General, Access Canberra (Statutory Office Holder Registrar General)
- **Ms Margaret McKinnon**, Chief Operating Officer, Access Canberra
- **Dr Su Wild-River**, Senior Director and Environment Protection Authority, Construction, Utilities and Environment Protection Statutory Office Holder: Environment Protection Authority, Delegate for Lakes Clinical Waste Controller
- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Deputy Director General, Economic Development
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Executive Group Manager, Policy & Strategy, Policy & Strategy / Economic Development
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Strategy
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Coordinator General, Office for Climate Action
- **Mr David Clapham**, Executive Branch Manager, Economic and Regional Policy
- **Ms Jenny Priest**, Executive Branch Manager, (Previously Executive Group Manager, Business Support Grants) Business and Innovation
- **Ms Karen Stewart-Moore**, Executive Branch Manager, Communications and Engagement
- **Dr Jodie Vaile**, A/g Executive Branch Manager, Fair Trading and Compliance Branch
- **Mr Ash Balaretnaraja**, Senior Director, Innovation, Investment and Tertiary Education (previously Acting Executive Branch Manager, Business and Innovation (August 2021-July 2022), Innovation, Investment and Tertiary Education / Economic Development
- **Ms Fiona Chesworth**, Senior Director, Regulation and Productivity
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Licensing and Registration Statutory Office Holder: ACT Commissioner for Fair Trading, Controlled Sports Registrar, Registrar of Co-operatives, Access Canberra
- **Ms Yu-Lan Chan**, Executive Branch Manager, Corporate Support and Capability Statutory Office Holder: CEO, Gambling and Racing Commission
- **Mr Craig Neiberding**, Executive Branch Manager, Customer Coordination, Access Canberra



**Friday, 2 September 2022**

## **Office of the Legislative Assembly**

- **Ms Joy Burch MLA**, Speaker
- **Ms Julia Agostino**, Acting Clerk
- **Mr David Skinner**, Senior Director, Office of the Clerk
- **Mr Marcus Clough**, Acting Executive Manager
- **Mr Don Shashika**, Chief Finance Officer

## **Ministers**

**Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA**, Minister for the Environment and Minister for Sustainable Building and Construction

**Ms Yvette Berry MLA**, Minister for Early Childhood Development and Minister for Housing and Suburban Development

## **Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate**

- **Mr Ben Ponton**, Director-General
- **Mr Geoffrey Rutledge**, Deputy Director-General, Sustainability and the Built Environment
- **Mr David Pryce**, Deputy Director-General
- **Dr Erin Brady**, Deputy Director-General, Planning and Sustainable Development
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, A/g Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Water
- **Dr Rosie Cooney**, Senior Director, Conservation Research and Evaluation
- **Mr Ryan Breen**, Director, Water Policy
- **Dr Rosie Cooney**, Senior Director, Conservation Research and Evaluation
- **Dr Su Wild-River**, Senior Director, Environment Protection Authority
- **Mr James Bennett**, Executive Group Manager, Building, Design and Projects
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Development and Implementation
- **Ms Lynette Marsh**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Development and Implementation
- **Ms Lisa Teburea**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Planning and Urban Policy

## **Major Projects Canberra**

- **Mr Duncan Edghill**, Chief Projects Officer
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Finance Officer, Project Development and Support Group

- **Mr Adrian Piani**, ACT Chief Engineer and Executive Group Manager
- **Ms Sunila Srivastava**, Senior Director

### Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction Operations Registrar and Architects Registrar

### Education Directorate

- **Ms Katy Haire**, Director-General
- **Ms Jane Simmons**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Deb Efthymiades**, Deputy Director-General, System Policy and Reform
- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Dr Nicole Moore**, Executive Branch Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Mandy Kalyvas**, Executive Branch Manager, Service Design and Delivery
- **Mr Ian Turnbull**, Chief Finance Officer, Business Services

### Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Catherine Rule**, Director-General
- **Ms Jo Wood**, Deputy Director-General, Programs and Operations
- **Ms Anne Maree Sabellico**, Deputy Director-General, Reform
- **Ms Jessica Summerrell**, Executive Branch Manager, Children Youth and Families
- **Mr Joe Hutchinson**, Centre Manager, Child and Family Centre
- **Ms Melanie Thompson**, Senior Manager, Child Development Service
- **Ms Katherine Parker**, Operation Manager, Child Development Service
- **Ms Sarah Kirk**, Senior Director, CYRIS Business System
- **Mr Ricky Zhao**, Director, Finance and Budget
- **Ms Louise Gilding**, Executive Group Manager, Housing ACT
- **Mr Shane Nielsen**, Executive Branch Manager, Policy and Business Transformation
- **Ms Catherine Loft**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure and Contracts
- **Mr Geoff Aigner**, Executive Branch Manager, Client Services
- **Ms Lauren Callaghan**, Financial Controller, Infrastructure and Contracts
- **Ms Sally Gibson**, Executive Branch Manager, Quality, Complaints and Regulation

### Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr John Dietz**, Chief Executive Officer

- **Mr Joey Lee**, Acting Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Program Solutions
- **Mr Tom Gordon**, Executive Director, Development Delivery
- **Mr Nicholas Holt**, Executive Director, Built Form and Divestment
- **Mr Ross Syme**, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Finance, Digital Solutions and Valuations
- **Ms Sally Gilbert**, Executive Branch Manager, Governance and Corporate Services
- **Ms Jessica Hillcrest**, Program Manager, Built Form and Divestment – Housing Choice
- **Mr Simon Tennent**, Development Director, Development Delivery – Molonglo
- **Ms Irene Sharp**, Program Director, Development Delivery – Urban and Commercial

## Appendix B: Questions on notice and taken on notice

### Questions on notice

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
11	23/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	CIT Strategic Adviser	30/08/22
12	23/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	CIT Woden	31/08/22
13	23/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	Contracts Cancellations and Suspensions	31/08/22
14	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Skills	Skilled Migration	31/08/22
15	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Skills	Budget Technical Adjustments CIT Woden	30/08/22
16	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Skills	Study Canberra Website Funding	31/08/22
17	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Sport and Recreation	Home of Football at Throsby	01/09/22
18	23/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Attorney-General	Restorative Justice Survey	30/08/22
19	23/08/22	Ms Lawder	Planning and Land Management	Geotechnical Drilling	08/09/22
20	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Radiation Therapy Wait Times	05/09/22
21	24/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Deegan Review	06/09/22
22	24/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Retrieval Team	08/09/22
23	24/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Bullying at Health	05/09/22
24	24/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Paediatric and elective surgery wait times	16/09/22
25	24/08/22	Mr Milligan	Education and Youth Affairs	New and Expanded School	30/08/22
26	24/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Quarterly Performance Report	31/08/22
28	25/08/22	Mr Braddock	Sport and Recreation	Gender Specific Swim Times	07/09/22
29	25/08/22	Mr Braddock	Multicultural Affairs	Community languages announcement	02/09/22
30	25/08/22	Ms Lee	Arts	CFC Board Minutes	06/09/22
31	26/08/22	Mr Braddock	Transport and City Services	Streetlight energy performance contract	30/08/22
32	26/08/22	Mr Braddock	Transport and City Services	Streetlighting Infill Program	30/08/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
82	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Paediatric Specialists	15/09/22
83	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Flu vaccinations	05/09/22
84	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Staff Numbers	09/09/22
85	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Chief Minister	Deegan Contracts	07/09/22
86	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Chief Minister	Employee Expenses	06/09/22
87	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Chief Minister	Whole of Government Staffing	06/09/22
88	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Specialist Units in the ACT	16/09/22
89	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	CHS Estimated Employment Level	06/09/22
90	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Staff incident classifications	16/09/22
91	26/08/22	Mr Hanson	Health	Drug and Alcohol Funding	15/09/22
92	26/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Land for non-government schools	31/08/22
93	26/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	ACT school class sizes	31/08/22
94	26/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	ACT school facilities	01/09/22
101	26/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Staff Incidents Classification and Breakdown	16/09/22
102	29/08/22	Mr Milligan	Special Minister of State	Stromlo Forest Park	08/09/22
110	29/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Senior Nurse Numbers	15/09/22
111	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	External Merits Review	08/09/22
112	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Functional Family Therapy - Child Welfare	05/09/22
113	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Updating the CYP Act	12/09/22
114	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Family Group Conferences	14/09/22
115	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Implementing Next Steps for Our Kids	09/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
116	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Our Booris, Our Way	07/09/22
117	29/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Residential Care	09/09/22
118	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Arts	CFC COS Role	07/09/22
119	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasurer	GGs Calculations	07/09/22
120	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Housing and Suburban Development	Growth and Renewal Program and revenue of Housing ACT properties	09/09/22
127	30/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Digital Health Records	06/09/22
128	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Health	Oncology Ward at Calvary and Canberra Hospital	12/09/22
129	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Eating Disorders - Funding Rollover	05/09/22
130	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Eating Disorders Centre - Acquisition of Land	05/09/22
131	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Restrictive Practices	13/09/22
132	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Attorney-General	Offenders at Large	12/09/22
133	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Sport and Recreation	Sports ground upgrades in Ginninderra	09/09/22
134	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Arts	Economic Impact of the Arts in the ACT	09/09/22
135	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Arts	Recognising Significant Women Through Public Art	09/09/22
136	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Communication with Domestic Animal Services	09/09/22
137	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Dog Parks	06/09/22
138	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Planning and Land Management	Southern Memorial Park	07/09/22
139	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Families and Community Services	Age Friendly City Plan	09/09/22
140	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Families and Community Services	Age Friendly City Plan Reporting	09/09/22
141	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Women	Community Grants	09/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
142	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Women	Gender Disaggregated Data	09/09/22
143	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Women	Return to Work Program	12/09/22
144	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra Staffing	06/09/22
145	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra - Accountability Indicators	07/09/22
146	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra - Deregulation	07/09/22
147	30/08/22	Mr Cocks	Business and Better Regulation	Access Canberra - WWVP registration	07/09/22
148	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Arts	CFC COS Role	07/09/22
149	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Attorney-General	Defending Decisions	15/09/22
150	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Multicultural Affairs	Festival Cost	09/09/22
151	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	Community Facilities Property Services	09/09/22
152	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	FOI	15/09/22
153	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	ACT Insurance Authority	08/09/22
154	30/08/22	Ms Castley	Transport and City Services	Jabanunga Avenue	07/09/22
155	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Disability	Disability (Funding)	09/09/22
156	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Disability	Disability Advocacy funding	09/09/22
157	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Disability	Budget total costs (Disability)	09/09/22
186	31/08/22	Ms Lee	Arts	CFC Chief of Staff	08/09/22
187	31/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	CFC Chief Executive Officer recruitment process	09/09/22
188	31/08/22	Mr Parton	Chief Minister	Our Canberra Newsletter	07/09/22
189	31/08/22	Mr Parton	Transport and City Services	Traffic Calming Measures	07/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
190	31/08/22	Mr Parton	Transport and City Services	Ticketing System	07/09/22
191	31/08/22	Mr Parton	Transport and City Services	Transport Canberra Metro	07/09/22
217	30/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Mowing	08/09/22
232	01/09/22	Ms Clay	Education and Youth Affairs	Future school needs in the Belconnen Town Centre	13/09/22
233	02/09/22	Ms Clay	Planning and Land Management	Integrating active travel design standards into suburb planning	13/09/22
234	02/09/22	Ms Clay	Transport and City Services	Athllon Drive Duplication	09/09/22
235	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	10 year strategy for the prevention of sexual violence	09/09/22
236	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	ACT Domestic and Family Violence Death Review	09/09/22
237	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	ACT PS DV and Family Violence Training	09/09/22
238	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	ACT specific actions under the next National Plan to End Violence Against Women	09/09/22
239	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Counselling service	12/09/22
240	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Family Violence Risk Assessment Framework	09/09/22
241	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Family Violence Safety Action Pilot	09/09/22
242	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Got Your Back by Relationships Australia	09/09/22



No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
243	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	The Health Justice Partnership	09/09/22
244	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Multidisciplinary Centre design and pilot	09/09/22
245	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Domestic and family violence service for children under 12 years	09/09/22
246	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Room4Change (DVCS)	12/09/22
247	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Safer Families Levy	09/09/22
248	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Phase 1 of Sexual Assault Prevention Response and Response Steering Committee's final report	09/09/22
249	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Specialist Services Review	09/09/22
250	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Statistics and Multidisciplinary review team for recent sexual assault cases	09/09/22
251	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Support for frontline domestic violence organisations	09/09/22
252	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Victim Survivor Consultation Program	09/09/22
253	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Healing and Reconciliation Fund	12/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
254	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	New Facility for Gugan Gulwan	12/09/22
255	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Requested Board of Inquiry	12/09/22
256	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Treaty Process	12/09/22
257	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	FFT Youth Justice	09/09/22
258	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Franklin House for young people on community justice orders	09/09/22
259	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre	09/09/22
260	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility	09/09/22
261	31/08/22	Mr Braddock	ACT Ombudsman	Oversight of ACT Police cells	12/09/22
262	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Spit hoods use	16/09/22
263	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Strip searches	13/09/22
264	01/09/22	Ms Castley	Transport and City Services	Fix My Street in Yerrabi	09/09/22
268	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Bleach Powder	09/09/22
269	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Cooperation between Justice Health and Corrections	09/09/22
270	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Additional needs policy, provision of culturally appropriate food	09/09/22
271	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Psychologists at AMC	09/09/22
272	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	KPIs AMC	09/09/22
273	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Psychologist Waiting Times	09/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
274	31/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	AMC Smoke Free	09/09/22
275	01/09/22	Ms Lawder	Planning and Land Management	Yankee Hat	08/09/22
276	01/09/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Firewood Delivery	07/09/22
277	01/09/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Mowing Clippings	08/09/22
278	01/09/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Residential Eating Disorder Treatment Centre Completion	09/09/22
279	02/09/22	Mr Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	Gungahlin JESC	15/09/22
280	02/09/22	Mr Hanson	Police and Emergency Services	ACT Policing staffing breakdown	20/09/22
281	02/09/22	Mr Hanson	Attorney-General	Justice services and Courts	19/09/22
290	02/09/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Shopping Centre Upgrades	09/09/22
291	02/09/22	Ms Lawder	Environment	ACT Climate Change Strategy for Nature	12/09/22
292	02/09/22	Ms Lawder	Environment	Kangaroo Culls	12/09/22
293	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	ACT Audit Office	Integrity Commissions findings into the Dickson land swap	12/09/22
294	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Police and Emergency Services	Dangerous driving on Uriarras roads	13/09/22
295	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Planning and Land Management	Woden Valley Community Centre	13/09/22
296	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Planning and Land Management	Wombats in Molonglo Valley	14/09/22
297	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Economic Development	Stromlo Forest Park	12/09/22
298	02/09/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	Turnover Rates (ACT Executive)	16/09/22
299	02/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Public Housing Funding	19/09/22
300	02/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Treasurer	Belconnen Trunk Sewer Upgrade	09/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
301	02/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Police and Emergency Services	Interview Friends Program	20/09/22
302	05/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Spit hoods PPE	13/09/22
303	05/09/22	Ms Clay	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Water Abstraction Charges	12/09/22
304	05/09/22	Ms Clay	Treasurer	Airport Land	09/09/22
305	05/09/22	Ms Clay	Treasurer	Foreign Ownership Land Tax Surcharge	13/09/22
306	05/09/22	Ms Clay	Treasurer	Payroll Tax	13/09/22
307	05/09/22	Ms Clay	Treasurer	Land Taxation	14/09/22
308	06/09/22	Mr Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	PTSD supports in Emergency services workers	13/09/22
323	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	AMC Smoke Free Project	19/09/22
324	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Blueprint for Change Committee	15/09/22
325	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Community Organisation services to detainees	Interim response <sup>1045</sup>
326	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Education Contract for the AMC	15/09/22
327	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Inspector of Correctional Services Funding	13/09/22
328	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Reintegration Centre and TRC Industries	15/09/22
329	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Sentenced and Unsented Detainees	15/09/22
330	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Staff wellbeing program	19/09/22
331	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Corrections	Worksafe ACT Notice to AMC	15/09/22
332	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Human Rights	Sentenced and Unsented Detainees	15/09/22
333	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Inspector of Correctional Services	Separation of mainstream and protection male detainees	13/09/22

<sup>1045</sup> On 16 September 2022, Minister Gentleman provided an answer that stated, “To answer these questions within the required timeframe would require an unreasonable diversion of resources. I will provide a response directly to the Member as soon as practicable.”

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
334	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Inspector of Correctional Services	Submissions to Healthy Prison Review	13/09/22
335	06/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Bullying Compensation	13/09/22
336	06/09/22	Mr Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Funding Growth	13/09/22
337	06/09/22	Mr Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Public Sector Workers Compensation Fund	13/09/22
338	06/09/22	Mr Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	WorkSafe Accountability Indicator H	13/09/22
339	06/09/22	Mr Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	WorkSafe Accountability Indicator B	13/09/22
340	06/09/22	Mr Cocks	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Accountability Indicator B (Issuing of Notices)	13/09/22
341	07/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Planning and Land Management	McKellar Shops Site	13/09/22
342	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Homelessness and Housing Services	Construction of Common Ground	15/09/22
343	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Homelessness and Housing Services	Community Support and Connectedness	14/09/22
344	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Homelessness and Housing Services	Housing applications and placements	14/09/22
345	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Homelessness and Housing Services	Social Housing Wait Times	14/09/22
346	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Budget Policy Decisions Growth and Renewal	14/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
347	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Built to Rent	15/09/22
348	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	End-of-use asset sales	15/09/22
349	07/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Secure Local Jobs code	13/09/22
350	07/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	ACT Police Media Releases	13/09/22
354	08/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Planning and Land Management	Solar Farm Locations	15/09/22
355	08/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Human Rights	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner	15/09/22
356	09/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Housing and Suburban Development	Belconnen Land Development	14/09/22
357	08/09/22	Dr Paterson	Planning and Land Management	Environment impact assessment (wombats)	13/09/22
358	09/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Autism Assessments	19/09/22
359	09/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	Early Childhood Development	Children and young people equipment loan scheme	19/09/22

## Questions taken on notice

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	12/08/22	Mr Parton	ACTCOSS	Funding for 400 additional homes	25/08/22
2	22/08/22	Mr Milligan	Skills	CIT Woden project	30/08/22
3	22/08/22	Mr Milligan	Skills	Percentage of Government Subsidies	30/08/22
4	22/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	Board minutes where those contracts were discussed	30/08/22
5	22/08/22	Mr Braddock	Skills	CIT course offerings and the ACT skills list	31/08/22
6	22/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	CIT Strategy and Governance Adviser role	30/08/22
7	22/08/22	Mr Braddock	Skills	Funding level for renewable energy sector skills	30/08/22
8	22/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	Suspension-Cancellation of CIT contracts	30/08/22
9	22/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	CIT - ACTPS disclosure to Head of Service	31/08/22
10	22/08/22	Ms Lee	Skills	Procurements for Goods and Services	30/08/22
27	22/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Families and Community Services	Family Group Conference associated with Our Booris, Our Way	01/09/22
33	22/08/22	Mr Braddock	Education and Youth Affairs	Access to heating and cooling at Evelyn Scott School for the Roller Derby group	01/09/22
34	22/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	List of schools where multi-use of space	30/08/22
35	22/08/22	Mr Davis	Education and Youth Affairs	Relocatable Units	31/08/22
36	23/08/22	Mr Davis	Sport and Recreation	Sporting Facilities	30/08/22
37	23/08/22	Mr Davis	Sport and Recreation	ORIMA Report Recommendations	31/08/22
38	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Sport and Recreation	Compensation pool closure	06/09/22
39	23/08/22	Ms Clay	Sport and Recreation	Weetangera Neighbourhood Oval	30/08/22
40	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Sport and Recreation	Gungahlin and Stromlo Pools Double Charge	31/08/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
41	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Paediatric Death Reviews	09/09/22
42	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Cardiology Transfers to NSW	12/09/22
43	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Cardiology Transfers to NSW	12/09/22
44	23/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Health	Northside patients have had to be transferred to a new health facility for chemo	05/09/22
45	23/08/22	Mr Milligan and Ms Castley	Health	ARINs for CHS Staff	13/09/22
46	23/08/22	Mr Milligan and Ms Castley	Health	ARINs for CHS Staff	13/09/22
47	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Health	Cardiology Review	06/09/22
48	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Health	Cardiology Review	06/09/22
49	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	CHS Culture Survey	06/09/22
50	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Legal Actions from Non escalation of Patients	05/09/22
51	23/08/22	Mr Milligan	Health	ICU Complaints	08/09/22
52	23/08/22	Ms Castley	Health	Nursing ratios	12/09/22
53	24/08/22	Mr Cain	Solicitor-General for the ACT	Amount spent on defending EPSDD decisions in the last 5 years	31/08/22
54	24/08/22	Mr Cain	ACT Legal Aid Commission	Information regarding AG approval of lease arrangements	31/08/22
55	24/08/22	Mr Braddock	ACT Legal Aid Commission	Statistics on college lawyer program profile of participants	29/08/22
56	24/08/22	Dr Paterson	ACT Ombudsman	Complaints on Master Builders Fidelity fund	02/09/22
57	24/08/22	Mr Braddock	ACT Ombudsman	Complaints relating to CALD clients	02/09/22
58	24/08/22	Dr Paterson	ACT Ombudsman	Complaints on report able conduct scheme made within timeframes	02/09/22
59	24/08/22	Mr Cain	Public Trustee and Guardian	PWC contracts on investment strategy	26/08/2022
60	24/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Timelines for building of eating disorder treatment centres	01/09/22
61	24/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Bleach powder provided to AMC detainees	06/09/22
62	24/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Dhulwa Inquiry	09/09/22



No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
63	24/08/22	Dr Paterson	Mental Health	Average inpatient stay in Dhulwa	06/09/22
64	24/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Current number of AMC detainees waiting for dental assistance	06/09/22
65	24/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Credentials of nurses at Dhulwa	06/09/22
66	24/08/22	Mr Cocks	Mental Health	Seclusion times – restrictive practices in mental health settings	06/09/22
67	24/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Justice Health	Numbers of tests been returned positive to prohibited drugs at AMC	06/09/22
68	24/08/22	Mr Cain	Attorney-General	Market impact on residential tenancy bill exposure draft	30/08/22
69	24/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Attorney-General	Numbers of offenders at large (SAB)	02/09/22
70	24/08/22	Mr Cain	Attorney-General	Funding Allocation	06/09/22
71	24/08/22	Mr Cain	Attorney-General	Numbers of Stealthing cases and impact of legislation	02/09/22
72	24/08/22	Dr Paterson	Attorney-General	Multi-disciplinary approach to sexual violence	05/09/22
73	26/08/22	Mr Milligan	Transport and City Services	Laneways in Hall	05/09/22
74	26/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Income from Waste Taken to the Tip	05/09/22
75	26/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Trends for Illegal Dumping (Past 5 Years)	02/09/22
76	26/08/22	Mr Braddock	Transport and City Services	Activity indicators for community groups involved in planting non-tree	02/09/22
77	26/08/22	Dr Paterson	Transport and City Services	Woden Library Facility Use	02/09/22
78	26/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Area furthest away from a Library	02/09/22
79	26/08/22	Ms Lawder	Transport and City Services	Number of damage claims over past 5 years	02/09/22
80	26/08/22	Mr Milligan	Transport and City Services	Community Paths Completed	05/09/22
81	26/08/22	Mr Parton	Transport and City Services	Funding for active travel delayed in this budget	02/09/22
95	26/08/22	Ms Lee	Special Minister of State	Government Procurement Board	05/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
96	26/08/22	Mr Braddock	Special Minister of State	Spread of community facilities across Canberra	06/09/22
97	26/08/22	Ms Clay	Special Minister of State	Advice on key groups for the consultation on the Stromlo Forest Master Plan	05/09/22
98	26/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	HRIMS – Payment to Ernst and Young	06/09/22
99	26/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	ACT Government Procurement Reform Program	30/08/22
100	26/08/22	Mr Braddock	Special Minister of State	Percent of cabinet documents released on average	02/09/22
103	25/08/22	Ms Lee and Ms Lawder	Arts	Appointment process for chief of staff	05/09/22
104	25/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Indicative list of sites for future development of non-govt schools	31/08/22
105	25/08/22	Mr Hanson	Education and Youth Affairs	Managing the use of mobile phones in schools	05/09/22
106	25/08/22	Ms Lawder	Community Services	COVID-19 data on perceptions	31/08/22
107	25/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Family and Community Services	Bimberi Residential Services	31/08/22
108	25/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Community Services	2020 Healthy Centre review for Bimberi	06/09/22
109	25/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Community Services	Narrabundah House	05/09/22
121	22/08/22	Mr Cain	Gaming	Ethical Investment	30/08/22
122	22/08/22	Mr Parton	Gaming	Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund – Funding to community clubs	29/08/22
123	22/08/22	Mr Parton	Gaming	Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund – Budget Allocation	29/08/22
124	22/08/22	Mr Parton	Gaming	Building Energy Efficiency Upgrade Fund – Inspections	30/08/22
125	22/08/22	Mr Parton	Gaming	Gaming Machines, 5 Dollar Spins	30/08/22
126	22/08/22	Mr Parton	Gaming	Gaming – National Online Gaming Laws	02/09/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
158	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	FOI Officer categories and breakdown across ACT	15/09/22
159	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	FOI Staff Allocation Ongoing Status	15/09/22
160	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	Disclosure Log Statistics	15/09/22
161	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Special Minister of State	Childcare Facility at 220 London Circuit	07/09/22
162	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	Recruitment for Cultural Facilities Corporation CEO	09/09/22
163	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	Built for Canberra website branding	06/09/22
164	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	Appointment as CFC CEO skills and qualifications	09/09/22
165	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	CFC CEO notification of successful candidate	16/09/22
166	30/08/22	Mr Braddock	Chief Minister	ACT Government Public Service job vacancies	07/09/22
167	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	Public Sector Management Act section 9 Public Disclosures	13/09/22
168	30/08/22	Ms Lee	Chief Minister	2021 Public Service staff survey question – Have you witnessed corruption	07/09/22
169	30/08/22	Dr Paterson	Chief Minister	2021 Public Service staff survey	07/09/22
170	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Chief Minister	Employment levels of ATSI people and people with Disability	06/09/22
171	30/08/22	Mr Braddock	Chief Minister	Gender action plans	06/09/22
172	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Chief Minister	Communication and Engagement team – number of staff and level	06/09/22
173	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Prevention of DFV – Cwlth funding for DFV training	31/08/22
174	30/08/22	Ms Clay	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Will the advice from the Domestic Violence Prevention Council be released	02/09/22
175	30/08/22	Ms Clay	Women	Gendered impact assessment tool	31/08/22

No.	Date	Asked by	Asked of	Subject	Response received
176	23/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Community Services	Healing and Reconciliation Fund and contracts	Answered in the hearing
177	30/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Healing and Reconciliation Fund Spent	31/08/22
178	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Chief Minister	Land sales revenue	08/09/22
179	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Chief Minister	Breakdown of CRA staff classifications	08/09/22
180	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Chief Minister	Commercial and Industrial land parcels in the CRA precinct	08/09/22
181	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Chief Minister	Commercial and industrial land parcels in the city renewal precinct	07/09/22
182	30/08/22	Mr Cain	Chief Minister	Results of Survey Levy Payers	08/09/22
183	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Climate Action	Climate Action – Jacka Community Battery Market Sounding	07/09/22
184	30/08/22	Dr Paterson	Climate Action	SHS Consultation	09/09/22
185	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Climate Action	Process for Loan Defaults on SHS	09/09/22
192	30/08/22	Mr Milligan	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Prevention of DFV – Cwlth funding for DFV training (duplicate of QTON 173)	31/08/22
193	30/08/22	Ms Clay	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	Will the advice from the Domestic Violence Prevention Council be released (duplicate of QTON 174)	02/09/22
194	30/08/22	Ms Clay	Women	Gendered impact assessment tool (duplicate of QTON 175)	31/08/22
195	23/08/22	Mrs Kikkert	Aboriginal and Torres Strait and Islander Affairs	Amount of \$20M Healing and Reconciliation Fund Spent	21/09/22
196	29/08/22	Ms Clay	Treasury	Gambling Tax – Points of Consumption	06/09/22
197	29/08/22	Mr Milligan	Treasury	Icon – Water Extraction Charges	06/09/22
198	29/08/22	Mr Milligan	Treasury	Icon – water supplied to Belconnen Magpies Golf club	06/09/22
199	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasury	Public sector management Act	06/09/22
200	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasury	Instances where the government has rejected MPC recommendations	06/09/22

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201	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasury	Final details in relation to alleged instance of corruption	06/09/22
202	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasury	Figures for the assumptions	06/09/22
203	29/08/22	Ms Lee	Treasury	Inflation forecasting and forecasting of expenditure	06/09/22
204	29/08/22	Ms Lawder	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Healthy Waterways	02/09/22
205	29/08/22	Ms Lawder	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Healthy Waterways Funding	05/09/22
206	29/08/22	Dr Paterson	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Yarralumla Wetlands	02/09/22
207	29/08/22	Ms Clay	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	NSW Water Abstraction Charges	02/09/22
208	29/08/22	Mr Davis	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Lake Tuggeranong Water Aeration Research	02/09/22
209	29/08/22	Ms Lawder	Water, Energy and Emissions Reduction	Isabella Pond Scour Hole	02/09/22
210	29/08/22	Mr Milligan	Police and Emergency Services	131 444 Calls Response Times	06/09/22
211	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Image of a spit hood	06/09/22
212	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Use of Force	06/09/22
213	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Spit Hood - Age of Use	06/09/22
214	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Spit Hood Model	06/09/22
215	29/08/22	Mr Hanson	Police and Emergency Services	Simple Drug Offences Statistics	08/09/22

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216	29/08/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	People charged via bodycams	06/09/22
218	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Inspector of Correctional Services	Healthy Prison Review 2022 community submissions	06/09/22
219	01/09/22	Mr Milligan	Corrections	Foresite Training	09/09/22
220	01/09/22	Dr Paterson	Corrections	Response times for critical incident reports	Answered in the hearing
221	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Corrections	Detainee Release Statistics	09/09/22
222	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Corrections	Harm Minimisation and Punitive response	15/09/22
223	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Corrections	Prisoners sharing cells	09/09/22
224	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Wellbeing Budget	08/09/22
225	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Commitment for 99 firefighters lost	08/09/22
226	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Police and Emergency Services	Commitment for 99 firefighters alternative duties	08/09/22
227	01/09/22	Mr Braddock	Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety	Amount spent in the last year on external legal expenses	07/09/22
228	01/09/22	Mr Cain	Planning and Land Management	Land and Property Report July to December 2021	13/09/22
229	01/09/22	Mr Cain	Planning and Land Management	Land and Property Report Number Discrepancies	13/09/22
230	01/09/22	Mr Cain	Planning and Land Management	Unexploded Ordnance in Western Edge	13/09/22
231	01/09/22	Mr Cain	Planning and Land Management	Parkwood Ginninderry Cross Border Negotiations	08/09/22
265	31/08/22	Mr Milligan	Economic Development	Giants economic and community contributions pre Covid	09/09/22
266	31/08/22	Dr Paterson	Heritage	Heritage Review Terms of Reference	09/09/22

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267	31/08/22	Ms Lawder	Heritage	Heritage Advice and Approvals Timeframes	09/09/22
282	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Environment	Wombats in Development Areas	09/09/22
283	02/09/22	Ms Lawder	Environment	Feral Animal Control	09/09/22
284	02/09/22	Ms Lawder	Environment	Exclusion plots for Samba Deer	09/09/22
285	02/09/22	Mr Parton	Sustainable Building and Construction	Building Levy	09/09/22
286	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Sustainable Building and Construction	MBFF skills development program fund	09/09/22
287	02/09/22	Mr Braddock	Homelessness and Housing Services	HACT expenses on Tribunals	08/09/22
288	31/08/22	Mr Braddock	Homelessness and Housing Services	HACT Notices matters to ACAT	08/09/22
289	31/08/22	Ms Lawder	Business and Better Regulation	Mugga Way Tip - Letterbox drop to Households	06/09/22
309	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Housing and Suburban Development	Wombats in Molonglo	12/09/22
310	02/09/22	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Proceeds of Sale of Properties Under PHR and Asset Recycling Initiative	12/09/22
311	02/09/22	Mr Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	SLA Gift Declarations	07/09/22
312	02/09/22	Mr Braddock	Housing and Suburban Development	Tree Canopy Cover in Urban Spaces	09/09/22
313	02/09/22	Ms Clay	Housing and Suburban Development	Integration of Active Travel	09/09/22
314	02/09/22	Dr Paterson	Housing and Suburban Development	Affordable Housing Demographics Breakdown	09/09/22
315	02/09/22	Ms Clay	Housing and Suburban Development	Kingston Arts Precinct Artist Consultation and Housing Options	09/09/22
316	02/09/22	Mr Cain	OLA	Electorate Offices	12/09/22

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317	02/09/22	Mr Cain	OLA	Digital Transformation Projects	12/09/22
318	02/09/22	Mr Cain	OLA	Supply and Services	12/09/22
319	01/09/22	Mr Cain	ACT Human Rights Commission	RCIRCSA Recommendations	08/09/22
320	01/09/22	Mr Cain	ACT Human Rights Commission	Estimated outcomes explanation	08/09/22
321	01/09/22	Mrs Kikkert	ACT Human Rights Commission	Blueprint Report	08/09/22
322	01/09/22	Mr Cain	ACT Human Rights Commission	Our Booris Our Way Recommendations	08/09/22
351	02/09/2022	Mr Cain	Housing and Suburban Development	HACT Voicemails and phone wait times	12/09/22
352	02/09/2022	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	Shared Fences	12/09/22
353	02/09/2022	Mr Parton	Housing and Suburban Development	HACT Programmed monthly breakdown of work	12/09/22