



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

2008–2009–2010–2011

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 131

WEDNESDAY, 7 DECEMBER 2011

1 The Assembly met at 10 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mr Rattenbury) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker 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 WORK HEALTH AND SAFETY (BULLYING) AMENDMENT BILL 2011

Ms Bresnan, pursuant to notice, presented a Bill for an Act to amend the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*.

Paper: Ms Bresnan presented an explanatory statement to the Bill.

Title read by Clerk.

Ms Bresnan moved—That this Bill be agreed to in principle.

Debate adjourned (Dr Bourke—Minister for Industrial Relations) and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

3 YOUTH JUSTICE IMPLEMENTATION TASK FORCE AND YOUTH JUSTICE ADVISORY PANEL

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

(1) notes:

- (a) the Human Rights Commission Report into the Youth Justice System in the ACT 2011 recommendation number 4.4 that the Community Services Directorate establish a Youth Justice Advisory Panel to guide the development of a statement of purpose for the youth justice system and to monitor the ongoing translation of this purpose into practice;

- (b) the Government response to the report which indicated that the Government did not agree with the recommendation but noted that the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce had been set up for a period of 12 months and were developing a “Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT”;
 - (c) the Government’s response to the Human Rights Commission report outlines approximately 80 recommendations that are intended to be implemented either fully or in part by the Blueprint or the Integrated Management System;
 - (d) the current makeup of the taskforce does not fully represent the necessary skills needed to develop a complex and long lasting blueprint for vulnerable children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system; and
 - (e) the Human Rights Commission’s ongoing concerns that the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce has been established for a finite period and the Youth Justice Advisory Panel was intended to be an ongoing specialist advisory body comprising a range of specialists as well as academics/researchers to ensure our practice reflects the current evidence base; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) appoint an ongoing specialist advisory panel to advise the Government and Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce on the development of the Blueprint for Youth Justice and its implementation;
 - (b) consistent with recommendation 7.7 of the Commission’s report, commit to working with the Youth Justice Advisory Panel to develop and implement a suite of risk and protective assessment tools for vulnerable children, young people and their families; and
 - (c) ensure that the Advisory Panel consists of people with experience and qualifications in the following fields:
 - (i) child and adolescent psychology;
 - (ii) trauma and abuse;
 - (iii) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement;
 - (iv) vulnerable families;
 - (v) youth justice;
 - (vi) education; and
 - (vii) health.

Ms Burch (Minister for Community Services), by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) Omit subparagraphs (1)(b), (c) and (d), substitute:

- “(b) the Government response to the report where the Government disagreed with the recommendation noting that the terms of reference for the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce are to develop the “Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT” and to monitor the implementation of the Blueprint over a period of 12 months. The Government stated the Blueprint will include the statement of purpose for the youth justice system and that the Taskforce comprises representatives from the Government and the community sectors with expertise in youth and youth justice. The Government noted that the Taskforce has the capacity to engage other expertise as required and, therefore, a separate Youth Justice Advisory Panel is not warranted;
- (c) the Human Rights Commission provided a response on 5 December 2011 to the ACT Government’s response to *The ACT Youth Justice System 2011: A Report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the ACT Human Rights Commission*;
- (d) the role of the Taskforce in developing the Blueprint for youth justice can be enhanced by engaging with experts in juvenile justice to ensure the Blueprint delivers outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system in the long-term; and”.
- (2) Omit paragraph (2), substitute:
- “(2) respond to the Human Rights Commission’s response to the ACT Government’s response to *The ACT Youth Justice System 2011: A Report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the ACT Human Rights Commission* addressing the Commission’s concerns about the establishment of a Youth Justice Advisory Panel.”.

Debate continued.

Ordered—That the question be divided.

Amendment (1) agreed to.

Amendment (2)—

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 9	
Mr Barr	Ms Porter	Ms Bresnan	Ms Le Couteur
Dr Bourke		Mr Coe	Mr Rattenbury
Ms Burch		Mr Doszpot	Mr Seselja
Mr Corbell		Mrs Dunne	Mr Smyth
Ms Gallagher		Ms Hunter	

And so it was negatived.

Mrs Dunne, by leave, moved the following amendment: Add new subparagraphs (2)(d) and (e):

- “(d) consult with the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs on appointments to the Advisory Panel before they are made; and

- (e) instruct the Director-General of the Community Services Directorate to report, in the Directorate's annual reports, on the activities of the Task Force and the Advisory Panel, including, but not limited to, an outline of the advice the Advisory Panel has provided to the Government and the Task Force and the responses of the Government and the Task Force to that advice."

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

(1) notes:

- (a) the Human Rights Commission Report into the Youth Justice System in the ACT 2011 recommendation number 4.4 that the Community Services Directorate establish a Youth Justice Advisory Panel to guide the development of a statement of purpose for the youth justice system and to monitor the ongoing translation of this purpose into practice;
- (b) the Government response to the report where the Government disagreed with the recommendation noting that the terms of reference for the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce are to develop the “Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT” and to monitor the implementation of the Blueprint over a period of 12 months. The Government stated the Blueprint will include the statement of purpose for the youth justice system and that the Taskforce comprises representatives from the Government and the community sectors with expertise in youth and youth justice. The Government noted that the Taskforce has the capacity to engage other expertise as required and, therefore, a separate Youth Justice Advisory Panel is not warranted;
- (c) the Human Rights Commission provided a response on 5 December 2011 to the ACT Government's response to *The ACT Youth Justice System 2011: A Report to the ACT Legislative Assembly by the ACT Human Rights Commission*;
- (d) the role of the Taskforce in developing the Blueprint for youth justice can be enhanced by engaging with experts in juvenile justice to ensure the Blueprint delivers outcomes for vulnerable children and young people in contact with the criminal justice system in the long-term; and
- (e) the Human Rights Commission's ongoing concerns that the Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce has been established for a finite period and the Youth Justice Advisory Panel was intended to be an ongoing specialist advisory body comprising a range of specialists as well as academics/researchers to ensure our practice reflects the current evidence base; and

(2) calls on the ACT Government to:

- (a) appoint an ongoing specialist advisory panel to advise the Government and Youth Justice Implementation Taskforce on the development of the Blueprint for Youth Justice and its implementation;
- (b) consistent with recommendation 7.7 of the Commission's report, commit to working with the Youth Justice Advisory Panel to develop and implement a suite of risk and protective assessment tools for vulnerable children, young people and their families;
- (c) ensure that the Advisory Panel consists of people with experience and qualifications in the following fields:
 - (i) child and adolescent psychology;
 - (ii) trauma and abuse;
 - (iii) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander engagement;
 - (iv) vulnerable families;
 - (v) youth justice;
 - (vi) education; and
 - (vii) health;
- (d) consult with the Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs on appointments to the Advisory Panel before they are made; and
- (e) instruct the Director-General of the Community Services Directorate to report, in the Directorate's annual reports, on the activities of the Task Force and the Advisory Panel, including, but not limited to, an outline of the advice the Advisory Panel has provided to the Government and the Task Force and the responses of the Government and the Task Force to that advice."—

be agreed to—put and passed.

4 CHILDCARE SECTOR—IMPLEMENTATION OF NATIONAL QUALITY AGENDA—ORDER TO TABLE DOCUMENT

Mrs Dunne, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that on 1 December 2011, the Productivity Commission released its *Early Childhood Development Workforce* research report; and
 - (b) that the Productivity Commission's report raises a number of issues including that:
 - (i) fees will rise by up to 15 percent;
 - (ii) the childcare workforce will need to rise by 15 percent;
 - (iii) wages will need to rise by 10 percent;
 - (iv) there will be a time lag before workers become appropriately qualified; and
 - (v) consequently childcare centres face the prospect of staff shortages and long-term exemptions from complying with standards; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to table in the Assembly by the first sitting day in 2012:
- (a) a response to the Productivity Commission’s report as it applies to the ACT, including details of the research and modelling undertaken to develop that response; and
 - (b) a paper outlining its strategy to assist:
 - (i) the childcare sector in the ACT to implement the national quality agenda; and
 - (ii) Canberra families to meet the additional cost of living burden that emerges as a result of the implementation of the national quality agenda.

Ms Burch (Minister for Community Services) moved the following amendment: Omit subparagraph (1)(b) and paragraph (2), substitute:

- “(2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) respond to the Productivity Commission’s report by July 2012 as it applies to the ACT, including details of the research and modelling undertaken to develop that response; and
 - (b) table, by the first sitting of the Assembly in 2012, a paper outlining its strategy to assist the childcare sector in the ACT to implement the national quality agenda.”.

Paper: Ms Burch presented the following paper:

Supporting Quality Early Childhood Education and Care—the building blocks for a brighter future, dated April 2011.

Debate continued.

Question—That the amendment be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 10

NOES, 5

Mr Barr	Ms Gallagher	Mr Coe
Dr Bourke	Ms Hunter	Mr Doszpot
Ms Bresnan	Ms Le Couteur	Mrs Dunne
Ms Burch	Ms Porter	Mr Hanson
Mr Corbell	Mr Rattenbury	Mr Smyth

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes that on 1 December 2011, the Productivity Commission released its *Early Childhood Development Workforce* research report; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) respond to the Productivity Commission’s report by July 2012 as it applies to the ACT, including details of the research and modelling undertaken to develop that response; and

- (b) table, by the first sitting of the Assembly in 2012, a paper outlining its strategy to assist the childcare sector in the ACT to implement the national quality agenda.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

5 TEACHERS—PROPOSED ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OFFER

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

- (1) notes:
- (a) the significant role that teachers play in delivering positive educational outcomes for ACT students;
 - (b) that the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement offer includes:
 - (i) parity of pay for all teachers in the first year of the agreement, and 3.5 percent increases in years two and three;
 - (ii) opportunities for accelerated progression for outstanding teachers;
 - (iii) opportunities for outstanding classroom teachers to be recognised through accelerated progression through the pay scale;
 - (iv) the establishment of a \$100 000 teacher leader position, keeping talented teachers in the classroom; and
 - (v) empowerment of ACT school communities to have more decision making power;
 - (c) that these reforms are in line with the National Reform Agenda currently being implemented by the Commonwealth Government;
 - (d) that the Australian Education Union’s Executive Council has given in-principle support to this offer; and
 - (e) that the offer will be put to teachers for a vote early in 2012; and
- (2) also notes:
- (a) the successful implementation of the national curriculum in the ACT;
 - (b) development of *National Professional Standards for Teachers* and a national standard for principals; and
 - (c) the successful ACT implementation of National Partnerships.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 74 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for a later hour this day.

6 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

7 ROSTERED MINISTER’S QUESTIONS

Questions were asked of Dr Bourke (Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs).

8 TEACHERS—PROPOSED ENTERPRISE BARGAINING AGREEMENT OFFER

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Ms Porter (*see entry 5*)—

Debate resumed by Mr Doszpot, who moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “for ACT students” in subparagraph (1)(a), substitute:

- “(b) the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement offer has been given in-principle support by the Australian Education Union’s Executive Council;
 - (c) the offer will be put to teachers for a vote in early 2012; and
 - (d) continued work needs to be done to consider ACT teacher work conditions in our public school system; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) foster regular meetings with our ACT teachers;
 - (b) explore alternatives to address and minimise delays in future negotiations over salary and conditions;
 - (c) work collaboratively with ACT teachers to ensure that negotiations do not hinder the daily operations of our schools; and
 - (d) report on the outcomes of these initiatives to this Assembly by the last sitting day in April 2012.”.

Debate continued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6	NOES, 11	
Mr Coe	Mr Barr	Mr Hargreaves
Mr Doszpot	Dr Bourke	Ms Hunter
Mrs Dunne	Ms Bresnan	Ms Le Couteur
Mr Hanson	Ms Burch	Ms Porter
Mr Seselja	Mr Corbell	Mr Rattenbury
Mr Smyth	Ms Gallagher	

And so it was negatived.

Ms Hunter, by leave, moved the following amendments together:

- (1) In subparagraph (2)(a), after “implementation”, insert “to date”.
- (2) In subparagraph (2)(c), after “implementation”, insert “to date”.

Debate continued.

Amendments agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the significant role that teachers play in delivering positive educational outcomes for ACT students;

- (b) that the new Enterprise Bargaining Agreement offer includes:
 - (i) parity of pay for all teachers in the first year of the agreement, and 3.5 percent increases in years two and three;
 - (ii) opportunities for accelerated progression for outstanding teachers;
 - (iii) opportunities for outstanding classroom teachers to be recognised through accelerated progression through the pay scale;
 - (iv) the establishment of a \$100 000 teacher leader position, keeping talented teachers in the classroom; and
 - (v) empowerment of ACT school communities to have more decision making power;
 - (c) that these reforms are in line with the National Reform Agenda currently being implemented by the Commonwealth Government;
 - (d) that the Australian Education Union's Executive Council has given in-principle support to this offer; and
 - (e) that the offer will be put to teachers for a vote early in 2012; and
- (2) also notes:
- (a) the successful implementation to date of the national curriculum in the ACT;
 - (b) development of *National Professional Standards for Teachers* and a national standard for principals; and
 - (c) the successful ACT implementation to date of National Partnerships.”—
- be agreed to—put and passed.

9 ENGLISH AS A SECOND LANGUAGE IN SCHOOLS

Mr Doszpot, by leave, having amended his notice, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that approximately 12 percent or nearly 4 900 students in ACT public schools have been assessed as requiring English as a second language (ESL) support, an increase of 35 percent since 2000;
 - (b) that under the current rating scale, only 55 percent of students identified in need of ESL support in ACT government schools attract ESL funding;
 - (c) that this continued lowering of English proficiency was the subject of several recommendations in the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs report, *Inquiry into the Educational Achievement Gap in the ACT*, of May 2010;
 - (d) that ESL school based facilitators, many of whom have no ESL qualifications, rely heavily on the support of two ESL executive officers, based in the Education and Training Directorate, who provide specialist ESL professional development for the entire Education and Training Directorate workforce, including advice and in-service programs;

- (e) that the ACT Government had decided to cut 50 percent, or one of two, existing ESL executive officer positions, despite the objections of ESL teachers and their union; and
 - (f) that this will have the potential to further reduce the capability of ESL teachers, given the two officers currently have workloads well in excess of current demand; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) retain existing staff until consultations have been held with ESL classroom teachers and their representatives as to what their needs are in respect of professional development, departmental support and resources; and
 - (b) provide assurances that future staffing in the ESL area, at both the departmental and classroom level, will effectively address the 45 percent of students who currently miss out on any targeted support from an ESL teacher.

Dr Bourke (Minister for Education and Training) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “May 2010” in subparagraph (1)(c), substitute:

- “(d) the ACT Government has delivered a record \$8 million to ESL programs in the 2011-2012 budget, which includes funding for ESL professional learning programs for classroom teachers.”.

Paper: Dr Bourke presented the following paper:

English as a second language—Supporting EALD students with LPRs from 2.5 – 4.0.

Ms Hunter moved the following amendment to Dr Bourke’s proposed amendment: After subparagraph (1)(d), add:

- “(2) calls on the Government to:
- (a) undertake a review of ESL services including the Language Performance Rating cut off for full and partial support funding, with a view to raising the required level of English proficiency and the professional development and Directorate support services available to teachers;
 - (b) in conducting the review, consult with all relevant community stakeholders as well as ESL classroom teachers and their representatives; and
 - (c) report back to the Assembly by April 2012.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment to proposed amendment agreed to.

Question—That Dr Bourke’s amendment, as amended, be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 11

Mr Barr
Dr Bourke
Ms Bresnan
Ms Burch
Mr Corbell
Ms Gallagher

Mr Hargreaves
Ms Hunter
Ms Le Couteur
Ms Porter
Mr Rattenbury

NOES, 5

Mr Coe
Mr Doszpot
Mr Hanson
Mr Seselja
Mr Smyth

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) that approximately 12 percent or nearly 4 900 students in ACT public schools have been assessed as requiring English as a second language (ESL) support, an increase of 35 percent since 2000;
 - (b) that under the current rating scale, only 55 percent of students identified in need of ESL support in ACT government schools attract ESL funding;
 - (c) that this continued lowering of English proficiency was the subject of several recommendations in the Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Education, Training and Youth Affairs report, *Inquiry into the Educational Achievement Gap in the ACT*, of May 2010; and
 - (d) the ACT Government has delivered a record \$8 million to ESL programs in the 2011-2012 budget, which includes funding for ESL professional learning programs for classroom teachers; and
- (2) calls on the Government to:
 - (a) undertake a review of ESL services including the Language Performance Rating cut off for full and partial support funding, with a view to raising the required level of English proficiency and the professional development and Directorate support services available to teachers;
 - (b) in conducting the review, consult with all relevant community stakeholders as well as ESL classroom teachers and their representatives; and
 - (c) report back to the Assembly by April 2012.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

10 ASSAULT AND BULLYING IN THE WORKPLACE

Mr Rattenbury, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) an internal ACT Government survey has reportedly found that more than 1 600 government workers have been physically attacked, bullied or harassed by members of the public in the 20 months until September 2011, which represents a rate of 4.8 incidents per 100 workers over a 12 month period;
 - (b) the 2010-11 ACT Policing annual report records there were 2 916 reports of “offences against the person” in the total ACT population, which represents a rate of 0.8 incidents per 100 citizens over a 12 month period;
 - (c) that based on a comparison of parts (a) and (b) there is a disproportionate number of government workers being physical attacked, bullied or harassed; and
 - (d) that the Justice and Community Safety Guide to Framing Offences states, at pages 34-35, that:

- (i) there are other industries and professions, in addition to the public service, that experience assault; and
 - (ii) preventing assaults or other anti-social behaviour at an industry or professional level is a far more effective strategy than focussing on the offences and the penalties attached to those offences; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
 - (a) release the full results of the internal ACT Government survey by the close of business on Thursday, 8 December 2011; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2012 on:
 - (i) the data it collects for assault and bullying at the industry by industry level, for example, the public service compared to the taxi industry compared to the liquor and hospitality industry;
 - (ii) how this information is used to tailor assault and bullying prevention strategies at the industry and professional level;
 - (iii) what Government strategies are currently in place to prevent assault and bullying at an industry and professional level; and
 - (iv) what additional prevention strategies have been investigated for government workers in response to the internal survey.

Debate ensued.

Ms Gallagher (Chief Minister) moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) the ACT Public Service accident and incident reporting system indicates that around 1 600 government workers have reported being verbally or physically attacked, bullied or harassed by members of the public or other ACTPS staff in the 20 months until September 2011, which represents a rate of 4.8 incidents per 100 workers over a 12 month period;
 - (b) the 2010-2011 ACT Policing annual report records there were 2 916 reports of “offences against the person” in the total ACT population, which represents a rate of 0.8 incidents per 100 citizens over a 12 month period;
 - (c) that based on a comparison of parts (a) and (b) there is disproportionate number of government workers being physically attacked, bullied or harassed; and
 - (d) that the Justice and Community Safety Guide to Framing Offences states, at pages 34-35, that:
 - (i) there are other industries and professions, in addition to the public service, that experience assault; and
 - (ii) preventing assaults or other anti-social behaviour at an industry or professional level is a far more effective strategy than focussing on the offences and the penalties attached to those offences; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) release the reported incident data by the close of business on Thursday, 8 December 2011; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2012 on:
 - (i) the assault and bullying data it has collected by industry and profession over 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;
 - (ii) the assault and bullying data it has collected by Government directorate for the three years 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;
 - (iii) the assault and bullying prevention strategies it has developed in response to the reported annual data, both in the public and private sectors;
 - (iv) the activities and programs it already has in place to promulgate the assault and bullying prevention strategies through industry, the professions and the Government; and
 - (v) what other strategies the Government may be considering to address workplace bullying.”.

Paper: Ms Gallagher presented the following paper:

Occupational violence, bullying and harassment—Data, dated December 2011.

Debate continued.

Amendment agreed to.

Question—That the motion, as amended, viz:

“That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the ACT Public Service accident and incident reporting system indicates that around 1 600 government workers have reported being verbally or physically attacked, bullied or harassed by members of the public or other ACTPS staff in the 20 months until September 2011, which represents a rate of 4.8 incidents per 100 workers over a 12 month period;
 - (b) the 2010-2011 ACT Policing annual report records there were 2 916 reports of “offences against the person” in the total ACT population, which represents a rate of 0.8 incidents per 100 citizens over a 12 month period;
 - (c) that based on a comparison of parts (a) and (b) there is disproportionate number of government workers being physically attacked, bullied or harassed; and
 - (d) that the Justice and Community Safety Guide to Framing Offences states, at pages 34-35, that:
 - (i) there are other industries and professions, in addition to the public service, that experience assault; and
 - (ii) preventing assaults or other anti-social behaviour at an industry or professional level is a far more effective strategy than focussing on the offences and the penalties attached to those offences; and

- (2) calls on the ACT Government to:
- (a) release the reported incident data by the close of business on Thursday, 8 December 2011; and
 - (b) report to the Assembly by the last sitting day in February 2012 on:
 - (i) the assault and bullying data it has collected by industry and profession over 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;
 - (ii) the assault and bullying data it has collected by Government directorate for the three years 2008-2009, 2009-2010 and 2010-2011;
 - (iii) the assault and bullying prevention strategies it has developed in response to the reported annual data, both in the public and private sectors;
 - (iv) the activities and programs it already has in place to promulgate the assault and bullying prevention strategies through industry, the professions and the Government; and
 - (v) what other strategies the Government may be considering to address workplace bullying.”—

be agreed to—put and passed.

11 COMMONWEALTH PUBLIC SERVICE—PROPOSED JOB CUTS

Mr Smyth, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) notes:
- (a) the Federal Labor Party’s scheme to sack up to 3 000 Commonwealth public servants;
 - (b) the impact job losses will have on the cost of living for Canberra families; and
 - (c) that the Leader of the Opposition has written to his Federal colleagues regarding this issue; and
- (2) calls on the Chief Minister to:
- (a) follow the example of the Leader of the Opposition and write to her Federal colleagues about the Federal Labor scheme to sack Canberrans; and
 - (b) stand up for the Canberra community and publicly denounce the Federal Labor scheme to sack Commonwealth public servants.

Mr Smyth addressing the Assembly—

Adjournment negatived: It being 6 p.m.—The question was proposed—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Ms Gallagher (Chief Minister) requiring the question to be put forthwith without debate—

Question—put and negatived.

Mr Smyth continued.

Debate ensued.

Ms Hunter moved the following amendment: Omit all words after “That this Assembly”, substitute:

- (1) notes:
 - (a) both the Federal Labor and Federal Liberal parties have committed to policies that will result in public service job losses in the ACT;
 - (b) the Federal Liberal Party have committed to at least 12 000 public sector job losses;
 - (c) the extent of job losses under the Federal Labor Party’s plan, whilst significant, remains unclear; and
 - (d) the Federal Greens have proposed a series of alternatives that would prevent the need for public service job cuts; and
- (2) calls on both the Chief Minister and the Leader of the Opposition to again write to their respective Federal colleagues advocating against public sector job cuts.”.

Debate continued.

Amendment negated.

Debate continued.

Question—That the motion be agreed to—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6

Mr Coe
Mr Doszpot
Mrs Dunne
Mr Hanson
Mr Seselja
Mr Smyth

NOES, 11

Mr Barr
Dr Bourke
Ms Bresnan
Ms Burch
Mr Corbell
Ms Gallagher
Mr Hargreaves
Ms Hunter
Ms Le Couteur
Ms Porter
Mr Rattenbury

And so it was negated.

12 ADJOURNMENT

Mr Corbell (Manager of Government Business) moved—That the Assembly do now adjourn.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 7.28 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10 a.m.

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

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly