



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

2024–2025–2026

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No 62

WEDNESDAY, 10 JUNE 2026

- 1 The Assembly met at 10 am, pursuant to adjournment. The Speaker (Mr Hanson) took the Chair and made the following acknowledgement of country in the Ngunnawal language:

Dhawura nguna, dhawura Ngunnawal.

Yanggu ngalawiri dhunimanyin Ngunnawalwari dhawurawari.

Nginggada Dindi wanggiralidjinyin.

This is Ngunnawal country.

Today we are all meeting on Ngunnawal country.

We always pay respect to Elders, female and male.

The Speaker asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 ANNOUNCEMENT OF MEMBER TO FILL CASUAL VACANCY

The Speaker announced that the Electoral Commissioner, pursuant to sections 189 and 194 of the *Electoral Act 1992*, had on 5 June 2026 declared Ms Rebecca Vassarotti elected to the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory. Ms Vassarotti was filling the vacancy created as a result of the resignation of Mr Rattenbury.

Paper: The Speaker presented the following paper:

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory—Casual Vacancy—Declaration of the poll—Letter from the Electoral Commissioner, ACT Electoral Commission, to the Clerk, ACT Legislative Assembly, dated 5 June 2026.

3 OATH OR AFFIRMATION

The Speaker informed the Assembly of the requirement under the *Oaths and Affirmations Act 1984* for new Members to make and subscribe an oath or affirmation before the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory or a Judge of that Court authorised by the Chief Justice.

The Honourable Chief Justice Lucy McCallum, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory, entered the Chamber and was escorted by the Serjeant-at-Arms to the Chair.

4 AFFIRMATION BY MEMBER

Ms Vassarotti was introduced.

Her Honour the Chief Justice informed the Assembly of the provisions of section 9 of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988* (Cwlth) and section 10A of the *Oaths and Affirmations Act 1984* whereby a Member of the Legislative Assembly, before taking his or her seat, must make and subscribe an oath or affirmation in accordance with the form set out in the Oaths and Affirmations Act.

Ms Vassarotti made the affirmation required by law.

5 CODE OF CONDUCT—AFFIRMATION BY MEMBER

Ms Vassarotti, in accordance with Continuing Resolution 5, affirmed her commitment to the principles, obligations and aspirations of the Code of Conduct for all Members of the Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory.

Her Honour the Chief Justice retired.

6 PETITIONS AND MINISTERIAL RESPONSE—PETITIONS AND RESPONSE NOTED

Petitions

The Clerk announced that the following Members had lodged petitions for presentation:

Mr Braddock, from 649 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to retain the former Braddon Bowls Club site for community, social and recreation purposes (e-Pet 044-26).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, this petition stands referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Planning.

Mr Braddock, from 236 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to undertake steps to ensure the delivery of a cinema in the Gungahlin Town Centre (e-Pet 016-26).

Ms Carrick, from 153 and 37 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to construct a shared path at the Mawson Playing Fields (e-Pet 086-25 and Pet 055-26).

Mr Braddock, from 60 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to undertake certain actions to ensure the safety of pedestrians and drivers on Plimsoll Drive in Casey (e-Pet 036-26).

Ms Carrick, from 137 and 255 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to establish community facilities in Mawson (e-Pet 085-25 and Pet 054-26).

Mr Cain, from 625 and 183 residents, requesting that the Assembly call on the ACT Government to restore the long-term funding for senior fitness programs at the Bruce CIT (e-Pet 045-26 and Pet 053-26).

Pursuant to standing order 99A, these petitions stand referred to the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

Ministerial response

The Clerk announced that the following response to a petition had been lodged:

Mr Steel (Minister for Transport), dated 5 June 2026—Response to e-petition No 083-25, lodged by Ms Clay concerning support for reinstatement of R2 and R3 rapid bus routes in West Belconnen.

The Speaker proposed—That the petitions and response so lodged be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

7 INDEPENDENT MEMBER—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Ms Castley, by leave, informed the Assembly that she would be sitting in the Assembly as an independent Member and made a statement concerning her move to the crossbench.

8 TAX REFORM AND HOUSING AFFORDABILITY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Barr (Chief Minister) made a ministerial statement concerning ACT tax reform and its impact on housing affordability and presented the following paper:

Tax reform and housing affordability—Ministerial statement, 10 June 2026.

Mr Barr moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Question—put and passed.

9 ENTERPRISE BARGAINING—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Ms Berry (Minister for Education and Early Childhood) made a ministerial statement concerning the progress of enterprise bargaining with school-based staff and presented the following paper:

Enterprise bargaining—Ministerial statement, 10 June 2026.

Ms Berry moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

10 HEALTH DATA AND PROCESSES—INDEPENDENT INQUIRY—ASSEMBLY RESOLUTION OF 24 JUNE 2025—GOVERNMENT RESPONSE—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT AND PAPER—PAPER NOTED

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) made a ministerial statement concerning the Government response to the Assembly resolution of 24 June 2025 relating to an independent inquiry into health data and process and presented the following papers:

Health data and processes—Independent inquiry—Assembly resolution of 24 June 2025—Government response—

Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes—Final Inquiry Report, dated 8 May 2026.

Ministerial statement, 10 June 2026.

Ms Stephen-Smith moved—That the Assembly take note of the ministerial statement.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

11 MINIMUM AGE OF CRIMINAL RESPONSIBILITY—FIRST ANNIVERSARY—MINISTERIAL STATEMENT—PAPER NOTED

Mr Pettersson (Minister for Children, Youth and Families) made a ministerial statement concerning the first anniversary of the raising of minimum age of criminal responsibility and presented the following paper:

First Anniversary of Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility—Ministerial statement, 10 June 2026.

Mr Pettersson moved—That the Assembly take note of the paper.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

12 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—APPROPRIATION BILL 2026-2027 AND APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2026-2027

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent:

- (1) any business before the Assembly at 5 pm on Wednesday, 10 June 2026 being interrupted to allow the Treasurer to be called on forthwith to present the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027;
- (2) where business before the Assembly has concluded before 5 pm on 10 June 2026, the Assembly shall suspend proceedings and reconvene at 5 pm to allow the Treasurer to be called on forthwith to present the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027;
- (3) at 5 pm on Friday, 12 June 2026, the order of the day for the resumption of debate on the question that the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027 be agreed to in principle, being called on notwithstanding any business before the Assembly;

- (4) debate on any motion before the Assembly at the time of interruption being adjourned until the adjournment questions in relation to the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027 are determined; and
- (5) where business before the Assembly has concluded before 5 pm on 12 June 2026, the Assembly shall suspend proceedings and reconvene at 5 pm to allow resumption of debate on the question that the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027 be agreed to in principle.

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

13 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—CONSIDERATION OF ASSEMBLY BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE BUSINESS

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Assembly business and committee business scheduled for today being called on at a later hour this day.

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

14 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

15 CORRECTION OF RECORD—STATEMENT BY MEMBER

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition), by leave, made a statement to correct the record.

16 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Cocks moved—That leave of absence be granted to Mrs Morris for this sitting week due to caregiving reasons.

Question—put and passed.

17 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

The Speaker presented the following papers:

Auditor-General Act, pursuant to section 17—Auditor-General's Report No 5/2026—Concession, rebate and social support schemes, dated 5 June 2026, including a corrigendum.

Bills, referred to Committees, pursuant to standing order 174—Correspondence—Bill—Inquiry—Crimes (Coercive Control) Amendment Bill 2026—Letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, dated 3 June 2026.

Budget 2026-2027—Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 20AB—Recommended appropriation—Officers of the Assembly—Copy of letter from the Speaker to the Treasurer, dated 3 June 2026, together with the following attachments:

ACT Audit Office Draft 2026-27—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the ACT Auditor-General, dated 28 May 2026.

ACT Electoral Commission 2026-27 Recommended Appropriation—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the ACT Electoral Commission, dated 26 May 2026.

ACT Integrity Commission 2026-27 Recommended Appropriation—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the ACT Integrity Commissioner, dated 26 May 2026.

ACT Ombudsman proposed funding for 2026-27—Copy of letter to the Speaker from the ACT Ombudsman and Inspector ACT Integrity Commission, dated 24 April 2026.

Custodial Inspector Act, pursuant to subsection 30(2)—Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Custodial Inspector—A self-harm incident, involving a use of force at the Alexander Maconochie Centre 24 July 2025, dated June 2026.

Standing order 99B—Petitions—Referral advice—Correspondence—Not inquired into—

e-Pet 080-25 and Pet 021-26—Tuggeranong—Development of a state-of-the art ice sports venue—Letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, dated 3 June 2026.

e-Pet 003-26 and Pet 018-26—Aquatic Centre in Commonwealth Park—Inclusion of diving and deep water facilities—Letter to the Speaker from the Chair, Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, dated 3 June 2026.

18 PRESENTATION OF PAPERS

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business), pursuant to standing order 211, presented the following papers:

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre—Bimberi Headline Indicators Report—June 2026.

Respite Care Services—Improvement—Assembly resolution of 26 March 2026—Government response—Burrangiri Existing Building Assessment—GHD Design Report June 2026.

Cost of living crisis—Alleviation measures—Assembly resolution of 3 December 2025—Government response, dated June 2026.

Legal Affairs—Standing Committee—Report 5—Inquiry into Magistrates Court (Indicative Sentencing) Amendment Bill 2025—Government response, undated.

Our Booris, Our Way—Implementation Update—July to December 2025, together with a tabling statement.

Pets—Greater access to public transport and facilities—Assembly resolution of 26 February 2026—Government response, undated.

Public housing maintenance—Costing and performance data—Assembly resolution of 18 March 2026—Government response, dated June 2026.

Public transport concessions improvement—Assembly resolution of 23 October 2025—Government response, dated June 2026.

Social Policy—Standing Committee—Report 3—Inquiry into E-Petition 007-25: Build a new gym for Lyneham High School—Government response, undated.

Territory-owned Corporations Act, pursuant to subsection 19(3)—Statement of Corporate Intent—Icon Water—Business Strategy 2025 to 2035.

Tuggeranong Ice Sports Facility development—Assembly resolution of 26 June 2025 and Sporting facilities—Independent report—Assembly resolution of 5 February 2026—Government response.

Subordinate legislation (including explanatory statements unless otherwise stated)

Legislation Act, pursuant to section 64—

Electronic Conveyancing National Law (ACT)—Electronic Conveyancing National Law (ACT) Operating Requirements 2026—Disallowable Instrument DI2026-63 (LR, 26 May 2026).

Leases (Commercial and Retail) Act—Leases (Commercial and Retail) Amendment Regulation 2026 (No 1)—Subordinate Law SL2026-5 (LR, 21 May 2026).

Legal Profession Act—Legal Profession (Solicitors Practising Fees) Determination 2026—Disallowable Instrument DI2026-77 (LR, 9 June 2026).

Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Act—Long Service Leave (Portable Schemes) Limitation to Coverage Declaration 2026—Disallowable Instrument DI2026-62 (LR, 18 May 2026).

Nature Conservation Act—Nature Conservation (Exempt Animals) Declaration 2026—Disallowable Instrument DI2026-61 (LR, 14 May 2026).

University of Canberra Act—University of Canberra Council Appointment 2026 (No 1)—Disallowable Instrument DI2026-60 (LR, 14 May 2026).

19 WILDLIFE CONSERVATION SUPPORT—REGULATORY REFORM AND REPORTING

Ms Tough, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

(a) hands-on field work with ACT wildlife, such as health assessment, sampling, tagging and non-lethal fertility control routinely depends on first anaesthetising or sedating the animal, including in remote locations;

(b) under:

(i) the *Veterinary Practice Regulation 2018*:

(A) administering an anaesthetic agent without the immediate and direct supervision of a veterinarian is a restricted act (schedule 1, part 1.2, item 3); and

(B) carrying out treatments, procedures or tests that should not be carried out unless the animal is sedated is a restricted act (schedule 1, part 1.2, items 1-2), as is taking tissue samples (item 22); and

(ii) section 10(1) of the *Veterinary Practice Act 2018*, it is an offence for a person who is not a registered veterinarian to carry out a restricted act; and

(c) the practical implications of (1)(b) are that:

(i) highly trained ecologists, researchers and other environmental professionals cannot carry out tasks necessary for their work without a veterinarian present;

- (ii) welfare outcomes are not automatically improved by having a veterinarian present; and
 - (iii) when no vet is available the result is fewer health checks and less data on species;
- (2) recognises that:
 - (a) a 2025 paper in *Australian Mammalogy* (Bino and Hawke, AM24029):
 - (i) shows trained non-veterinarians have safely anaesthetised more than 500 platypuses over nine years; and
 - (ii) argues for a streamlined accreditation pathway so this proven method can be used more widely;
 - (b) with the record showing that non-vets can administer wildlife anaesthetics safely, the question is whether the rules should enable safe and efficient administration of established methods; and
 - (c) a good accreditation pathway can retain current standards, including species-specific training, proven competency, lawful drug authority and ongoing veterinary and animal ethics oversight; and
- (3) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) consider amending the regulation so that accredited non-veterinarians may perform field anaesthesia on wildlife and the sampling and health procedures it enables, without the on-site attendance of a veterinarian, and in doing so, seek advice from the ACT Veterinary Practitioners Board as to:
 - (i) how ACT regulations currently align with those in other states and territories; and
 - (ii) what accreditation scheme or other pathway would better support appropriately trained and authorised personnel to undertake this work; and
 - (b) report back to the Assembly by the last sitting week of 2026 on whether the regulation will be amended and, if so, when.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

20 POSTPONEMENT OF NOTICE

Ordered—That notice No 2, Private Members' business, relating to objection to the proposed changes to NDIS, be postponed until a later hour this day.

21 PAPERS PRESENTED ON 10 JUNE 2026—PAPERS NOTED

The Speaker, pursuant to standing order 211A, proposed—That the papers presented under standing order 211 during the presentation of papers in the routine of business today be noted.

Question—put and passed.

22 FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE—SELECT COMMITTEE—REPORT—INQUIRY INTO FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE—REPORT NOTED—STATEMENT BY MEMBERS

Ms Carrick (Chair), pursuant to order, presented the following report:

Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance—Select Committee—Report—*Inquiry into Financial Management and Government Procurement Legislative Compliance*, dated 5 June 2026, including additional comments (Mr Werner-Gibbings), together with the relevant minutes of proceedings—and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

Ms Carrick and Mr Cocks, by leave, made statements in relation to the report.

23 STANDING COMMITTEES—ESTABLISHMENT—AMENDMENT TO RESOLUTION

Ms Castley, pursuant to notice, moved—That the resolution of the Assembly of 3 December 2024, as amended on 4 February 2025, 26 June 2025, 4 December 2025 and 26 March 2026, that established general purpose standing committees, be amended to insert “Ms Castley,” after “Ms Carrick” in paragraph (13).

Question—put and passed.

24 NORTH CANBERRA HOSPITAL REDEVELOPMENT—DOCUMENTS—ORDER TO TABLE

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to notice, moved—That, in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with documents regarding:

- (1) an updated whole-of-project cost estimate for the North Canberra Hospital redevelopment, including the costs associated with returning the site to government control;
- (2) a breakdown of expenditure by project stage, including planning, enabling works, construction and associated infrastructure;
- (3) details of any changes to the project scope since the original concept planning and business case work;
- (4) updated project delivery schedule, including milestones and anticipated completion dates;
- (5) a summary of major project risks and mitigation strategies;
- (6) information as to the anticipated borrowing and financial arrangements associated with the project; and
- (7) evidence and information relating to the planned approach for peak body, union and consumer representative consultation during the planning and construction phase.

Ms Clay moved the following amendment: Add:

- “(8) all population modelling or projections used to calculate the appropriate number of beds and consultation rooms in the new northside birth centre;
- (9) cost estimates provided to Government by project managers, consultants or design and build firms to construct each different birth centre option from the Feasibility study (Freestanding, Stand Alone and Alongside);
- (10) cost estimates for constructing each birth centre location considered (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and A, B, C referenced in 21 Jan 2026 powerpoint for briefing of Ms Clay MLA);
- (11) any cost estimates for increased impact on the hospital and health care system by failing to meet the continuity of care targets in Maternity in Focus, and failing to provide birth options outside a hospital, if these were not considered, clear advice that they were not considered;
- (12) the Government’s understanding of what co-design entails, what has the co-design process looked like thus far and what consumers and other stakeholders have been involved in the co-design process (if any);
- (13) which stakeholders were engaged with regarding to the new northside birth centre, when they were engaged with (including dates) and summaries of what their feedback was;
- (14) when, how, and who made the final decision to have a model that only contains in-hospital birth centre beds, reasoning for that decision, and why the capacity is the same as the existing level of six birth suite beds and two birth centre beds;
- (15) summary documents of all feedback received from the list of stakeholders engaged in the project at Appendix A of the Options for the Northside Birth Centre Feasibility study report 16 October 2024;
- (16) any projections on construction of any stand alone or freestanding birth centre, including project delivery, milestones, anticipated completion dates and major project risks and mitigation strategies;
- (17) any federal infrastructure grants or other funding applied for any aspect of the new northside hospital or new northside birth centre and when applications or representations were made;
- (18) plans (including timelines) for attracting healthcare professionals (including doctors, nurses and midwives) to come and work at the new Northside Hospital and new northside birth centre.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Ms Stephen-Smith (Minister for Health) who had already spoken, by leave, moved the following amendment to the motion, as amended: Add:

- “(19) notwithstanding provisions of standing order 213A, material is to be provided no later than 17 July 2026.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That:

- (1) in accordance with standing order 213A, the Assembly orders the Government to provide the Assembly with documents regarding:
 - (a) an updated whole-of-project cost estimate for the North Canberra Hospital redevelopment, including the costs associated with returning the site to government control;
 - (b) a breakdown of expenditure by project stage, including planning, enabling works, construction and associated infrastructure;
 - (c) details of any changes to the project scope since the original concept planning and business case work;
 - (d) updated project delivery schedule, including milestones and anticipated completion dates;
 - (e) a summary of major project risks and mitigation strategies;
 - (f) information as to the anticipated borrowing and financial arrangements associated with the project; evidence and information relating to the planned approach for peak body, union and consumer representative consultation during the planning and construction phase;
 - (g) all population modelling or projections used to calculate the appropriate number of beds and consultation rooms in the new northside birth centre;
 - (h) cost estimates provided to Government by project managers, consultants or design and build firms to construct each different birth centre option from the Feasibility study (Freestanding, Stand Alone and Alongside);
 - (i) cost estimates for constructing each birth centre location considered (1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and A, B, C referenced in 21 Jan 2026 powerpoint for briefing of Ms Clay MLA);
 - (j) any cost estimates for increased impact on the hospital and health care system by failing to meet the continuity of care targets in Maternity in Focus, and failing to provide birth options outside a hospital, if these were not considered, clear advice that they were not considered;
 - (k) the Government’s understanding of what co-design entails, what has the co-design process looked like thus far and what consumers and other stakeholders have been involved in the co-design process (if any);
 - (l) which stakeholders were engaged with regarding to the new northside birth centre, when they were engaged with (including dates) and summaries of what their feedback was;
 - (m) when, how, and who made the final decision to have a model that only contains in-hospital birth centre beds, reasoning for that decision, and why the capacity is the same as the existing level of six birth suite beds and two birth centre beds;

- (n) summary documents of all feedback received from the list of stakeholders engaged in the project at Appendix A of the Options for the Northside Birth Centre Feasibility study report 16 October 2024;
 - (o) any projections on construction of any stand alone or freestanding birth centre, including project delivery, milestones, anticipated completion dates and major project risks and mitigation strategies;
 - (p) any federal infrastructure grants or other funding applied for any aspect of the new northside hospital or new northside birth centre and when applications or representations were made; and
 - (q) plans (including timelines) for attracting healthcare professionals (including doctors, nurses and midwives) to come and work at the new Northside Hospital and new northside birth centre; and
- (2) notwithstanding provisions of standing order 213A, material is to be provided no later than 17 July 2026.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

25 LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE (LEGISLATIVE SCRUTINY ROLE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 20—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Ms Barry (Chair) presented the following report:

Legal Affairs—Standing Committee (Legislative Scrutiny Role)—Scrutiny Report 20, dated 2 June 2026, together with extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—
and, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

26 INTEGRITY COMMISSION AND STATUTORY OFFICE HOLDERS—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 8—INQUIRY INTO THE OPERATION OF THE 2024 A.C.T. ELECTION AND ELECTORAL ACT 1992 — FINAL REPORT—REPORT NOTED

Mr Cocks (Chair) presented the following report:

Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders—Standing Committee—Report 8—*Inquiry into the operation of the 2024 ACT Election and Electoral Act 1992 — Final Report*, dated 5 June 2026, including additional comments (*Mr Braddock*), together with extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

27 STANDING AND SELECT COMMITTEES—MEMBERSHIP

Mr Parton (Leader of the Opposition), pursuant to standing order 223, moved—That:

- (1) Ms Castley be discharged from the Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027 and Ms Barry be appointed in her place;
- (2) Mr Cocks be discharged from the Standing Committee on Integrity Commission and Statutory Office Holders and Ms Lee be appointed in his place; and

- (3) Ms Castley be discharged from the Standing Committee on Transport and City Services and Mr Cain be appointed in her place.

Ordered—That the question be divided.

Paragraph (1) agreed to, after debate.

Paragraph (2) agreed to.

Paragraph (3)—

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) moved that the debate be adjourned and the resumption of debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 15		NOES, 6
Yvette Berry	Suzanne Orr	Chiaka Barry
Andrew Braddock	Marisa Paterson	Peter Cain
Fiona Carrick	Michael Pettersson	Jeremy Hanson
Leanne Castley	Rachel Stephen-Smith	Elizabeth Lee
Tara Cheyne	Caitlin Tough	James Milligan
Jo Clay	Rebecca Vassarotti	Mark Parton
Thomas Emerson	Taimus Werner-Gibbings	
Laura Nuttall		

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

28 SOCIAL POLICY—STANDING COMMITTEE—REPORT 5—INQUIRY INTO MEN’S SUICIDE RATES—REPORT NOTED

Mr Emerson (Chair) presented the following report:

Social Policy—Standing Committee—Report 5—*Inquiry into men’s suicide rates*, dated 2 June 2026, including a dissenting report (*Miss Nuttall*) together with extracts of the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and moved—That the report be noted.

Question—put and passed.

29 ECONOMICS, INDUSTRY AND RECREATION—STANDING COMMITTEE—SPORTING INFRASTRUCTURE AND FACILITIES—PETITIONS—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Werner-Gibbings (Chair), pursuant to standing order 246A, informed the Assembly that the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into eight petitions relating to ACT sporting infrastructure and facilities that had been referred to the Committee (e-Pet 003-26 and Pet 018-26, e-Pet 080-25 and Pet 021-26, e-Pet 084-25 and Pet 031-26, and e-Pet 008-26 and Pet 030-26).

30 MEMBERS’ STATEMENTS

Four Members’ statements were made.

31 APPROPRIATION BILL 2026-2027

Mr Steel (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money for the purpose of the Territory for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2026, and for other purposes.

Papers: Mr Steel presented the following papers:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Budget 2026-2027—Financial Management Act, pursuant to section 10—

Budget at a Glance.

Budget Outlook.

Budget Statements—

A—ACT Executive | ACT Integrity Commission | Auditor-General | Electoral Commission | Office of the Legislative Assembly.

B—Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate together with associated agencies.

C—Health and Community Services Directorate | ACT Local Hospital Network | Canberra Health Services | Housing ACT.

D—Justice and Community Safety Directorate | Legal Aid Commission (ACT) | Public Trustee and Guardian for the ACT.

E—City and Environment Directorate | Transport Canberra Operations | ACT Gambling and Racing Commission | Cemeteries and Crematoria Authority | Suburban Land Agency.

F—Education Directorate.

G—Infrastructure Canberra.

H—Digital Canberra.

Financial Management Act, pursuant to subsection 62(1)—Statement of Intent—2026-2027—

ACT Long Service Leave Authority.

Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Steel moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

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

32 APPROPRIATION (OFFICE OF THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY) BILL 2026-2027

Mr Steel (Treasurer) presented a Bill for an Act to appropriate money for expenditure in relation to the Office of the Legislative Assembly and officers of the Assembly for the financial year beginning on 1 July 2026, and for other purposes.

Paper: Mr Steel presented the following paper:

Explanatory statement to the Bill, incorporating a compatibility statement, pursuant to section 37 of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

Title read by Clerk.

Mr Steel moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Mr Parton—Leader of the Opposition) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

33 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS—PRIVATE MEMBER’S BUSINESS NOTICE NO 2

Miss Nuttall moved—That so much of the standing orders be suspended as would prevent Notice No 2, Private Member’s Business relating to proposed changes to NDIS being called on and debated forthwith.

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

34 NDIS—PROPOSED CHANGES—REFORM

Miss Nuttall, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

(1) notes that:

- (a) modelling by the Federal Treasury on 27 May 2026 projects 241,000 participants cut from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by mid-2031, despite the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announcing 160,000 participants would be cut on 22 April 2026;
- (b) people with disability in Canberra are already experiencing reductions or removals of supports within NDIS plans;
- (c) the proposed new functional capacity assessment model has not yet been designed, consulted on or implemented;
- (d) the Australian Human Rights Commission said “a two-week consultation period is wholly inadequate for reforms of this scale, which have significant implications for people’s rights, lives and livelihoods. Proceeding without appropriate scrutiny creates a clear risk of adverse and unintended human rights impacts”;
- (e) the dissenting report of the Australian Senate’s Community Affairs Legislation Committee report entitled *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]* states that:
 - (i) “foundational supports are currently non-existent and must first be established by the States and Territories, which the Government itself acknowledged would take at least two years just to develop a strategy”; and
 - (ii) “it’s critical that [foundational supports] be designed and implemented before there’s any change in any other aspects of the ecosystem”;

- (f) foundational supports are not yet fully operational or embedded in communities in the ACT for either adults or children;
 - (g) the 2026-2027 Budget submission of the ACT Disability Advocacy Caucus said “demand for advocacy, inclusive education capacity, health access, services and interventions, foundational supports and accessible infrastructure continue to outstrip supply”;
 - (h) the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services is working with community to codesign Thriving Kids, however, these foundational supports will not help adult participants;
 - (i) the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 (Cwlth) (the bill) proposes a new Section 34A(1) that would allow the Federal Minister to make unilateral decisions to determine reduced funding for groups of support without state and territory disability ministers’ approval; and
 - (j) the bill’s explanatory memorandum states that “changes to the NDIS Act do not require the formal agreement of states and territories. However, some reforms require Category A NDIS rule changes that require unanimous state and territory agreement”;
- (2) calls on the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, Treasurer and Chief Minister to:
- (a) publicly oppose the proposed changes to the NDIS until foundational supports for all adults and children in the ACT are fully funded, operational and embedded in communities;
 - (b) publicly oppose all elements of the bill that would erode state and territory ministers’ ability to block funding cuts to participants’ plans;
 - (c) meaningfully consult with people with disabilities in the Territory, including a reasonable timeframe and inquiry process and involving Disabled People’s Organisations, before agreeing to proposed changes;
 - (d) exercise existing territory powers relating to the NDIS rules of the NDIS Act to oppose cuts to participants’ plans before foundational supports are fully embedded in community; and
 - (e) report back on these actions by 15 September 2026; and
- (3) calls on every Minister to reaffirm their commitment to the human rights of people with a disability in line with the *Human Rights Act 2004* and the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*.

Debate ensued.

Ms Orr (Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

1. Omit paragraph (1)(a), substitute:
 - “(a) modelling by Treasury on 27 May projects 241,000 participants cut from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by mid-2031, despite the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announcing on 22 April that at least 160,000 participants would be cut by the end of the decade;”.

2. Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
 - “(2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) advocate for a strong, fair and sustainable NDIS that maintains essential supports for participants, ensuring that no changes are made where viable and appropriate alternatives are not in place;
 - (b) publicly oppose all elements of the NDIS Bill 2026 that would erode state and territory Ministers’ role in the shared governance of the scheme; and
 - (c) recognise the importance of genuine consultation by supporting processes that allow sufficient time and opportunity for engagement, and, wherever possible, actively seek and incorporate the views of people with disability in the ACT, including through inclusive consultation timeframes, transparent inquiry processes, and the involvement of Disabled People’s Organisations before agreeing to proposed changes;”.
3. In paragraph (3), omit “Minister”, substitute “Member of the Legislative Assembly”.
4. In paragraph (3), after “*Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*”, insert “and the principles embedded in the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024*;”.
5. Insert after paragraph (3):
 - “(4) calls on the Federal Government to extend the public consultation time for the bill;
 - (5) in passing this motion acknowledges they are providing support for the intent of creating an eco-system of supports outside the NDIS and reforming the NDIS to align with its original intent providing individually tailored supports to people with permanent and significant disabilities;
 - (6) requests the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly write to the leaders of each Federal parliamentary party as well as Independent Members noting the views as expressed by the Legislative Assembly in this resolution and calling on them and their respective parties to support the ACT Government in upholding this resolution; and
 - (7) calls on relevant parties to report back as appropriate on these actions by 15 September 2026 outlining its engagement with the Commonwealth on the proposed legislation, including how stakeholder perspectives have informed its approach.”.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 10		NOES, 9	
Yvette Berry	Marisa Paterson	Chiaka Barry	Laura Nuttall
Fiona Carrick	Michael Pettersson	Andrew Braddock	Mark Parton
Leanne Castley	Caitlin Tough	Peter Cain	Rebecca Vassarotti
Tara Cheyne	Taimus Werner-Gibbings	Jo Clay	
Thomas Emerson		Jeremy Hanson	
Suzanne Orr		James Milligan	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Adjournment negated: It being past 6.30 pm—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negated.

Mr Cain moved the following amendment to the motion, as amended: After all text in paragraph (2)(c), insert:

“(d) publicly release, by 1 September 2026, a detailed implementation roadmap for foundational supports and Thriving Kids, including rollout timelines, workforce and funding requirements, service gaps, transition safeguards, and six-monthly reporting to the Assembly to ensure no Canberrans lose supports before equivalent services are fully operational.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that:
 - (a) modelling by Treasury on 27 May projects 241,000 participants cut from the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) by mid-2031, despite the Federal Minister for Health and Ageing, the Hon Mark Butler MP, announcing on 22 April that at least 160,000 participants would be cut by the end of the decade;
 - (b) people with disability in Canberra are already experiencing reductions or removals of supports within NDIS plans;
 - (c) the proposed new functional capacity assessment model has not yet been designed, consulted on or implemented;
 - (d) the Australian Human Rights Commission said ‘a two-week consultation period is wholly inadequate for reforms of this scale, which have significant implications for people’s rights, lives and livelihoods. Proceeding without appropriate scrutiny creates a clear risk of adverse and unintended human rights impacts’;
 - (e) the dissenting report of the Australian Senate’s Community Affairs Legislation Committee report entitled *National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Getting the NDIS Back on Track No. 1) Bill 2024 [Provisions]* states that:
 - (i) ‘foundational supports are currently non-existent and must first be established by the States and Territories, which the Government itself acknowledged would take at least two years just to develop a strategy’; and

- (ii) 'it's critical that [foundational supports] be designed and implemented before there's any change in any other aspects of the ecosystem';
 - (f) foundational supports are not yet fully operational or embedded in communities in the ACT for either adults or children;
 - (g) the 2026-2027 Budget submission of the ACT Disability Advocacy Caucus said 'demand for advocacy, inclusive education capacity, health access, services and interventions, foundational supports and accessible infrastructure continue to outstrip supply';
 - (h) the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services is working with community to codesign Thriving Kids, however, these foundational supports will not help adult participants;
 - (i) the National Disability Insurance Scheme Amendment (Securing the NDIS for Future Generations) Bill 2026 (Cwlth) (the bill) proposes a new Section 34A(1) that would allow the Federal Minister to make unilateral decisions to determine reduced funding for groups of support without state and territory disability ministers' approval; and
 - (j) the bill's explanatory memorandum states that 'changes to the NDIS Act do not require the formal agreement of states and territories. However, some reforms require Category A NDIS rule changes that require unanimous state and territory agreement';
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) advocate for a strong, fair and sustainable NDIS that maintains essential supports for participants, ensuring that no changes are made where viable and appropriate alternatives are not in place;
 - (b) publicly oppose all elements of the NDIS Bill 2026 that would erode state and territory Ministers' role in the shared governance of the scheme;
 - (c) recognise the importance of genuine consultation by supporting processes that allow sufficient time and opportunity for engagement, and, wherever possible, actively seek and incorporate the views of people with disability in the ACT, including through inclusive consultation timeframes, transparent inquiry processes, and the involvement of Disabled People's Organisations before agreeing to proposed changes; and
 - (d) publicly release, by 1 September 2026, a detailed implementation roadmap for foundational supports and Thriving Kids, including rollout timelines, workforce and funding requirements, service gaps, transition safeguards, and six-monthly reporting to the Assembly to ensure no Canberrans lose supports before equivalent services are fully operational;
- (3) calls on every Member of the Legislative Assembly to reaffirm their commitment to the human rights of people with a disability in line with the *Human Rights Act 2004* and the United Nations *Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* and the principles embedded in the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024*;

- (4) calls on the Federal Government to extend the public consultation time for the bill;
- (5) in passing this motion acknowledges they are providing support for the intent of creating an eco-system of supports outside the NDIS and reforming the NDIS to align with its original intent providing individually tailored supports to people with permanent and significant disabilities;
- (6) requests the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly write to the leaders of each Federal parliamentary party as well as Independent Members noting the views as expressed by the Legislative Assembly in this resolution and calling on them and their respective parties to support the ACT Government in upholding this resolution; and
- (7) calls on relevant parties to report back as appropriate on these actions by 15 September 2026 outlining its engagement with the Commonwealth on the proposed legislation, including how stakeholder perspectives have informed its approach.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

35 ADJOURNMENT

Ms Cheyne (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.53 pm, adjourned until tomorrow at 10 am.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting except Mrs Morris*.

*on leave.

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly