

1995-96

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 39

WEDNESDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 1996

1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Cornwell) 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.

2 **UNIT TITLES (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996**

Mr Moore, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Unit Titles Act 1970*.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Moore moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Humphries - Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 **LIQUOR (AMENDMENT) BILL 1996**

Mr Osborne, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Liquor Act 1975*.

Paper: Mr Osborne presented an explanatory memorandum to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Osborne moved - That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Humphries - Attorney-General) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

4 **LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER**

Mr Humphries (Manager of Government Business) moved - That leave of absence be given to Mr Stefaniak (Minister for Education and Training) for today, 28 February 1996.

Question - put and passed.

5 **BUS TRANSIT LANES**

Mr Hird, pursuant to notice, moved - That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Urban Services to ensure that all bus transit lanes be open for use under the same restrictions that apply to the bus transit lanes on Athllon Drive.

Debate ensued.

Question - put.

The Assembly voted -

Ayes, 6		Noes, 9	
Mrs Carnell	Mr Kaine	Mr Berry	Mr Osborne
Mr Cornwell		Ms Follett	Ms Tucker
Mr De Domenico		Ms Horodny	Mr Whitecross
Mr Hird		Ms McRae	Mr Wood
Mr Humphries		Mr Moore	

And so it was negatived.

6 WEED AND PEST CONTROL CHEMICALS - INQUIRY

Ms Horodny, pursuant to notice, moved - That:

- (1) the Assembly calls upon the Government to initiate a public inquiry to review and/or establish guidelines for the selection and use of chemicals for weed and pest control in the ACT and establish a Steering Committee to assist in the development of terms of reference and the final report. The inquiry should consider:
 - (a) an assessment of the types and quantities of chemicals used in the ACT for weed and pest control;
 - (b) the effectiveness of existing chemical weed and pest control programs in the ACT;
 - (c) the health and safety aspects of chemical use on the general community and workers applying chemicals;
 - (d) public notification of chemical control programs;
 - (e) the need for transparent processes to ensure community input on ACT chemical control programs;
 - (f) the need to integrate ESD precautionary principles in policy decisions regarding chemical use;
 - (g) the potential impacts of chemicals on non-target fauna and flora;
 - (h) non-toxic alternatives for weed and pest control; and
 - (j) such other relevant issues as may arise in the course of the inquiry;
- (2) the membership of the Steering Committee should include:
 - (a) a person nominated by the Conservation Council of the Southeast Region and Canberra;
 - (b) a person nominated from Landcare;
 - (c) a community health representative;
 - (d) a person nominated from the Australian Chemical Trauma Alliance;
 - (e) an entomologist;
 - (f) a plant biologist; and
 - (g) a union representative; and
- (3) the inquiry will be Chaired by the Commissioner for the Environment.

Debate ensued.

Mr Humphries (Minister for the Environment, Land and Planning), who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Question - put and passed.

7 HEALTH SERVICES

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Connolly - That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Health to take the following actions:

- (1) reinstate the salaried medical practitioner program to at least the level existing at the time the Liberals took office unless 100 percent bulk billing can be guaranteed;
- (2) implement the promises made in this Assembly and in other public statements in relation to all staff at the Jindalee Nursing Home ie all staff, including casual staff, to be offered jobs and retraining in other parts of health or alternatively redundancy payments;
- (3) withdraw any action aimed at the sale of government-owned health centres; and
- (4) maintain all ancillary health services at government-owned health centres at a level at least equal to that which existed when the Liberals took office.

Furthermore, the Assembly requires evidence of the implementation of the above on Tuesday, 12 December 1995 -

and on the amendments moved by Mrs Carnell (Minister for Health and Community Care):

Paragraph 1, omit "100 percent bulk billing can be guaranteed;"; substitute "bulk billing can be provided for all pensioners, health care card holders and low income earners;".

Paragraph 2, insert the words "long term" after "including".

Paragraphs 3 and 4, omit the paragraphs -

Debate resumed.

Mr Berry, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Debate continued.

Debate adjourned (Ms Tucker) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

8 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

9 SYDNEY 2000 OLYMPICS - ECONOMIC BENEFITS FOR THE ACT - PAPER - MOTION TO TAKE NOTE OF PAPER

Mrs Carnell (Chief Minister) presented the following paper:

Sydney 2000 Olympics - Economic Benefits for the ACT - Preliminary Estimates, dated February 1996 -

and moved - That the Assembly takes note of the paper.

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

10 MATTER OF PUBLIC IMPORTANCE - DISCUSSION - IT INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES

The Assembly was informed that Mr Moore had proposed that a matter of public importance be submitted to the Assembly for discussion, namely, "Outsourcing of IT Infrastructure and Services for the ACT Government."

Discussion ensued.

Discussion concluded.

11 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Moore moved - That leave of absence from 22 to 25 March 1996 be given to Mr Moore.

Question - put and passed.

12 AIR POLLUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995

Order of the day No. 1, Executive business, having been called on -

Suspension of standing orders - Precedence to private Members' business: Mrs Carnell (Minister for Health and Community Care) moved - That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent the order of the day for the resumption of debate on order of the day No. 1, private Members' business, relating to Health Services being called on forthwith.

Question - put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

13 HEALTH SERVICES

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mr Connolly - That this Assembly calls on the Minister for Health to take the following actions:

- (1) reinstate the salaried medical practitioner program to at least the level existing at the time the Liberals took office unless 100 percent bulk billing can be guaranteed;
- (2) implement the promises made in this Assembly and in other public statements in relation to all staff at the Jindalee Nursing Home ie all staff, including casual staff, to be offered jobs and retraining in other parts of health or alternatively redundancy payments;
- (3) withdraw any action aimed at the sale of government-owned health centres; and
- (4) maintain all ancillary health services at government-owned health centres at a level at least equal to that which existed when the Liberals took office.

Furthermore, the Assembly requires evidence of the implementation of the above on Tuesday, 12 December 1995 -

and on the amendments moved by Mrs Carnell (Minister for Health and Community Care):

Paragraph 1, omit "100 percent bulk billing can be guaranteed;"; substitute "bulk billing can be provided for all pensioners, health care card holders and low income earners;".

Paragraph 2, insert the words "long term" after "including".

Paragraphs 3 and 4, omit the paragraphs -

Debate resumed.

Ms Tucker, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Mrs Carnell, who had already spoken, by leave, again addressed the Assembly.

Question - That Mrs Carnell's amendments be agreed to - put.

The Assembly voted -

Ayes, 8

Noes, 7

Mrs Carnell	Mr Kaine	Mr Berry	Mr Whitecross
Mr Cornwell	Mr Moore	Ms Follett	Mr Wood
Mr De Domenico	Mr Osborne	Ms Horodny	
Mr Hird		Ms McRae	
Mr Humphries		Ms Tucker	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

On the motion of Ms Follett (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, the following amendment was made:

That the last sentence be amended by replacing "12 December 1995" with "5 March 1996".

Question - That the motion, as amended, be agreed to - put.

The Assembly voted -

Ayes, 6		Noes, 9	
Mrs Carnell	Mr Kaine	Mr Berry	Mr Osborne
Mr Cornwell		Ms Follett	Ms Tucker
Mr De Domenico		Ms Horodny	Mr Whitecross
Mr Hird		Ms McRae	Mr Wood
Mr Humphries		Mr Moore	

And so it was negatived.

14 AIR POLLUTION (AMENDMENT) BILL 1995

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the question - That this Bill be agreed to in principle -

Debate resumed.

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

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

Question - put and negatived.

Debate continued.

Question - That this Bill be agreed to in principle - put and passed.

Leave granted to dispense with the detail stage.

Question - That this Bill be agreed to - put and passed.

15 MENTAL HEALTH - IMPLEMENTATION OF HEALTH LEGISLATION - REPORT - MINISTERIAL STATEMENT - PAPER NOTED

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Carnell (Minister for Health and Community Care) - That the Assembly takes note of the paper (*presented 24 October 1995*) -

Mental Health - Implementation of the ACT Health Legislation 1994 - Report - Ministerial statement, 24 October 1995 -

Debate resumed.

Question - put and passed.

16 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Humphries (Manager of Government Business) moved - That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued

Question - put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 5.32 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Mr Stefaniak (on leave).

M.J. McRAE
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly