



# Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory

2016-2017-2018-2019-2020

## Questions on Notice Paper

No 43

Friday, 3 April 2020

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### *New questions*

*(30 days expires 3 May 2020)*

2963 **MS LEE:** To ask the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability—

- (1) In relation to the Carbon Neutral Government paragraph, page 60 of the 2018-19 Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate annual report which commits the Government to achieving net zero emissions in its operations by 2020 and also referring to the answer to part (4) of question on notice No 2918 that states “The ACT Government, through the Zero Emissions Government Framework, has set a target of zero emissions within its own operations by 2040”, what, if any, difference is there between the Carbon Neutral Framework and Zero Emissions Government Framework.
- (2) Why did the name change from the Carbon Neutral Framework to Zero Emissions Government Framework.
- (3) Why was the target delayed 20 years.
- (4) When was the decision made to delay the target from 2020 to 2040.
- (5) Who took this decision.
- (6) What impact does this have on the Territory-wide emissions targets for 2025 and 2030.

- 2964 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development—
- (1) What outdoor recreational facilities (playgrounds, basketball courts, etc) will be built in the suburb of Lawson.
  - (2) When will each of these facilities be completed.
  - (3) If there are no plans in place for these facilities, why not.
  - (4) What requirements are in place for the private development of such facilities in Lawson, and what is the Government's role in providing oversight of such developments.
- 2965 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—
- (1) Have any traffic accidents occurred at the intersection of Tillyard and Ginninderra Drives since the traffic signals became operational; if so, can the Minister provide the numbers, dates, descriptions, and any other statistics.
  - (2) Have any traffic accidents occurred at the intersection of Tillyard Drive and Lhotsky Street since the traffic signals there became operational; if so, can the Minister provide the numbers, dates, descriptions, and any other statistics.
- 2966 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Trade, Industry and Investment—
- (1) When will the Territory's population outgrow the current water storage/supply capacity, according to government models, and what will be the population of the ACT at that point in time.
  - (2) What plans are in place to increase the Territory's water storage and/or water supply capacity in anticipation of this expected growth in population.
  - (3) Will current dams be enlarged or future dams built as part of these plans; if not, why not and where will the water supply come from.
- 2967 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Health—
- (1) Does the ACT Government track how many of those who obtain tertiary qualifications in nursing, medicine, paramedicine, and related areas in the ACT go on to work in health-related fields in the Territory; if so, can the Minister provide the data.
  - (2) Does ACT Health track where the qualifications of its staff were obtained; if so, can the Minister provide the data.
- 2968 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Children, Youth and Families—
- (1) How many residential care homes providing out-of-home care are currently operating in the ACT.
  - (2) How many of these homes typically have (a) a single youth worker and (b) two or more youth workers, rostered on at any one time.

- (3) What factors determine if a residential care home will have a single staff member present or more than one staff member.
- (4) Has the ratio of staff working in the Territory's residential care homes increased, decreased, or remained the same since the withdrawal of Premier Youthworks from the ACT Together consortium.

2969 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Children, Youth and Families—

- (1) How many kinship carers are there currently in the ACT.
- (2) How many of these kinship carers have requested professional counselling services to assist them in their care responsibilities and how many of these (a) have completed the counselling service and (b) are currently receiving professional counselling services.
- (3) How many of these kinship carers have had professional counselling services recommended to them without having asked and how many of these (a) have completed the counselling service and (b) are currently receiving professional counselling services.
- (4) On what grounds or in what cases is professional counselling recommended to kinship carers.
- (5) On what grounds or in what cases is professional counselling provided when requested by a kinship carer.
- (6) What percentage of professional counsellors who work with the ACT's kinship carers are local, and what percentage came from interstate.
- (7) Has there been any disruption to the provision of these professional counselling services as a consequence of COVID-19; if so, what is the Government doing to make sure that kinship carers are receiving the counselling supports during this time.
- (8) What is the Government doing to make sure that kinship carers have the support they need during a time of high stress and more time spent at home.

2970 **MRS KIKKERT:** To ask the Minister for Transport—

- (1) What is the total cost (initial investment, staffing, fuel, maintenance, etc) of the shuttle bus that began service in Ginninderry on 2 March 2020.
- (2) How much is the developer contributing to these costs and how much is the ACT Government's contribution.
- (3) Are any of these costs currently offset by fares; if so, what has fare revenue been.
- (4) What has patronage of these shuttle buses been since commencing operation.

2971 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Chief Minister—

- (1) How is the community being included in deliberations informing decisions the ACT Government is making in relation to responses to COVID-19 and determining priorities for consideration/funding.

- (2) Is there any specific consultation occurring with the various Ministerial Advisory Councils.
- (3) Is there specific consultation occurring with community councils.
- (4) Is there specific consultation occurring with the community sector or through ACTCOSS; if so, can the Chief Minister provide more details.

2972 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Chief Minister—

- (1) What measures are being taken to ensure that disadvantaged households who do not have home computers are still able to undertake essential activities that are now largely online only.
- (2) Has the Government considered ways to get computers or smart phones and internet connections for these disadvantaged households over the coming month.
- (3) Is internet access considered as an essential service during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2973 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the interest rate/s on the most recent borrowings undertaken by the ACT Government.
- (2) What is the expected interest rate/s on the ACT Government borrowings required as a result of the COVID-19 emergency stimulus packages.
- (3) What are the credit spreads (ie additional interest rate) the ACT Government would be likely to face if its credit ratings were downgraded (due to either a Federal Government downgrade or ACT Government downgrade) due to present economic circumstances.
- (4) Has the ACT Government received any advice on the additional amount of debt that would trigger a ratings downgrade; if so, what is that amount.

2974 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) How many people receive the utilities concession.
- (2) Is the concession paid as a reduction of a person's electricity bill; if so, are there any people receiving the concession whose electricity bill is such that they do not receive the full amount of the subsidy; if so, how many people and what is the average amount that they forgo.

2975 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What is the total budgeted expenditure on roads and parking infrastructure in each of the four budget years of the 2019-20 Budget.
- (2) Can the Treasurer itemise, by budget item and project, indicating for each item the (a) current status of the project (eg design yet to commence, design completed, construction underway) and (b) expected start year of construction procurement.

2976 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) What was the total expenditure, across all portfolios, for elite sports teams (eg the Brumbies) and attracting and hosting elite sports events (eg international cricket matches), in each of the last four financial years, itemised by budget item and recipient/event.
- (2) In each of the four budget years of the 2019-20 Budget, what is the total budgeted expenditure for those activities listed in part (1), itemised by budget item and recipient/event, indicating whether each item is (a) contracted or not yet contracted or (b) cancelled or expected to be cancelled due to the COVID-19 health emergency.

2977 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development—

- (1) Will the ACT Government be monitoring engagement of students in online education, assuming that by next school term there will still be a requirement for students to remain at home if possible.
- (2) Will this include primary school age children.
- (3) What checks and balances will be in place to ensure that children living in abusive or harmful environments will be noticed; for example, what will replace the daily roll call where a child would be identified if not attending for some period or without notice.
- (4) What additional supports will be in place for parents whose children have special learning needs and were formerly supported at school, for example, Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder, Autism and Asperger's Syndrome.
- (5) What additional supports are in place for teachers as they cope with the isolation and juggling expectations and realities of online teaching.
- (6) How is the Government ensuring that every child has access to the internet.
- (7) Will any requirements for monitoring of online engagement by students be extended to the independent and private schools sector.
- (8) Will schools still be open to children whose parents are working in essential sectors; if not, what alternative arrangements will there be.

2978 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development—

- (1) Will ACT Housing remove any matters listed with the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal (ACAT) that may result in a tenant eviction until such time as the moratorium on evictions is lifted.
- (2) What supports will be put into place to ensure that tenants involved in disputes with ACT Housing whether before the ACAT or not, can continue their tenancy for the next six months.

2979 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Housing and Suburban Development—

- (1) Given that the ACT Housing Strategy commits to increasing the supply of affordable rental homes, how will the ACT Government ensure that the supply of affordable rental housing (discount to market rent) increases given that many of the existing affordable rental dwellings have been funded through the National Rental Affordability Scheme (NRAS), with NRAS Incentives for these properties due to end between now and 2026.
- (2) What consideration, if any, has been given to measures that would help retain NRAS properties as affordable rental dwellings after the NRAS Incentives have stopped being paid.
- (3) Has consideration been given to supply-side interventions, such as expanding the land tax concession scheme, to maintain and increase the supply of affordable rental dwellings.
- (4) Has consideration been given to supply-side interventions, such as a Territory-based incentive scheme.
- (5) Can the Minister provide information about the ACT Government's role in relation to using the National Housing Finance and Investment Commission to drive an increase in the supply of affordable rental dwellings in the ACT.
- (6) Has the ACT Government conducted any financial modelling or policy development with regard to aggregating finance and either purchasing dwellings for affordable or social rental housing that could be managed by community housing providers; if so, can the Minister provide details.
- (7) Has the ACT Government conducted any financial modelling or policy development regarding further transfers of public housing stock to the community housing sector; if so, can the Minister provide details.

2980 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence—

- (1) Does the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch have access to data from the Courts including the number of applications for Family Violence Orders, the number of family violence matters that are scheduled, the number of interim orders and the number of after-hours orders made (by gender disaggregation, age of complainant, level of ability).
- (2) Does the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch have access to domestic and family violence and sexual assault data from ACT Policing, including the number of incidents reported, number of matters proceeding to court, charges laid, number of matters not proceeding and reasons for not proceeding (by gender disaggregation, age of complainant, level of ability and including family violence homicide).
- (3) Does the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch have access to Legal Aid data relating to domestic and family and sexual violence, including the number of matters for which representation was provided (by gender disaggregation, age of complainant, level of ability).

- (4) Does the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch have access to data from the Director of Public Prosecutions in relation to the numbers of domestic and family and sexual violence matters, including how far they proceed through the criminal justice system and if they do not proceed and why they do not proceed.
- (5) Does the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch have access to data from support services such as the Domestic Violence Crisis Centre, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre and Victim Support Services ACT and other community service providers on the number of domestic and family and sexual violence related contacts and clients.
- (6) What is the capacity of the Coordinator General of the Family Safety Branch to produce timely and comprehensive data about the incidence of family violence in the ACT, including consolidated data, bringing together data from both civil and criminal matters to expose the reality in the ACT and provide an ability to compare with other jurisdictions.

2981 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management—

- (1) In relation to the North Curtin land swap with the National Capital Authority (NCA), including Curtin Horse Paddocks, which blocks will be transferred to the NCA.
- (2) When will the transfer occur.
- (3) Does the agreement with the NCA include transfer of planning control to the NCA; if so, what is the process by which this will occur and when is it likely to happen.

2982 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) In relation to specialist interview training for police officers in the context of the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse and recommended police responses, what training is being provided to ACT police officers in relation to specialist interviewing techniques and approaches, specifically in relation to domestic and family violence and sexual violence matters.
- (2) Who provides this training.
- (3) Does the training include specific training on interviewing children, and children under five who may be victim/witnesses.
- (4) Does the training include specific training on interviewing adults/children with disability.
- (5) What specific training is provided to officers when they first join the Sexual Assault and Child Abuses Team and what ongoing training is provided to them with regard to interviewing children, children under five and adults and children with a disability regarding sexual assault complaints.
- (6) Are police officers consulting with staff administering the Intermediary Scheme before determining that a matter may not proceed due to the perceived inability for a victim/witness to provide reliable evidence.

- (7) How much uptake has there been of ACT police officers using the services of the Intermediary Scheme.
- (8) Will specialist interviewing techniques for interviewing children, children under five and children and adults with disability with the aid of intermediaries and/or working with intermediaries become part of the standard initial training for General Duties Officers at Barton College.

2983 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Police and Emergency Services—

- (1) Can ACT Policing produce regular gender and age disaggregated data about the incidence of domestic and family violence, and sexual violence in the monthly offence data for the crime statistics map.
- (2) What is the capacity of ACT Policing to assist with providing real time data including number of family matters reported, number of family violence orders, after hours family violence orders, interim family violence orders issued, number of offences proceeding to court on the incidence of domestic and family violence.
- (3) Is there a capacity to collate data between ACT Policing family violence responses, the Courts (in relation to Family Violence Orders), the Domestic Violence Crisis Centre, victim support services, and Legal Aid including the age and gender of complainants.
- (4) Is ACT Policing able to provide age and gender disaggregated data about the number of sexual violence matters that proceed from initial “meet and greet” to evidence in chief, to prosecution; if not, why not and when will this become available.
- (5) How does the Minister account for the number of family violence offences consistently being lower than the number family violence incidences in the current data that is publicly available (<https://www.policenews.act.gov.au/crime-statistics-and-data/crime-statistics>).
- (6) Are there any additional domestic and family and enhanced safety measures being implemented by ACT Policing during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

2984 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Community Services and Facilities—

- (1) What provisions are being put in place to ensure that frontline community support workers, (for example those in aged care, National Disability Insurance Scheme support workers, Child and Youth Protection Services staff etc), have access to appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) during the COVID-19 pandemic?
- (2) What, if any, education will be provided to these workers regarding the appropriate use and disposal of PPE.
- (3) What, if any, education campaigns will be funded and implemented to target clients of services and particular cohorts of vulnerable people, (for example, rough sleepers, injecting drug users), regarding the prevention of disease spread during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- (4) If education campaigns will be funded and implemented, can the Minister provide details about the type and target audience of any education initiatives, and how and who will implement them.
- (5) Are there plans to provide hand sanitizer or PPE, (for example, gloves), to clients of services and particular cohorts of vulnerable people, both for them to take away or to use while at the service; if so, can the Minister provide the details of which clients of services or cohorts of people these items may be provided to.

2985 **MS LE COUTEUR:** To ask the Minister for Employment and Workplace Safety—

- (1) Given that many ACT workers are unable to work from home, and part of their role involves coming into regular contact with members of the public, (eg retail workers), can the Minister advise what the ACT Government is doing to ensure employers are offering appropriate safety measures for their staff.
- (2) How is the ACT Government resourcing the enforcement of safety measures for workers in workplaces that remain open.
- (3) Who can workers report their concerns to where they have concerns that their employer is not meeting rules such as social distancing between workers and customers.
- (4) Is there any consideration of a public campaign outlining shopping etiquette or protocols in the light of COVID-19.

2986 **MISS C BURCH:** To ask the Treasurer—

- (1) Can the Treasurer provide a breakdown of the total number of external contractors and consultants employed by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) equivalent ACT public service classification, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17, (iii) 2017-18, (iv) 2018-19 and (v) 2019-20 to date.
- (2) Can the Treasurer provide the total number of external contractors and consultants employed across all ACT public service directorates by (a) full-time equivalent and (b) headcount, during (i) 2012-13, (ii) 2013-14, (iii) 2014-15, (iv) 2015-16, (v) 2016-17, (vi) 2017-18, (vii) 2018-19 and (viii) 2019-20 to date.

2987 **MISS C BURCH:** To ask the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development—Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of external contractors and consultants employed by the Education Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) equivalent ACT public service classification, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17, (iii) 2017-18, (iv) 2018-19 and (v) 2019-20 to date.

- 2988 **MISS C BURCH:** To ask the Minister for Planning and Land Management—Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of external contractors and consultants employed by the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) equivalent ACT public service classification, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17, (iii) 2017-18, (iv) 2018-19 and (v) 2019-20 to date.
- 2989 **MISS C BURCH:** To ask the Minister for Health—Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of external contractors and consultants employed by ACT Health and Canberra Health Services respectively, by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) equivalent ACT public service classification, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17, (iii) 2017-18, (iv) 2018-19 and (v) 2019-20 to date.
- 2990 **MISS C BURCH:** To ask the Minister for Community Services and Facilities—Can the Minister provide a breakdown of the total number of external contractors and consultants employed by the Community Services Directorate by (a) full-time equivalent, (b) headcount and (c) equivalent ACT public service classification, during (i) 2015-16, (ii) 2016-17, (iii) 2017-18, (iv) 2018-19 and (v) 2019-20 to date.

**T Duncan**

Clerk of the Legislative Assembly

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