



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON ADMINISTRATION AND PROCEDURE

Mrs Vicki Dunne MLA (Chair)
Ms Joy Burch MLA; Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA; Mr Andrew Wall MLA

Statement pursuant to Standing Order 246A

Pursuant to Standing Order 246A, I wish to make a statement on behalf of the Standing Committee on Administration and Procedure in response to the resolution of the Assembly of 9 June 2016, which referred a proposed new continuing resolution relating to a family friendly workplace to the Committee for consideration and report by 2 August 2016.

The Committee considered the proposed new continuing resolution which would, if adopted, have the effect of purporting to require that a “standing pair” be granted to any MLA who is a nursing mother or a parent with primary feeding responsibilities for as long as required.

In its report No 8 to the Assembly entitled “Family Friendly Workplace” presented on 7 April 2016, the Committee expressed the view that the granting of pairs fell outside the formal procedures of the Assembly and that to address the matters raised, the Whips of the parties represented in the Assembly should develop a set of guidelines for the operation of pairing arrangements to support family friendly practices.

In its discussion of the proposed continuing resolution, the Committee reaffirmed its view that the matter was not part of the formal procedural arrangements for the management of the Chamber and that it does not support the proposed continuing resolution.

The Committee was, however, of the view that the Whips should continue to be responsible for ensuring that Members’ commitments to work life balance is recognised at all times. I therefore table, for the information of Members, the protocol for the operation of pairs to encourage and support Members who are nursing mothers or who have carer responsibilities as agreed by the three Whips.