The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Berry) took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

**COMMONWEALTH LAND SALE IN THE A.C.T. – STATEMENT BY MINISTER – PAPER**

Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister), by leave, made a statement regarding Commonwealth land sales in the A.C.T. and presented the following paper:

Commonwealth owned sites in the City Division of Canberra – Block 11, sections 61 and 63 – Copy of letter from Prime Minister to Chief Minister, dated 2 May 2002.

**SPEAKER’S RULING – STANDING ORDER 130**

The Speaker informed the Assembly that, pursuant to standing order 130, the matter of public importance regarding drug usage by high school students submitted by Mr Pratt was out of order as it anticipated debate on notice No. 6, Private Members’ business.

**RESPITE ACCOMMODATION FOR DEMENTIA SUFFERERS FEASIBILITY STUDY**

Mr Cornwell, pursuant to notice, moved – That the Government:

1. conduct a feasibility study into the establishment and annual ongoing costs of a four bedroom house for respite care for sufferers of dementia; and
2. provide the results of the study to the Assembly upon completion.

Ms Dundas moved the following amendment: Omit paragraphs (1) and (2) and substitute:
“(1) That the A.C.T. Government investigate the level and nature of any unmet need for respite care for people with dementia, including a specific facility for low-level dementia sufferers, and options for responding to any such unmet need.

(2) That the Government report to the Assembly as soon as is practicable after considering these issues.”.

Debate continued.

Ms Dundas, by leave, amended her amendment by omitting from paragraph (1) “That the A.C.T. Government”.

Debate continued.

Mr Stanhope (Minister for Health), by leave, moved the following amendment to Ms Dundas’ proposed amendment: Omit paragraph (1) and substitute:

“(1) That the Legislative Assembly supports the A.C.T. Government’s investigation of the level and nature of any unmet need for respite care for people with dementia, and options for responding to any such unmet need.”.

Debate continued.

Question – That Mr Stanhope’s amendment to Ms Dundas’ proposed amendment be agreed to – put and passed.

Question – That Ms Dundas’ amendment, as amended, be agreed to – put and passed.

Mr Stanhope, by leave, moved the following amendment: Omit “That the Government” (first occurring).

Question – That Mr Stanhope’s amendment be agreed to – put and passed.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz:

(1) That the Legislative Assembly supports the A.C.T. Government’s investigation of the level and nature of any unmet need for respite care for people with dementia, and options for responding to any such unmet need;

(2) That the Government report to the Assembly as soon as is practicable after considering these issues.

be agreed to – put and passed.

5 PROPERTY MATTERS IN DE FACTO RELATIONSHIPS DISCRIMINATION

Mr Hargreaves, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly calls upon the Commonwealth Government to accept a reference of power from the State Governments in relation to de facto relationship property matters regardless of the sex of the persons in the de facto relationship and notes the Commonwealth’s willingness to accept a reference only in relation to de facto heterosexual couples entrenches discrimination against other couples.

Ms Dundas moved the following amendment: Insert after “discrimination against other couples.” the following:

“This Assembly therefore calls upon the Government not to agree to any reference of power to the Commonwealth in relation to de facto couples unless it includes all couples regardless of their sex.”.
Debate continued.

Mr Stanhope (Attorney-General), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Mr Humphries (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Ms Dundas, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Ms Tucker, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Question – That Ms Dundas’ amendment be agreed to – put.

The Assembly voted –

Ayes, 1

Noes, 16

Ms Dundas

Mr Berry

Mr Corbell

Mr Cornwell

Mrs Cross

Mrs Dunne

Ms Gallagher

Mr Hargreaves

Mr Humphries

Mr Berry

Mr Pratt

Mr Quinlan

Mr Smyth

Mr Stanhope

Ms Tucker

Mr Wood

And so it was negatived.

Ms Tucker sought leave to move an amendment –

Speaker’s Ruling – Standing order 140: The Speaker ruled the amendment out of order as it contravened standing order 140.

Debate continued.

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

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 A.C.T. CHILDCARE SECTOR STAFFING PROBLEMS

Ms Dundas, pursuant to notice, having amended her notice, by leave, moved – That this Assembly:

(1) recognising that the A.C.T. childcare sector is experiencing a shortage of skilled staff;

(2) recognising that the staffing shortage is due to structural problems in the industry, including wages that do not adequately reflect levels of training or responsibility;

(3) calls on the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services to table the terms of reference of the Departmental review into the A.C.T. childcare sector, and to report to the Assembly upon completion of the review.

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mr Corbell (Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services) presented the following papers:
Child care – A.C.T. Child Care Staffing Project –

Media release by the Minister for Education, Youth and Family Services, dated 8 May 2002.

Terms of Reference.

Debate continued.

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

8 RETENTION RATES IN A.C.T. SCHOOLS

Mr Pratt, pursuant to notice, having amended his notice, by leave, moved – That the Assembly:

(1) notes the claims of the Labor Party platform during the 2001 A.C.T. election campaign that retention rates in A.C.T. schools were falling in recent years;

(2) further notes that figures published last week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicate that;

(a) retention rates in the A.C.T. have been rising at seven times the national average; and that

(b) A.C.T. retention rates are the highest in Australia;

(2A) further notes the pleasing results demonstrating national leadership in the recently published literacy and numeracy tests; and

(3) express confidence in the A.C.T. school system as leading the nation in educational outcomes.

Debate ensued.

Mr Stefaniak, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Ms Tucker, by leave, moved the following amendment: Add the following paragraph (4):

“(4) recognising that students facing disadvantage in our community need additional support to complete Year 12 or vocational equivalent, calls on the Government to respond to the recommendations of Report No. 9 of the Standing Committee on Community Services and Recreation on adolescents and young adults at risk of not achieving satisfactory education and training outcomes.”.

Ms Tucker addressing the Assembly –

Adjournment negatived: It being 5 p.m. – The question was proposed – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate –

Question – put and negatived.

Debate continued.
Question – That Ms Tucker’s amendment be agreed to – put and passed.
Debate continued.

Question – That the motion, as amended, viz: That the Assembly:

(1) notes the claims of the Labor Party platform during the 2001 A.C.T. election campaign that retention rates in A.C.T. schools were falling in recent years;

(2) further notes that figures published last week by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) indicate that:
   (a) retention rates in the A.C.T. have been rising at seven times the national average; and that
   (b) A.C.T. retention rates are the highest in Australia;

(3) further notes the pleasing results demonstrating national leadership in the recently published literacy and numeracy tests;

(4) express confidence in the A.C.T. school system as leading the nation in educational outcomes; and

(5) recognising that students facing disadvantage in our community need additional support to complete Year 12 or vocational equivalent, calls on the Government to respond to the recommendations of Report No. 9 of the Standing Committee on Community Services and Recreation on adolescents and young adults at risk of not achieving satisfactory education and training outcomes –

be agreed to – put and passed.

9 DEMISE OF ANSETT AIRLINES

Ms MacDonald, pursuant to notice, moved – That the Assembly:

(1) notes and expresses great concern at the demise of the great Australian airline (Ansett) after 66 years of operation;

(2) further notes the ongoing impact on the thousands of Australian employees but particularly those employees from the A.C.T. and their families;

(3) expresses concern at the flow-on effect that the Ansett collapse is having on the tourism industry and other businesses in the A.C.T.;

(4) further, expresses concern at the ongoing vacancy of the former Ansett call centre in Tuggeranong;

(5) calls on the Minister for Economic Development, Business and Tourism to report to the Assembly on what action is being taken to assist the former Ansett employees and businesses in the ACT affected by the airline’s collapse.

Debate ensued.

Papers: Mr Smyth, by leave, presented the following papers:

Airlines – Media releases by Chief Minister –

Debate continued.
Mr Pratt, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

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

10 PROBLEMATIC USE OF DRUGS AND OTHER SUBSTANCES

Ms Tucker, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly, recognising the need for a co-ordinated, cross-sectoral approach to understanding, reducing the incidence of, and reducing harm associated with problematic use of drugs and other substances in our community, and seeking to draw together the knowledge and experience of the community service sector (including non-drug specific services), government, and people who have experienced personally or by association problematic use of drugs and other substances, calls on the Government to, by the end of August 2002:

(1) establish a Task Group on problematic use of drugs and other substances, modelled on the collaborative approach of the 1999-2000 Poverty Task Group;

(2) develop the terms of reference and appropriate plans to resource for the Task Group in consultation with relevant community members and groups;

(3) provide a progress report to the Assembly.

Debate ensued.

Mr Smyth, by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Stanhope (Minister for Health), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

Mr Humphries (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, was granted an extension of time.

Debate continued.

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

11 AUSTRALIAN WAR MEMORIAL – AUSTRALIAN TOURISM AWARDS

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, moved – That this Assembly in acknowledging the success of the Australian War Memorial in winning back to back the title of ‘Best Major Tourism Attraction’ in the Australian Tourism Awards, calls on the Government to:

(1) acknowledge the success of the Australian War Memorial in twice winning Australia’s most prestigious tourism award;

(2) write on behalf of the Assembly congratulating the Australian War Memorial and in particular its staff for their efforts and success; and

(3) hold a civic reception to honour the Australian War Memorial and to publicly thank its staff.

Debate ensued.

Question – That the motion be agreed to – put and passed.
12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Wood (Manager of Government Business) moved – That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question – put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 9.18 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

M J McRAE
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly