



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Select Committee on Estimates 2026–
2027

Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Report of the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Approved for publication

Report 1
11th Assembly
August 2026

About the committee

Establishing resolution

At its meeting on Tuesday, 24 February 2026 the Assembly passed the following resolution:

‘That:

- (1) a Select Committee on Estimates 2026-2027 be appointed to examine the expenditure proposals contained in the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027, the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026-2027 and any revenue estimates proposed by the Government in the 2026-2027 Budget and prepare a report to the Assembly;
- (2) the Committee be composed of:
 - (a) one Member to be nominated by the Labor Party;
 - (b) one Member to be nominated by the Liberal Party;
 - (c) one Member to be nominated by the ACT Greens; and
 - (d) one independent Member;to be notified in writing to the Speaker within two hours of this motion passing;
- (3) a Liberal Party member shall be elected Chair of the Committee by the Committee;
- (4) funds be provided by the Assembly to permit the engagement of external expertise to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and the preparation of the report of the Committee;
- (5) the Committee is to report by Friday, 28 August 2026;
- (6) if the Assembly is not sitting when the Committee has completed its inquiry, the Committee may send its report to the Speaker or, in the absence of the Speaker, to the Deputy Speaker, who is authorised to give directions for its printing, publishing and circulation; and
- (7) the foregoing provisions of this resolution, so far as they are inconsistent with the standing orders, have effect notwithstanding anything contained in the standing orders.’¹

¹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No. 47, 24 February 2026, p 833.

Committee members

Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, Chair

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Deputy Chair

Mr Andrew Braddock MLA

Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

Secretariat

David Monk, Acting Deputy Clerk

James Bunce, Acting Senior Director Committee Support

Katie Langham, Committee Secretary

Angela Lee, Committee Secretary

Kate Mickleson, Acting Committee Secretary

Sophie Milne, Committee Secretary

Cherelyn Brearley, Assistant Secretary

Jennifer Forrest, Assistant Secretary

Anna Hough, Assistant Secretary

Annika Morling, Assistant Secretary

Nicola Straker, Assistant Secretary

Adam Walker, Assistant Secretary

Justice-Noah Malfitano, Acting Assistant Secretary

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About this inquiry

The *Financial Management Act 1996* sets the framework for Territory appropriations and budgets. Government expenditure must be authorised by the Assembly through an appropriation bill.² Immediately after the presentation of an appropriation bill, the Treasurer must present to the Assembly the proposed budget for the Territory and for each directorate for the coming financial year.³ The Act specifies information that must be included in the proposed budget, and requires that it be in a form that assists a comparison with the budget for the previous financial year.⁴ The financial statements included in the proposed budget must include budget estimates for each of the next three financial years.⁵

On 10 June 2026, the Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027 were presented in the Assembly,⁶ and the related Budget papers were tabled and published on the Treasury website.⁷ Both bills were referred to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027 in accordance with its resolution of establishment for inquiry and report by 28 August 2026.

² *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 6.

³ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 10.

⁴ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 11.

⁵ *Financial Management Act 1996*, s 11.

⁶ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No. 62, 10 June 2026, pp 1058–1056.

⁷ ACT Government, *Budget 2026–27*, <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2026-27> (accessed 21 July 2026).

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
ACT	Australian Capital Territory
ACTCOSS	ACT Council of Social Service
ACTPS	ACT Public Service
AGA	A Gender Agenda
ALGA	Australian Local Government Association
AMC	Alexander Maconochie Centre
Bimberi	Bimberi Youth Justice Centre
CEO	Chief Executive Officer
CFMEU	Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union
CHH	Clare Holland House
CIT	Canberra Institute of Technology
CSEEP	Community stewardship and environmental education program
Cth	Commonwealth
EGMs	Electronic gaming machines
EVs	Electric vehicles
FA	Financial Assistance
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
FOGO	Food organics and garden organics
FTE	Full time equivalent
GPs	General Practitioners
GSP	Gross State Product
HAFFF	Housing Australia Future Fund Facility
JACS	Justice and Community Safety Directorate
Jumbunna Review	<i>Independent Review into the Over-Representation of First Nations people in the ACT Criminal Justice System</i>
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
MOU	Memorandum of understanding
NDIS	National Disability Insurance Scheme
PCO	Parliamentary Counsel's Office

PID	Public interest disclosure
PTG	Public Trustee and Guardian
SHFPACT	Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT
SHS	Sustainable Household Scheme
SLJC	Secure Local Jobs Code
TSP	Therapeutic Support Panel
WPI	Wage Price Index

Recommendations

Finding 1

The Committee finds that a Committee document may have been shared in full outside the Committee and without its authorisation. Such an action would contravene standing order 241(b).

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Speaker urge members and their staff to meet their obligations in relation to committee documents under standing orders.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that all responses to questions on notice and questions taken on notice are answered within the timeframe required under standing order 254D.

Finding 2

The ACT Government's Budget Statements E does not provide a sufficiently detailed breakdown of the \$10 million allocation for the Climate Change Strategy, limiting transparency regarding the specific use of the funding.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve budget transparency by providing a detailed breakdown of funding allocations for major initiatives included in the Climate Change Strategy, within Budget Statements E and other relevant budget documentation.

Finding 3

The application of the Secure Local Jobs Code and associated commissioning process can place a disproportionate administrative burden on small community organisations with limited staffing and operational capacity.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, in reviewing the application of the Secure Local Jobs Code, it consider the commissioning process requirements for small community organisations.

Finding 4

General rates are increasing by an average of 8 percent, at more than double the Wage Price Index.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the remaining plan for rates reform, including stamp duty reform, in the Budget Review.

Finding 5

Interest repayments will likely have a negative impact on services over the forward estimates.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collaborate with the Australian Local Government Association on its campaign to increase Federal Assistance Grants for municipal services.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure budget detail, service delivery metrics, and benchmarks for each insourced activity when decisions are undertaken are separately highlighted in budget documents.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the Pensioner Rates Rebate scheme cap annually by the same amount as the average percentage increase in residential rates across the ACT.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish any modelling on the short-term rental levy, and its assessment of the rate at which the levy would support an increase in the supply of long-term rentals.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in future Budget papers details of Sustainable Household Scheme loan defaults, including annual default rates and the value of loans written off.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure claims of commercial-in-confidence and cabinet-in-confidence are not used to avoid public scrutiny of procurement projects, particularly where concerns have been raised by the public, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Auditor General, or other oversight bodies, and provide clear justification for any information withheld.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government articulate clearly what services are being reduced and what efficiencies are being achieved to enable its proposed reduction in ACT Public Service staffing levels.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that workloads for the remaining ACT Public Service staff are safe.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish whole-of-government reporting and governance arrangements for ACT Public Service employees approved to work permanently from outside the Canberra region, including reporting on the number and location of such employees, approval arrangements, associated travel costs and any workforce or economic impacts.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in ensuring all ACT public sector employees understand their rights and obligations under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop new targets for reducing recidivism for future years to 2030 and provide adequate investment to ensure it meets these targets.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide adequate resourcing to the Victims of Crime Commissioner to manage current increases and future fluctuations in the number of victims across the Adult Offender Register, Youth Justice Register and Affected Persons Register.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review, in consultation with all MLAs, funding and arrangements for legislative drafting services to ensure they are appropriately resourced to fairly support all MLAs' drafting requirements.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government delay the proposed weekend closures of Libraries ACT branches until after the 2026–27 Budget debate, consistent with the amended motion agreed by the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that in the interim, the ACT Government undertake and publish an assessment of alternative service models, including options involving additional funding, and their impacts on community access, staffing, service reliability and cost.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the effectiveness of its community path closure fees after 12 months, and if a significant reduction in prolonged closures of paths has not occurred, increase fees or undertake associated reform to appropriately drive that behavioural change.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in future budget papers clear key performance indicators for all of Access Canberra's regulatory and enforcement functions including: timeliness, compliance activity, outstanding matters and enforcement outcomes.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government quantify the cost of insurance premiums faced by the community sector, including the impact it has on service delivery, and ensure it is appropriately accounted for in government contracts.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on indicative costs of fare evasion on the Transport Canberra Network and the impact on the Budget in its response to this Committee's report.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in future budget papers reporting on expected bus operating expenses in a way that shows the cost of operating the average electric bus compared to that of the average diesel bus, and how this will change fleet costs over the forward estimates.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly, by the end of the last sitting week of 2026, a timeline demonstrating progress so far and the pathway to completing its electronic gaming reforms by end the end of the 11th Assembly.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine the provision of free emergency call out ambulance services for people without private health insurance and table this plan and the costing in the Assembly by the first sitting week of February 2027.

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a timeline of additional investment in new paramedics to ensure the ACT Ambulance Service staffing roster is fully staffed and stabilised.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the barriers to obtaining meaningful vocational training at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and tackle those barriers in the next budget cycle with funding and resources as appropriate.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide additional funding to implement workforce planning to enable appropriate staffing levels to meet the 50 percent midwifery continuity of care by 2028 that has been committed to.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide ongoing funding for community based Sexual Health and Family Planning services beyond 2026-27 to ensure stability and continuity to the community around these crucial services.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest resources to undertake and publish modelling on potential future savings from cross-portfolio preventative health initiatives as part of the regular budgeting process.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide adequate funding and resources to enable Clare Holland House to utilise its full suite of services (including ensuring all beds are operational) and to offer respite care when it has capacity.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund more General Practitioners with Special Interests to reduce the waitlist for specialists.

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government lobby the Commonwealth Government to provide enough funding for aged care, squalor/hoarding and disability services to ameliorate the delayed discharge from hospital problem entirely.

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest additional funding in the forward estimates to match what is required to reach 13,200 Housing ACT dwellings.

Recommendation 37

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly by the end of 2026 a plan and timeline demonstrating its pathway to grow the Housing ACT portfolio to 13,200 dwellings

Recommendation 38

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure budget documents highlight the resource provisions and actions proposed in future budgets to give effect to the *Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025* including FTE, capital and recurrent expenditure appropriations.

Recommendation 39

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government allocate funds in the 2026-27 Budget Review to implement the recommendations of the Flexible Education Program review.

Recommendation 40

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide immediate temporary accommodation for the Muliyan program to restore on-site capacity to 30 students, while the Flexible Education Program review recommendations are implemented.

Recommendation 41

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future budgets a line-by-line breakdown of the total funding committed to the Future of Education, One Public Education System reforms.

Recommendation 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in future budgets the details of those schools receiving funding under the Heating and Cooling fund.

Recommendation 43

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future budgets or annual reports detailed information about the specific programs within ACT schools directed towards addressing issues around violence in schools, including a line-by-line breakdown of total funding committed.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure any ministerial announcements on overseas trade missions or for other purposes state the total cost of each mission or delegation and not just individual ministers' costs.

Recommendation 44

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase incentives to zero and low emissions vehicles so as to drive the level of behavioural change required to change the vehicle mix in the ACT community so as to achieve the ACT Government's emissions targets.

Recommendation 45

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government meet previously announced food organics and garden organics collection target timeframes and ensure this is funded in the Budget.

Recommendation 46

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the volunteer landcare work that has been done by the catchment groups and valued at \$21.5 million per year continues under new arrangements without any loss of environmental services or local volunteer engagement.

Recommendation 47

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider the impact and appropriateness of its procurement processes for small-amount contracts awarded to small not-for-profit community organisations that are heavily reliant on volunteers.

Finding 6

The Government's lack of a whole-of-government Youth strategy limited the Committee's ability to interrogate the impact of the Budget on young people.

Recommendation 48

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop and fund a whole-of-government, coordinated Youth Policy Strategy to more effectively address the breadth of issues concerning young Canberrans, noting the lack of any such framework at present.

Recommendation 49

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in screening for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the justice system, including ACT Courts, Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, and the Alexander Maconochie Centre, to understand the prevalence of FASD and to divert people into appropriate supports as early as possible.

Recommendation 50

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase its investment in the Human Rights Commission to expand its role in educating individuals, organisations and public authorities about their obligations and protections under the *Human Rights Act 2024* and other relevant legislation.

Recommendation 51

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Ombudsman and the Human Rights Commission are sufficiently resourced to fulfil their oversight functions under the National Preventive Mechanism, and that the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission function is appropriately funded.

Recommendation 52

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest sufficiently in staffing at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to avoid excessive lockdowns and ensure Official Visitors can exercise their oversight functions appropriately.

Recommendation 53

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology identify specialist fields of vocational education to be delivered at the Tuggeranong campus, and fund the implementation of these programs in the next budget cycle.

Recommendation 54

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology identify specialist fields of vocational education to be delivered at the Gungahlin campus, and fund the implementation of these programs in the next budget cycle.

Recommendation 55

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology reduce executive expenditure and prioritise funding for program delivery and teaching staff.

Recommendation 56

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify its involvement in, and provide a justification for, the payout to the former Canberra Institute of Technology Chief Executive Officer on their resignation.

Recommendation 57

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the funding and staffing requirements of the Public Trustee and Guardian and provide sustainable funding sufficient for the office to meet its statutory obligations and manage increasing caseload complexity and service demand.

Recommendation 58

The Committee recommends that ActewAGL provide accurate information on customer's bills regarding possible discounts and cheaper energy plans that may be available to customers based on their individual circumstances to ensure every customer is always on the best plan available for them.

Finding 7

There is uncertainty regarding the continued existence, operation and impact of the Memorandum of Understanding after the introduction of the Secure Local jobs Code.

Recommendation 59

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, in its response to this report, clarify the existence and role of the Memorandum of Understanding the UnionsACT and any plans for the future.

Recommendation 60

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure its response to Operation Kingfisher includes:

- an independent review of previous procurement to demonstrate that projects are selected for funding based on the public interest and that no other examples of inappropriate influence meant the Territory did not gain value for money; and
- what steps are being taken to strengthen accountability in order to regain the trust of Canberrans.

Recommendation 61

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set a funding level for LegalAid that recognises inflated ancillary, operational and other costs, and allows it to achieve its own benchmark for ensuring legal assistance can be provided to everyone on an income at or below 120 percent of the poverty line, at a minimum.

Recommendation 62

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a forward plan to ensure all statutory officers are sufficiently resourced to perform the functions allocated to them or specify which function will be reduced to fit within existing funding allocations.

1. Introduction

Presentation of bills

- 1.1. The Treasurer presented the Appropriation Bill 2026–2027, and associated Budget papers, and the Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027 in the Assembly on 10 June 2026.⁸

Specialist Budget Advisor

- 1.2. The Committee’s resolution of establishment allowed for fund to be provided by the Assembly for the engagement of a specialist budget advisor to work with the Committee to facilitate the analysis of the Budget and preparation of the Committee’s report.⁹
- 1.3. In 2025, the Office of the Legislative Assembly undertook a procurement activity for the four estimates select committees expected to be established during the Eleventh Assembly. Pegasus Economics was selected to act as the Specialist Budget Advisor and provided written analysis on the 2026–2027 ACT Budget. The Committee published this analysis and the ACT Government’s response on the inquiry webpage.¹⁰

Ministerial changes

- 1.4. Following the resignation from the executive of Yvette Berry MLA on 23 July 2026, two sets of ministerial changes were made. An interim ministry was in place from 24 July to 29 July 2026, with a new ministry list taking effect on 30 July 2026.¹¹ Details of both the pre-24 July 2026 and post-30 July 2026 ministerial arrangements are available in Appendix E.
- 1.5. Following the ministerial changes, a new set of administrative orders took effect on 30 July 2026.¹²
- 1.6. The ministerial arrangements contained in this report reflect the arrangements at the time the relevant hearings were held.

Public hearings

- 1.7. Public hearings were held on 3 July 2026 (community and industry groups) and from 21 July to 4 August 2026. At the hearings, the Committee heard from ACT Government

⁸ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No. 62, 10 June 2026, pp 1058–1056.

⁹ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings*, No. 47, 24 February 2026, p 833.

¹⁰ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026; ACT Government, *ACT Government Response – Pegasus Economics – Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27 – Final Report*, July 2026.

¹¹ Andrew Barr MLA, Media release, *New Cabinet focused on housing, economic opportunity and delivering for Canberra*, 27 July 2026, https://www.cmtedd.act.gov.au/open_government/inform/act_government_media_releases/barr/2026/new-cabinet-focused-on-housing-economic-opportunity-and-delivering-for-canberra, accessed 20 August 2026.

¹² ACT Legislation Register, *Administrative Arrangements 2026 (No 1)*.

ministers and their accompanying directorate officials; Officers of the Legislative Assembly, statutory officers; and members of governing board.

- 1.8. Witnesses who appeared at the hearings are listed at Appendix A. Transcripts from the hearings are available on the Assembly website. Footage of the hearings is available via video on demand on the Assembly website.
- 1.9. Statistics on the gender of witnesses collected in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, are at Appendix B. This information is collected to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.
- 1.10. During hearings a visiting member took, and subsequently sent and published, photographs of proceedings without first notifying the Committee and seeking its agreement. The visiting member subsequently apologised to the Committee for the breach of the *Speaker's guidelines for broadcasting, filming and photography in the Assembly precincts*.¹³
- 1.11. The visiting member was also the subject of an anonymous complaint. The copy of the complaint ultimately provided to the Committee was sent to the Speaker and the Chair of the Committee. The complaint was referred to the Commissioner for Standards, who advised the visiting member that he would not be investigating the complaint.
- 1.12. However, noting that the complainant addressed the email to the Chair, the Committee was concerned that a media article on 8 August 2026 quoted the Leader of the Opposition's spokesman as saying that the visiting member had been 'shown the full details of the complaint and the anonymous email' by the Chair. The Chair informed the Committee on 12 August 2026 that she had not shared the email with the visiting member.
- 1.13. The Committee was not provided with a copy of the complaint until 19 August 2026. Standing order 241(b) states that committee documents should not be disclosed to a person who is not a committee member or Assembly employee unless authorised by the Assembly or the Committee. To ascertain the veracity of the media reporting, the Committee asked the visiting member on 20 August 2026 who had provided them with the complaint email. The visiting member responded without answering the question on 24 August 2026. The Committee made another request for this information on 25 August 2026 and at the time when this report was adopted the visiting member had not responded.¹⁴

¹³ A copy of the Guidelines is available on the Legislative Assembly website at: https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0007/1498309/Speakers-guidelines-for-broadcasting,-filming-and-photography-in-the-Assembly-precincts.pdf.

¹⁴ The Chair abstained from the Committee's decisions to write to the visiting member regarding this issue. The Chair was also an apology for the meeting at which the Committee agreed to the final version of this report.

Finding 1

The Committee finds that a Committee document may have been shared in full outside the Committee and without its authorisation. Such an action would contravene standing order 241(b).

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the Speaker urge members and their staff to meet their obligations in relation to committee documents under standing orders.

Questions taken on notice and questions placed on notice

- 1.14. A total of 614 questions were lodged during the inquiry:
- 298 questions were taken on notice by ministers, statutory officer holders and community groups during the hearings
 - 316 questions on notice were submitted by Committee Members and visiting MLAs following the hearings.
- 1.15. The list of questions, by subject, submitter and recipient, is at Appendix C. All published answers are available on the inquiry webpage.
- 1.16. There were six unanswered questions taken on notice and seven questions on notice as at 25 August 2026.
- 1.17. The number of answers to questions taken on notice and questions on notice answered within the standing orders timeframe of five business days was lower than for previous years. In 2025–2026, 46 percent of the 680 questions were received on time, with 54 percent received late. In comparison, in 2026–2027 only 34 percent were received on time, and at the time this report was adopted 66 percent were either late or had not been received.¹⁵

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that all responses to questions on notice and questions taken on notice are answered within the timeframe required under standing order 254D.

Submissions

- 1.18. The Committee received four submissions which are listed at Appendix D and published on the inquiry webpage.

¹⁵ These numbers are drawn from data on the Parliamentary Portal.

References to Hansard Transcripts

- 1.19. Footnotes in the report reference the proof transcripts of evidence. Page numbers may vary between proof and final Hansard transcripts.

Report structure

- 1.20. The Committee has structured this report, as far as possible, to align to ministerial portfolios.

Acknowledgements

- 1.21. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes ACT Government ministers, directorate officials, statutory officials, members of governing boards, community groups, Pegasus Economics, and MLAs. The Committee extends a special thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

2. Community and industry groups

- 2.1. The Committee heard evidence from the following community and industry groups at a public hearing on Friday, 3 July 2026.

Conservation Council ACT Region and SEE Change

Matters considered

- 2.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Conservation Council ACT Region and SEE Change:
- ACT Climate Change Strategy funding distribution;
 - Community and government programs to reduce emissions;
 - ACT Government consultation with the environment sector;
 - Nature Conservation Strategy funding and implementation;
 - Procurement processes for community organisations; and
 - Healthy Waterways programs.¹⁶

Key issues

Funding transparency

- 2.3. The Conservation Council told the Committee that, of the \$10 million committed to delivery of the ACT Climate Change Strategy over the next four years, \$540,000 was allocated to three groups over three years. An additional \$600,000 would go to community groups for climate mitigation and adaptation work, but the Conservation Council did not have details of that funding. It was not clear how the remaining nearly 90 percent of the funding would be distributed.¹⁷
- 2.4. The Conservation Council expressed concern that the funding might go to policy work and strategy development, rather than practical work to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change. It considered that such work should include measures to support apartment complexes to phase out the use of gas, and investment in public and active transport.¹⁸

Finding 2

The ACT Government's Budget Statements E does not provide a sufficiently detailed breakdown of the \$10 million allocation for the Climate Change Strategy, limiting transparency regarding the specific use of the funding.

¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 1–14.

¹⁷ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 1–2.

¹⁸ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 2–3.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government improve budget transparency by providing a detailed breakdown of funding allocations for major initiatives included in the Climate Change Strategy, within Budget Statements E and other relevant budget documentation.

Procurement processes for community organisations

- 2.5. The Committee heard that community organisations had found the ACT Government procurement process confusing, with mixed messages about where to direct questions. Organisations were now required to comply with the Secure Local Jobs Code, and SEE Change had paid \$500 for that accreditation.¹⁹
- 2.6. The Conservation Council advised that the procurement process had taken over 12 months including discussions with the directorate, and a review of funding took place with no consultation. The review resulted in no changes to the funding, ‘but it took countless public service hours and countless hours for [the Conservation Council]’.²⁰
- 2.7. Organisations had understood that the new two-step process would be easier, as if there was only one expression of interest in the first step then they would not have to complete the second step. However, this did not occur:

What happened is that they said, “No; you still have to go through the second process.” So there was a situation where they tried to make it easy, but they actually made us do two lots of processes rather than one, which made it extremely more difficult.²¹

- 2.8. The Conservation Council also considered that the Secure Local Jobs Code process was not fit for purpose for small organisations, requiring proof of compliance with modern slavery requirements and paperwork for employment workplace relations, which was burdensome and not appropriate for small community groups whose supply chains were often mainstream retailers:

They said, “Here is the process we use for big businesses. Let’s apply that to the tiny organisations that get less than \$200,000 a year in funding.” It was not fit for purpose. It made us do a lot of work, and we stopped doing the work that we wanted to do, which is to work on environmental issues for the community.²²

- 2.9. SEE Change observed that the Secure Local Jobs Code required that it employ local people, which it already did, and provide job security for its employees. However, because its core funding was low, it had to apply several times for smaller grants throughout the year. These grants contradicted the secure employment requirement:

¹⁹ Ms Kathy Ehmann, Executive Director, SEE Change, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 10.

²⁰ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 11.

²¹ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 11.

²² Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 11.

When we do get those grants, it is specifically stated in the deed that we cannot use existing staff to deliver the project, so we need to either bring in short-term contracted staff or outsource, which is not secure employment.²³

Committee comment

- 2.10. The Committee considers that the ACT Government should consider the value provided by small not-for-profit organisations and ensure sufficient weighting is given to this during procurement processes.
- 2.11. It appears that the application of the Secure Local Jobs Code may, in some instances, be counterproductive to achieving genuine value for money. This was especially the case in relation to small non-government organisations. The Committee examines this issue in more detail later in the report.

Finding 3

The application of the Secure Local Jobs Code and associated commissioning process can place a disproportionate administrative burden on small community organisations with limited staffing and operational capacity.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, in reviewing the application of the Secure Local Jobs Code, it consider the commissioning process requirements for small community organisations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

Matters considered

- 2.12. The Committee considered the following matters during the appearance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body:
- Community design of the Bush Healing Farm;
 - Joint management of Boomanulla Oval;
 - Funding increases for the Elected Body members and secretariat;
 - Implementation of the recommendations from the *Independent Review into the Over-Representation of First Nations People in the ACT Criminal Justice System* (Jumbunna review); and
 - Cultural integrity in the ACT Public Service.²⁴

²³ Ms Kathy Ehmann, Executive Director, SEE Change, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 10–11.

²⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 15–23.

Canberra Business Chamber and Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum

Matters considered

- 2.13. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Canberra Business Chamber and Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum:
- Taxation revenue and business in the ACT;
 - Support for business during light rail construction;
 - The impact of noise standards for entertainment precincts on hospitality businesses;
 - Government procurement and the engagement of small and medium enterprise;
 - Public safety and antisocial behaviour in Civic; and
 - Business conditions in town centres.²⁵

ACT Council of Social Service and ACT Shelter

Matters considered

- 2.14. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the ACT Council of Social Service and ACT Shelter:
- Barriers to community service delivery;
 - Investment in early intervention services to assist with reducing demand for acute crisis services;
 - Funding for the disability sector, including consultation on changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and the implementation of Thriving Kids;
 - Public, community and affordable housing, including the ‘missing middle’, public and community housing stock numbers, waiting lists, and affordable rental policy settings;
 - Support for people experiencing rental stress, including the new Housing Crisis Support Fund;
 - Homelessness sector funding and crisis and transitional housing for people at risk of, or experiencing, homelessness;
 - Youth homelessness, including the Woden Youth Foyer; and
 - Changes to the *Human Rights Act 2004* to recognise the right to adequate housing.²⁶

²⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 24–32.

²⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 33–47.

Women's Legal Centre, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, YWCA and Domestic Violence Crisis Service

Matters considered

- 2.15. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Women's Legal Centre, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, YWCA and Domestic Violence Crisis Service:
- Access to affordable housing;
 - Adequacy of funding for the domestic, family and sexual violence sector;
 - Funding for early intervention activities for children and young people;
 - Experiences of, and feedback on, the government's commissioning process, including the use of annual data and modelling;
 - Information sharing under the *Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing) Amendment Act 2024* and the role of the information sharing coordinator;
 - Procurement processes and the effectiveness of the Secure Local Jobs Code.²⁷

Australian Education Union ACT Branch and ACT Parents

Matters considered

- 2.16. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Australian Education Union ACT Branch and ACT Parents:
- Funding, implementation and timelines of the public school resourcing review;
 - Review and funding of flexible education options;
 - Adequacy of staffing levels in the public school system, including individual school budgets for staff;
 - Workforce planning, including for specialist teachers;
 - The level of funding in alignment with the School Resourcing Standard;
 - Consistency of public education offerings across the Territory;
 - Adequacy of funding and implementation of Thriving Kids; and
 - Implementation of the Strong Foundations program.²⁸

²⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 48–61.

²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 62–73.

Key issues

Stakeholder feedback

- 2.17. The Committee heard from the Australian Education Union (AEU) (ACT Branch) and ACT Parents their concerns about the frequency and inclusion of stakeholder feedback in plans and strategies developed by the Education Directorate.²⁹
- 2.18. For example, in the development of a language education strategy, the AEU observed that ‘although we had the opportunity to make some submissions, they were not received favourably.’³⁰ ACT Parents advised that they were likewise consulted in the first instance but that there was no ‘secondary consultation prior to publication of the plan.’³¹

Committee comment

- 2.19. The Committee is concerned that stakeholder feedback, a critical step in the policy development process, hasn’t been fully reflected in Education Directorate plans and strategic documents. While the directorate does consult with stakeholders, the Committee heard that the value of this consultation is undermined through a lack of engagement on how consultation outcomes have influenced the final documents. The Committee considers greater focus on this element would strengthen stakeholder engagement processes.

Property Council of Australia

Matters considered

- 2.20. The Committee considered the following matters during the appearance of the Property Council of Australia:
- Missing middle housing reform outcomes;
 - Lease variation charge remissions and codification;
 - Commercial vacancies;
 - Progress towards meeting housing targets;
 - Tree protection and housing developments; and
 - Antisocial behaviour and public safety perceptions.³²

²⁹ Mr Patrick Judge, Branch Secretary, Australian Education Union (ACT Branch), *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 71; Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 71.

³⁰ Mr Patrick Judge, Branch Secretary, Australian Education Union (ACT Branch), *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 71.

³¹ Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 71.

³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 74–82.

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

Matters considered

2.21. The Committee considered the following matters during the appearance of the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT:

- Adequacy of funding in the Budget for mental health services;
- Provision of psychosocial support, community support and other preventions;
- The National Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Agreement;
- Links between gambling and mental ill-health;
- Mental health facility funding;
- The *Suicide Prevention Act 2025* in NSW; and
- Safe havens.³³

Health Care Consumers' Association

Matters considered

2.22. The Committee considered the following matters during the appearance of the Health Care Consumers' Association:

- Funding of outpatient services;
- Bereavement and miscarriage care;
- Palliative care;
- Community-based care for older people; and
- Ambulance fees.³⁴

Community Sport Alliance of the ACT

Matters considered

2.23. The Committee considered the following matters during the appearance of the Community Sport Alliance of the ACT:

- Representative bodies for ACT sporting groups;
- Administrative burden required for clubs to apply for and secure funding;
- Increased organisational expectations placed on clubs;
- Engagement with the ACT Government's facilities audit;

³³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 83–91.

³⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 92–97.

- Community consultation; and
- Sports facility infrastructure.³⁵

³⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 98–105.

3. Chief Minister

Matters considered

- 3.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Chief Minister's appearance on Monday, 27 July 2026:
- The Integrity Commissioner's report on Operation Kingfisher;
 - Whistleblowing policy within the ACT Public Service (ACTPS)
 - Public Interest Disclosures;
 - Funding for the ACT/NSW rail corridor;
 - Value for money of infrastructure projects; and
 - The infrastructure pipeline.³⁶
- 3.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Chief Minister and Minister for Major Projects' appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:
- Engagement with the business sector;
 - Public Sector Standards Commissioner investigations;
 - The Kingston Arts Precinct;
 - Increase in the ACTPS;
 - Canberra Theatre Centre redevelopment;
 - Urban renewal in the Woden town centre; and
 - Housing affordability.³⁷

³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 662–690.

³⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 1412–1440.

4. Treasury

Matters considered

- 4.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Treasurer's appearance on Tuesday, 21 July 2026:
- *Financial Management Act 1996* section 16B instruments signed between April and June 2026;
 - Treasurer's advances to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the Cultural Facilities Corporation;
 - Payroll tax;
 - Commonwealth Grants Commission assessment of the Territory's revenue base;
 - Population undercounts by the Australian Bureau of Statistics;
 - Support for first home buyers;
 - Federal funding for infrastructure;
 - ACT Labor election commitment costings and progress;
 - Funding for future ACT Public Service enterprise agreements;
 - Deferral and ending of capital works; and
 - The tax reform program.³⁸
- 4.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Treasurer and Minister for Finance on Monday, 27 July 2026:
- Reduction in total debt over the forward estimates;
 - Costings of election commitments;
 - Procurement from small and medium and/or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises;
 - Potential for transferable rental bonds;
 - Lease variation charges;
 - General rates;
 - Insurance costs for the arts, community, and not-for-profit sectors;
 - The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the horse racing industry;
 - Rates increases;
 - The cash operating surplus;

³⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, pp 119–163.

- Calculation of unimproved land valuations;
 - ACT Revenue Office objections and reviews; and
 - The short-term residential levy.³⁹
- 4.3. The Committee considered the following matters during the Treasurer's appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:
- Residential planning reforms;
 - Non-ongoing initiatives in the forward estimates;
 - Calculating local rates;
 - Rates changes;
 - The responsible investment policy;
 - ACT population count and the upcoming Census; and
 - Infrastructure spending.⁴⁰

Key issues

Tax reform

- 4.4. The ACT Government is undertaking a 20 year tax reform program which aims to reduce revenue from stamp duty and insurance duty and draw more revenue from general rates and commercial land tax. The program started in 2012 and has now entered its fourth and final stage, which will see the phase-out of conveyancing duty. The intended completion date is 2032.⁴¹
- 4.5. As part of this reform, general rates were estimated to have increased by an average of 3.75 percent in during 2021-22 to 2025-26. A \$250 health levy was also introduced in the 2025-26 Budget, which was then reduced to \$100. As the ACT will receive additional federal health funding this financial year under the National Health Reform Agreement, the health levy has been discontinued.⁴²
- 4.6. According to the Budget Outlook for 2026-27:

The Government has reduced the levy component of rates bills to ensure that the average residential ratepayer's bill will increase no more than 5 per cent in 2026-27. The general rates component of each bill will increase by an average of 8 per

³⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 622-661.

⁴⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1394-1411.

⁴¹ ACT Government, ACT Revenue Office, 'Tax Reform', undated <https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/about-the-act-revenue-office/tax-reform> (accessed 17 August 2026). ACT Government, Treasury, 'Tax Reform', undated, <https://www.treasury.act.gov.au/taxreform> (accessed 17 August 2026).

⁴² ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025-26, Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 173. ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025-26 Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 172.

cent, however the reduction in the levy component means the average total rates bill increase remains at 5 per cent or below.⁴³

4.7. The Budget Outlook also stated that:

The Government has progressed tax reform by offsetting reductions in conveyance duty with increases in average general rates above growth in the Wage Price Index (WPI), noting that WPI increases reflect the rising cost of government service delivery.⁴⁴

4.8. The Wage Price Index growth was 3.3 percent for the past year at the first quarter of 2026.⁴⁵

4.9. An estimated 27,400 residential properties, which equates to 14 percent, will receive an increase in their general rates of above 10 percent.⁴⁶

4.10. Pegasus Economics noted that the ACT Government is seeking to phase out stamp duties in four stages to offset increases to rates above the Wage Price Index, but stated that ‘there is still some way to go before conveyance duties are completely replaced’ by the target year of 2031–32. Specifically, stamp duty as a proportion of own-source revenue has decreased from around 26 percent in 2012–13 to 12 percent in 2025–26 and is projected to be 10 percent by 2029–30. In comparison, the proportion of own-source revenue comprised of general rates has increased from around 17 percent in 2012–13 to around 29 percent in 2025–26.⁴⁷

Finding 4

General rates are increasing by an average of 8 percent, at more than double the Wage Price Index.

4.11. The Budget Review report commissioned from Pegasus Economics noted that the tax reform program was intentionally slowed to ease the impact on the community of post-COVID cost pressures. However, this has put the remainder of the timeline at risk:

Over the Budget and forward years, the rate of substitution of declining revenue from conveyance duties being made from an increasing revenue from general rates appears to have come to a complete stop as the percentage of total own-source revenue from general rates is forecast to remain flat at around 29 percent from 2025-26 onwards.⁴⁸

⁴³ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27, Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 173.

⁴⁴ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025–26 Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 172.

⁴⁵ Australian Bureau of Statistics, *Wage Price Index, Australia, 13 May 2026*, <https://www.abs.gov.au/statistics/economy/price-indexes-and-inflation/wage-price-index-australia/latest-release> (accessed 14 August 2026).

⁴⁶ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *answer to QTON 115*, 10 August 2026.

⁴⁷ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026-27*, July 2026, pp 21–22.

⁴⁸ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026-27*, July 2026, p 23.

- 4.12. The report concluded that the ACT Government will be unlikely to complete the tax reform program by 2032, and that revenue from conveyance duties will still be around 10 percent of own-source revenue in 2029–30, with projected revenue increases from general rates unlikely to be able to fill that gap in the last two years of the program. The report noted that:

in 2029–30 that is the last year of current forward estimates, revenue from general rates collections would have to increase by just under 35 percent to fully offset and replace the revenue collected from commercial and residential conveyance duties.⁴⁹

Committee comment

- 4.13. The Committee is concerned that general rates may be increased to an unsustainable level by the end of the tax reform program, in order to make up the shortfall from reduced conveyances duties. The Committee would like to see the forward plan for the final quarter of the tax reform program, which includes key dates, targets and revenue estimates to 2032.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the remaining plan for rates reform, including stamp duty reform, in the Budget Review.

Interest repayments

- 4.14. The value of interest repayments on Territory borrowings, both as a total amount and as a percentage expenditure, has been a key factor in the deterioration of the ACT's financial position.⁵⁰
- 4.15. Interest expenses remain the fastest growing area of government expenditure. They are forecast at \$811 million this financial year, and grow an average of 17.6 percent over the forward estimates. The Pegasus Economics report noted that the 'interest bill approximately doubles between the 2025–26 outcome and the 2029–30 estimate'.⁵¹
- 4.16. The 2026–27 Budget contained a more targeted and detailed fiscal plan compared to previous years. It included a target to keep net debt at or below 19 percent of Gross State Product (GSP) to 2029–30 and to reduce after that. The Budget Outlook noted that this would 'ensure that the ACT maintains a level of net debt below those of comparable Australian jurisdictions (South Australia, Tasmania and the Northern Territory)'.⁵²

⁴⁹ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026, p 23.

⁵⁰ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026, p 15.

⁵¹ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026, p 38.

⁵² Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026, p 17–18. ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025–26 Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 29.

- 4.17. General Government Sector net debt is estimated to be 18.4 percent of GSP by the end of this financial year.⁵³
- 4.18. Interest repayments are currently 11.1 percent of total expenditure, and over 20 percent of own source taxation revenue. According to the Pegasus Report:

High interest obligations divert funds that might otherwise be spent on health, education and other services. The interest bill also limits future budget flexibility. A large outstanding debt burden leaves the ACT less able to respond to future shocks in the form of pandemics, natural disasters or global uncertainty.⁵⁴

Committee comment

- 4.19. The Committee welcomes the inclusion of metrics detailed in this budget's fiscal plan. However, the Committee remains concerned that the Territory's level of interest repayments represents a clear and present risk to delivery of government services, at a time when the community is already facing cost-of-living pressures.

Finding 5

Interest repayments will likely have a negative impact on services over the forward estimates.

Commonwealth funding for local services

- 4.20. The Commonwealth provides funding to states and territories under the *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth) to improve the financial capacity and the effectiveness of local governing bodies in delivering services equitably across the country. The amount of yearly funding depends on population changes and the Consumer Price Index.⁵⁵
- 4.21. There have been calls to increase these Financial Assistance (FA) Grants due to the deteriorating financial position of local governments. A recent House of Representatives inquiry found that local governments are expected to provide an increasing number of services which were once the remit of higher level of government, including in social, health, and regulatory services.⁵⁶
- 4.22. Furthermore, while the total amount of FA Grants used to represent one percent of total Commonwealth taxation revenue, since the 1990s it has dropped to 0.49 percent.⁵⁷ The Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) has been arguing that the value of FA Grants has not kept up with rising costs, particularly in construction and wages.⁵⁸ They

⁵³ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025–26 Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 45.

⁵⁴ Pegasus Economics, *Review of the ACT Budget 2026–27*, July 2026, pp 38-40.

⁵⁵ *Local Government (Financial Assistance) Act 1995* (Cth), Part 1 s 3 and Part 2 s 8.

⁵⁶ Parliament of Australia, House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, *Interim report into local government sustainability*, February 2025, p 5.

⁵⁷ A Parliament of Australia, House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Inquiry into local government sustainability, *Submission 181: Australian Local Government Association*, p 12.

⁵⁸ Parliament of Australia, House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Inquiry into local government sustainability, *Submission 181: Australian Local Government Association*, p 2.

wrote to the Speaker of the House of Representatives to call on Federal Parliament to immediately restore the FA Grants to one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue.⁵⁹

- 4.23. These budget pressures are affecting service delivery. A review from ALGA found that ‘local governments’ growth in per capita expenditure lags that of other tiers of government’, and that core local services are at risk due to the financial pressure.⁶⁰

- 4.24. When questioned about these issues, the Treasurer told the Committee that the ACT Government will continue to advocate for ‘our fair share of funding’, however:

...there is not one per cent on the table at the moment. That is entirely a decision of the Commonwealth, but we will continue to advocate for getting our fair share.⁶¹

- 4.25. In its submission to the House of Representatives inquiry, the ACT Government said that a review of ACT’s FA Grants ‘would be timely’.⁶²

Committee comment

- 4.26. Although the ACT is not a member of ALGA, the Committee believes it is important that the ACT Government join them in their advocacy to increase the FA Grants back to one percent of Commonwealth taxation revenue. In light of the impact that net debt is likely have on services, as discussed above, and on the inequitable distribution of GST that has recently been highlighted by the Productivity Commission,⁶³ it is likely that the ACT will be in need of further revenue to continue to provide basic municipal services over the forward estimates.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government collaborate with the Australian Local Government Association on its campaign to increase Federal Assistance Grants for municipal services.

Benchmarking activities

- 4.27. During the inquiry, the Committee heard of examples of large initiatives for insourced public housing maintenance and IT system design.⁶⁴
- 4.28. For the public housing project, a concluded trial for maintenance informed the ACT Government funding of \$15.828 million over four years for the phased insourcing of Customer Services Functions, Facilities Asset Management and the establishment of a

⁵⁹ Australian Local Government Association, Letter to the Hon Milton Dick MP, *Fairer Funding now to avert a crisis for Local Councils*, 24 June 2026, <https://alga.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2026/06/THIS-FA-Grants-letter-to-Speaker-ALGA-June-2026.pdf> (accessed 25 August 2026).

⁶⁰ Australian Local Government Association, *Financial sustainability in Australian Local Government*, 2 July 2024, pp 15-19.

⁶¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 131.

⁶² Parliament of Australia, House of Representatives, Standing Committee on Regional Development, Infrastructure and Transport, Inquiry into local government sustainability, , *Submission 248: ACT Government*, p 3.

⁶³ Productivity Commission, *GST distribution reforms*, Interim report, 14 August 2026.

⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1006–1007; *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 254–258.

Public Housing Trades Workforce from the 2028–29 financial year; as well as \$4.042 million towards the development of a digital solution to support the customer services functions.⁶⁵

- 4.29. The IT design work will be done on a replacement of a product which was licensed by the WA government. An \$8.615 million investment has been allocated to create a Jury Management System, a Coroner’s Court Local Management System, and a Core Case Management System. This initiative is listed as ‘modernising critical ACT Courts and Tribunal case management in the Budget Outlook.’⁶⁶

Committee comment

- 4.30. The Committee is concerned that it is unclear how the key metrics and outcomes of these significant activities will be measured and reported on.
- 4.31. The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should ensure Budget Statements clarify what these large initiatives are intended to achieve, and what funding is further anticipated in order to fully implement these projects.
- 4.32. The Committee considers that transparency measures for service delivery and benchmarks are vital to ensure confidence through this insourcing transition period and beyond.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure budget detail, service delivery metrics, and benchmarks for each insourced activity when decisions are undertaken are separately highlighted in budget documents.

Pensioners rates rebate

- 4.33. Pensioners with a Pensioner Concession Card or a Veteran Gold Card are eligible for a rebate of 50 percent on their rates, which is capped at \$750 per annum. If two eligible pensioners share equal ownership in a house, their household will receive a 100 percent rebate, this is capped at \$1,250.⁶⁷
- 4.34. Pensioners can also receive a rebate on their Police, Fire and Emergency Services Levy, and may choose to defer all or part of their rates bill (interest applies).⁶⁸
- 4.35. The last time the rates rebate cap was increased was in 2021–22, when it was increased from \$700. Since then, general rates have increased an average of 21.9 percent.⁶⁹

⁶⁵ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, *answer to QON 238*, 5 August 2026 (received 13 August 2026), p 1.

⁶⁶ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026-27, Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 140; Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 256.

⁶⁷ ACT Government, ACT Revenue Office, *Pensioners*, <https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/cost-of-living-support/rates-assistance/pensioners> (accessed 24 August 2026).

⁶⁸ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 32*, 21 July 2026 (received 9 August 2026), p 2.

⁶⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 32*, 21 July 2026 (received 9 August 2026), p 2.

- 4.36. In 2025–26, only seven percent of eligible pensioners received a full 50 percent rebate; it can be inferred that the remaining 93 percent hit the cap.⁷⁰

Committee comment

- 4.37. As the cap has not increased in line with the growth in rates, the Committee believes that the capped amount should be revisited.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the Pensioner Rates Rebate scheme cap annually by the same amount as the average percentage increase in residential rates across the ACT.

Short-term accommodation levy

- 4.38. A new levy was introduced in the 2024–25 Budget on booking service providers who make, arrange or facilitate short-term rental accommodation bookings in the ACT. The levy applies to bookings that are not more than 28 continuous days and are set at five percent of the booking fee. From 1 July 2027, the levy will increase to 7.5 percent.⁷¹
- 4.39. Property owners or occupiers who take bookings directly are exempt from the levy, as are hotels, motels, serviced apartments, caravan parks, camping grounds and hostels.⁷²
- 4.40. The levy was introduced primarily to raise revenue, in a way which ‘strikes a fairer balance between the costs of operating a hotel, motel and other accommodation which are subject to reasonable regulation and often payroll and other taxes.’ The government also expected it to have a ‘modest but positive impact on incentivising the supply of long-term rentals to local renters.’⁷³
- 4.41. The Treasurer advised that ‘rental bond data suggests no material change in the rental market’ as a result of the levy.⁷⁴

Committee comment

- 4.42. The Committee notes that the expectation that the levy could have a positive effect on the supply of long-term rentals does not appear to have been realised. As a result, there is value in greater public understanding of the basis for this expectation, and whether current levy settings are sufficient to achieve the result of more long-term rentals becoming available.

⁷⁰ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 32*, 21 July 2026 (received 9 August 2026), p 2.

⁷¹ ACT Government, Revenue Office, ‘Short-term rental accommodation levy’, <https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/business-taxes-and-levies/short-term-rental-accommodation-levy> (accessed 18 August 2026).

⁷² ACT Government, Revenue Office, ‘Short-term rental accommodation levy’, <https://www.revenue.act.gov.au/business-taxes-and-levies/short-term-rental-accommodation-levy> (accessed 18 August 2026).

⁷³ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *Debates*, 20 March 2025, p 794.

⁷⁴ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *answer to QTON 119*, 27 July 2026 (received 10 August 2026), p 2.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish any modelling on the short-term rental levy, and its assessment of the rate at which the levy would support an increase in the supply of long-term rentals.

5. Finance

Matters considered

- 5.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Finance's appearance on Tuesday, 21 July 2026:
- The expenditure reform program;
 - Home Buyer Concession Scheme eligibility for divorcees;
 - Harmonisation and reviews of concession and social support schemes;
 - Expansion of the Sustainable Household Scheme;
 - Treasury work on policy and analysis; and
 - Modelling of the impact of concessions and rebates, and fees and levies.⁷⁵
- 5.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Finance's appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:
- The ACT Integrity Commissioner's report on Operation Kingfisher;
 - Concerns over inferior planning and work on infrastructure;
 - Procurement from consulting firms who have been shown to be operating unethically;
 - Review of the Motor Accidents Injuries Commission;
 - The Secure Local Jobs Code;
 - The Sustainable Household Scheme;
 - The ACT Revenue Office; and
 - Procurement ACT.⁷⁶

Key issues

Sustainable Household Scheme

- 5.3. The Sustainable Household Scheme (SHS) is an ACT Government program providing low-interest loans to residents seeking to improve the energy efficiency of their homes through energy efficient product upgrades. The SHS originally offered interest-free loans; from 1 July 2025, it has applied a three percent interest rate.⁷⁷

⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, pp 202–221.

⁷⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 801–833.

⁷⁷ ACT Government, *Sustainable Household Scheme*, 1 July 2026, <https://www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/policy-programs/sustainable-household-scheme> (accessed 14 August 2026); Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 204*, 28 July 2026 (received 16 August 2026), p 1.

- 5.4. The Acting Deputy Under Treasurer told the Committee that 13 loans had been written off out of over 26,000 settled loans, a write-off rate of 0.19 percent; \$158,500 had been written off from \$81,500,000 in collections.⁷⁸
- 5.5. The Minister for Finance informed the Committee on notice that the government had not observed an increase in loan default rates following the introduction of a three percent interest rate to SHS loans. No defaults had been recorded for the three percent loan product since its introduction in July 2025.⁷⁹

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in future Budget papers details of Sustainable Household Scheme loan defaults, including annual default rates and the value of loans written off.

⁷⁸ Mr Mitch Pirie, Acting Deputy Under Treasurer, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 828.

⁷⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 204*, 28 July 2026 (received 16 August 2026), p 1.

6. ACT Public Service

Matters considered

6.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for the Public Service's appearance on Tuesday, 21 July 2026:

- Progress on enterprise agreement negotiation;
- Transfer of workers' entitlements between public sector agencies;
- An update on Wakefield Gardens;
- Infrastructure Canberra's strategic asset management plans;
- Co-location of Access Canberra in Woden Library;
- Growth of the ACT Public Service;
- ACT Public Service employees who live outside of the ACT;
- Use of external recruitment agencies; and
- Implementation of staffing expenditure budget controls.⁸⁰

Key issues

Transparency of procurement

6.2. Multiple independent bodies have raised concerns with procurement over the past few years, including the Auditor-General and the Integrity Commissioner. The identified issues range in severity and include:

- Insufficient administrative processes;
- Poor value for money assessment;
- Ineffective review mechanisms; and
- Corruption.⁸¹

6.3. A reform project begun by the government in 2023 sought to strengthen procurement processes with a strong focus on 'transparent, evidence-based decisions.'⁸²

⁸⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, pp 164–201.

⁸¹ See, for example, ACT Auditor-General reports *Report No. 4/2023 - Procurement of a hybrid electric fire truck*, June 2023; *Report No. 5 of 2023, Activities of the Government Procurement Board*, July 2023; Report No. 13 of 2024, *Invoicing and Payments for Digital Health Record Hosting Services*, December 2024; and ACT Integrity Commissioner Reports *Special Report (Part 2) Canberra Institute of Technology*, July 2025 and *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, July 2026.

⁸² ACT Government, 'Procurement Reform Program,' <https://www.procurement.act.gov.au/about/act-government-procurement-reform> (accessed 18 August 2026).

Committee comment

- 6.4. The Committee reaffirms the importance of probity and transparency in procurement. Transparent decision-making, documented accountability mechanisms, and timely public communication are all important aspects of ensuring public confidence in government.
- 6.5. Furthermore, as the government's primary accountability mechanism, scrutiny from the Legislative Assembly is crucial to ensure that the highest standards of transparency are upheld.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure claims of commercial-in-confidence and cabinet-in-confidence are not used to avoid public scrutiny of procurement projects, particularly where concerns have been raised by the public, Members of the Legislative Assembly, the Auditor General, or other oversight bodies, and provide clear justification for any information withheld.

Workforce planning

- 6.6. The ACT Public Service (ACTPS) grew from 24,529 employees in the 2019–20 financial year to 30,743 employees in the 2023–24 financial year. A proportion of this growth reflects the bringing in of existing roles to the ACTPS, such as through the insourcing of previously externally contracted roles and the government acquisition of Calvary Public Hospital Bruce.⁸³
- 6.7. Ministers have emphasised the government's commitment to investing in frontline services.⁸⁴ However, the Minister for the Public Service told the Committee that it is difficult to provide a breakdown of frontline and non-frontline jobs within employment figures due to definitional 'grey areas'.⁸⁵ The government does not maintain a whole-of-government dataset that categorises ACTPS workers as frontline or otherwise.⁸⁶
- 6.8. The Committee heard that, in addition to an expansion of the workforce during the COVID-19 pandemic, fewer recruitment checks and balances across directorates further contributed to the increase in public service employees:

Directorates were going above their budgeted FTEs [full-time equivalent], in terms of the number of public servants that they were recruiting ... The increase between 2021 and 2025 was not necessarily a planned increase in FTEs.⁸⁷

⁸³ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *answer to QTON 50*, 21 July 2026 (received 5 August 2026), p 1.

⁸⁴ See for example Mr Chris Steel, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 148.

⁸⁵ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 178.

⁸⁶ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *answer to QTON 53*, 21 July 2026 (received 5 August 2026), p 2.

⁸⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 181.

- 6.9. In 2025–26 directorates were instructed to commence prioritisation work to return to budget in terms of managing FTEs.⁸⁸ The 2026–27 Budget allocates funding to a ‘time-limited restructure program’ to assist directorates in workforce restructuring and reprioritisation, including providing voluntary redundancy packages.⁸⁹ The Committee heard in an earlier session that the City and Environment Directorate had offered voluntary redundancies to a large part of its workforce.⁹⁰
- 6.10. There is currently no single ‘list’ of employment reprioritisation work and changing service delivery across the ACTPS.⁹¹

Committee comment

- 6.11. The Committee notes the ACT Government’s responsibility, in conjunction with the Work Health and Safety Commissioner, to actively manage psychosocial workplace risks when reducing staffing levels, including undertaking workload monitoring for remaining staff in affected areas.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government articulate clearly what services are being reduced and what efficiencies are being achieved to enable its proposed reduction in ACT Public Service staffing levels.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that workloads for the remaining ACT Public Service staff are safe.

ACT Public Service employees residing outside Canberra region

- 6.12. The Committee heard that there may be certain specialist roles within the ACTPS which necessitate the recruitment of a person who does not reside in the Canberra region and does not intend to move to the region, although this would be unusual.⁹² The Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy is not aware of any ACT Government roles being advertised as available on a permanent remote basis.⁹³
- 6.13. The public service collects residential information on employees through its human resources systems, which are updated by the employee. This data does not in itself confirm whether an employee has an approved permanent interstate working arrangement.

⁸⁸ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 181.

⁸⁹ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 84.

⁹⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 149.

⁹¹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 182.

⁹² Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 182.

⁹³ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *answer to QTON 54*, 21 July 2026 (received 10 August 2026), p 3.

- 6.14. Approval of interstate or remote working arrangements is managed by individual directorates, and there is therefore no centrally collected figure on the number of ACTPS employees approved to work from an interstate location.⁹⁴
- 6.15. The government does not formally assess the impact of permanently interstate employees on the ACT's workforce capability and economy.⁹⁵

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish whole-of-government reporting and governance arrangements for ACT Public Service employees approved to work permanently from outside the Canberra region, including reporting on the number and location of such employees, approval arrangements, associated travel costs and any workforce or economic impacts.

Public interest disclosure

- 6.16. The *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012* offers protections to any person who makes a report on reasonable grounds to an appropriate authority concerning behaviour within the public sector which is contrary to the public interest.⁹⁶
- 6.17. Most disclosures are not directly received by the Integrity Commission; they are instead referred to the Commission by disclosure officers.⁹⁷ For a person to receive protections under the Act, the Commissioner must determine that the claim satisfies the requirements of a public interest disclosure (PID).⁹⁸
- 6.18. There is no formal timeline for this determination, but if after three months a determination has not been made, the discloser may disclose the conduct to the Legislative Assembly or a journalist without losing protections under the Act.⁹⁹
- 6.19. The Committee heard that the Act does not require disclosure officers, such as Director-Generals, to inform the Commission if they have decided that a claim is likely not a PID and have therefore chosen not to refer it to the Commission.¹⁰⁰
- 6.20. Reference was made to a disclosure made in January 2026 concerning alleged misconduct which was not passed on to the Integrity Commission and on which no further action was taken in terms of the PID process.¹⁰¹ It is not clear what protections are afforded

⁹⁴ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *answer to QTON 54*, 21 July 2026 (received 10 August 2026).

⁹⁵ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for the Public Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, p 184.

⁹⁶ *Explanatory Statement*, Public Interest Disclosure Bill 2012, 7 June 2012, p 4.

⁹⁷ Ms Judy Lind, Chief Financial Officer, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 721–722. Disclosure officers are defined in s 11(1) of the Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012, p 7.

⁹⁸ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Integrity Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 721.

⁹⁹ Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012, s 27.

¹⁰⁰ Ms Judy Lind, Chief Financial Officer, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 723.

¹⁰¹ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 723; Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 669.

whistleblowers in such circumstances. The discloser reported fearing adverse treatment due to their disclosure.¹⁰²

- 6.21. Another example was raised concerning a disclosure which was transferred between different agencies from August 2025 to June 2026, with a resulting lack of clarity regarding its status and associated protections.¹⁰³
- 6.22. The Integrity Commissioner told the Committee that disclosers have protections notwithstanding the status of their disclosure as a potential PID:

The protections in the [*Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*] do not significantly advance the protections that are, in any way, available ... [The Act's] real bite is not so much in protecting a whistleblower; its real bite is that the Integrity Commissioner can require an investigation and see that it is properly conducted.¹⁰⁴

Committee comment

- 6.23. The Committee heard that there is an incomplete understanding of public interest disclosure laws and procedures within the ACT public sector. Staff have heard reports that the whistleblowing process is difficult to navigate and oftentimes personally taxing. It is unclear whether ACTPS staff have clarity regarding the process for making a PID, what to do with reports they may receive, or the protections they are afforded at various points when making a disclosure.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in ensuring all ACT public sector employees understand their rights and obligations under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*.

¹⁰² Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, ACT Legislative Assembly, *Proof Debates*, 27 May 2026, pp 1913–1916.

¹⁰³ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 670–671.

¹⁰⁴ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Integrity Commissioner, ACT Integrity Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 724.

7. Attorney-General and Human Rights

Matters considered

7.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Attorney-General and Minister for Human Rights' appearance on Wednesday, 22 July 2026:

- Courts integrated case management system;
- Implementation of Commonwealth and ACT anti-vilification laws (Dissent Café incident);
- Commitments to establish a strata commissioner and rental ombudsman;
- Funding model for the ACT Legal Aid Commission;
- Implementation of recommendations from the *Sexual Assault (Police) Review Report*;
- Process for appointment of judges (Supreme Court (Resident Judges Appointment Requirements) Determination 2026 (No 1));
- Reducing recidivism;
- The government's response to the Independent Review into the Over-Representation of First Nations people in the ACT Criminal Justice System (Jumbunna Review);
- The definition of recidivism for data collection and reporting purposes;
- Justice reinvestment;
- The objects and principles of the *Liquor Act 2010*;
- Growth in demand for human rights complaints management;
- Waitlist for access to restorative justice; and
- Director of Public Prosecutions witness assistance services.¹⁰⁵

7.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Attorney-General and Minister for Human Rights' appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:

- Office of Parliamentary Counsel budget and delivery of drafting services to private members;
- Updated Parliamentary Counsel Office authorisation to draft for private members.¹⁰⁶

¹⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 254–289.

¹⁰⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1441–1450.

Key issues

Reducing recidivism

7.3. The ACT Government set a target of reducing recidivism to 31.7 percent by 2025 under the *RR25By25: Reducing Recidivism by 25 percent by 2025 Plan*.¹⁰⁷ The 2026–27 Budget Papers report an estimated recidivism rate of 32.5 percent, above the target rate.¹⁰⁸

7.4. In a response to a question on notice, the Attorney-General advised that the recidivism rate for offenders in 2025 would not be measurable until 2026–27. However, the 32.5 percent figure reported in the 2026–27 Budget Papers is an estimated outcome indicating that the 31.7 percent was likely not achieved. The Attorney-General maintains that the 2026–27 target of 31.7 percent remains the goal.¹⁰⁹

7.5. In response to questions about funding directed towards reducing recidivism, Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) officials advised that recent work had shifted towards implementation of the Jumbunna Review:

In terms of the specific budget measure that has been outlined, the reducing recidivism work has essentially pivoted towards our focus on Jumbunna. So while there are quite a few steps in relation to reducing recidivism that I can take you through, the specific budget measure from this particular budget was in relation to the funding for the Jumbunna review, and that funding really related to us working very closely with OATSIA and the Elected Body in terms of considering the recommendations under the report and how we are going to be able to deliver them in a co-designed partnership format for the community.¹¹⁰

7.6. The Committee further heard that work undertaken through the Justice Futures Fund, Australian National University research projects, and analysis of international approaches to reducing recidivism was being considered alongside broader efforts to address Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander over-representation in the justice system and implementation of the Jumbunna Review.¹¹¹ Officials noted:

We do have all those pieces of work that need to progress to government for government to consider and to make a decision about where they fit in the ecosystem of our very close focus on the Jumbunna work. I think that just might take a bit of time. We will advise government, and then see government's mind to take it forward, or if we focus on Jumbunna to really deliver on that opportunity first.¹¹²

¹⁰⁷ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Deputy Chair, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 269.

¹⁰⁸ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026-27: Budget Statements D*, June 2026, pp 7–8.

¹⁰⁹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, answer to question on notice 78, 22 July 2026 (received 6 August 2026), pp 1–2.

¹¹⁰ Ms Robyn Hakelis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 270.

¹¹¹ Ms Robyn Hakelis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 270.

¹¹² Ms Robyn Hakelis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 277.

Committee comment

- 7.7. The Committee notes that the ACT Government's target of reducing recidivism by 25 percent by 2025 has now elapsed and that the estimated recidivism rate remains above the target level. The Committee further notes that a range of recidivism reduction initiatives are underway and that additional work is being considered by government alongside implementation of the Jumbunna Review.
- 7.8. The Committee considers that the development of new recidivism targets beyond 2025 would provide a clear framework for measuring progress, guiding policy development and maintaining accountability for reducing reoffending.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop new targets for reducing recidivism for future years to 2030 and provide adequate investment to ensure it meets these targets.

Victims of Crime Commissioner resourcing

- 7.9. The Committee heard that the number of victims registered with Victim Support ACT has increased significantly in recent years. The Victims of Crime Commissioner advised that when responsibility was transferred to Victim Support ACT in November 2022 there were 149 registered victims on the Adult Offender Register. By the end of 2025–26, this had increased to 532 registered victims, representing an increase of 257 percent.¹¹³
- 7.10. The Commissioner advised that this growth was driven by a range of factors, including Victim Support ACT's responsibility to notify eligible victims of their rights and registration options, increased follow-up contact with victims, and additional resources dedicated to administering the registers.¹¹⁴
- 7.11. The Committee heard that increasing registration numbers had resulted in growth in associated support activities. The Commissioner advised that 150 submissions were provided to the Sentence Administration Board during 2025–26, compared to 67 submissions in 2024–25. The number of victim submissions delivered in person also increased from seven to 30 over the same period.¹¹⁵
- 7.12. The Commissioner further noted that in addition to the Adult Offender Register, Victim Support ACT administers the Youth Justice Register and Affected Persons Register. At the end of 2025–26 there were 16 registered victims on the Youth Justice Register and 17 registered persons on the Affected Persons Register.¹¹⁶ In relation to resourcing:

There was no increase in the resourcing of the registers team in the budget for this year. On these numbers, and on reflection, as I come in as the new Victims of Crime

¹¹³ Ms Juliette Ford, Victims of Crime Commissioner, Victim Support ACT, 22 July 2026, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 231.

¹¹⁴ Ms Juliette Ford, Victims of Crime Commissioner, Victim Support ACT, 22 July 2026, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 232.

¹¹⁵ Ms Juliette Ford, Victims of Crime Commissioner, Victim Support ACT, 22 July 2026, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 232.

¹¹⁶ Ms Juliette Ford, Victims of Crime Commissioner, Victim Support ACT, 22 July 2026, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 232.

Commissioner, and given the expansion of the work that the registers team is doing...I would foreshadow that, in the next budget cycle, the question of there being an increase in resourcing to that team will be something that I will bring forward to JACS.¹¹⁷

Committee comment

- 7.13. The Committee notes the substantial increase in registrations across the Adult Offender Register, Youth Justice Register and Affected Persons Register since responsibility for these functions transferred to Victim Support ACT, as well as the corresponding growth in work required to support victims' participation in correctional and sentencing processes. The Committee considers that ensuring victims continue to receive timely information and support will require resourcing levels that are responsive to both current demand and future fluctuations in numbers.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide adequate resourcing to the Victims of Crime Commissioner to manage current increases and future fluctuations in the number of victims across the Adult Offender Register, Youth Justice Register and Affected Persons Register.

Drafting services for members

- 7.14. During the hearing on 4 August 2026, the Committee asked the Attorney-General about the budget allocation to the Parliamentary Counsel's Office (PCO) and how the PCO's budget allocation was split in terms of it delivering drafting services to both the Executive and private members.¹¹⁸
- 7.15. The Committee heard that for 2026–27, the PCO was allocated \$5.06 million, and that the PCO had a staff of 22, comprising nine legislation officers, 10 drafters and three executives. The Attorney-General advised that the PCO's staffing levels had been 'stable for about 25 or 26 years'.¹¹⁹
- 7.16. The PCO advised that there had been no review of its staffing level since at least 2007.¹²⁰ The Attorney-General indicated that a such a review was starting, with the Minister having received two quarterly de-identified reports from the PCO, to begin a data comparison with previous years workloads.¹²¹
- 7.17. The Attorney-General told the Committee that, until a recent update, the arrangements under which PCO drafting services were made available to private members with government agreement had not been reviewed or revised since 2004.¹²²

¹¹⁷ Ms Juliette Ford, Victims of Crime Commissioner, Victim Support ACT, 22 July 2026, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 233.

¹¹⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1441–1442.

¹¹⁹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1442.

¹²⁰ Ms Bianca Kimber, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1449.

¹²¹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, 1450.

¹²² Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1442.

- 7.18. The Attorney-General advised that the recent review of arrangements was made in light of the changed nature of the Assembly since 2004:

With a quite different environment, many more members, bills being referred to committees and the complexity of bills growing, it seemed like a reasonable idea to review the current arrangement.¹²³

- 7.19. The PCO added that in allocating its resources it addressed requests for drafting as they arrived. Resource demand and allocation would vary over the election cycle and the types of requests received. The PCO noted that it drafted bills, amendments and subordinate legislation, but would generally respond to all drafting requests and ‘have the capacity to respond to all requests in a timely way’.¹²⁴
- 7.20. The Committee observed that private members had found difficulty getting their bills through the PCO due to government bills taking priority.¹²⁵ The Attorney-General considered that the recently updated arrangements would provide clarity to all members in these circumstances.¹²⁶
- 7.21. The Attorney-General noted a long-standing principle ‘across several jurisdictions’ that drafting for private members should not interfere with the government’s legislative program, and that this principle was reflected not only by the ACT’s arrangements but also in the arrangements in Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia.¹²⁷
- 7.22. The PCO commented that it was not aware of any instance where it had refused to draft for a private member, but that:

There may be times when we have needed to give advice that a bill cannot be drafted in the timeframe in which a private member has asked for, but that can be for a range of reasons, including the complexity of the bill and the development of the underlying policy.¹²⁸

Committee comment

- 7.23. The Committee notes with concern that while the Assembly has grown in membership and the number of bills being both referred to and inquired into by committees has increased, the resourcing of the PCO has not grown accordingly to meet the increased demand.
- 7.24. The Committee considers that, in light of the increased membership of the Assembly since 2016, the ACT Government should review the PCO’s resourcing for legislative drafting to ensure it is able to support the drafting requirements of all members, both Executive and private members.

¹²³ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1442.

¹²⁴ Ms Bianca Kimber, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliament Counsel’s Office, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1443.

¹²⁵ Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, Chair, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1444.

¹²⁶ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1444.

¹²⁷ Ms Tara Cheyne, MLA, Attorney-General, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1443.

¹²⁸ Ms Bianca Kimber, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliamentary Counsel’s Office, Justice and Community Safety Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1445.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review, in consultation with all MLAs, funding and arrangements for legislative drafting services to ensure they are appropriately resourced to fairly support all MLAs' drafting requirements.

8. City and Government Services and the Night-Time Economy

Matters considered

8.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for City and Government Services and the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water on Wednesday, 22 July 2026:

- Libraries ACT opening hours, rostering, and implementation of reforms;
- Playground categorisation, shade, and geographic spread;
- Food and organics recycling pilot, consultation and facility timing;
- Avian influenza response and domestic birds;
- New materials recycling facility procurement, scope and construction;
- Recycling rates relative to overall waste disposal;
- Yarralumla Creek stormwater management;
- Management of the wild dog population;
- Fouling of public spaces by bats in Nicholls;
- Venomous snake handling;
- Thermal assisted aerial culling program; and
- The Ainslie multi-cat management site.¹²⁹

8.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for City and Government Services and Minister for the Night-Time Economy's appearance on Wednesday, 22 July 2026:

- Illegal waste dumping in Charnwood;
- Garden City Cycleway planning, procurement and construction;
- Non-statutory status and membership of the Road Safety Advisory Board;
- Road safety strategy and reduced speed limit trials;
- ACT Container Deposit Scheme facilities;
- Woden Library community spaces, accessibility, parking and services;
- Superannuation arrangements for professional musicians;
- Streetlight and road maintenance and remediation;
- Parking availability, compliance and enforcement;

¹²⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 290–328.

- Major road projects; and
 - Cemetery capacity and future expansion.¹³⁰
- 8.3. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for City and Government Services and the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development on Thursday, 23 July 2026:
- New public unleased land permits, fees, estimated revenue, and non-commercial use;
 - Path and road closure fees and consultation outcomes;
 - Compliance and enforcement of rental standards;
 - Lease administration, compliance and enforcement;
 - Proposed new construction trade licences and impacts on building quality, costs, and workforce capability;
 - Review of amendments to the approved Manuka Hotel Development;
 - Access Canberra regulatory functions and performance, including accountability indicators;
 - Noise complaints, response times and after-hours compliance services;
 - Eligibility for electric or zero- emission vehicle registration; and
 - Regulation of controlled sports in the ACT.¹³¹

Key issues

Libraries ACT hours of operation

- 8.4. The ACT Government announced on 5 June 2026 that Libraries ACT opening hours would change, noting that visit data showed demand was concentrated on weekdays and Saturdays, with more than 96 percent of weekday library visits taking place during standard business hours. The new opening hours would be 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, with town centre branches open Monday to Saturday, community branches open Monday to Friday, and the Kingston neighbourhood branch open Tuesday to Saturday.¹³²
- 8.5. In a motion agreed to on 12 June 2026, the Assembly noted that ‘weekend and after-hours access [to libraries] is particularly important for working families, students, seniors and residents who cannot access library services during standard business hours’ and called on the ACT Government to, among other measures, ‘pause the implementation of any proposed hours changes until the passage of the Appropriation Bill 2026-2027’.¹³³

¹³⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 329–354.

¹³¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 398–431.

¹³² Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, ‘Library hours to shift to earlier weekdays and full-day Saturdays’, Media release, 5 June 2026.

¹³³ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings No 64*, 12 June 2026, p 1093.

- 8.6. The Committee heard that the likely date for implementation of announced changes to library operating hours was the end of August 2026, after a call to staff to request flexible working arrangements or other roster adjustments:

My preference is that we give that a week or so before we confirm the exact date, but we have always been working towards the end of August.¹³⁴

- 8.7. The Minister for City and Government Services explained that the primary reason for the changes was to support the reliability of libraries' opening hours, and not to achieve savings.¹³⁵ A number of legacy rostering arrangements still in operation meant that staffing rosters were 'fragile' and it was difficult to move staff to cover shortages. This had led to unexpected library closures and staff being denied leave.¹³⁶
- 8.8. The new roster arrangements would provide full-time staff with a regular weekend off every fortnight, and additional days off per year. These roster arrangements had been agreed by a narrow majority of affected staff, with 52 percent of those voting indicating they were in favour.¹³⁷

Committee comment

- 8.9. The Committee notes that most library programs currently run Monday to Friday, and that the programs which do run at weekends are very well attended, and considers that visit data showing weekday peaks likely reflect the current availability of programs.
- 8.10. The Committee considers that libraries are an essential community service which should be available to all, including those who cannot access them during standard business hours.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government delay the proposed weekend closures of Libraries ACT branches until after the 2026–27 Budget debate, consistent with the amended motion agreed by the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that in the interim, the ACT Government undertake and publish an assessment of alternative service models, including options involving additional funding, and their impacts on community access, staffing, service reliability and cost.

¹³⁴ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 293.

¹³⁵ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 290–291.

¹³⁶ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 297–298.

¹³⁷ Ms Emily Springett, Executive Branch Manager, Service Delivery and Engagement, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 293–294.

Community path closures

8.11. The ACT Government administers a system of permit fees for the use of unleased public land, which seeks to apply a cost that is commensurate with the location of the land, the time for which it will be leased, and the difficulty the leasing creates for people who would otherwise be using that land.¹³⁸

8.12. According to the Minister for City and Government Services, a key aspect of this approach is footpaths. The Minister told the Committee that:

If a developer is going to close a footpath for two years and it is on a major thoroughfare, you can imagine that that should probably attract a higher fee than something that no-one is using and that has no other real utility.¹³⁹

8.13. The Minister noted that the fees charged for the closure of public footpaths have been ‘reviewed to encourage behavioural change’, and ‘to incentivise users to minimise the use of public roads and paths for private purposes which are adversely impacting the public, and their access to and use of public spaces’. In this regard, the Minister stated that a new fee structure commenced on 1 July 2026.¹⁴⁰

8.14. Officials elaborated, noting that the closure of major roads attracted a higher fee than minor roads, and that the time of day and potential public impact was also built into fee calculations.¹⁴¹

8.15. With the newly introduced fee structure, officials told the Committee that it was ‘important for us to be in a position to collect data’, and that the directorate would ‘monitor the impact of this fee structure in the coming months’. Specifically, approvals would be monitored to examine whether maintaining the availability and openness of public land was being encouraged, and that the fee structure sent an effective signal resulting in behavioural change.¹⁴²

Committee comment

8.16. The Committee notes that the new fee structure for public unleased land has only been in place for less than two months at the time of writing. It is important that its effectiveness be fully reviewed, particularly in relation to the closure of public footpaths which are essential for ensuring that public spaces are accessible to the mobility impaired. In the event that this review shows the fee structure is not working as intended, consideration should be given to fee increases.

¹³⁸ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 398.

¹³⁹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 399.

¹⁴⁰ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 400.

¹⁴¹ Mr Giuseppe Mangeruca, Executive Branch Manager, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 402–403.

¹⁴² Mr Josh Rynehart, Head, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 403.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the effectiveness of its community path closure fees after 12 months, and if a significant reduction in prolonged closures of paths has not occurred, increase fees or undertake associated reform to appropriately drive that behavioural change.

Access Canberra key performance indicators

- 8.17. The 2026–27 Budget lists nine accountability indicators for Access Canberra, including:
- Proactive communication of its risk-based regulation priorities;
 - The percentage of residents who find it easy to interact with Access Canberra online or in person;
 - The percentage of occupational licences issued within the target timeframe;
 - The reduction of regulatory burden on business through risk-based inspections;
 - Resolution of abandoned vehicles complaints within nine calendar days;
 - The average time taken to re-unite pets with their owners;
 - The percentage of stray dogs held for less than 28 days; and
 - The percentage of stray and abandoned dogs re-homed.¹⁴³
- 8.18. One aspect of Access Canberra’s regulatory and enforcement activities examined during the hearings was controlled activity orders. Officials explained how Access Canberra’s regulatory powers under the *Planning Act 2023* were exercised in relation to the Big Splash site in Belconnen.
- 8.19. Officials noted that the lease required that the site be used to operate an aquatic facility, and that a provision in the *Planning Act 2023* provided that when a lease had not been used for a required purpose for 12 months or more, it ‘becomes a controlled activity’. According to officials, Access Canberra became aware of this in relation to Big Splash in late 2024 and sought to take regulatory action.¹⁴⁴
- 8.20. According to officials:
- As with all of our regulatory action in relation to the Planning Act, we seek voluntary compliance in the first instance. We engage with owners, and we did engage with the lessee, who gave indications along the way that they were willing to provide for site security, as well as indicating their intention to open the pool. This was during the course of 2025.¹⁴⁵

¹⁴³ ACT Government, *2026–27 Budget: Statement E*, June 2026, p 33.

¹⁴⁴ Mr Nick Lheude, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 406–407.

¹⁴⁵ Mr Nick Lheude, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 407.

- 8.21. Officials noted that by December 2025, they ‘had formed a view that the pool was not going to operate’ and issued a controlled activity order requiring the pool to become operational by 26 January 2026. The lessee failed to comply, and a show cause notice was issued to the lessee requiring them to show why the lease should not be terminated.¹⁴⁶
- 8.22. While the process remained ongoing, officials emphasised that the regulatory action had achieved two outcomes. First was the securing of the site through the construction of a new fence by the lessee, and second was a commitment to comply with the lease conditions by 1 November 2026.¹⁴⁷
- 8.23. Officials also discussed Access Canberra’s role in regulating licenced building trades. Specifically, officials emphasised the ‘strong trade inspectorate’ in relation to plumbing, gas and electrical trades regulation which issues tens of thousands of certifications for new installations. For example:
- We also inspect DER, distributed energy resources, which go to photovoltaics, batteries and EV [Electric Vehicle] chargers. We do have slightly higher defect rates in that area. A lot of that is reflecting volume in that space. But, again, we have had targeted audits of DER installations and we have also included endorsements on licences for people undertaking those installations. To address some of the higher level defect and risk associated, in the ACT we require electricians to have a specific endorsement. We have very low defect rates in the territory around new installs—around two to three per cent for new electrical installations. That is quite low.¹⁴⁸
- 8.24. Another regulatory aspect examined was the activity of the Commissioner for Fair Trading, which is responsible for a range of activities relating to scams, product safety and other protections for consumers. This area receives complaints and engages with consumers, seeks to conciliate and negotiate outcomes, gathers data, issues licences and engages with industry and the community.¹⁴⁹
- 8.25. The Minister for City and Government Services noted that budget papers do not break down Access Canberra’s regulatory activities ‘line by line’ as these activities are Access Canberra’s mandate.¹⁵⁰
- 8.26. Officials told the Committee that 979 matters had been referred to the Commissioner for Fair Trading, half of which were conciliated.¹⁵¹
- 8.27. To demonstrate the breadth of matters regulated by Access Canberra, another role worth highlighting is controlled sport activities. A subset of controlled sports examined in

¹⁴⁶ Mr Nick Lheude, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 407.

¹⁴⁷ Mr Nick Lheude, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 409.

¹⁴⁸ Mr Nick Lheude, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 412.

¹⁴⁹ Mr Josh Rynehart, Head, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 414.

¹⁵⁰ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 414.

¹⁵¹ Ms Derise Cubin, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 416.

hearings related to combat sports. According to officials, Access Canberra seeks to ensure the health and safety of contestants in ‘registrable combat activities’ by registering officials such as promoters and medical personnel, contestants, sporting associations, as well as specific events. In the 2025–26 financial year, Access Canberra approved six such events.¹⁵²

- 8.28. Ensuring the event occurs in accordance with the rules is also within Access Canberra’s remit. Officials told the Committee that:

Regarding approval of the event, closer to the event date we receive a draw of the fighters. One of the roles of the officials, which we also approve, is to match the fighters. You have to have correct weight—that the weights of the fighters are not too extreme in the bout. There is the draw that occurs. The fight is approved, but then the enforcement and regulatory action occurs when our inspectors attend the weigh-in before the fight, which is usually the day before the fight, to make sure of the integrity of the weigh-in. We double-check the identities of the fighters to make sure that who is on the draw is who is in the weigh-in. All that happens on the day before the event.¹⁵³

- 8.29. Finally, officials from Access Canberra also attend the event. Officials stated that:

The key aspect of the event is to make sure that, again, you have the correct fighters there and all the officials and trainers are registered. We need to know that the fighter is there with their trainer and there is integrity of the scheme. It is also to check how the ring is set up—that there is a clear access pathway if there is a medical emergency, so that an ambulance and paramedics can get through to the event. They will stay for the entirety of the fight.¹⁵⁴

- 8.30. Despite this large, diverse range of regulatory activity, of which the above accounts for only a portion of that discussed in hearings alone, the accountability indicators listed in the budget papers appear broad. Officials noted that the indicators listed above each ‘cover the breadth of Access Canberra’.¹⁵⁵

- 8.31. Access Canberra provided greater detail on the measures it used to provide the data behind some of these indicators, noting that the focus on was accessing the services offered, rather than satisfaction with the outcomes of the services provided.¹⁵⁶ Furthermore, Access Canberra provided the Committee the robust methodology behind the collection of the data informing the framing of one specific accountability indicator.¹⁵⁷

¹⁵² Ms Derise Cubin, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 420.

¹⁵³ Ms Derise Cubin, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 420.

¹⁵⁴ Ms Derise Cubin, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 420.

¹⁵⁵ Mr Josh Rynehart, Head, Access Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 425.

¹⁵⁶ Dr Jodie Vaile, Executive Branch Manager, Data, Projects and Improvements, Chief Operating Officer, City and Environment Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 425.

¹⁵⁷ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Answer to QON 64*, 27 July 2026 (received 31 July 2026), pp 1–2.

Committee comment

- 8.32. While the data gathering behind the existing accountability indicators appears robust, the Committee is concerned that the indicators listed for Access Canberra in the budget papers are insufficient to capture the breadth of regulatory and enforcement activities and functions performed.
- 8.33. As noted above, the matters considered in this report capture only a portion of the functions that were canvassed in hearings, and the matters canvassed in hearings capture only a portion of the overall functions of Access Canberra.
- 8.34. This raises two issues. First, scrutiny of the performance of Access Canberra is hampered by the limited scope of its performance reporting. In order to properly examine performance, budget reporting should include far greater detail on the performance of Access Canberra in its myriad functions.
- 8.35. Secondly, presenting accountability indicators in this way does Access Canberra itself a disservice. It performs a vast range of roles that are of vital importance to the community, ranging from enforcement of planning matters, to ensuring compliance with standards in various building trades, through to monitoring the safety of potentially dangerous combat sports. Given this role, detailed reporting of these functions will help to build understanding of the importance of Access Canberra in the community.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in future budget papers clear key performance indicators for all of Access Canberra's regulatory and enforcement functions including: timeliness, compliance activity, outstanding matters and enforcement outcomes.

9. Disability, Carers and Community Services and Seniors and Veterans

Matters considered

- 9.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans' appearance on Thursday, 23 July 2026:
- Implementation of Thriving Kids, including phased implementation, navigation support for families, workforce upskilling, commissioning and referral pathways;
 - The *ACT Food Relief Action Plan 2026–2028* consultation process;
 - LGBTIQ+ funding, including development of the next contract for A Gender Agenda, and funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ Advisory Group;
 - The review process and priorities for The Social Compact;
 - Insurance premium cost pressures on Community Sector organisations;
 - The *ACT Disability Strategy 2024–2033*, including status and reporting on associated action plans; and
 - The review of the Working with Vulnerable People policy review, including national consistency reforms and Access Canberra's administrative review.¹⁵⁸
- 9.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Education, Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing, Minister for Health, and Minister for Children Youth and Families on Monday, 3 August 2026:
- Carer advocacy services and funding arrangements;
 - Rollout of Thriving Kids and changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme;
 - Processes undertaken to identify gaps in early intervention;
 - Implementation and outcomes of the community sector funding boost announced in the 2025–26 ACT Budget;
 - Funding and support for disability services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people;
 - Gunners Place Youth and Community Centre Gungahlin; and
 - Supported independent living and specialist education services for people with disabilities.¹⁵⁹

¹⁵⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 378–397.

¹⁵⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 966–985.

Key issues

Funding for A Gender Agenda

- 9.3. On 25 May 2026, the ACT Government announced \$894,000 in funding to support advocacy and support services for LGBTIQ+ Canberrans.¹⁶⁰ This initiative included funding to support the delivery of the Gender Pathways Peer Navigation Service by A Gender Agenda (AGA).¹⁶¹
- 9.4. Members reported concerns raised by the community that funding had not yet been received by AGA, and that core services were at risk of being stopped if this was not finalised quickly.¹⁶² Officials advised that they were working closely with AGA to develop a new multi-year contract:

There have been a number of interactions and correspondence between us and AGA outlining that the funding contract is being progressed; we will provide it to them; it will be backdated from 1 July to reduce any uncertainty around funding that they will receive, to remove any concerns that they have.

It is a common process because we, you know, get the funding decisions towards the end of June and then it takes us a little bit of time administratively to develop those contracts, which needs a lot of due diligence processes that we have to go through. We are committed to work with AGA and make sure that they receive the funding. And it will be dated from 1 July.¹⁶³

- 9.5. The Minister advised the move to a multi-year contract would help provide greater funding certainty over a longer time period,¹⁶⁴ while officials undertook to contact AGA in light of the concerns raised by MLAs during the hearings.¹⁶⁵

Committee comment

- 9.6. The Committee considers the ACT Government should fulfil the funding promised to AGA as a matter of urgency to avoid the loss of critical services for intersex, trans and gender diverse Canberrans.

Insurance premiums

- 9.7. In March 2025, the ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS) advised the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation's *Inquiry into insurance costs in the ACT* that:

¹⁶⁰ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Ms Yvette Berry MLA and Mr Chris Steel MLA, 'ACT Budget 26–27: Budget strengthens Support for Canberrans with major investment in community services', *Joint Media Release*, 25 May 2026.

¹⁶¹ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 117.

¹⁶² Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 388–389.

¹⁶³ Ms Maria Travers, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 388.

¹⁶⁴ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 389.

¹⁶⁵ Ms Kareena Arthy, Director-General, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 389.

- a) Many community organisations work with vulnerable population groups that are considered high risk by insurance providers.¹⁶⁶
 - b) The *ACTCOSS State of the ACT Community Sector survey 2025* found that 61 percent of respondents had insurance premium increases in the last year.¹⁶⁷
 - c) Survey respondents reported reducing staff, client numbers and service delivery to meet the increase in insurance premiums.¹⁶⁸
- 9.8. The Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services advised during hearings for this Committee that rising insurance premiums for community sector organisations had not been raised with her by stakeholders.¹⁶⁹
- 9.9. Officials advised that the terms of ACT Government funded contracts were considered for each organisation separately depending on what services they deliver in the community sector.¹⁷⁰ The Minister noted that:
- It is a complex bid and it is a contract-by-contract consideration, which is what we are looking at doing with the increased funding boost that we have now made permanent through this budget.¹⁷¹
- 9.10. The 2026–27 Budget identified a permanent ‘Community sector funding uplift’ which will commence once the previous \$10 million boost is delivered over 2026–27.¹⁷² The permanent uplift will include the development of a ‘community sector funding model’:
- The government will seek subject matter expertise to develop a community sector funding model. The model is intended to address sector sustainability through consideration of baseline funding and contract terms, accounting for impacts such as increases to superannuation and/or insurance costs alongside other factors. Once the model is developed, it will be used by the Government to inform future allocation of the funding uplift.¹⁷³
- 9.11. Members sought clarification if the ACT Government would consider including community sector organisations in the default insurance scheme. The Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations advised that such a consideration would be ‘a question of scale’, as

¹⁶⁶ Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, Inquiry into insurance costs in the ACT, ACTCOSS, *Submission 03*, 26 March 2025, p 3.

¹⁶⁷ Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, Inquiry into insurance costs in the ACT, ACTCOSS, *Submission 03*, 26 March 2025, p 3.

¹⁶⁸ Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, Inquiry into insurance costs in the ACT, ACTCOSS, *Submission 03*, 26 March 2025, p 3.

¹⁶⁹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 393.

¹⁷⁰ Ms Fiona Dolan, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Service Design, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 394.

¹⁷¹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 394.

¹⁷² ACT Government, *Community Sector Funding*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/community-sector-funding>, (accessed 17 August 2026).

¹⁷³ ACT Government, *Strengthening community services in 2026-27 – Community Sector Funding*, https://view.officeapps.live.com/op/view.aspx?src=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.act.gov.au%2F__data%2Fassets%2Fword_doc%2F0008%2F3081779%2F2026-27-Budget-fact-sheet-Strengthening-community-services.docx&wdOrigin=BROWSELINK, (accessed 17 August 2026), p 3.

when applied to the horse racing industry this was a workforce of dozens, as opposed to the ‘far larger workforce’ of community sector providers.¹⁷⁴ The horse racing industry was granted access to the default insurance scheme through the *Workers Compensation (Requirements for Operation of DI fund— Horse Racing Training and Attendance Activity) Determination 2025 (No 1) (Horse Training and Attendance Determination)*.¹⁷⁵ Seventeen employers and 40 workers were covered by this determination.¹⁷⁶

Committee comment

- 9.12. The Committee considers that the ACT Government should examine more closely the impact of rising insurance premiums on community sector providers to determine any downstream impacts on staffing and service delivery. Given the centrality of community sector providers to delivering for the most vulnerable populations within the ACT, the Committee considers this should be a high priority for investigation.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government quantify the cost of insurance premiums faced by the community sector, including the impact it has on service delivery, and ensure it is appropriately accounted for in government contracts.

¹⁷⁴ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1369; Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, *answer to QON 914*, 3 March 2026, (received 5 May 2026), p 2.

¹⁷⁵ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, *answer to QON 914*, 3 March 2026, (received 5 May 2026), p 2.

¹⁷⁶ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations, *answer to QON 914*, 3 March 2026, (received 5 May 2026), p 2.

10. Transport

Matters considered

- 10.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister Transport's appearance on Friday, 24 July 2026:
- Expected timing, journey time, route, stops, patronage and frequency of Light Rail Stage 2A and 2B;
 - Rapid buses from Woden to the City;
 - Transport corridors under the Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework;
 - Public transport cost, revenue, coverage, frequency and bus fleet;
 - Light rail operating contract and vehicles;
 - Active travel targets; and
 - MyWay+ accessibility, family accounts and phantom journey refunds.¹⁷⁷

Key issues

Fare evasion

- 10.2. The 2026–27 Budget noted a Transport Canberra Operations \$22 million revenue shortfall in 2025–2026, driven in part by reduced fare revenue.¹⁷⁸ According to the Minister for Transport, this shortfall was only one of the factors placing pressure on funding for public transport:

You are probably aware of the significant impact that the continuing war in the Middle East is having on fuel prices. That has impacted considerably on Transport Canberra, as a major user of diesel fuel. That has had to be addressed through the budget, to provide additional funding, anticipating that there would be additional costs running into this financial year.¹⁷⁹

- 10.3. Additional cost pressures raised by the Minister included increasing electricity costs, the process of completing and operationalising the Woden public transport depot, the additional staff required to manage the depot, and the continuation of the flexible bus service.¹⁸⁰
- 10.4. The Minister also told the Committee that Transit Enforcement Officers were a 'relatively new feature of the transport network'.¹⁸¹ One of the transport portfolio priorities outlined

¹⁷⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, pp 481–520.

¹⁷⁸ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements E*, June 2026, p 59.

¹⁷⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 495.

¹⁸⁰ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 495.

¹⁸¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 495.

in the 2026–27 Budget includes Transit Enforcement Officers undertaking fare compliance activities and deterring antisocial behaviour on public transport.¹⁸²

Committee comment

- 10.5. In discussing the cost pressures driving expenditure on public transport, the Minister raised a number of contributing factors. The Committee considers greater understanding of the contribution of fare evasion to the cost pressure and funding shortfalls outlined above would also be beneficial.
- 10.6. Reporting on the costs of fare evasion would also help to assist public understanding of the role of Transit Enforcement Officers, noting that their activities are intended to cover both deterring antisocial behaviour and ensuring fare compliance.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on indicative costs of fare evasion on the Transport Canberra Network and the impact on the Budget in its response to this Committee's report.

Bus fleet

- 10.7. As noted above, operating diesel buses has resulted in 'significant additional costs' for Transport Canberra with diesel prices increasing.¹⁸³
- 10.8. Transport Canberra officials told the Committee that moving to new technology such as battery electric buses was a priority due to information suggesting cost efficiencies.¹⁸⁴ The Minister noted the commitment to purchase 110 electric buses and highlighted that the 'large number' of battery electric Yutong buses currently in service had 'been very successful'.¹⁸⁵ Additionally, the Minister stated that the Woden depot was 'the largest purpose-built electric bus depot in Australia'.¹⁸⁶
- 10.9. Officials discussed recent technological developments, noting that 'the market is definitely moving' towards electrification. In this regard, battery electric articulated buses, including the tri-articulated Brisbane Metro buses, were raised as options for future acquisition by Transport Canberra.¹⁸⁷
- 10.10. While according to officials, electric buses have been part of the bus fleet for 'a period of time', research into any cost savings that result from the use of electric rather than diesel buses was still underway, and statistics on cost savings were not readily available.¹⁸⁸

¹⁸² ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements E*, June 2026, p 4.

¹⁸³ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 497.

¹⁸⁴ Sarah Taylor-Dayus, Executive Branch Manager, Transport Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 501.

¹⁸⁵ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 502.

¹⁸⁶ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Minister for Transport, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 495.

¹⁸⁷ Ms Sarah Taylor-Dayus, Executive Branch Manager, and Mr Ian McGlinn, Executive Branch Manager, Bus Operations, Transport Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 501.

¹⁸⁸ Ms Sarah Taylor-Dayus, Executive Branch Manager, Transport Canberra, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 501.

Committee comment

- 10.11. In light of technological developments, the proportion of electric buses operating in Canberra seems set to increase. Coupled with developments in local capacity to support the operation of electric buses increased by the opening of the Woden bus depot, the acquisition of electric buses also appears set to increase.
- 10.12. While there may be a financial as well as environmental incentive to do so, the community should be better informed. A key part of informing the community is quantifying the operating expenses of both diesel and electric buses. In this way, should cost savings eventuate, the community will be enabled to understand how these cost savings play out across the forward estimates as the proportion of electric buses in the fleet increases.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in future budget papers reporting on expected bus operating expenses in a way that shows the cost of operating the average electric bus compared to that of the average diesel bus, and how this will change fleet costs over the forward estimates.

11. Planning and Sustainable Development and Heritage

Matters considered

- 11.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development and Minister for Heritage's appearance on Friday, 24 July 2026:
- Housing Supply and Land Release Program progress towards housing targets;
 - Missing middle housing reforms;
 - Voluntary redundancies within the City and Environment Directorate's planning areas;
 - The role of the Suburban Land Agency in designing estates and selling land;
 - Tree protection and ICON Water;
 - Planning controls and housing targets;
 - Mixed-use development in Gungahlin;
 - Infrastructure planning in Belconnen;
 - Environmental considerations and consultation with First Nations communities in urban boundary setting including the eastern broadacre strategic assessment and western edge studies, and establishment of the urban growth boundary;
 - Decision-making on development applications;
 - Development in Molonglo;
 - Cost and progress of the Loose Fill Asbestos Insulation Eradication Scheme;
 - Statutory planning accountability indicators;
 - Thoroughbred Park Precinct public consultation;
 - Lease variation charge revenue and changes;
 - Flood modelling;
 - Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework;
 - Heritage status nominations, the provision of heritage advice and the heritage database development;
 - Planned land releases in Oaks Estate;
 - Assessment of data centre and battery storage development applications;
 - The Canberra House Pattern Book;
 - National Capital Authority's Hume Circle amendment to the National Capital Plan; and

- Enforcement of lease compliance.¹⁸⁹

¹⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, pp 521–593.

12. Gambling Reform

Matters considered

- 12.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Gaming Reform's appearance on Monday, 27 July 2026:
- Results of the 2024 ACT Gambling Survey;
 - Online channel growth for gambling activity including increases to women being targeted;
 - Gambling harm and disproportionate impacts on young men;
 - Gambling certificates and improving training for staff and clubs;
 - Gambling inducements by clubs including free food and drinks;
 - Opening hours for clubs;
 - Reduction of the number of poker machines in ACT;
 - The Gambling Incident Register data and use;
 - Reduction and prevention of gambling advertising across jurisdictions;
 - Self and third-party exclusions at venues; and
 - ACT and NSW regulatory alignment of gambling regulation.¹⁹⁰

Key issues

Reducing gaming harm

- 12.2. The 2019 Strategy for Gambling Harm Prevention in the ACT, initially a five year strategy, was extended into 2026-27, to allow for a new strategy to be developed with information from the 2024 ACT Gambling Survey. One of the strategy's objectives is to ensure that 'gambling environments and providers prevent and reduce gambling harm,' including implementing this in-venue.¹⁹¹
- 12.3. The ACT Government has committed to reducing electronic gaming machines (EGMs) in the ACT to 1,000 or fewer by 2045, as a means of reducing gambling harm in the community. The need to balance that target with the financial needs of the clubs sector was the subject of a recent independent report, which recommended that clubs be given the time to transition away from their reliance on gambling revenue before material EGM reductions. It also recommended that 'harm reduction must begin immediately, even where structural change cannot.'¹⁹²

¹⁹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 691–707.

¹⁹¹ ACT Government, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Strategy for Gambling Harm Prevention – A public health approach 2019–2024: Overview*, p 5.

¹⁹² ThinkPlaceX, *Panel Report: Independent inquiry into ACT clubs*, May 2026, p 6.

- 12.4. On 2 September 2024, the ACT Cabinet agreed to an EGM ‘shutdown period’ between 2.00 am and 10.00 am, to start no earlier than 1 January 2025. This policy has not been implemented yet as the government is still undertaking consultation in the sector. The policy must also go through a cabinet process before commencement.¹⁹³
- 12.5. Despite the ongoing harm reduction policy, gambling continues to be a problem for the ACT community. In 2024–25, 47,337 harm-related EGM incidents were reported to the Gambling and Racing Commission, an increase on the 32,095 incidents reported in 2023–24,¹⁹⁴ and 72,524 in 2025–26.¹⁹⁵ Nine percent of ACT adults reported that their gambling had led to negative mental health outcomes.¹⁹⁶

Committee comment

- 12.6. The Committee believes that the ACT must implement more immediate harm minimisation policies that do not depend on the reduction of EGMs in the ACT over the upcoming decades. This should include further restrictions on gambling advertising and implementation of the overnight EGM ‘shutdown period.’

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly, by the end of the last sitting week of 2026, a timeline demonstrating progress so far and the pathway to completing its electronic gaming reforms by end the end of the 11th Assembly.

¹⁹³ ACT Government, *Cabinet decision summary for the week of 2 September 2024*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/cabinet-decisions/decisions/2024-week-of-2-september-2024> (accessed 17 August 2026); Dr Marisa Paterson, Minister for Gaming Reform, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 694.

¹⁹⁴ The Committee notes that this number does not account for the number of individuals affected, nor does it necessarily represent an increase in actual incidents as opposed to an increase in reported incidents.

¹⁹⁵ ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *answer to QON 128*, 27 July 2026 (received 5 August 2026), p 2.

¹⁹⁶ ACT Gambling and Racing Commission, *Annual Report 2024-25*, p 9. Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, *answer to QTON 1*, 3 July 2026 (received 13 July 2026), p 1.

13. Police, Fire and Emergency Services

Matters considered

- 13.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services' appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:
- Triple zero response times and adequacy of staffing to meet demand;
 - Investigations into use of force incidents;
 - ACT Policing implementation of recommendations from the *Sexual Assault (Police) Review Report* including Operation Foster;
 - Supports available to ACT Policing officers to protect and promote health and wellbeing, including uptake;
 - Impact of alcohol use in the community on ACT Policing activities, including prevalence in cases of domestic and family violence and use of force;
 - Destruction of firearms obtained through the national firearm buyback scheme;
 - Increases to the firearms license fee;
 - Police accommodations at Winchester Police Centre and City Police Station;
 - Impact of station closures on ACT Ambulance Services' patient care and resourcing of ACT Ambulance Services;
 - Flexibility in rostering of paramedics on a part-time or modified capacity;
 - Responses to ACT Ambulance Service roster review;
 - Progress to establish a free ambulance service and how the cost of ambulance services is determined;
 - Progress to introduce citizen responder technology to improve cardiac arrest survival in the ACT;
 - Workplace incidents and complaints to ACT Fire and Rescue;
 - Use of the employee assistance program by ACT Fire and Rescue staff; and
 - Status of the new Molonglo Emergency Services station and master planning for stations across the Territory.¹⁹⁷

Key issues

Ambulance fees

- 13.2. The ACT Government has been investigating the possibility of establishing free emergency ambulance call outs for people without private health cover. The ACT Government has

¹⁹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 742–779.

consulted with the Tasmanian and Queensland governments, which both cover ambulance fees in their jurisdictions. This consultation has included unintended effects of people cancelling their private health insurance. However, as yet, the policy proposal has not been put to Cabinet.¹⁹⁸

- 13.3. There are currently 13 possible exemptions under which someone in the ACT can have their ambulance fee waived, including when the call out is related to a car crash or domestic violence.¹⁹⁹

Committee comment

- 13.4. The Committee notes that the provision of free ambulance call-outs was a commitment made under the Greens' supply and confidence agreement, which is currently under renegotiation. The provision of free ambulance cover would be a valuable safety net for people who cannot afford private health care, as invoices for ambulance services can be high and present considerable difficulties for those in low incomes to service.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine the provision of free emergency call out ambulance services for people without private health insurance and table this plan and the costing in the Assembly by the first sitting week of February 2027.

Ambulance staffing

- 13.5. Since the implementation of the 44-hour Emergency Operations roster within the ACT Ambulance Service in April 2024, the percentage of shifts 'below minimum crewing' increased from an average of 31 percent to 67 percent. For night shifts, this increased from 38 percent to 96 percent.²⁰⁰
- 13.6. The November 2025 ACT Ambulance Roster Review recommended an additional 83.44 full-time equivalent paramedics would be required to optimise the Emergency Operations roster with a 1.87 relief ratio.²⁰¹ The 2026–27 Budget provided funding for an additional 23 paramedic and six operational support positions.²⁰²
- 13.7. The Commissioner of the ACT Emergency Services Agency told the Committee that the agency is currently working on a resourcing model to bring in more paramedics, with the Chief Officer planning to recruit 29 additional paramedics this financial year, above the rate of staff attrition.²⁰³

¹⁹⁸ Mr David Dutton, Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 770–771.

¹⁹⁹ Mr David Dutton, Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 770–771.

²⁰⁰ ACT Emergency Services Agency, *ACT Ambulance Roster Review*, 17 November 2025, p 17.

²⁰¹ ACT Emergency Services Agency, *ACT Ambulance Roster Review*, 17 November 2025, p 48.

²⁰² Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 127*, 28 July 2026 (received 10 August 2026), p 1.

²⁰³ Mr Wayne Phillips, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 764.

- 13.8. The Committee heard that it takes some time to recruit paramedics; as the ACT is a smaller jurisdiction, there is a maximum number of people that are able to be recruited and trained at a time.²⁰⁴ Qualified paramedics are required to train inexperienced paramedics, which is a barrier to bulk recruitment.²⁰⁵
- 13.9. The Minister told the Committee that she will work with cabinet colleagues to secure the additional staffing identified in the Review over future budget cycles.²⁰⁶

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a timeline of additional investment in new paramedics to ensure the ACT Ambulance Service staffing roster is fully staffed and stabilised.

²⁰⁴ Mr David Dutton, Chief Officer, ACT Ambulance Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 765.

²⁰⁵ Mr Wayne Phillips, Commissioner, ACT Emergency Services Agency, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 765.

²⁰⁶ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 766; Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, *answer to QTON 127*, 28 July 2026 (received 10 August 2026), p 1.

14. Corrections

Matters considered

- 14.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Corrections' appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:
- Detainee population at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC);
 - Use of force practices and training in the AMC in the context of a recent criminal case where a custodial officer was found not guilty of assault;
 - Justice reinvestment including reprioritisation of funding for a reintegration centre;
 - Progress on planning and design work for improving health facilities at the AMC which was funded in the 2025–2026 Budget;
 - Rehabilitation and reintegration service for women in the AMC;
 - Progress to address the identified lack of a structured day for detainees within the AMC;
 - Measures to prevent outgoing correspondence from the AMC reaching victims;
 - Comments made by the Chief Justice regarding the prospects for rehabilitation within corrections facilities; and
 - Contraband within the AMC.²⁰⁷

Key issues

Access to vocational training at the AMC

- 14.2. According to the ACT Custodial Inspector, increasing access to purposeful activity, education and vocational training remained a key priority at AMC.²⁰⁸
- 14.3. The Inspector highlighted recommendations of the *Healthy Prison Review*, which sought to improve access to structured and meaningful daily activity, including vocational education and training opportunities, noting:

That is a complex recommendation, because it involves lots of different parts. It involves, for example, a place like a multipurpose building to assist that and facilitate some industry and some various vocational education and training. That should be, in our view, the overarching goal.²⁰⁹

²⁰⁷ Proof Committee Hansard, 28 July 2026, pp 780–800.

²⁰⁸ Ms Rebecca Minty, ACT Custodial Inspector, Office of ACT Inspector of Custodial Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 357–358.

²⁰⁹ Ms Rebecca Minty, ACT Custodial Inspector, Office of ACT Inspector of Custodial Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 357.

- 14.4. In addition, the Committee heard that overcrowding and infrastructure constraints continue to present challenges for rehabilitation activities at the AMC:

We make the point in this Healthy Prison Review, and we have made it in previous ones, that one of the challenges AMC has faced since opening is that the Treasury estimated numbers for what the prison would need as 375 beds, and that has turned out to be a large underestimate. That number was exceeded many years ago now, and now we are seeing numbers getting closer to 500 and sometimes tipping over. So all those challenges Rebecca mentioned are really hard to tackle until that issue can really be dealt with, and that is going to require some investment to acknowledge that there simply is not enough space currently to do the things that the prison aspires to do, like rehabilitation.²¹⁰

- 14.5. The ACT Official Visitors told the Committee that access to education programs, rehabilitation programs and meaningful activities remained an ongoing concern for detainees, with many of these issues previously identified in the last Estimates report remaining the same.²¹¹

Committee comment

- 14.6. The Committee notes that both the Inspector of Custodial Services and the ACT Official Visitors consider that access to education, vocational training and other meaningful activities at the AMC remains constrained. The Committee is concerned that population pressures, infrastructure limitations and resource constraints are limiting opportunities for detainees to participate in rehabilitation-focused programs. The Committee considers that identifying and addressing these barriers is necessary to improve rehabilitation outcomes and support efforts to reduce reoffending.
- 14.1. The Committee notes this issue has been the subject of multiple recommendations by different Assembly committees over several years.²¹²

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the barriers to obtaining meaningful vocational training at the Alexander Maconochie Centre and tackle those barriers in the next budget cycle with funding and resources as appropriate.

²¹⁰ Mr Sean Costello, Deputy ACT Custodial Inspector, Office of ACT Inspector of Custodial Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 357.

²¹¹ Ms Clare Doube, Official Visitor for Corrections and Member, ACT Official Visitors, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 374.

²¹² See for example: Select Committee on Estimates 2022–2023, *Report of the Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2022–2023 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2022–2023*, September 2022, Recommendations 75 and 76; Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, *Report of the Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*, April 2025, Recommendation 7; and Standing Committee on Legal Affairs, *Report of the Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25*, March 2026, Recommendation 8.

15. Women and Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Matters considered

- 15.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Women and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence's appearance on Wednesday, 29 July 2026:
- ACT Budget reporting;
 - Women's perception of safety in public at night, including increased lighting;
 - Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence prevention measures, including alcohol-fuelled violence;
 - Community sector funding, including the Multicultural Hub Women's Safety Program;
 - Involvement of women in apprenticeships, trade and construction;
 - The *ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy 2026–2036* and the first action plan;
 - Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence frontline service funding;
 - Implementation of the 2024 *Sexual Assault (Police) Review Report*; and
 - Coordination of women's policy, prevention, and housing reform.²¹³

²¹³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 840–855.

16. Health and Mental Health

Matters considered

- 16.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health's appearance on Wednesday, 29 July 2026:
- Infrastructure projects, including North Canberra Hospital and development of a stand-alone birth centre, community health centres in South Tuggeranong and Griffith, Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre, Arcadia House, and the Watson Health Precinct;
 - Commonwealth Government funded bulk-billing clinics and ACT Government payroll tax relief for bulk-billing clinics;
 - Continual operation of health services impacted by the asbestos discovery at 1 Moore Street;
 - Cost of the *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes* and implementation reporting;
 - Employment matters including cardiology staffing, acting arrangements in the Health and Community Services Directorate, occupational violence against frontline health workers, and management of complaints about Canberra Health Services staff;
 - Modelling of health system needs, including changing population demographics and characteristics, and budget allocations to preventive health measures;
 - Patient data collection and management in the Uber Health patient transport pilot;
 - Data relating to cancer diagnosis, overdue Category 1 patients, elective surgery waitlists, and acute mental health follow up after discharge;
 - Medical expertise within Canberra Health Services on breast density and cancer diagnosis;
 - Birth care and data, including perinatal mortality, C-section rates, pregnancy loss bereavement support services, and the implementation of an expanded midwifery continuity of care model;
 - The contribution of limited aged care service availability on delayed hospital discharges, funding of residential aged care beds nationally, and the Support at Home package;
 - Palliative care wait times at Clare Holland House and pathways for children;
 - Investment in communicable disease surveillance and outbreak response across different health facility types;
 - Harm reduction issues including a strategy for nitrous oxide inhalation, the take home naloxone program, upskilling General Practitioners on alcohol and drug dependency treatment, and bulk-billing for opioid-dependency treatment;

- Implementation progress of the Chief Psychiatrist’s January 2024 report *Recommendations for reform of care, treatment and support provided to people found not guilty because of mental impairment and released from custody into the care of mental health services*;
- ACT participation in the bilateral Pharmaceutical Reform Agreement with the Commonwealth Government;
- Food safety public health responses, including the impact of the Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill 2025;
- The Digital Health Record, including cost increases from the original business case and security of data; and
- Use of private health insurance in the ACT.²¹⁴

Key issues

Continuity of care model

- 16.2. Under the *Maternity in Focus: The ACT Public Maternity System Plan 2022–2032*, the ACT Government committed to expand access to midwifery-led continuity of care to 50 percent of women and birthing people by 2028.²¹⁵
- 16.3. Approximately 23.4 percent of birthing people progressed through the continuity of midwifery care model in 2023–24.²¹⁶ During the hearings, the Minister for Health advised that the directorate would be looking at how data was captured to better understand how people are coming into the public maternity service and how many people were offered continuity of midwifery care.²¹⁷
- 16.4. The Minister expressed concern about progress toward the 50 percent target, with officials pointing to national and international workforce shortages and career progression pathways as challenges.²¹⁸ The Minister noted ongoing work to address these challenges:

We have sufficient budget to implement it. It is just that we do not have the midwives or the workforce structure agreement, and hence a lot of work has gone into the midwifery roundtable piece with stakeholders, with staff, again, with unions and with the College of Midwives to look at what the continuity model looks like in the ACT, including a shift to more midwifery group practice to ensure that people have a better work-life balance. There has been a lot of work in this space to ensure that midwives can be attracted and retained to work in this model of care, but there has also been just a shortage of midwives.²¹⁹

²¹⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 856–944.

²¹⁵ ACT Government, *Maternity in Focus: The ACT Public Maternity System Plan 2022–2032*, June 2022, p 16.

²¹⁶ Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing, *Inquiry into raising children, answer to QTON 9*, 2 July 2024.

²¹⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 914.

²¹⁸ Professor Marina Buchanan-Grey, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 915.

²¹⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 917–918.

- 16.5. Officials noted recent high retention rates for graduate midwives, with 23 of the 26 recruited in 2025 remaining on with Canberra Health Services following completion of their graduate year.²²⁰ The Minister noted the number of graduates was expected to be even higher in the coming years.²²¹

Committee comment

- 16.6. While the Committee notes the Minister's advice that there is sufficient budget to implement the continuity of care model, it is unclear whether this includes sufficient funding to address the current workforce shortages. Given the benefits of continuity of care in helping to reduce caesarean section birth and perinatal mortality rates,²²² the Committee considers additional workforce planning should be funded and undertaken as soon as possible to support the government to meet its 2028 target.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide additional funding to implement workforce planning to enable appropriate staffing levels to meet the 50 percent midwifery continuity of care by 2028 that has been committed to.

Funding for Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT

- 16.7. Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT (SHFPACT) provides clinical and education services to improve sexual and reproductive health outcomes in Canberra. Activities include:
- Advocating for individuals' rights;
 - Developing and distributing information materials;
 - Low-cost clinical services for priority populations;
 - Delivering outreach clinical and education services, including relationship skills workshops; and
 - Workforce development opportunities for health and community workers.²²³
- 16.8. The 2026–27 Budget includes an allocation of \$100,000 for one year to support SHFPACT, however no funding is listed in future years²²⁴

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide ongoing funding for community based Sexual Health and Family Planning services beyond 2026-27 to ensure stability and continuity to the community around these crucial services.

²²⁰ Mr Paul Darcy, General Manager, Canberra Hospital, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 918.

²²¹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 918.

²²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 914–915.

²²³ SHFPACT, *About*, <https://www.shfpact.org.au/index.php/appointments> (accessed 18 August 2026).

²²⁴ ACT Government, *ACT 2026–27 Budget: Budget Statements C*, June 2026, p 32.

Preventive health modelling in the budget

- 16.9. The role of preventive health modelling in the budget forecasts was raised with the Minister and officials.²²⁵ Officials advised one complication was how to best define preventive health measures, noting that behaviour change initiatives, immunisation, health promotion, harm minimisation and public health risk regulation could all be considered preventive health measures.²²⁶
- 16.10. The Health and Community Services Directorate reports through the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collection process on health funding, with the latest figures showing that in 2023–24 the ACT Government invested \$101 million on preventive health.²²⁷
- 16.11. The Minister advised that preventive health was not separately identified in the health budget partly due to the challenges of definition raised above.²²⁸ The Minister also identified that Canberra Health Services was working to ‘understand how we can invest more in the community in those health prevention spaces to take the pressure off our hospitals.’²²⁹
- 16.12. Community organisations also spoke to the Committee about the benefit of preventive activities. The Mental Health Community Coalition ACT reiterated its calls for greater investment in early intervention, noting a significant proportion of funding goes to the delivery of acute services:
- We are still calling for and asking for an investment of between five and 10 per cent of the overall budget, which is around \$30 million, for prevention and prevention based services and looking at that in a really broad sense around how we start addressing the services or the spaces we need to prevent people from becoming unwell in the first place—not just when people become unwell.²³⁰
- 16.13. Treasury supports the consideration of preventative health policy proposals as part of the annual budget process. This includes an assessment of value for money and any potential savings.²³¹

²²⁵ Ms Rebecca Vassarotti MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 871.

²²⁶ Dr Sally Singleton, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 872.

²²⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 872–873.

²²⁸ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 873.

²²⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 873.

²³⁰ Ms Lisa Kelly, Chief Executive Officer, Mental Health Community Coalition ACT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 83.

²³¹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, *Answer to QON 1064*, 27 March 2026, (received 1 May 2026), p 1.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest resources to undertake and publish modelling on potential future savings from cross-portfolio preventative health initiatives as part of the regular budgeting process.

Palliative care

- 16.14. Access to palliative care services was raised by Members following reports of wait times and children not being able to access Clare Holland House (CHH).²³²
- 16.15. The Minister advised that the expansion of CHH by the ACT Government, Commonwealth Government and the Snow Foundation partnership included additional beds not currently in operation:
- It was built with room for further expansion as the population grew over time. There are a certain number of physical beds and there are a certain number of funded beds, but not all of the physical beds are currently funded for operation. That is a deliberate decision in relation to that expansion having been done to enable room for future growth.²³³
- 16.16. The Minister advised that this decision was made some years back, ‘so it probably is timely to review again’ in the context of future budget processes.²³⁴
- 16.17. While paediatric care at CHH had been halted during the COVID-19 pandemic, CHH can now provide a person under 16 years of age with end-of-life care overseen by nursing, medical and allied health staff with experience in paediatrics.²³⁵
- 16.18. The ACT Government has supported Palliative Care ACT to establish a temporary facility in Braddon, Leo’s Place, for patients over 18 years.²³⁶ The Committee heard that a permanent purpose built palliative respite care for Leo’s Place will provide six beds.²³⁷
- 16.19. The 2026–27 Budget included \$23.4 million to operate the new Acute Palliative Care Unit at Canberra Hospital, with construction expected to be complete in December 2026.²³⁸ This will include an initial eight funded beds, with capacity to increase to 12 beds over time.²³⁹

²³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 881–883.

²³³ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 881.

²³⁴ Ms Melissa O’Brien, Interim General Manager, North Canberra Hospital, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 882.

²³⁵ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 179*, 3 August 2026, (received 13 August 2026), p 1.

²³⁶ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 882.

²³⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 882.

²³⁸ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer and Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, ‘ACT Budget 26–27 Investing in more health services and a stronger workforce’, *Media Release*, 3 June 2026.

²³⁹ Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer and Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, ‘ACT Budget 26–27 Investing in more health services and a stronger workforce’, *Media Release*, 3 June 2026.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide adequate funding and resources to enable Clare Holland House to utilise its full suite of services (including ensuring all beds are operational) and to offer respite care when it has capacity.

Specialist waitlists

- 16.20. In August 2025, the ACT Government established an independent *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, with Mr Michael Walsh PSM as Chair (the Walsh Review).²⁴⁰ The final report was handed to the Minister in May 2026 and tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 10 June 2026.²⁴¹ The report examined a number of elements of the ACT health system including governance, data, clinical quality and safety, demand and sustainability of services, workforce and culture, and the Digital Health Record.²⁴²
- 16.21. Members sought clarification of the wait times for specialists in the ACT health system. Canberra Health Services advised the Committee that:
- There are no Category 1 patients overdue to access a specialist for an appointment or admission within 30 days.²⁴³
 - Sixty-two percent of Category 2 patients were seen on time, within 90 days, in 2025-26.²⁴⁴
- 16.22. Advice received from the Walsh Review identified possible actions to reduce the Outpatient wait times to access specialists including:
- The Queensland eConsult service which provided General Practitioners (GPs) with a formalised pathway to specialist advice, to reduce patients requiring a specialist appointment.²⁴⁵
 - Use of nursing, allied health, or GPs with Special Interests to undertake initial assessments.²⁴⁶
 - Contracting private specialists.²⁴⁷

²⁴⁰ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026).

²⁴¹ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026).

²⁴² ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026), p 3.

²⁴³ Ms Janet Zagari, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 886.

²⁴⁴ Ms Janet Zagari, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 924.

²⁴⁵ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026), p 12.

²⁴⁶ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026), p 12.

²⁴⁷ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026), p 12.

- Examining the physical layout of the existing outpatient space to increase the number of clinic spaces.²⁴⁸

- 16.23. When asked about the use of the GPs with Special Interests to reduce outpatient wait lists, officials advised that they were examining the recommendations from the Walsh Review with several actions already underway.²⁴⁹ The Committee heard that discussions would also be held with the Canberra Health Network GP forums to discuss models from other jurisdictions that may assist to reduce wait times for specialists.²⁵⁰
- 16.24. Officials also advised that Canberra Health Services and the Health and Community Services Directorate were focused on ensuring publication of data on the Health Performance Website and noted that much of their data is also aligned with the national data performance frameworks under the National Health Reform Agreement.²⁵¹

Committee comment

- 16.25. The Committee welcomes the commitment from the ACT Government to implement the recommendations from the Walsh Review and the opportunities presented to reduce Outpatient wait times. In particular, the Committee sees benefit in enabling more GPs with Special Interest.
- 16.26. The Committee supports the ACT Government in its efforts to continually update its Health Performance Website and considers wait times for an initial specialist appointment should be measured from the point of a GPs referral date.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government fund more General Practitioners with Special Interests to reduce the waitlist for specialists.

Aged care services

- 16.27. The provision of aged care services, including residential and at home services, is a Commonwealth Government responsibility.²⁵² Several aged care issues were raised during the hearings including delayed discharge of older patients from hospitals, the number of respite care beds available, and access to Support at Home services in the ACT.²⁵³
- 16.28. The Committee heard that delayed discharge can be due to a several factors including insufficient permanent residential aged-care places, respite beds, and Support at Home packages to meet demand.²⁵⁴ The Minister noted that patients with complex needs or on

²⁴⁸ ACT Government, *Inquiry into ACT health system data, demand and processes*, www.act.gov.au/open/inquiry-into-act-health-system-data-demand-and-processes, (accessed 14 August 2026), p 12.

²⁴⁹ Ms Liz Lopa, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 897.

²⁵⁰ Ms Liz Lopa, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 898.

²⁵¹ Ms Skye Jacobi, Acting Deputy Director-General, Health, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 904.

²⁵² Australian Government, *About Aged Care*, 23 April 2026, www.health.gov.au/topics/aged-care/about-aged-care, (accessed 19 August 2026)

²⁵³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 883–885, pp 911–913.

²⁵⁴ See, for example, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 908–909.

low incomes will also find it harder to access a residential care place contributing to delayed discharge from hospital.²⁵⁵ As at 24 July 2026, there were 75 Canberra Health Services patients waiting for a residential aged care place and 13 waiting for National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) placement.²⁵⁶

- 16.29. Burrangiri Aged Care Respite (Burrangiri) provides short-term and overnight respite programs.²⁵⁷ The 2025 decision to close Burrangiri was reversed with the contract extended to 30 June 2027 as a temporary measure to allow time for the Commonwealth Government to replace the respite capacity provided by Burrangiri.²⁵⁸ The Minister advised that she had discussed progress on the provision of respite care with the Federal Minister in 'relation to the use of the \$10 million commitment from the Commonwealth Government.'²⁵⁹ Options include a refurbishment of Burrangiri or the development of a replacement facility for the same number (15) respite beds.²⁶⁰
- 16.30. The Minister advised on notice that while aged care was a Commonwealth responsibility, additional Commonwealth funding for public hospitals, through the National Health Reform Agreement, would also be used for 'maintenance care for long-stay older patients while they wait for appropriate aged care services and/or a place in residential care.'²⁶¹

Committee comment

- 16.31. The Committee is concerned that the Commonwealth Government funding pathway for aged care and disability services is not increasing to respond to growing demand, and as a result contributes to the delays in discharge from ACT public hospitals.
- 16.32. The Committee appreciates this is an area of Commonwealth Government responsibility and considers, therefore, that there remains a continuing and vital role for the ACT Government in lobbying for increased funding that meets the full needs of the territory's residents.

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government lobby the Commonwealth Government to provide enough funding for aged care, squalor/hoarding and disability services to ameliorate the delayed discharge from hospital problem entirely.

²⁵⁵ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 913.

²⁵⁶ Ms Janet Zagari, Chief Executive Officer, Canberra Health Services, *Proof Committee Hansard* 29 July 2026, p 924.

²⁵⁷ Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Report 2: Inquiry into Petition 017-25 and e-Petition 005-25 Closure of Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre in Rivett*, October 2025, p 2.

²⁵⁸ Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Report 2: Inquiry into Petition 017-25 and e-Petition 005-25 Closure of Burrangiri Aged Care Respite Centre in Rivett*, October 2025, p 2.

²⁵⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 884.

²⁶⁰ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, p 884.

²⁶¹ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QON 173*, 3 August 2026 (received 14 August 2026), p 1.

17. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Matters considered

17.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and Minister for the Public Service on Thursday, 30 July 2026:

- The ACT Integrity Commissioner’s *Operation Kingfisher Investigation Report*;
- Health and Community Services Directorate-wide employee satisfaction data;
- *Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Act 2025* implementation plan;
- ACT Government actions in line with the Uluru Statement from the Heart; and
- Ministerial responsibility for policy and administration oversight.²⁶²

²⁶² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 966–985.

18. Housing and Homelessness

Matters considered

18.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Housing and Homelessness' appearance on Thursday, 30 July 2026:

- Public housing vacancy trends, maintenance and upgrade requirements, housing quality reporting, and housing stock categorisation;
- Public housing targets and ACT Housing stock;
- Work undertaken to reduce vacant housing;
- Monitoring of housing standards and property inspection practices;
- Enabling work for future suburbs;
- Use of in-house and contracted trades services;
- Tenancy history for children and young people in out-of-home care;
- Inclusion of youth apartments in social housing numbers;
- Public housing application and assessment processes and record-keeping;
- Demand for crisis and transitional accommodation and barriers to access;
- The St Vincent de Paul Street to Home program;
- Oaks Estate Strategic Plan; and
- ACT Housing investment properties.²⁶³

Key issues

Public housing stock

18.2. The ACT Government has committed to increasing the Housing ACT-owned housing stock to 13,200 dwellings by 2030.²⁶⁴ The 2026–27 Budget included funding over four years for the delivery of 450 dwellings toward this target.²⁶⁵

18.3. The Committee sought an explanation of how the ACT Government planned to reach its 2030 target, noting the funding provisioned across the forward estimates would fall short of that required to deliver that 13,200 dwellings. The Minister for Homes and Homelessness advised that additional funding would be subject to future decisions of government:

²⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 986–1027.

²⁶⁴ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, *answer to QTON 221*, 30 July 2026 (received 13 August 2026), p 1.

²⁶⁵ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 126.

... we have what we are doing now, based on capacity within the construction sector and all the other considerations, acknowledging that there is still more work to do to get the ultimate target, but they are future decisions of government. We cannot pre-empt them. So, I think to say there is a shortfall is not quite right, because that does not mean we will not get there by the end of the total target...²⁶⁶

- 18.4. Since November 2024, the public housing waitlist has increased by over 600 households,²⁶⁷ with the current waitlist and average wait time outlined below.

Waiting list	Approved applications	Average waiting time (days)
Priority housing	174	162
High needs housing	1,943	1,219
Standard housing	1,535	1,875

Table 1: Public housing waitlist as of 30 June 2026 [Source: ACT Government, *Waiting lists for public housing*, <https://www.act.gov.au/housing-planning-and-property/public-housing/waiting-lists-for-public-housing> (accessed 17 August 2026)].

- 18.5. Alongside continued growth in demand, the Committee heard that the proportion of properties in the ACT that are allocated for public housing is falling. ACT Shelter and the ACT Council of Social Service spoke to this trend during the Community Day public hearings, noting public housing accounted for only 5.4 percent of housing in the ACT:²⁶⁸

That is down from 7.6 per cent a decade ago and 12.2 per cent from self government. So I think that you can see that is a really steep decline. I think that is the same picture nationally but, for the ACT as a jurisdiction, that is one of the steepest declines that we have seen. We know that that decline is not simply due to just the strong growth in private supply, because the number of social housing per Canberra have fallen—falling from around 32 dwellings per 1,000 Canberrans in 2010 to less than 26 last year.²⁶⁹

- 18.6. The Committee queried what proportion of the ACT Government’s targeted 13,200 Housing ACT properties would be used for public housing. More than half of the additional 450 dwellings funded in this Budget will be operated and managed by community housing providers over 25 years, as required under the Commonwealth Government’s Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFF) Round 3 which supports the delivery of these dwellings.²⁷⁰ The Minister confirmed the final proportion of dwellings allocated to public housing was yet to be determined:

The ACT Government is committed to growing the Housing ACT-owned portfolio to 13,200 dwellings by 2030. The mix of public and community housing for the

²⁶⁶ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 996.

²⁶⁷ There were 2,975 households on the public housing registry waitlist as of 7 November 2024. Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 138*, 5 December 2024 (published 24 January 2025), p 1.

²⁶⁸ Ms Corrine Dobson, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Shelter, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 37.

²⁶⁹ Ms Jenny Sandilands, Head of Policy, ACT Council of Social Service, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 37.

²⁷⁰ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 126.

additional dwellings to be delivered under this commitment have not yet been determined and will be subject to future government decision making. These decisions will be informed by tenant needs, service delivery considerations, housing demand, funding arrangements and broader strategic priorities.²⁷¹

Committee comment

- 18.7. The Committee is concerned that sufficient funding has not yet been allocated to meet the government's full commitment to grow the Housing ACT portfolio to 13,200 dwellings by 2030. Given the significant public and community interest in this matter, the Committee considers greater transparency is needed on how the ACT Government intends to deliver and fund the remaining dwellings under this commitment.
- 18.8. The Committee also questions whether 13,200 dwellings is sufficient to meet the increasing demand for public housing and is of the view that further consideration should be given to whether a 10 percent target should be set for the proportion of public housing in the ACT, including using inclusionary zoning. Options for additional funding, including seeking a waiver of the ACT's historical housing debt should be explored. Noting other jurisdictions have had similar debts waived, the ACT Government could consider seeking a public reason from the Commonwealth as to why such action cannot be taken for the ACT's debt.

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest additional funding in the forward estimates to match what is required to reach 13,200 Housing ACT dwellings.

Recommendation 37

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table in the Assembly by the end of 2026 a plan and timeline demonstrating its pathway to grow the Housing ACT portfolio to 13,200 dwellings

Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025

- 18.9. The *Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025* was passed by the Assembly in September 2025 and introduces a right to adequate housing within the ACT's human rights framework.²⁷² The Act, other than section 5, commences on 1 January 2027.²⁷³
- 18.10. The Committee heard community concerns regarding the progress of preparation work, with ACT Shelter advising further education and benchmarking were required ahead of the Act's commencement next year:

²⁷¹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, *answer to QTON 221*, 30 July 2026 (received 13 August 2026), p 1.

²⁷² *ACT Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025*, s 27D.

²⁷³ *ACT Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025*, s

I also do not think it is well understood what is happening on 1 January 2027 and what government needs to do to put that in place. It is not something where it just starts now and then we start doing the work we need to be doing—that preparatory work, doing education and ensuring government directorates and agencies understand what their obligations are under the Human Rights Act, because it will have particular requirements for Housing ACT and government agencies. A key part of that and one of the important parts that we saw around that was progressive realisation of the human right to housing. Key to that is ensuring that we do have benchmarks in place and that we have clear monitoring, so we can actually monitor progress of government. We do not believe that that framework is currently in place. That is one of the key important things that we really would like to see. We should be working on that now. We hope we will see some movement on that.²⁷⁴

- 18.11. The explanatory statement noted that the new right to housing ‘would require the Government to consider how to most effectively address the right as part of Budget deliberations’.²⁷⁵ While specific funding lines for preparation and education activities were not listed in the Budget, the Human Rights Commissioner advised work had commenced:

We have certainly engaged with JACS on preparation of some of the materials to explain things to the general public. There is at least a fact sheet on the right to housing. In terms of the budget, correct me if I am wrong, but I think there have been some new initiatives on trying to provide more housing, and that is something not to be sneezed at. That is to be commended, I think, because the right to housing, as it will come into force, is not solely about what is immediately realisable, and those three elements of not evicting people arbitrarily and so on; it is also about progressive achievement of the right. To do that, we need to create more supply. We should, I think, be more involved. Again, that is a bit of a resourcing issue for us, frankly.²⁷⁶

Committee comment

- 18.12. Given the public interest and potential budgetary significance of the introduction of the new human right to adequate housing, the Committee considers activities related to this right should be clearly articulated in budget documents and government directorate annual reports.

²⁷⁴ Ms Corrine Dobson, Chief Executive Officer, ACT Shelter, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, pp 46–47.

²⁷⁵ *Explanatory statement*, Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Bill 2025, p 9.

²⁷⁶ Dr Penelope Mathew, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 237.

Recommendation 38

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure budget documents highlight the resource provisions and actions proposed in future budgets to give effect to the *Human Rights (Housing) Amendment Act 2025* including FTE, capital and recurrent expenditure appropriations.

19. Education and Child Development

Matters considered

- 19.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Education and Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing's appearance on Thursday, 30 July 2026:
- Issues arising from the ACT Integrity Commissioner's *Operation Kingfisher Investigation Report*, including the Education Directorate's desktop review of procurements and staff identified;
 - Early Childhood Education safety compliance and regulation in relation to the closure of a centre in Higgins;
 - The heating and cooling audit of classrooms, including prioritisation for cooling system upgrades and the implementation of the Property Quality Standards;
 - Funding arrangements for non-government schools under the Better Fairer Schools Agreement and responsibilities of schools under the agreement;
 - The enterprise bargaining process underway, including consultation with the Australian Education Union and industrial action by members;
 - Funding of free school camps at Birrigai Outdoor School;
 - Implementation of the One Public Education System Reform, including funding for equity priority areas and the status and alignment of Strong Foundations projects;
 - Availability of language offerings in ACT public schools, including costings for a supplementary centralised language learning offering for Year 11–12 ATAR students and availability of continuous language learning pathways from primary school to college;
 - Flexible education, including findings of the Review of Flexible Education in the ACT, student demand, and alternative and additional offerings to Muliyan; and
 - Library and building funds held and initiated by ACT public schools.²⁷⁷
- 19.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Education and Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing's appearance on Monday, 3 August 2026:
- The Education Directorate's desktop review of procurement processes;
 - School enrolment data and trends across the public, Catholic and non-government school sectors;
 - Implementation of the One Public Education System Reform, including ministerial updates, involvement of students, measures of success, integration of Strong Foundations, and connection with Thriving Kids.

²⁷⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1048–1084.

- Early intervention programs and supports for families to address the increase in child development vulnerability rates and the downstream impact on violence in schools;
- Financial sustainability, regulation, provider mix and geographic distribution of not-for-profit early learning centres; and
- School infrastructure projects, including delivery of the Lyneham High School gymnasium and Majura Primary School upgrades, toilet infrastructure and maintenance, Property Quality Standards, and decision-making for a new Woden Valley High School.²⁷⁸

Key issues

Year 11–12 ATAR languages gap provision

- 19.3. Members sought clarification on matters arising from the Standing Committee on Social Policy's *Inquiry into E-PET-077-25: Access to 11–12 ATAR language courses in 2026*.²⁷⁹
- 19.4. Areas discussed included:
- The costings of directorate delivery of a languages program to replace that previously offered by CIT Solutions and the Canberra Academy of Languages.²⁸⁰
 - The lack of languages in ACT schools, noting that 19 schools across Years 3 to 8 were not delivering language classes in 2025.²⁸¹
 - The variation in languages offered in different schools, for example four of the five Tuggeranong district high schools offer one language, while Melrose High School in the Woden district offered five languages in 2025.²⁸²

Committee comment

- 19.5. The Committee did not hear anything contrary to what was found by the Standing Committee on Social Policy.²⁸³ The Committee considers that the ACT Government should develop a strategic plan that places sufficient importance on language education with specific milestones, actions and timeframes to ensure every school in the ACT can deliver the Australian Curriculum on language education.

²⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1260–1294.

²⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1077–1081.

²⁸⁰ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1077–1078.

²⁸¹ Ms Anita Perkins, Executive Group Manager Service Delivery and Design, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1077–1078.

²⁸² Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1080; Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Inquiry into E-PET-077-25: Access to 11–12 ATAR language courses in 2026, Tabled document 28 April 2026: Languages offered by network 2025*, p 7.

²⁸³ Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Report 6: Inquiry into E-PET-077-25: Access to 11-12 ATAR language courses in 2026*, 2 July 2026, pp 14–16.

Flexible education delivery

- 19.6. The 2026–27 Budget allocated \$100,000 for 2026–27 and \$500,000 in 2027–28 for a feasibility study into the expansion of flexible education and specialist schools in the ACT.²⁸⁴
- 19.7. Education Directorate officials noted that for the flexible education component, the feasibility study would examine long-term student demand and infrastructure needs, including permanent accommodation for Muliyan, a long-term site on the northside of Canberra, and preparation of a future business case to government.²⁸⁵
- 19.8. Muliyan flexible education is for students in Years 7 to 10 with complex support needs, where a student’s school has made a referral to Muliyan.²⁸⁶ The Deloitte review into the Muliyan flexible education program was recently completed, with the public release ‘a matter for consideration of the Government following completion of the briefing process.’²⁸⁷
- 19.9. The Australian Education Union, ACT Branch (AEU) advised that it had seen the Muliyan review and noted that one of its key findings confirmed their own observations over time that ‘the number of places in flex-ed settings for the ACT is grossly insufficient for the number of students that we have.’²⁸⁸
- 19.10. ACT Parents expressed concern that families who require flexible education are making the choice to seek other options ‘out of necessity’, and that these options may impose financial costs on the family or include home schooling.²⁸⁹
- 19.11. The Minister later advised that:
- The Deloitte Review of flexible education settings in the ACT recommends that, in the long-term, a model of flexible education support would include increasing off-campus places to approximately 1 per cent of students in years 9-10 and 11-12, which would currently equate to approximately 140 students. It also proposes the introduction of limited off-campus provision for years 7-8 at a rate of 0.2 per cent, which is currently approximately 15 students, alongside strengthening targeted in-school and on-campus flexible supports and inclusive mainstream practice.²⁹⁰
- 19.12. While the findings of the Muliyan review are considered and the feasibility study is undertaken, officials advised that four additional vehicles had been purchased and two additional sites would be brought online later in 2026 to support flexible education

²⁸⁴ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements F*, June 2026, p 21.

²⁸⁵ Ms Anita Perkins, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1081.

²⁸⁶ ACT Government, *Alternative school settings*, www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/find-a-school-and-enrol/alternative-school-settings#Muliyan (accessed 14 August 2026).

²⁸⁷ Ms Anita Perkins, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1081; Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Education, *answer to QTON 245*, 4 August 2026, (received 11 August 2026), p 2.

²⁸⁸ Mr Patrick Judge, Branch Secretary, Australian Education Union (ACT Branch), *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 64.

²⁸⁹ Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 65.

²⁹⁰ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Education, *answer to QTON 246*, 4 August 2028, (received 17 August 2026), p 1.

outreach.²⁹¹ These two sites will have more flexible arrangements than Muliyan and will be 'safe, trauma-informed places', including for young people moving into and out of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.²⁹²

Committee comment

- 19.13. The Committee is concerned about the length of time it has taken to respond to the demand for flexible education delivery in the ACT when there appears to be a clear need for more immediate responses.

Recommendation 39

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government allocate funds in the 2026-27 Budget Review to implement the recommendations of the Flexible Education Program review.

Recommendation 40

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide immediate temporary accommodation for the Muliyan program to restore on-site capacity to 30 students, while the Flexible Education Program review recommendations are implemented.

Future of Education: One Public Education System reforms

- 19.14. The final report of the independent *ACT Public School System Resourcing Review* (the review) was delivered on 2 April 2026.²⁹³ The review was established in October 2025 to investigate and provide the ACT Government with evidence-based independent advice on the long-term funding of the ACT public school system.²⁹⁴
- 19.15. As part of the ACT Government's interim response to the review, the 2026–27 Budget allocated \$9.3 million to the implementation of the *Future of Education: One Public Education System* reforms.²⁹⁵ This total amount includes:
- \$5.3 million for stronger system supports for schools, including HR, financial, infrastructure and leadership support.
 - \$2 million to review the school funding model.

²⁹¹ Ms Anita Perkins, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1081.

²⁹² Ms Anita Perkins, Executive Group Manager, Service Design and Delivery, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1082.

²⁹³ ACT Government, *Education Directorate – Expert Panel*, www.act.gov.au/directorates-and-agencies/education-directorate#Expert-panel (accessed 14 August 2026).

²⁹⁴ *ACT Public School System Resourcing Review – Final Report of the Expert Panel*, 2 April 2026, p 23.

²⁹⁵ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements F*, June 2026, p 3.

- \$2 million to establish new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander governance arrangements.²⁹⁶

- 19.16. ACT Parents acknowledged that this was only an initial investment, however expressed concern that ‘\$9.3 million will not be able to, potentially, achieve everything that we would like to achieve in this 2026–2027 financial year.’²⁹⁷ The AEU noted that the funding would primarily establish fundamental corporate systems that would be expected of a large bureaucracy.²⁹⁸
- 19.17. Education Directorate officials advised that the implementation team for the reforms was being developed and the directorate was also reviewing the recommendations to determine the sequencing of priorities into the plan.²⁹⁹
- 19.18. The AEU observed that its members had seen past ‘initiatives being implemented that are not sufficiently resourced’ and understood the need for careful planning to ensure that the full funding required was properly identified.³⁰⁰ However, representatives noted the length of time this could take ‘just is frustrating because it is going to take so long.’³⁰¹
- 19.19. Noting that parents are keen to see ‘change on the ground’, ACT Parents also advised that they had been invited by the Minister to be part of the ‘reform partners group.’³⁰² Welcoming this participation, ACT Parents highlighted the central role of ‘collaboration with stakeholders and the users of the system’ to ‘ensure that each of the recommendations in the review are actually implemented—and implemented successfully.’³⁰³
- 19.20. A further allocation of \$60.9 million was also made in the 2026–27 Budget to priority equity areas that were identified in the review.³⁰⁴ These areas include ‘students with disabilities, the specific needs of specialist schools, and the needs of students with more complex behaviours.’ This funding will ‘flow through to schools directly as part of the funding formula for 2027.’³⁰⁵

Committee comment

- 19.21. The Committee considers that the transparent exchange of information with stakeholders is a foundational necessity for good policy making. Given the significant reforms to the public education system that will result from the *Future of Education: One Public Education System* over the next 10 years, the Committee considers the provision of timely, frequent

²⁹⁶ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements F*, June 2026, p 3.

²⁹⁷ Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 62.

²⁹⁸ Ms Angela Burroughs, Branch President, Australian Education Union, ACT Branch, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 63.

²⁹⁹ Ms Jo Wood, Director-General, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1070.

³⁰⁰ Ms Angela Burroughs, Branch President, Australian Education Union, ACT Branch, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 63.

³⁰¹ Ms Angela Burroughs, Branch President, Australian Education Union, ACT Branch, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 63.

³⁰² Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 62.

³⁰³ Ms Veronica Elliott, Executive Officer, ACT Parents, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 62.

³⁰⁴ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 108.

³⁰⁵ Ms Jo Wood, Director-General, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, p 1069.

and transparent information to the broader community should be an upmost priority for the ACT Government.

- 19.22. The Committee considers it is best practice that the ACT Government publicly release and regularly update an implementation plan for the *Future of Education: One Public Education System* reforms, including key milestones, performance indicators, accountabilities, reporting requirements, and independent evaluations of outcomes.
- 19.23. The Committee considers that the ACT Government should also:
- publish the minutes of all *Future of Education: One Public Education System* reform partner meetings on the Directorate's website including decisions made, actions agreed, and implementation timeframes; and
 - that the ACT Government publish six-monthly progress updates on implementing the Strong Foundations Implementation Review recommendations.
- 19.24. The Committee considers that further clarity in future budget papers on the funding committed to the *Future of Education: One Public Education System* reforms is required to support all stakeholders in the implementation of this significant reform as it rolls out over the next ten years.

Recommendation 41

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future budgets a line-by-line breakdown of the total funding committed to the Future of Education, One Public Education System reforms.

Heating and Cooling Fund

- 19.25. The 2026–27 Budget allocated \$7,979,000 to 'More Sustainable Heating and Cooling in ACT Public Schools'.³⁰⁶ Nine public schools will have 32 gas furnaces replaced with electric reverse-cycle appliances in the 2026–27 financial year with part of that funding.³⁰⁷ Officials advised that the schools receiving replacements were located in Tuggeranong.³⁰⁸
- 19.26. Officials advised that an audit had been completed of the territory's 93 public schools which identified 'existing mechanical and natural ventilation facilities' and had 'mechanical heating and cooling present' including whether the mechanical heating and cooling was operating effectively.³⁰⁹ The Committee heard that the directorate expects to release the heating and cooling audit towards the end of 2026.³¹⁰

³⁰⁶ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Statements F*, June 2026, p 25.

³⁰⁷ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, p 106.

³⁰⁸ Ms Vanessa Attridge, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Digital Services, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 1058.

³⁰⁹ Ms Vanessa Attridge, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Digital Services, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 1058.

³¹⁰ Ms Vanessa Attridge, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Digital Services, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, p 1060.

Committee comment

- 19.27. The Committee is supportive of the provision of information for school communities about the current state of heating and cooling in ACT public schools. Information from the heating and cooling audit should include details that may assist school communities assess their priorities, such as the type of existing heating and cooling equipment, its effectiveness, and the ACT Government's priority order for replacement if required.
- 19.28. The Committee also considers it a priority that future budget papers identify which schools are receiving funding for heating and cooling in that financial year.

Recommendation 42

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish in future budgets the details of those schools receiving funding under the Heating and Cooling fund.

Violence in schools

- 19.29. Budget allocations to address occupational violence against public school staff was raised with the Minister. Members noted that verbal and physical aggression by students and parents towards staff was identified in the context of AEU evidence to the *ACT Public School System Resourcing Review* and was also raised in Education Directorate annual reporting as the most significant health and safety risk for staff.³¹¹
- 19.30. The Minister and officials noted that funding to address violence was not a specific line item in the Budget, but that additional funding of \$15 million had been allocated to support young people identified in occupational violence risk assessments.³¹²
- 19.31. The Minister noted that more children were presenting as not school-ready and officials advised that 'a large proportion of young people being identified through occupational violence risk assessments do present with imputed or diagnosed disability.'³¹³
- 19.32. Officials advised that pilots for evidence-based education models to upskill teaching and other staff and assist students with complex behaviours were currently underway.³¹⁴ For example, the Minister later advised that six schools from early childhood to Year 10 were trailing the Berry Street Education Model.³¹⁵

Committee comment

- 19.33. The Committee notes that the current budget papers do not itemise the funding committed to addressing occupational violence in schools. Nor is it clear which of the other funded programs support the health and safety of teachers and other staff.

³¹¹ Ms Elizabeth Lee MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1279.

³¹² Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Education, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1279; Ms Angela Spence, Deputy Director-General, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1280.

³¹³ Ms Angela Spence, Deputy Director-General, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1280.

³¹⁴ Ms Angela Spence, Deputy Director-General, Education Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1281.

³¹⁵ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Education, *answer to QTON 257*, 5 August 2026, (received 11 August 2026), p 1.

- 19.34. The Committee considers that stakeholders would appreciate a clearer identification of the steps being taken, and the attached budget allocation, to addressing occupational violence in schools and ensuring teaching and other staff safety and wellbeing in the workplace.

Recommendation 43

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future budgets or annual reports detailed information about the specific programs within ACT schools directed towards addressing issues around violence in schools, including a line-by-line breakdown of total funding committed.

20. Sport and Recreation

Matters considered

20.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Sport and Recreation's appearance on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- The sporting infrastructure audit;
- Management of Dickson pool;
- The new aquatic strategy;
- The Integrity Commissioner's report into the Operation Kingfisher;
- The new Skate Strategy;
- Funding model for elite sports teams; and
- Tenpin bowling facilities.³¹⁶

³¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1085–1103.

21. Trade, Tourism and Economy

Matters considered

21.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Trade, Investment and the Knowledge Economy and the Minister for Tourism and Events' appearance on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- Exporting as a result of support from the Office of International Engagement;
- Telstra Tower and consultation with the Ngunnawal community;
- Data centres;
- The Major Event Fund;
- Impact of Light Rail construction on businesses;
- Private investment in the ACT, including in housing;
- International flights at Canberra Airport; and
- The visitor economy.³¹⁷

Key issues

Overseas trade missions

- 21.2. The Office of International Engagement undertakes trade missions to connect ACT businesses with overseas markets and to improve Canberra's international profile.³¹⁸
- 21.3. The Committee heard that the Chief Minister attended three overseas trade missions during the 2025–26 financial year, to Thailand, India, and Vietnam. He was accompanied on these trips by the Commissioner for International Engagement or other officials.³¹⁹
- 21.4. The Chief Minister's announcements on his international missions have tended to restrict the cost to his travel expenses alone, with the total cost potentially much greater.³²⁰ The final cost is less publicised, as it is reported as part of regular quarterly ministerial travel expenses disclosures.³²¹

³¹⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1104–1128.

³¹⁸ Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Office of International Engagement*, 7 May 2026, <https://www.act.gov.au/directorates-and-agencies/chief-minister-treasury-and-economic-development-directorate/office-of-international-engagement> (accessed 13 August 2026).

³¹⁹ Mr Brendan Smyth, Commissioner for International Engagement, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1105–1106.

³²⁰ See for example Mr Andrew Barr MLA, ACT Chief Minister, 'ACT ASEAN trade mission to Thailand and Singapore', *Media Release*, 7 October 2025.

³²¹ See for example Ministerial Travel Expenses Disclosure, 'Chief Minister Andrew Barr MLA—Ministerial Travel—October to December 2025', https://www.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/3029740/Andrew-Barr-MLA-Travel-Expenses-October-December-2025.pdf (accessed 24 August 2026).

Committee comment

- 21.5. The Committee is of the opinion that the Chief Minister's announcements and those of his Ministers generally should quote the total cost of any such delegations.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure any ministerial announcements on overseas trade missions or for other purposes state the total cost of each mission or delegation and not just individual ministers' costs.

22. Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water

Matters considered

22.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water and ACT Climate Change Council on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- Net zero pathway strategy;
- Water quality in Lake Tuggeranong and the Healthy Waterways program;
- ACT Climate Change Strategy policy work, quantitative modelling and funding for community groups;
- Future of Canberra City Farm;
- Funding arrangements for catchment groups and community stewardship; and
- Fishing in ACT waterways and lakes.³²²

22.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water's appearance on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- Licencing for snake rehabilitation and education;
- Directorate and ministerial involvement in procurement for environmental grants;
- Large-scale battery energy storage in Belconnen;
- ACT Government landscape plan and western edge consultation;
- Microplastics monitoring in ACT waterways;
- ACT Climate Change Strategy and transport emissions;
- Measurement of the environmental sustainability of government service provision;
- Avian influenza and endangered marsupial populations; and
- Healthy Waterways program and wetlands.³²³

Key issues

Climate Change Strategy and emissions

22.3. The 2026–27 Budget committed \$10.2 million over four years to delivering the next climate change strategy, and community engagement activities.³²⁴ The Conservation Council ACT

³²² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1129–1158.

³²³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1158–1188.

³²⁴ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026–27: Budget Outlook*, June 2026, pp 89–90.

Region and SEE Change advised that this allocation was insufficient to address the challenges of a changing climate.³²⁵

- 22.4. The *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026–2036* was released on 23 July 2026, containing an Overarching Framework which sets out the vision and eight priority areas, and an Action Plan which identifies workstreams against the priority areas.³²⁶ Community representatives expressed concern that ‘there are good words, there are good aims’ in the strategy, which is not supported by the detail about what is going to be delivered, who will deliver it and by what date.³²⁷
- 22.5. Members sought clarification as to the goals and targets of the strategy, including modelling on the impact of actions on emissions targets.³²⁸ Officials advised that the first phase of climate action was ‘characterised by dedicated climate programs’, while this next phase is focused more on mainstreaming climate change policy across government.³²⁹
- 22.6. Officials advised that quantitative analysis of the impact of emissions had taken place on government run programs, but not ‘quantitative modelling across the board.’³³⁰ The Minister advised that further actions were required to work through the complex and challenging aspects of transition.³³¹
- 22.7. Specific actions to support the transition to electric vehicles for the territory’s residents were also discussed.³³² The ACT Government’s target for new sales of light electric vehicles by 2030 is 80 to 90 per cent of new vehicle sales, with 100 per cent by 2035.³³³ The Committee was advised that as of June 2026, electric vehicle sales represented 43 percent of new vehicle sales.³³⁴
- 22.8. Officials identified several programs as pivotal to increasing electric vehicle sales: the ACT Government’s Sustainable Household Scheme with low-cost loans of up to \$20,0000, reduced stamp duty and registration for vehicles with lower emissions, and installation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.³³⁵

³²⁵ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region and Ms Kathy Ehmann, Executive Director SEE Change, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 3.

³²⁶ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, ‘ACT Government releases new climate change strategy’, *Media Release*, 23 July 2026.

³²⁷ Ms Kathy Ehmann, Executive Director, SEE Change, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 5.

³²⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1133–1138.

³²⁹ Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water, Environment, Planning and Policy, City and Environment Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1136.

³³⁰ Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water, Environment, Planning and Policy, City and Environment Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1138.

³³¹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1138.

³³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1182–1183.

³³³ ACT Government, *ACT Climate Change Strategy 2026–2036 Overarching Framework*, p 12.

³³⁴ Ms Fiona Wright, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water, Environment, Planning and Policy, City and Environment Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1182.

³³⁵ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1183; ACT Government, *Sustainable Household Scheme*, www.climatechoices.act.gov.au/policy-programs/sustainable-household-scheme (accessed 18 August 2026); ACT Government, *Incentives for low and zero vehicle emissions*, www.accesscanberra.act.gov.au/driving-transport-and-parking/registration/incentives-for-low-and-zero-emissions-vehicles (accessed 18 August 2026);

Committee comment

- 22.9. The Committee considers that the *ACT Government's Climate Change Strategy 2026–2036* does not clearly outline delivery timeframes, key milestones or a comprehensive implementation plan. Regular reporting against the strategy's actions, targets and outcomes should be a priority. In addition, the Committee is of the view that future Budget Papers should include all funding allocated to the strategy, linked to specific actions, targets and accountability measures, to support greater transparency for stakeholders.
- 22.10. The Committee is also concerned that the policy settings in place to incentivise and support the transition to zero and low emissions vehicles are insufficient to meet the ACT Government's emission reduction targets set for 2030.

Recommendation 44

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase incentives to zero and low emissions vehicles so as to drive the level of behavioural change required to change the vehicle mix in the ACT community so as to achieve the ACT Government's emissions targets.

Food organics and garden organics

- 22.11. Delivery of a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) processing facility and city-wide FOGO collection service in the ACT are key actions within the 'Food and organics action plan' under the *ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2030*.³³⁶
- 22.12. The Committee sought an update on progress to deliver the facility, which the ACT Government had previously advised was 'anticipated to be operational in 2026', subject to approvals and procurement processes.³³⁷ The Minister for City and Government Services confirmed during the hearings that procurement activities were underway with city-wide FOGO collection now planned for delivery in 2030:

FOGO is being delivered through a two-stage procurement process. The advanced tender notice was issued in March 2025 and advised of an upcoming first stage. A request for expressions of interest was released to market on 30 June 2025. That concluded on 12 August 2025 and evaluations and shortlisting were then completed. That included advice that the second stage of procurement was expected to occur in quarter 1 of this year; however, the time is now expected to be in this quarter— that is, quarter 3. The other relevant part of this is that the EIS [Environmental Impact Statement] was lodged with the Territory Planning Authority in November 2025.³³⁸

³³⁶ ACT Government, *ACT Circular Economy Strategy and Action Plan 2023–2030*, p 12.

³³⁷ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City Services, *answer to QON 1625: Waste (FOGO recycling)*, 14 February 2024 (answered 22 April 2024) p 2.

³³⁸ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 306–307.

- 22.13. The Minister advised that reasons for the delay included ‘market timing and timing of the RFP [Request for Proposal] being released’, noting ‘there is also only so much capacity in the market when it comes to capital projects and capital projects of this size.’³³⁹
- 22.14. Members queried how the ACT Government planned to meet its 2045 zero emissions target following further delays to the FOGO facility, noting food waste in landfill generates climate emissions for 20 years.³⁴⁰ The Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water advised that the government would ‘continue to look at how we can manage that emissions stream while we implement FOGO and other options for it, including through the circular economy.’³⁴¹
- 22.15. The Minister provided further information about waste emissions modelling on notice, including advice on the expected impact of deferring the delivery of a FOGO facility to 2030:

In 2024-25, waste emissions were reported as 99.7 kt CO₂-e (representing 6% of total ACT emissions). Delays in the delivery of FOGO processing infrastructure may defer the opportunity to reduce waste emissions by approximately 8 - 19kt CO₂e per year.³⁴²

Recommendation 45

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government meet previously announced food organics and garden organics collection target timeframes and ensure this is funded in the Budget.

Volunteer landcare work and community stewardship

- 22.16. As noted in Chapter 2, community environmental groups found the ACT Government procurement process for their services confusing and burdensome, and the time and resources spent on completing the requirements was to the detriment of work on environmental issues.³⁴³
- 22.17. The ACT Government told the Committee that community organisations had expressed a preference for longer contracts which would allow for more strategic and longer-term planning, and that the community stewardship and environmental education program (CSEEP) run by catchment groups had been put to tender to ensure that a longer licence period of four years with options for extension could be offered.³⁴⁴

³³⁹ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Minister for City and Government Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 307.

³⁴⁰ Ms Jo Clay MLA, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 307.

³⁴¹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 308.

³⁴² Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, *answer to QTON 230*, 31 July 2026 (received 12 August 2026), p 2.

³⁴³ Dr Simon Copland, Executive Director, Conservation Council ACT Region, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 11.

³⁴⁴ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy, and Conserver of Flora and Fauna, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1145.

- 22.18. In response to concern that there was no CSEEP funding in catchment groups' 2026–27 budgets, the Minister told the Committee that the government was obliged to meet its obligations under the *Financial Management Act 1996*. The Minister advised that 'there was always going to be a balance' between meeting those obligations and the risk that providers may lose contracts they had previously held.³⁴⁵
- 22.19. The directorate acknowledged that the process and the loss of funding had caused distress, and had offered counselling support:

And I have received not only verbal representations but written representations about people in distress. The government has offered EAP to some of these organisations, to support them through a change, and so I think it is fair to say that there is absolute recognition that change is hard, particularly when there has been years of great work by volunteers and a lot of emotional investment.³⁴⁶

- 22.20. However, the directorate differentiated the catchment groups and their funding from the impact on volunteer groups, noting that catchment groups operated with paid employees and that the procurement process had focussed on allocation of funding for the programs coordinated by the catchment groups.³⁴⁷

- 22.21. When asked whether the risk of significant damage to relationships with environmental groups and the potential loss of volunteer contributions had been costed as part of the advice to run the procurement process, the directorate said that it was not aware of any process to cost, but that the risk would have been recognised:

I think, in terms of costing risks associated, I am not aware of any process to cost—noting that would be speculative, on something that has not happened. However, in terms of knowing that the directorate's process, and a tender process would likely cause a reaction, I think that is absolutely fair to say that was indeed recognised.³⁴⁸

- 22.22. SEE Change noted that it had raised the complexity of the procurement process and that it seemed to be 'overkill', but had been told that the process was necessary to ensure that the ACT Government was getting value for money. It found this insulting:

Absolutely, if the government are paying millions of dollars for a road, they would want to know that they are getting value for money, but we are getting \$135,000 a year. The suggestion that the government might not be getting value for money is offensive.³⁴⁹

³⁴⁵ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1147.

³⁴⁶ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy, and Conserver of Flora and Fauna, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1148.

³⁴⁷ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy, and Conserver of Flora and Fauna, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1148.

³⁴⁸ Mr Bren Burkevics, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy, and Conserver of Flora and Fauna, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, p 1150.

³⁴⁹ Ms Kathy Ehmann, Executive Director, SEE Change, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 July 2026, p 12.

Committee comment

- 22.23. The Committee recognises the great value of environmental volunteer work to the ACT, and contributions that volunteers make to the environment and community.
- 22.24. The Committee is concerned that the changes in funding and contract arrangements for environmental groups have impacted the work that the groups are able to carry out, by requiring them to devote resources instead to negotiating the procurement process, and have significantly harmed relationships with those groups.
- 22.25. Furthermore, the loss of funding for CSEEP to the catchment groups threatens their ongoing viability, as well as their staff and volunteer wellbeing, which will in turn impact the volunteer groups they coordinate. The Committee considers that this poses a risk to continued volunteer engagement and to the environmental stewardship of the Territory.

Recommendation 46

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the volunteer landcare work that has been done by the catchment groups and valued at \$21.5 million per year continues under new arrangements without any loss of environmental services or local volunteer engagement.

Recommendation 47

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider the impact and appropriateness of its procurement processes for small-amount contracts awarded to small not-for-profit community organisations that are heavily reliant on volunteers.

23. Children, Youth and Families

23.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Children, Youth and Families' appearance on Monday, 3 August 2026:

- Youth policy, objectives and the development of a youth strategy;
- Work of, and feedback from, the Youth Advisory Council and Youth Assembly;
- Institutional child abuse claims and expenditure;
- Progress under *Next Steps for Our Kids 2022–2030*;
- Transition care plans for children exiting out-of-home care;
- Recreational spaces for children and young people, including the location and focus of youth centres and the 2023 report by the Children and Young People Commissioner *"More Big Kid Swings": Children and young people's views on the right to play and recreation in the ACT*;
- Privacy processes and reports relating to child protection files;
- Development of the draft youth justice strategic plan and funding for the delivery of a pilot throughcare program;
- The potential to screen for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorders at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre; and
- Minimum age of criminal responsibility policy changes, including evaluation of the Therapeutic Support Panel.³⁵⁰

Key issues

Youth Strategy

23.2. The *ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015–2025* set out a 10-year vision for a 'whole-of-government and whole-of-community approach to promote the rights of children and young people' across six priority areas.³⁵¹ The Committee sought an update on the development of a new youth strategy following the expiration of the previous 10-year commitment.³⁵²

23.3. The Minister for Children, Youth and Families advised that work on a new youth strategy had not commenced and that it was not 'seen as an immediate priority to be either replicated, reproduced or new policy work to be done.'³⁵³ The Minister acknowledged that the 'lapse in potential coverage of a strategy may be a disappointment to some,'³⁵⁴ and

³⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1232–1259.

³⁵¹ ACT Government, *The ACT Children and Young People's Commitment 2015–2025*.

³⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1232–1247.

³⁵³ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1233.

³⁵⁴ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1234.

advised that consideration of a new youth strategy would occur in the context of a broader consideration of all government strategies and policies:

It is still, I think, a very important area of focus for the government. Expanding on the answers I have given already, this is an area of importance. There have been questions as to the allocation of policy resources and the development of the strategy. This is all taking place in the context of a bigger conversation about what the wider combination of strategies in a holistic sense look like. There is an important role for the government to outline its future vision when it comes to youth policy and the interests of young people. That work has not commenced. I do not have a clear view as to what that looks like with the wider understanding of all of the broader strategy reconsideration that is happening.³⁵⁵

- 23.4. The Minister noted that ‘many of the larger portfolios across government interact with young people in a multifaceted way’ and that the youth portfolio was ‘tightly defined’ within the administrative arrangements.³⁵⁶ The Minister advised he had not made representations to the Chief Minister for youth affairs to be established as an overarching portfolio:

It is a constant tension in this place for some of these portfolios that they have large areas of interest that align with some of the traditionally large portfolios of health. Education is a central one...

So I appreciate why there would be an interest in having youth, as a portfolio, have greater oversight, greater involvement in some of these other portfolios, that is just hard due to the structure of government. Where you can kind of ease some of those challenges, effective lines of communication, good work relationships in these places, connections across directorates at the official level. I am pretty confident that a lot of that is in place, but we always can do better, and so we will always endeavour to do that.³⁵⁷

Committee comment

- 23.5. The Committee notes that while youth matters span several areas of government, notably education and health, strategies exist for other community cohorts which also interact with multiple government portfolios.³⁵⁸ An overarching youth strategy would allow for clear identification of priority actions and corresponding investment, and support interrogation of both the budget impact on, and government commitment to, young people in the ACT.

³⁵⁵ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1233.

³⁵⁶ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1234.

³⁵⁷ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1234–1235.

³⁵⁸ For example, the portfolios of Women, Disability, and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

Finding 6

The Government's lack of a whole-of-government Youth strategy limited the Committee's ability to interrogate the impact of the Budget on young people.

Recommendation 48

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop and fund a whole-of-government, coordinated Youth Policy Strategy to more effectively address the breadth of issues concerning young Canberrans, noting the lack of any such framework at present.

Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder screening

- 23.6. Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) is a neurodevelopmental condition which can occur in people who were exposed to prenatal alcohol. In its 2025 report, the ACT Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) reported that FASD was a known factor in the lives of several TSP clients, and that children and young people with FASD could present with behaviours that increased their risk of interaction with the justice system.³⁵⁹
- 23.7. Given this correlation, the Committee enquired how screening for FASD was occurring in the justice system. In response to a question on notice, the Attorney-General advised that specific screening for FASD was not undertaken within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) or the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, however may be considered in the context of a person's presentation to Justice Health Services or Custodial Mental Health Services.³⁶⁰
- 23.8. In June this year, the Minister for Children, Youth and Families provided an update to the Assembly on the minimum age of criminal responsibility reforms and advised that the government was 'taking steps to improve diagnostic and disability support pathways, with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder now a clear system priority'.³⁶¹ When asked during the hearings whether screening would occur in Bimberi, officials noted the intensity of the FASD assessment process:

That is a very, very specific assessment, as you would be aware, for FASD. We are aware of a small number, less than half a dozen, assessments that have been requested through the Therapeutic Support Panel, which we have supported for children going forward. The intent would be that, as much as humanly possible, we would get to those assessments before children are actually engaged in the youth justice system, that we would not be waiting for them, you know, to be in a youth justice setting, and that is the value of the Therapeutic Support Panel where it can engage with children and young people prior to any kind of engagement in youth justice settings. So, I would not say that that would become a regular assessment because of the level of intensity, and the intent of that kind

³⁵⁹ ACT Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel: 2025 Report*, pp 26–27.

³⁶⁰ Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, *answer to QON 56*, 27 July 2026 (received 12 August 2026), p 2.

³⁶¹ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Proof Debates*, 10 June 2026, p 2094.

of assessment, but it certainly is something that we are making provision for in other ways.³⁶²

Committee comment

- 23.9. While the Committee supports the government's intent to identify and provide early support for people, screening within the justice system would ensure necessary supports can be put in place for those people where FASD might not have been identified early in life. Given the potential relationship between FASD and behaviours that may increase risk of interacting with the justice system, there is also benefit in better understanding the prevalence of FASD.

Recommendation 49

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in screening for Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) in the justice system, including ACT Courts, Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, and the Alexander Maconochie Centre, to understand the prevalence of FASD and to divert people into appropriate supports as early as possible.

³⁶² Ms Fiona Dolan, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning Policy and Service Design, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, p 1255.

24. Business, Arts and Creative Industries

24.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy and Minister for the Public Service on Monday, 3 August 2026:

- Community arts performance spaces including capital works investment and capacity sizes;
- Impacts of delays of the Kingston Arts Precinct on arts organisations;
- Licensing arrangements for arts organisations;
- Maintenance call-out fees for arts centres; and
- Town Centre community facilities and spaces including the future Woden Community Centre.³⁶³

24.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the joint appearance of the Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy and Minister for Business and Industry and the Cultural Facilities Corporation on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:

- Digital accounts for businesses;
- ACT Government Small Business Strategy;
- Artist eligibility for grant funding for exhibitions held at artsACT funded venues;
- Artist fee inclusion in grant applications;
- Indexation on increase in funding to arts organisations;
- Arts Organisation Investment Program bid process and communication of outcomes;
- Screen Canberra funding in Budget 2026–27;
- Local arts sector involvement in Lyric Theatre programming;
- MusicACT funding and website;
- Town centre community arts facilities and stakeholder engagement; and
- Multi-year licence of the Former Transport Depot outcome.³⁶⁴

³⁶³ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1295–1306.

³⁶⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1326–1347.

25. Multicultural Affairs

25.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Multicultural Affairs' appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:

- Responses to racism in schools and multicultural community engagement;
- The Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism;
- The National Multicultural Festival;
- ACT Government directorate annual reporting requirements un the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* and accountability processes;
- Anti-racism frameworks and indicators of a successful multicultural community; and
- Molonglo and other town centres facilities for multicultural communities.³⁶⁵

³⁶⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1348–1357.

26. Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

26.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations' appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:

- The Integrity Commission report on the Operation Kingfisher;
- Voluntary redundancies at the Canberra Institute of Technology;
- Insurance costs for the arts, community, and not-for-profit sectors;
- Rehabilitation under the workers' compensation self-insurance arrangements; and
- WorkSafe investigation into the Electric Vehicle TAFE Centre of Excellence.³⁶⁶

³⁶⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1358–1379.

27. Statutory officers, boards and agencies

ACT Auditor-General

Matters considered

27.1. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Auditor-General's appearance on Tuesday, 21 July 2026:

- Effectiveness of performance indicators in evaluating the quality of government services;
- Potential for a performance audit on *Financial Management Act 1996* section 16B instruments;
- Deferral of capital expenses;
- The performance audit on changes to the Territory Plan requirements for the Phillip Pool;
- Briefings for the ACT Integrity Commissioner and other agencies;
- Growth of the Office of the Auditor-General;
- Potential future audit topics;
- The performance audit on concession, rebate and social support schemes; and
- Quality of information provided to Treasury from directorates.³⁶⁷

ACT Government Solicitor

Matters considered

27.2. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Government Solicitor's appearance on Tuesday, 21 July 2026:

- Costs of external counsel engaged by ACT Government;
- Personal injury claims brought against the ACT Government; and
- Incompatibility of the Bail Act 1992 with the *Human Rights Act 2004* with regard to presumptions against bail.³⁶⁸

³⁶⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, pp 106–118.

³⁶⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 21 July 2026, pp 222–230.

ACT Human Rights Commission

Matters considered

27.3. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Human Rights Commission's appearance on Wednesday, 22 July 2026:

- Increase in the number of registered victims on victims of crime registers;
- Adequacy of funding to administer the victims of crime registers;
- Anti-vilification legislation implementation and review; and
- Preparedness for implementation of the new right to housing.³⁶⁹

Key issues

Education and awareness

27.4. The Committee heard evidence that increasing awareness of rights, protections and legal obligations remains an important challenge in the territory. ACT Human Rights Commission representatives advised that many people are unaware of existing protections until they need to access them and that greater public education is required to improve understanding of available complaint mechanisms and legal responsibilities.³⁷⁰

27.5. In discussing possible reforms to anti-vilification laws, the Human Rights Commissioner stated:

Part of my concern in dealing with some of the people that I have to deal with directly is that they have no idea about the impact of what they are doing, but they are also not aware of the history. There really is a need to put some of those educative processes in place, rather than just relying on a penalty as being a deterrent.³⁷¹

27.6. The Committee also heard that education and awareness initiatives should begin early and continue throughout the community. ACT Human Rights Commission representatives highlighted that previous consultation work with young people and noted the importance of ensuring that children and young people understand issues such as racism, vilification and social inclusion from a young age.³⁷²

27.7. The Human Rights Commissioner highlighted the need for greater education about human rights obligations across the ACT community and public sector and told the Committee:

My big thing, as a Human Rights Commissioner, is that I think there needs to be much more education for the community and for public authorities on human rights in general. What I see, when we are intervening in litigation, for example, is that public

³⁶⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 231–238.

³⁷⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 235–237.

³⁷¹ Dr Penelope Mathew, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 236.

³⁷² Ms Jodie Griffiths-Cook, Public Advocate for Children and Young People Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 236.

authorities have not turned their minds to their public authority obligations under the Human Rights Act, and we need to be doing a lot more on that.³⁷³

- 27.8. The Commissioner further advised that the Commission could significantly expand its education and awareness activities if additional resources were made available:

There are some units that should be offered to public servants, and I think they have not been offered for many years, because of lack of resourcing in the public service. We, as an entity, do a lot. You will notice that our statistics on public education have gone up. There are a range of reasons for that, but we could do a lot more if we funded what I call a human rights resource hub to deliver accessible information and education for everyone in the ACT to really embed a human rights culture.³⁷⁴

Committee comment

- 27.9. The Committee notes the consistent evidence from the Human Rights Commission that education and awareness are critical to the effective operation of human rights protections and anti-vilification laws. The Committee is concerned by evidence that many individuals are unaware of their rights and that public authorities do not always adequately consider their obligations under the *Human Rights Act 2004*.
- 27.10. The Committee considers that expanding community and public sector education would improve understanding of rights and responsibilities, support compliance with human rights obligations, and strengthen access to existing protections. The Committee therefore considers that the Human Rights Commission should be appropriately resourced to undertake this work.

Recommendation 50

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase its investment in the Human Rights Commission to expand its role in educating individuals, organisations and public authorities about their obligations and protections under the *Human Rights Act 2024* and other relevant legislation.

ACT Ombudsman

Matters considered

- 27.11. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Ombudsman's appearance on Wednesday, 22 July 2026:
- Service arrangements between ACT and Commonwealth governments;
 - Adequacy of funding to the ACT Ombudsman for ACT functions;

³⁷³ Dr Penelope Mathew, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 237.

³⁷⁴ Dr Penelope Mathew, President and Human Rights Commissioner, ACT Human Rights Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 237.

- The Ombudsman's investigation into an incident involving ACT Police officers' mistaken apprehension at gunpoint of an Aboriginal boy on a bus;
- The ACT Government's response to the Ombudsman's report, *Falling Through the Gaps* on how Housing ACT manages tenant requests for repairs to their home;
- The Ombudsman's report *Left in Limbo – when an agency doesn't make a decision* on handling of an application for a working with vulnerable people card;
- Preparedness and funding to establish an executive records function;
- Priorities for funding requests to meet future Ombudsman resourcing needs for ACT matters; and
- Most common source of complaints dealt with by the ACT Ombudsman.³⁷⁵

Key issues

Resourcing of functions under the National Preventive Mechanism, and the role of Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission

- 27.12. At the public hearing, when asked about adequacy of funding to perform their various functions, the ACT Ombudsman identified that there are two functions which are underfunded. The Ombudsman noted his role as part of the ACT National Preventive Mechanism, along with the Human Rights Commission and the Office of the Inspector of Custodial Services. While the Ombudsman acknowledged that his office receives funding for one staff member who fills a coordination role for the three member agencies, he stated that this function is otherwise unfunded.³⁷⁶
- 27.13. The Ombudsman also identified his role as the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission as one which is underfunded. Currently the Ombudsman receives funding of 1.7 FTE for this function, however the Ombudsman noted that it is frequently the case that this does not fully meet the required resources to deal with matters related to this function.³⁷⁷

Recommendation 51

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ACT Ombudsman and the Human Rights Commission are sufficiently resourced to fulfil their oversight functions under the National Preventive Mechanism, and that the Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission function is appropriately funded.

³⁷⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 239–253.

³⁷⁶ Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, pp 241–242.

³⁷⁷ Mr Iain Anderson, ACT Ombudsman, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 22 July 2026, p 242.

Inspector of Custodial Services

Matters considered

27.14. The Committee considered the following matters during the Inspector of Custodial Services' appearance on Thursday, 23 July 2026:

- Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC), including rehabilitation and the role of prisons with regard to the Health Prisons Review;
- The role of purposeful activity and a structured day in rehabilitation;
- The Inspector's report on a self-harm incident involving a use of force at AMC on 24 July 2025;
- Progress to implement outstanding recommendations of Inspector of Custodial Services reviews;
- Priorities for consideration in the government's review of AMC's longer term funding needs; and
- Use of lockdowns in the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.³⁷⁸

ACT Official Visitors

Matters considered

27.15. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Official Visitors' appearance on Thursday, 23 July 2026:

- Experiences of children and young people in residential care;
- Access for Official Visitors to the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre;
- Transition planning arrangements for children and young people exiting out-of-home-care;
- Tablets for detainees at AMC;
- Detainee complaints handling processes at AMC;
- An incident at the Behavioural Assessment Unit of The Canberra Hospital in April 2026;
- Official Visitors' recruitment processes;
- Changes to the National Disability Insurance Scheme and Commonwealth Government funding arrangements;
- Use and safety of detergent powder at AMC; and

³⁷⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 355–368.

- Establishment of a Disability Death Review Scheme.³⁷⁹

Key issues

Access to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

- 27.16. Between 1 March 2025 and 28 February 2026, there were 70 lockdowns at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi), 68 of these attributable to staffing levels.³⁸⁰ Between May 2025 and April 2026, a further 68 incident lockdowns occurred in response to an emergency code/procedure.³⁸¹ The Committee heard that the frequent use of lockdowns at the centre affected both the young people detained at the centre as well as statutory oversight bodies visiting the centre.³⁸²
- 27.17. The Deputy Custodial Inspector advised that they had been in ongoing conversation with Bimberi on the issue of lockdowns, noting that centre policy was not always reflected in practice:
- They have said that certainly their policy is not to lock down the whole centre, but what we saw in practice was that that is what was happening. It happened while we were on site three times in one day. The latest government response to the Healthy Centre Review suggests that some changes have been made to the procedure around how those codes are responded to. So I suppose we will wait to see for our next Healthy Centre Review what that has led to in terms of whether the whole centre is locked down or not.³⁸³
- 27.18. The Committee heard that lockdowns, including extended lunchtime lock-ins, had the potential to increase tensions within the centre and had prevented detainees from accessing education and medical appointments.³⁸⁴
- 27.19. The ACT Official Visitors advised they continued to experience difficulties gaining access to Bimberi, a concern they had previously raised with the Minister for Children, Youth and Families.³⁸⁵ Officials confirmed they had not had any follow-up since the issue was raised.³⁸⁶
- 27.20. The Official Visitor for Children and Young People recounted a recent experience seeking access to the centre:

³⁷⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 369–377.

³⁸⁰ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer to QON 946: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Capacity and staffing)*, 26 February 2026 (revised response received 13 August 2026), pp 3–4.

³⁸¹ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer to QON 1093: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Lockdowns)*, 14 April 2027 (received 30 July 2026), p 1.

³⁸² Ms Rebecca Minty, Inspector of Custodial Services, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 367; Ms Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Children and Young People and Homelessness, ACT Official Visitors, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 370.

³⁸³ Mr Sean Costello, Deputy ACT Custodial Inspector, ACT Custodial Inspector, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 367.

³⁸⁴ Ms Rebecca Minty, ACT Custodial Inspector, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 367–368.

³⁸⁵ Ms Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Children and Young People and Homelessness, ACT Official Visitors, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 370.

³⁸⁶ Ms Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Children and Young People and Homelessness and Ms Vickie Quinn, Aboriginal and Torre Strait Islander Official Visitor for Children and Young People, ACT Official Visitors, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 370.

During the last visit that I did to Bimberi, I waited for 30 minutes in the waiting room. There were not enough staff on. When I was eventually taken through, I was told I was 30 minutes late, after having sat in the waiting room for 30 minutes. I was told that it was not convenient, because staff needed to go for lunch. In the end I just said to them, “Look, let’s scrap today’s visit, and I will rearrange.”³⁸⁷

Committee comment

- 27.21. The Committee is concerned that the frequent use of lockdowns and staffing levels at Bimberi are negatively impacting young people and preventing statutory bodies from effectively exercising their legislated oversight functions.
- 27.22. While unescorted access for Official Visitors may provide greater opportunities for visitation, this is an ongoing issue which has been recommended by the Standing Committee on Social Policy. As the government response to this recommendation is pending, the Committee has refrained from recommending such action in this report. However, the Committee considers additional investment is required to increase staffing and reduce lockdowns at the centre.

Recommendation 52

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest sufficiently in staffing at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre to avoid excessive lockdowns and ensure Official Visitors can exercise their oversight functions appropriately.

Canberra Institute of Technology

Matters considered

- 27.23. The Committee considered the following matters during the Canberra Institute of Technology’s appearance on Thursday, 23 July 2026:
- Absence of the Chief Executive Officer (CEO);
 - Expenditure on professional development and staff travel;
 - Changes in enrolment numbers;
 - Woden campus opening, facilities, student numbers, parking and education restaurant;
 - Courses offered at the Tuggeranong campus;
 - Capacity at the Gungahlin campus;
 - Facility plans for the Bruce campus and partnership with University of Canberra;

³⁸⁷ Ms Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Children and Young People and Homelessness, ACT Official Visitors, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 371.

- Governance reform;
- Courses being prioritised and discontinued;
- Enrolment fees as a proportion of own-source revenue;
- Electric vehicle maintenance training;
- Availability of childcare at the Bruce campus;
- Cyber Security Centre of Excellence industry partnerships; and
- Senior fitness classes.³⁸⁸

Key issues

CIT campus sites

- 27.24. The discussion with Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) officials on vocational training included course availability across the ACT, including at Tuggeranong and Gungahlin sites.³⁸⁹
- 27.25. As the ACT's public provider of vocational education and training, CIT has a physical footprint across the ACT with five campuses: Woden, Bruce, Fyshwick, Tuggeranong and Gungahlin.³⁹⁰ Officials from CIT confirmed their commitment to five campus sites across Canberra, with Tuggeranong being important to the longer-term strategic plan for the institution.³⁹¹
- 27.26. Certainty of the future of the lease of the CIT campus at Tuggeranong had been discussed in the Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation's *inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25*, with the lease due to expire in April 2026.³⁹² At this inquiry, the Committee heard that CIT recently completed negotiations for an extension of the building lease at the Tuggeranong site, until the end of 2028.³⁹³
- 27.27. Officials explained that they are currently looking at how the Tuggeranong campus is a 'point of difference' from other CIT sites, including looking more broadly at 'education journeys' from local school providers, such as Lake Tuggeranong College.³⁹⁴
- 27.28. For Gungahlin, the Committee heard that CIT has a 'fairly small footprint' and that officials were looking to 'allow for the maximisation [use] of that space'.³⁹⁵

³⁸⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 432–463

³⁸⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, pp 440–442.

³⁹⁰ Canberra Institute of Technology, CIT Locations, <https://cit.edu.au/about/locations> (accessed 17 August 2026).

³⁹¹ Mr Scott Nichols, Student Experience Lead and Academic Registrar, CIT, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 442.

³⁹² Standing Committee on Economics, Industry and Recreation, *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25*, *Committee Hansard*, 19 November 2025, p 89.

³⁹³ Mr Tom Rogers, Board Chair, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 441.

³⁹⁴ Mr Scott Nichols, Student Experience Lead and Academic Registrar, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 442.

³⁹⁵ Mr Scott Nichols, Student Experience Lead and Academic Registrar, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 23 July 2026, p 443.

Committee comment

- 27.29. The Committee notes that in both ACT Government District Plans for Tuggeranong and Gungahlin, that establishment of ‘new innovation precinct [...] will enhance the economic contribution of geographical areas’.³⁹⁶ These plans aim for ‘High value industry, research, health and education institutions and elite institutions’ that ‘are clustered together by enhancing physical and networking connections through targeted planning, asset development and management, and coordination initiatives’.³⁹⁷ Support for CIT to remain in these locations with specialised fields of vocation education would enable support for the delivery of these initiatives.
- 27.30. The Committee notes that Tuggeranong and Gungahlin could be considered if further Centres of Excellence are being evaluated, and/or an expansion of courses on what is currently being offered at both sites.

Recommendation 53

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology identify specialist fields of vocational education to be delivered at the Tuggeranong campus, and fund the implementation of these programs in the next budget cycle.

Recommendation 54

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology identify specialist fields of vocational education to be delivered at the Gungahlin campus, and fund the implementation of these programs in the next budget cycle.

CIT expenditure

- 27.31. Discussion with CIT officials also included reference to financial management, with a focus on staff redundancies and expenditure relating to executives.
- 27.32. The Chair of the Audit Risk Committee and Board Member of CIT confirmed during her attendance at the inquiry that CIT was undertaking a review of its structure and offering voluntary redundancies:

We are going through a very large project of reprofiling the organisation, re-establishing what is the best organisational structure that will work for CIT, so at the moment there are no decisions about, [...] what categories of staff we will be offering voluntary redundancies to. It will simply be a callout to see which staff are interested in a voluntary redundancy, and that will help provide information for the planning of the reorganisation of CIT.³⁹⁸

³⁹⁶ ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023, Volume Two District Strategies, Part 7 Tuggeranong](#), p 23; ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023, Volume Two District Strategies, Part 3 Gungahlin](#), p 23.

³⁹⁷ ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023, Volume Two District Strategies, Part 7 Tuggeranong](#), p 23; ACT Government, [District Strategies 2023, Volume Two District Strategies, Part 3 Gungahlin](#), p 23.

³⁹⁸ Ms Ros Jackson, Board Member, Canberra Institute of Technology, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, p 1364.

- 27.33. The Committee was also provided examples of high executive expenditure costs. The Committee notes that in 2025–26, CIT incurred \$358,000 in travel related expenses.³⁹⁹ This is in addition to the Chair of the CIT Board, being quoted in a media article by ABC News, that \$445,000 was paid to Dr Margot McNeill, now former CEO of CIT, upon her resignation.⁴⁰⁰ The CIT Board Chair further clarified to the Committee that the exact payment to Dr McNeill was \$445,250 with an amount of \$36,690.27 (taxable gross) in leave entitlements included.⁴⁰¹
- 27.34. The Committee notes that CIT received a Treasurer’s Advance of \$8.08 million in 2026, which ‘address[ed] cost pressures arising from a decline in commercial and international student revenue, increased employee expenditure and lower than expected commercial revenue’.⁴⁰²
- 27.35. The Committee notes that staffing levels for teaching staff at CIT have fallen since 2014.⁴⁰³

Committee comment

- 27.36. The Committee is concerned about significant expenditure amounts undertaken by CIT, whilst program delivery, such as 11-12 ATAR language courses (which were offered by the commercial training arm CIT Solutions), are no longer being offered.
- 27.37. Notably, the Committee is concerned about the unusual circumstances of the payout to the former CEO upon their resignation, the amount of which was more than one year’s salary.

Recommendation 55

The Committee recommends that the Canberra Institute of Technology reduce executive expenditure and prioritise funding for program delivery and teaching staff.

Recommendation 56

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify its involvement in, and provide a justification for, the payout to the former Canberra Institute of Technology Chief Executive Officer on their resignation.

³⁹⁹ Mr Tom Rogers, Canberra Institute of Technology Board Chair, *answer to QTON 105*, 23 July 2026 (received 3 August 2026), p 2.

⁴⁰⁰ Niki Burnside, ‘[Canberra Institute of Technology CEO Margot McNeill awarded about \\$445,000 upon resignation, board chair says](#)’, ABC News, 12 August 2026.

⁴⁰¹ Mr Tom Rogers, Canberra Institute of Technology Board Chair, *Correspondence received 20 August 2026* p 1.

⁴⁰² Mr Tom Rogers, Canberra Institute of Technology Board Chair, *answer to QTON 106*, 23 July 2026 (received 3 August 2026), p 1.

⁴⁰³ Canberra Institute of Technology, *Annual Report 2024*, p 89; Canberra Institute of Technology, *Annual Report 2014*, pp 59–60.

Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority

Matters considered

27.38. The Committee considered the following matters during the Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority's appearance on Friday, 24 July 2026:

- Changes to the amount of collected levies;
- Decline in training uptakes;
- Review of the training levy rate;
- Funding application process for organisations;
- Funding rebate amounts; and
- Application assessments.⁴⁰⁴

Public Trustee and Guardian

Matters considered

27.39. The Committee considered the following matters during the Public Trustee and Guardian's (PTG) appearance on Friday, 24 July 2026:

- Delays in administration of deceased estates;
- Levels of statutory versus commercial services;
- Monitoring of client financial expenditure;
- Client feedback options;
- Use of wills amongst Canberrans;
- The Auditor-General's modified assurance report; and
- Changes to caseload over the past five years.⁴⁰⁵

Key issues

Funding levels

27.40. The Committee heard evidence that the PTG continues to experience challenges in managing its estate administration functions. While the PTG has reduced the number of active estates from 180 in July 2023 to 91 active estates, the average time taken to administer estates remains approximately three and a half years.⁴⁰⁶

⁴⁰⁴ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, pp 464–472.

⁴⁰⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, pp 474–481.

⁴⁰⁶ Mrs Danae Lacey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Public Trustee and Guardian, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 473.

27.41. In response to questions about resources available to address these delays:

Our appropriation across the agency has not been increased since 2020, whereas salaries have been increasing, as well as other costs to our agency. Over the last three years, we have reduced expenses everywhere we possibly can. We have tried to consolidate some of our services and we have really cut to the bone now. There are no further offsets that we can find. That is why we are looking to right size our estate services moving forward, to ensure that the PTG is focused on our statutory obligations, and, where there is a commercial service like our estate services, what level of service the government wants us to provide in that space.⁴⁰⁷

27.42. The Committee further heard that estate administration was becoming increasingly complex, including difficulties locating beneficiaries and cases where no valid will had been identified.⁴⁰⁸

Committee comment

27.43. The Committee notes evidence that the PTG continues to face increasing service pressures, including complex estate matters, while operating under funding levels that have remained unchanged since 2020. The Committee considers that the ACT Government should ensure the office is sustainably resourced to meet its statutory obligations and respond to increasing demand and complexity.

Recommendation 57

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the funding and staffing requirements of the Public Trustee and Guardian and provide sustainable funding sufficient for the office to meet its statutory obligations and manage increasing caseload complexity and service demand.

Gambling and Racing Commission

Matters considered

27.44. The Committee considered the following matters during the Gambling and Racing Commission's appearance on Monday, 27 July 2026:

- Engagement with the NSW gambling regulator;
- The Hellenic Club disciplinary matter;
- Gambling harm incidents;
- Enforcement powers of the Gambling and Racing Commission;

⁴⁰⁷ Mrs Danae Lacey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Public Trustee and Guardian, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, pp 473–474.

⁴⁰⁸ Mrs Danae Lacey, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Public Trustee and Guardian, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2026, p 473.

- The community contributions scheme;
- Staffing of the Gambling and Racing Commission; and
- The Memorandum of Understanding with Access Canberra.⁴⁰⁹

Evoenergy and ICON Water

Matters considered

27.45. The Committee considered the following matters during joint appearance of Evoenergy and ICON Water on Monday 27 July 2026:

- July 2026 power outages;
- Retail electricity plan offers;
- Forecasted future electricity demand;
- Electricity network augmentation;
- Installation of electric vehicle (EV) chargers;
- Uptake of household batteries;
- Maintenance of the water network; and
- ICON Water borrowings.⁴¹⁰

Key issues

Determining ‘best offer’ on power bills

27.46. ActewAGL is one of several electricity retailers in the ACT. It is jointly owned by the Territory through a 50/50 partnership between Icon Water (formerly named the ACTEW Corporation) and AGL Energy Pty Ltd.⁴¹¹ During the hearings on 27 July, the Acting CEO for ActewAGL Retail answered questions about the ‘best offer’ information on their energy bills. Following rules set out by the Australian Energy Regulator, energy retailers must identify if a small customer could be on a ‘better offer’ and provide that information to the customer on their bill. The ‘better offer’ is defined as follows:

The deemed better offer must be either:

(a) the plan that the retailer offers which:

(i) is the lowest cost generally available plan applicable to the customer having regard to the customer’s annual usage history; and

(ii) does not have as a precondition or condition that the customer have or maintain an affiliation or membership with an entity that is unrelated to the

⁴⁰⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 594–603.

⁴¹⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 604–621.

⁴¹¹ ActewAGL, *ActewAGL Joint Venture*, <https://www.actewagljv.com.au/joint-venture> (accessed 25 August 2026).

retailer; or (b) a plan that has a lower cost than the lowest cost generally available plan applicable to the customer.⁴¹²

If the better offer plan is calculated to be \$22 (inclusive of GST) cheaper or more than the customer's current plan, this information must be clearly noted on the first page of the bill, along with information about how to switch plans.⁴¹³

- 27.47. However, the Acting CEO indicated that it was possible for a customer to be offered a cheaper plan than the deemed 'best offer' in certain circumstances, such as the customer contacting their service centre to ask for a better offer.⁴¹⁴

Recommendation 58

The Committee recommends that ActewAGL provide accurate information on customer's bills regarding possible discounts and cheaper energy plans that may be available to customers based on their individual circumstances to ensure every customer is always on the best plan available for them.

Long Service Leave Authority

Matters considered

- 27.48. The Committee considered the following matters during the Long Service Leave Authority's appearance on Monday, 27 July 2026:
- Contract cleaners registered under the Services Industry Scheme;
 - Expansion of the portable long service leave;
 - Calculation of the long service leave levy rate; and
 - Educating new businesses registered to the scheme.⁴¹⁵

ACT Integrity Commissioner

Matters considered

- 27.49. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Integrity Commissioner's appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:
- The Integrity Commission's Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher;
 - The Integrity Commission's role in determining public interest disclosures under the *Public Interest Disclosure Act 2012*;

⁴¹² Australian Energy Regulator, *Better Bill Guidelines, Version 2*, 30 January 2023, p 19.

⁴¹³ Australian Energy Regulator, *Better Bill Guidelines, Version 2*, 30 January 2023, pp 19–21.

⁴¹⁴ Ms Megan Willcox, Acting Chief Executive Officer, Evoenergy, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July, p 607.

⁴¹⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 708–716.

- Staff resourcing of the Integrity Commission;
- The Integrity Commission’s own-motion investigation into Phillip Pool site allegations;
- Integrity Commission jurisdiction to consider matters related to ACT Policing;
- The Integrity Commission’s inquiry into lobbying arrangements in the ACT; and
- Outreach programs of the Integrity Commission.⁴¹⁶

Operation Kingfisher

- 27.50. Operation Kingfisher commenced in March 2021 and examined the capital works procurement for the Campbell Primary School Modernisation Project in 2019–20. The procurement sought to replace and refurbish school facilities for approximately \$18.2 million, and was awarded to a tenderer against the recommendations of two separate tender evaluation processes.⁴¹⁷
- 27.51. The report on Operation Kingfisher was released on 23 July 2026. The report found that Ms Katy Haire, while Director-General of the Education Directorate, and Mr Joshua Ceramidas, while Chief of Staff to the Minister for Education, had engaged in serious corrupt conduct.⁴¹⁸
- 27.52. Specifically, the report stated that by dishonestly providing ‘a back door by which the strategic interests of the CFMEU [Construction, Forestry and Maritime Employees Union] were given priority over’ both ACT Government policy and the commercial interests of a tenderer in the procurement process, their conduct was ‘likely to threaten public confidence in the integrity of Government or public administration’.⁴¹⁹
- 27.53. The report also raised ‘probity issues that arise’ in relation to Mr Dave Ferguson, while Chief of Staff to the Minister for Government Services and Procurement, stemming from his interactions with Mr Ceramidas about the procurement process. While declining to make any specific findings against Mr Ferguson, the Integrity Commission referred him to the relevant minister.
- 27.54. The Committee considered matters relating to Operation Kingfisher in multiple public hearings with the following ministers and statutory officers:
- The Chief Minister on 27 July 2026;
 - ACT Integrity Commission on 28 July 2026;
 - The Minister for Finance on 28 July 2026;
 - The Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the Minister for the Public Service and Minister for Education on 30 July 2026;
 - The Minister for Sport and Recreation on 31 July 2026; and

⁴¹⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 717–733.

⁴¹⁷ ACT Integrity Commission, *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, 23 July 2026, p 1.

⁴¹⁸ ACT Integrity Commission, *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, 23 July 2026, p 325.

⁴¹⁹ ACT Integrity Commission, *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, 23 July 2026, pp 324–325.

- The Chief Minister and Minister for Major Project on 4 August 2026.

Key issues

UnionsACT Memorandum of Understanding

- 27.55. The Operation Kingfisher Report noted that a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between UnionsACT and the ACT Government was established in 2015 which provided for union involvement in ACT Government procurement. Specifically, this involved providing UnionsACT a list of tenderers and UnionsACT advising on the industrial relations and work health and safety record of tenderers.⁴²⁰
- 27.56. According to the report, this was replaced by the requirement for tenderers to hold a compliance certificate under the Secure Local Jobs Code (SLJC) following passage of the *Government Procurement Act* changes which commenced in 2019.⁴²¹
- 27.57. The Integrity Commissioner stated that whereas the MOU had given unions ‘quite a direct way of influencing the outcomes of procurement’, in that it allowed ‘them to directly complain’, the SLJC prevented ‘that kind of direct influence’.⁴²² The Commissioner characterised the SLJC as a ‘significant improvement’ on the MOU process.⁴²³
- 27.58. According to the Minister for Finance, despite the apparent replacement discussed in the Kingfisher Report, the MOU ‘remains in force’. The Minister told the Committee that given she had previously understood the MOU had ceased, she had been ‘surprised to hear that information was still being provided to UnionsACT’.⁴²⁴
- 27.59. The Minister noted that the MOU ‘provides a consultation mechanism for worker welfare and employment matters’, and does ‘not confer any procurement decision-making authority on unions’.⁴²⁵
- 27.60. Officials elaborated on consultations with UnionsACT, noting that ‘while the MOU is still in place, the operative arrangements in relation to the consultation are done under the Secure Local Jobs determination’.⁴²⁶ In cases where the consultation mechanism results in either unions or a regulator raising concerns about a potential supplier, ‘those are then provided to the supplier to provide the opportunity to provide feedback or commentary as to those claims’.⁴²⁷

⁴²⁰ ACT Integrity Commission, *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, 23 July 2026, p 331.

⁴²¹ ACT Integrity Commission, *Investigation Report – Operation Kingfisher*, 23 July 2026, p 331.

⁴²² The Hon Michael Adams KC, Integrity Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 719.

⁴²³ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Integrity Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 721.

⁴²⁴ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 803.

⁴²⁵ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 803.

⁴²⁶ Ms Michelle Dowdell, Acting Under Treasurer, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 817.

⁴²⁷ Ms Michelle Dowdell, Acting Under Treasurer, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 816.

Committee comment

- 27.61. The Committee notes that the existence or otherwise of the MOU appears to be uncertain. Given that until recently, the Minister for Finance was unaware of its remaining in force, this matter requires urgent, immediate clarification.
- 27.62. Further, the exact role it has played in the SLJC consultation process must be made public. If it has been relevant to any procurements undertaken since the commencement of the SLJC in 2019, an essential part of restoring public confidence in capital works procurement will be ensuring that this role is debated publicly and that effective scrutiny of any procurements undertaken.

Finding 7

There is uncertainty regarding the continued existence, operation and impact of the Memorandum of Understanding after the introduction of the Secure Local jobs Code.

Recommendation 59

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government, in its response to this report, clarify the existence and role of the Memorandum of Understanding the UnionsACT and any plans for the future.

Procurement

- 27.63. The Chief Minister noted that the Operation Kingfisher Report raised issues that ‘need a systemic response’, and that procurement reforms have been pursued following the Auditor-General report on the Campbell High School procurement process.⁴²⁸
- 27.64. The Minister for Finance detailed the reforms undertaken in response to Auditor-General Report No. 12 of 2021:

In response to the audit findings, Procurement ACT reviewed and updated procurement guidance, templates, governance arrangements, probity controls, training requirements and risk management processes. These reforms were progressively implemented through updated procurement documentation and practice following the audit. Reforms were further strengthened through amendments to the *Government Procurement Act 2001*, which commenced on 1 July 2024, and the *Government Procurement Rules 2024* (DI2024-275), which commenced on 4 September 2024, which formally embedded these requirements within the Territory's procurement framework.⁴²⁹

- 27.65. The Minister for Finance advised that all of the recommendations made by the Auditor-General had been implemented. More generally, according to the Chief Minister:

⁴²⁸ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 663.

⁴²⁹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Finance, *answer to QTON 196*, 28 July 2026 (received 13 August 2026, p 1).

There are now three rounds of procurement reform, and the establishment of Infrastructure Canberra as a centralised agency to handle major construction procurements. The previous model, going back six or seven years, was a quite devolved model by directorates.⁴³⁰

- 27.66. In regard to the specific issues highlighted by the Operation Kingfisher report, the Chief Minister told the Committee that:

...it must now be abundantly clear to ministers, ministerial offices, the public service, external lobbyists, organisations and stakeholders where procurement decision-making lies and where it does not. Where there is lobbying and inappropriate influence or attempts to influence procurement decisions through ministerial offices or ministerial staff, there are now systemic changes in place that should make it very clear that that is not a pathway that will influence a procurement decision.⁴³¹

- 27.67. In light of the findings of Operation Kingfisher, the Committee examined public confidence in value for money and good outcomes being achieved through the infrastructure program.⁴³²
- 27.68. In response, the Chief Minister noted that the perceived cost disparity between capital works procurements in the ACT and other jurisdictions related to a range of factors. These included inflation, labour costs, differences in site conditions, and the nature of the works being procured.⁴³³
- 27.69. Nonetheless, the Integrity Commissioner considered that the findings in the Kingfisher report raised concerns that inappropriate influence could have been exerted in other procurements. The Commissioner stated that if the CFMEU 'did it in one case and they thought that it was legitimate, why would you not suppose they attempted the same in other cases?'⁴³⁴

Committee comment

- 27.70. In light of the serious corrupt conduct highlighted by Operation Kingfisher, and the need for the systemic reform undertaken following the Auditor-General's Report No. 12 of 2021, the Committee shares the Integrity Commissioner's concern that other procurements may have been similarly influenced. Noting the previous Estimates Committee's finding about the transparency of the infrastructure program in the ACT, and the need for more transparent reporting,⁴³⁵ public confidence in capital works procurement is best served by greater transparency.

⁴³⁰ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 666.

⁴³¹ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 666.

⁴³² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, p 679.

⁴³³ Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 27 July 2026, pp 679–680.

⁴³⁴ The Hon Michael Adams KC, Integrity Commissioner, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 723.

⁴³⁵ Select Committee on Estimates 2025-2026, *Report of the Inquiry into the Appropriation Bill 2025–26 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025-2026*, Finding 6 and Recommendation 26.

- 27.71. This in turn requires a response to Operation Kingfisher that goes beyond changes to procurement processes. Not only should the ACT Government demonstrate that capital works procurements have been free of inappropriate influence, and report where they have not, it should also provide clear reasons and economic and business cases shedding light on how major infrastructure decisions have been reached. This is especially necessary in the light of the current fiscal situation and findings from Operation Kingfisher.

Recommendation 60

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure its response to Operation Kingfisher includes:

- an independent review of previous procurement to demonstrate that projects are selected for funding based on the public interest and that no other examples of inappropriate influence meant the Territory did not gain value for money; and
- what steps are being taken to strengthen accountability in order to regain the trust of Canberrans.

Legal Aid Commission

Matters considered

- 27.72. The Committee considered the following matters during the Legal Aid Commission's appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:
- Adequacy of ACT and Commonwealth funding for the Legal Aid Commission to deliver legal services to the ACT community;
 - Unmet need in current services to the ACT community; and
 - An actuarial review of the Legal Aid Commission's funding.⁴³⁶

Key issues

Adequacy of funding

- 27.73. The Committee questioned the CEO of the Legal Aid Commission about funding arrangements for the Commission and its capacity to deliver to the service needs of the ACT community. The CEO outlined the funding arrangements for the Legal Aid Commission, noting that funding is comprised of investment by the ACT (61 percent) and the Commonwealth (32 percent), with the Law Society providing most of the remaining (seven percent).⁴³⁷

⁴³⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 734–741.

⁴³⁷ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *answer to QTON 104*, 28 July 2026, (received 30 July 2026), p 1.

- 27.74. When questioned on the adequacy of funding for the Legal Aid Commission, the CEO described a funding cliff in the out-years of the budget from 2027–28, where funding falls approximately \$4 million short of what is needed to continue current services. The CEO stated that this would equate to approximately 15 staff members and approximately 1,000 grants of assistance.⁴³⁸
- 27.75. The CEO also outlined issues with the National Access to Justice Partnership not recognising the increase in demand for family law services, indicating that the impact of this has been a 30 percent reduction in services in family law over the last three years.⁴³⁹
- 27.76. The Committee asked the CEO to explain the impact of these funding shortfalls on the Commission’s ability to meet their service delivery targets. He stated that the Commission currently aspires to provide services to clients who have an income equivalent to 120 percent of the poverty line (approximately \$570 per week) and admitted that meeting this is not always possible.⁴⁴⁰
- 27.77. The CEO further noted his concern that people above this threshold may be in the lowest two income quantiles and are not currently being catered for, as he described it the ‘missing middle’. He acknowledged that with the cost of legal proceedings also increasing he has argued for the benchmark to be increased to 150 or 180 percent of the poverty line to better capture this cohort.⁴⁴¹
- 27.78. The Committee also questioned on the impacts of new and existing policy and legislation on the Commission. The CEO stated there have been significant increases in costs of approximately eight percent compared to a decade ago with regard to such things as meeting obligations under the *Fair Work Act 2009* (Cth), costs associated with Auditor-General scrutiny, and workers’ compensation costs.⁴⁴²
- 27.79. The Budget Papers outline the government’s intention to ‘undertake a financial sustainability review of operations to ensure long-term viability’ of Legal Aid.⁴⁴³ The CEO noted that \$150,000 is set aside for this actuarial review which he noted would take into account current divers such as cost of living, salary parity, demand data, and scale of fees, to indicate the required level of ACT and Commonwealth investment.⁴⁴⁴

Committee comment

- 27.80. The Committee anticipates that the ACT Government will make public the findings of the actuarial review in relation to Legal Aid and adequately reflect these findings in the next budget process, particularly as it concerns addressing pre-existing deficiencies surrounding growth in demand for services, funding shortfalls, salary parity, fee scaling, inflation, and enhancing access for the ‘missing middle’. It must also account for projected trends.

⁴³⁸ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 734.

⁴³⁹ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 734, 739.

⁴⁴⁰ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 736.

⁴⁴¹ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 736–737.

⁴⁴² Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 735–736.

⁴⁴³ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2026-27: Budget Statements D*, June 2026, p 64.

⁴⁴⁴ Dr John Boersig, Chief Executive Officer, Legal Aid Commission, *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, p 738.

Recommendation 61

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set a funding level for LegalAid that recognises inflated ancillary, operational and other costs, and allows it to achieve its own benchmark for ensuring legal assistance can be provided to everyone on an income at or below 120 percent of the poverty line, at a minimum.

Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

Matters considered

27.81. The Committee considered the following matters during the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment's appearance on Tuesday, 28 July 2026:

- Staffing levels and workload;
- Report pending publication;
- Volunteer contribution to nature conservation and sustainability in the ACT;
- Reporting on Scope 3 emissions;
- Climate Change Strategy;
- Emissions and mode-shifting in transport; and
- Densification and tree canopy loss.⁴⁴⁵

Work Health and Safety Commissioner

Matters considered

27.82. The Committee considered the following matters during the Work Health and Safety Commissioner's appearance on Wednesday, 29 July 2026:

- Accountability indicators for major investigations, including competition times and triggers;
- Accountability indicators for prohibition notices and notifiable incidents;
- Complaints about works underway at 220 Northbourne Avenue;
- Psychosocial hazards in the ACT Public Service;
- Boland review of Work Health and Safety prosecutions; and
- Complaints received about the CIT EV TAFE Centre of Excellence.⁴⁴⁶

⁴⁴⁵ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 28 July 2026, pp 834–839.

⁴⁴⁶ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 29 July 2026, pp 945–955.

Office of the Legislative Assembly

Matters considered

27.83. The Committee considered the following matters during the Office of the Legislative Assembly's appearance on Thursday, 30 July 2026:

- Refurbishment and modernisation of the Legislative Assembly building;
- Broadcast quality in the Legislative Assembly Chamber;
- New clocks throughout the Legislative Assembly building; and
- Machine readability of documents on the Legislative Assembly website.⁴⁴⁷

Suburban Land Agency

Matters considered

27.84. The Committee considered the following matters during the Suburban Land Agency's (SLA) appearance on Thursday, 30 July 2026:

- Housing supply and land release program;
- Easement identification discrepancies between SLA plans and Crown leases;
- Development status of the Kingston Arts Precinct and the respective roles of the SLA and other agencies;
- Causeway precinct North subdivision design including public housing relocation arrangements, and proposed artist housing;
- Urban renewal plans for the Tuggeranong town centre;
- Margaret Timpson Park community housing (Block 45, Section 54);
- The SLA land pricing methodology and price variations compared with equivalent blocks in NSW;
- Average profit margins on residential blocks;
- Status of the Whitlam shops; and
- Affordable Home Purchase Scheme, including builder accreditation and responses to delivery deed defaults.⁴⁴⁸

⁴⁴⁷ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 956–965.

⁴⁴⁸ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 30 July 2026, pp 1026–1047.

Electoral Commissioner

Matters considered

27.85. The Committee considered the following matters during the Electoral Commissioner's appearance on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- Management of the impacts of artificial intelligence on the ACT electoral process;
- Gift disclosures;
- Modernisation of information and computer technology infrastructure; and
- Funding levels.⁴⁴⁹

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

Matters considered

27.86. The Committee considered the following matters during the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner's appearance on Friday, 31 July 2026:

- Recruitment for the permanent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner;
- Staffing, funding and accommodation for the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner;
- The Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including access arrangements, visit schedules, the impact of centre lockdowns on children and young people, and further supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people at Bimberi;
- The Jumbunna Report;
- Strategic planning and coordination across oversight bodies and government; and
- Representation of, and support for, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home care.⁴⁵⁰

⁴⁴⁹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1189–1196.

⁴⁵⁰ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 31 July 2026, pp 1197–1203.

City Renewal Authority

Matters considered

27.87. The Committee considered the following matters during the City Renewal Authority's (CRA) appearance on Monday, 3 August 2026:

- Antisocial Behaviour Audit, security expenditure, and event programming contracts;
- City events including Winter in the City, including event costs, and use of CRA assets;
- Major development projects including City Hill, Acton Waterfront, and Section 72 Dickson;
- City centre funding and investment, including use of the Marketing and Improvements levy;
- Procurement and contract management, including contract variations and extensions for security, business case and security services contracts;
- Public housing allocation in the Civic/Acton area;
- Construction fencing art program;
- Support for businesses impacted by light rail construction; and
- Dickson skate park.⁴⁵¹

Director of Public Prosecutions

Matters considered

27.88. The Committee considered the following matters during the Director of Public Prosecution's appearance on Tuesday, 4 August 2026:

- Forward estimates for the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and ability to handle increased sexual and family violence cases;
- Correctional Officer training and techniques;
- Joint statement by crown prosecutors in support of NSW Director of Public Prosecutions Sally Dowling SC following findings of the NSW Legislative Council Committee report on leaked information;
- Resourcing implications of affirmative consent laws and Operation Foster;
- Office of Director of Public Prosecutions priorities for 2026–27;
- Jury directions;
- Criminalising coercive control proposal and victim misidentification;

⁴⁵¹ *Proof Committee Hansard*, 3 August 2026, pp 1307–1325.

- Management of AMC and Corrective Services; and
- Relations between the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and the media.⁴⁵²

Funding for statutory functions

- 27.89. Several of the recommendations in this report speak to the adequacy of funding for statutory bodies. The Committee is concerned that many statutory bodies have not been adequately funded to perform the functions allocated to them by the ACT Government and that this may be suggestive of a broader structural funding issue.
- 27.90. The Committee considers that a review of statutory functions and associated resourcing requirements should be undertaken to ensure statutory bodies can effectively perform all functions allocated to them. Where it is identified that statutory functions are insufficiently resourced, the government should ensure adequate funding is provided or explain which functions should be reduced to fit within the resourcing provided.

Recommendation 62

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a forward plan to ensure all statutory officers are sufficiently resourced to perform the functions allocated to them or specify which function will be reduced to fit within existing funding allocations.

⁴⁵² *Proof Committee Hansard*, 4 August 2026, pp 1380–1393.

28. Conclusion

28.1. The Committee has made seven findings and 62 recommendations in this report.

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA
Acting Chair
26 August 2026

Appendix A: Witnesses

Friday, 3 July 2026

Conservation Council ACT Region

- **Dr Simon Copland**, Executive Director

SEE Change

- **Ms Kathy Ehmann**, Executive Director

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

- **Ms Katrina Fanning**, Secretariat Team Member

Canberra Business Chamber

- **Mr Greg Harford**, Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum

- **Dr David Marshall AM**, Chair

ACT Council of Social Service

- **Dr Devin Bowles**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Jenny Sandilands**, Head of Policy
- **Mr Jacob Priergaard**, Senior Policy Advisor

ACT Shelter

- **Ms Corinne Dobson**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Dr Ed Wensing**, Honorary Secretary

Women's Legal Centre ACT

- **Ms Elena Rosenman**, Chief Executive Officer

Canberra Rape Crisis Centre

- **Ms Tiffany Karlsson**, Chief Executive Officer

YWCA

- **Ms Frances Crimmins**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Leah Dwyer**, Director of Policy and Advocacy

Domestic Violence Crisis Service

- **Ms Sue Webeck**, Chief Executive Officer

ACT Parents

- **Ms Veronica Elliott**, Executive Officer

Australian Education Union, ACT Branch

- **Ms Angela Burroughs**, Branch President
- **Mr Patrick Judge**, Branch Secretary

Property Council of Australia

- **Ms Ashlee Berry**, Executive Director, ACT and Capital Region

Mental Health Community Coalition ACT

- **Ms Lisa Kelly**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Smera Naik**, Policy and Training Officer

Health Care Consumers' Association

- **Ms Jessica Lamb**, Manager, Policy and Advocacy

Community Sport Alliance of the ACT

- **Ms Nicole Bowles**, Chair
- **Mr Michael Brady**, Executive Officer

Tuesday, 21 July 2026

Ministers

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Transport

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Finance and Minister for the Public Service

ACT Audit Office

- **Mr Ajay Shama PSM**, ACT Auditor-General
- **Mr David O'Toole**, Senior Director, Finance, Risk and Audit Quality, Professional Services

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Russ Campbell**, Acting Head of Service and Director-General
- **Ms Michelle Dowdell**, Acting Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Scott Austin**, Acting Deputy Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Mitch Pirie**, Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial, Treasury
- **Mr Chris Roberts PSM**, Executive Branch Manager, Macroeconomics, Modelling and Federal Financial Relations, Treasury
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, Executive Group Manager, Revenue Management Group, Treasury; Commissioner of ACT Revenue

Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy

- **Mr Robert Wright**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Alex Allars**, Executive Group Manager, Employment and Industrial Relations Group

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General and ACT Chief Engineer
- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery – Places and Spaces
- **Ms Kyla Kerkow**, Executive Group Manager, Pipeline, Capability and Estate

ACT Government Solicitor

- **Mr Peter Garrisson AM SC**, Solicitor-General for the ACT

Wednesday, 22 July 2026

Ministers

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, Minister for Human Rights, Minister for City and Government Services and Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans

ACT Human Rights Commission

- **Dr Penelope Mathew**, President and Human Rights Commissioner
- **Ms Karen Toohey**, Discrimination, Health Services, Disability and Community Services Commissioner and Information Privacy Commissioner
- **Ms Jodie Griffiths-Cook**, Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner
- **Ms Juliette Ford**, Victims of Crime Commissioner

ACT Ombudsman

- **Mr Ian Anderson**, ACT Ombudsman, Inspector of the ACT Integrity Commission and Principal Officer of the Judicial Council
- **Ms Katrina Dwyer**, Senior Assistant Ombudsman, Defence, Investigations, ACT and Legal Branch
- **Ms Georgia Ramsay**, Director ACT Strategy and Inspector, Defence, Investigations, ACT and Legal Branch

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Director-General
- **Ms Kathryn Haigh**, Deputy Director-General
- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Zoe Hutchinson**, Executive Branch Manager, Human Rights Branch, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Robyn Hakelis**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Community Safety Policy and Programs

ACT Courts and Tribunal

- **Mr Benjamin Wickham**, Chief Executive Officer

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Director-General
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Deputy Director-General, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Group Manager, Head of Access Canberra
- **Mr Tim Rampton**, Executive Branch Manager, Roads ACT, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Ms Sophie Clement**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Development Delivery, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Mr Matt Kamarul**, Executive Branch Manager, Environment and Specialised Regulation, Access Canberra
- **Dr Margaret Kitchin**, Executive Branch Manager, ACT NoWaste, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Dr Rosie Cooney**, Executive Branch Manager, Parks and Conservation Service, Environment, Heritage and Parks
- **Ms Emily Springett**, Executive Branch Manager, Libraries ACT, Access Canberra
- **Ms Sue Marriage**, Executive Branch Manager, City Presentation, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Ms Kirra Cox**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic, Policy and Legislation, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Kerry McMurray**, Chief Executive Officer, Executive Branch Manager, Canberra Memorial Parks, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mr Anthony Haraldson**, Acting Deputy Director-General

Thursday, 23 July 2026

Ministers

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services and Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Ms Tara Cheyne MLA, Attorney-General, Minister for Human Rights, Minister for City and Government Services and Minister for the Night-Time Economy

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Transport

ACT Custodial Inspector

- **Ms Rebecca Minty**, Custodial Inspector

- **Mr Sean Costello**, Deputy Custodial Inspector

ACT Official Visitors

- **Mr Peter Muir**, Official Visitors Board Chair
- **Ms Clare Doube**, Official Visitor for Corrections and Official Visitors Board member
- **Ms Kim Webster**, Official Visitor for Disability
- **Ms Kim Ward**, Official Visitor for Children and Young People
- **Ms Vickie Quinn**, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Official Visitor for Children and Young People

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Director-General
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Maria Travers**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion
- **Ms Fiona Dolan**, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Service Design
- **Ms Sanzida Akhter**, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Director-General
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Group Manager, Head of Access Canberra
- **Mr Giuseppe Mangeruca**, Executive Branch Manager, Authorisations and Approvals, Access Canberra
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation, Access Canberra
- **Mr Nick Lhuede**, Executive Branch Manager, Construction and Planning Regulation, Access Canberra
- **Mr Matt Kamarul**, Executive Branch Manager, Environment and Specialised Regulation, Access Canberra
- **Ms Emily Springett**, Executive Branch Manager, Libraries ACT, Access Canberra
- **Dr Jodie Vaile**, Executive Branch Manager, Data Project and Improvements, Chief Operating Officer

Canberra Institute of Technology

- **Mr Tom Rogers**, CIT Board Chair
- **Ms Erica Wark**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Mr Scott Nichols**, Student Experience Lead and Academic Registrar
- **Mr Craig Neiberding**, Chief Information Officer
- **Mr David Jones**, Executive Branch Manager, Campus Renewal
- **Mr Richard Abelle**, Education Design and Delivery Lead

Friday, 24 July 2026

Ministers

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Transport

Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority

- **Ms Josphine Whitfield**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Michelle Tifan**, Board member

Public Trustee and Guardian

- **Mrs Danae Lacey**, Acting Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Callum Hughes**, Senior Director, Finance and Investments

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Director-General
- **Mr Bruce Fitzgerald**, Deputy Director-General, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Policy, Planning and Built Environment
- **Mr Ian McGlinn**, Executive Branch Manager, Bus Operations, Transport Canberra
- **Ms Sarah Taylor-Dayus**, Executive Branch Manager, Transport Canberra
- **Ms Madeline Taylor**, Executive Branch Manager, Light Rail Operations, Transport Canberra
- **Mr Mark White**, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Territory and Municipal Services
- **Ms Caitlin Bladin**, Executive Branch Manager, Environment Planning and Policy
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Dr Maryclare Swete Kelly**, Senior Director, ACT Heritage, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Ms Freya O'Brien**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Planning, Transport and Policy Branch, Policy, Planning and Built Environment
- **Mr George Cilliers**, Executive Group Manager, Statutory Planning and Chief Planner, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Brad Maxwell**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Statutory Assessments Branch

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mr Anthony Haraldson**, Acting Deputy Director-General

Monday, 27 July 2026

Ministers

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, Minister for Economic Development and Minister for Tourism and Trade

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Transport

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Finance and Minister for the Public Service

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Gaming Reform

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Josh Rynehart**, Executive Group Manager, Head of Access Canberra
- **Ms Derise Cubin**, Executive Branch Manager, Transport, Industry, Gaming and Economic Regulation Branch; and former Chief Executive Officer, ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

ACT Gambling and Racing Commission

- **Ms Laura Beacroft**, Board Chair
- **Mr Giuseppe Mangeruca**, Chief Executive Officer

Icon Water

- **Ms Joy Yau**, Interim Managing Director, Icon Water
- **Mr Virat Behla**, Acting Chief Financial Officer, Icon Water

EvoEnergy

- **Ms Megan Wilcox**, Acting Chief Executive Officer, EvoEnergy
- **Mr Sam Sachse**, General Manager, EvoEnergy
- **Mr Tomas Keraitis**, Group Manager Asset Management, EvoEnergy
- **Mr Mark Kerr**, Group Manager Customer Delivery, EvoEnergy

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Russ Campbell**, Acting Head of Service, Treasury; Director-General
- **Ms Michelle Dowdell**, Acting Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Scott Austin**, Executive Group Manager, Finance and Budget, Treasury
- **Mr Mitch Pirie**, Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial, Treasury
- **Mr Riaan Visser**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, Treasury
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, Executive Group Manager, Revenue Management Group, Treasury, and Commissioner for ACT Revenue
- **Mr Damian Black**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, ACT Insurance Authority

- **Mr Chris Roberts PSM**, Executive Branch Manager, Macroeconomics, Modelling and Federal Financial Relations, Treasury
- **Mr Robert Wright**, Deputy Director-General, OIRWS
- **Ms Emma Matthews**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Capability, Culture and Governance Group, OIRWS

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General; ACT Chief Engineer
- **Mr Anthony Haroldson**, Acting Deputy Director-General

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Daniel Ng**, Executive Group Manager, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division
- **Ms Nadia Marjan**, Executive Branch Manager, Civil and Regulatory Law Branch, Policy and Programs Division

Long Service Leave Authority

- **Ms Roslyn Jackson**, Deputy Chair of the Governing Board
- **Ms Cassandra Webeck**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Elena Agrizko**, Chief Financial Officer

Tuesday, 28 July 2026

Ministers

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Gaming Reform

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Finance and Minister for the Public Service

ACT Integrity Commission

- **Hon Michael Adams KC**, Integrity Commissioner
- **Ms Judy Lind**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Scott Hickey CA**, Chief Financial Officer

Legal Aid ACT

- **Dr John Boersig**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Mark Timbrell**, Chief Financial Officer

ACT Policing

- **Mr Scott Lee**, Deputy Commissioner, Chief Police Officer for the ACT
- **Mr Richard Chin**, Assistant Commissioner, Deputy Chief Police Officer for the ACT
- **Mr Lachlan Funnell**, Executive General Manager, Corporate
- **Mr Jason Kennedy**, Commander Operations

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Mr Ray Johnson**, Director-General

ACT Corrective Services

- **Ms Leanne Close**, Commissioner
- **Ms Leigh Thompson**, Assistant Commissioner, Offender Reintegration
- **Mr James Taylor-Dayus**, Assistant Commissioner, Custodial Operations

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Michelle Dowdell**, Acting Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Mitch Pirie**, Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial, Treasury
- **Mr Riaan Visser**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Procurement ACT, Treasury
- **Ms Lisa Holmes**, Executive Group Manager, Revenue Management Group, Treasury
- **Ms Nicola Clark**, Executive Branch Manager, Insurance, Economic and Financial, Treasury; Motor Accident Injuries Commissioner; Lifetime Care and Support Commissioner

Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment

- **Dr Ashley Bunce**, Commissioner
- **Mrs Miranda Gadner**, Director, Complaints and Investigations
- **Mr Sean Grimes**, Director, Sustainability, Environmental Assessments and Reporting

Wednesday, 29 July 2026

Ministers

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services, Minister for Women, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, Minister for Corrections and Minister for Gaming Reform

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Finance and Minister for the Public Service

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Director General
- **Mr Gerry Banks**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office
- **Ms Sanzida Akhter**, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs
- **Ms Skye Jacobi**, Acting Deputy Director-General, Health
- **Dr Sally Singleton**, Deputy Chief Health Officer, Population Health Division
- **Associate Professor Anthony Cidoni**, Chief Psychiatrist
- **Dr Melanie Dorrington**, Chief GP and Primary Care Officer
- **Associate Professor Marina Buchanan-Grey**, Chief Nursing and Midwifery Officer
- **Ms Chloe Stoddart**, Executive Group Manager, Health Policy and Programs Division

- **Mr Mark Tournier**, Executive Branch Manager, Research, Programs and Scientific Services
- **Ms Cheryl Garrett**, Executive Branch Manager, Health Services and Infrastructure Planning

Canberra Health Services

- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Alison Derrett**, Chief Operating Officer
- **Ms Rosalie Hughes**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Mr Bruno Aloisi**, General Manager, Mental Health, Justice Health, and Alcohol and Drug Services
- **Dr Jo Morris**, General Manager, Community Health and Integrated Care
- **Mr Paul Darcy**, General Manager, Canberra Hospital
- **Ms Melissa O'Brien**, Interim General Manager, North Canberra Hospital

Digital Canberra

- **Dr Christina Igasto**, Director-General; Chief Digital Officer
- **Dr Holger Kaufmann**, Executive Group Manager; Chief Information Officer, Digital Health Group

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mrs Hayley Bell**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery, Health, Education and Justice

Thursday, 30 July 2026

Ministers

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, Minister for Housing and Homelessness and Minister for Equality

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Deputy Chief Minister, Minister for Education, Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service and Minister for Health Infrastructure

Office of the Legislative Assembly

- **Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC MLA**, Speaker of the Legislative Assembly
- **Mr Hamish Finlay**, Acting Clerk of the Legislative Assembly
- **Dr David Monk**, Acting Deputy Clerk and Serjeant-at-Arms of the Legislative Assembly
- **Ms Rachel Turner**, Executive Manager, Business Support

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Robert Wright**, Deputy Director-General, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy
- **Ms Natalee George**, Executive Group Manager, Cultural Transformation Group

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Director-General
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Rachielle Laine-Barclay**, Executive Branch Manager, Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
- **Ms Sarah McLelland**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Housing and Homelessness Policy and Programs
- **Ms Brooke Yates**, Executive Branch Manager, Housing and Inclusive Policy
- **Ms Brooke Newman**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Client Services
- **Ms Penny Shields**, Executive Group Manager, Housing Assistance
- **Mr Lewis Hayward**, Executive Branch Manager, Chief Financial Officer

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Catherine Loft**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery – Housing
- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Executive Group Manager, Delivery – Places and Spaces
- **Mrs Hayley Bell**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery – Health, Education and Justice

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Ben Green**, Executive Group Manager, Policy, Planning and Built Environment
- **Ms Liz Hall**, Executive Branch Manager, Homes and Land Supply Branch, Policy and Planning and Built Environment

Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr Adam Davey**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Mr Ross Syme**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Mr Joey Lee**, Executive Director, Place Delivery
- **Ms Sally Gilbert**, Executive Director, Thriving Communities
- **Ms Irena Sharp**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Place Delivery

Education Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Director-General
- **Ms Angela Spence**, Deputy Director-General
- **Dr Nicole Moore**, Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Anita Perkins**, Executive Group, Service Design and Delivery
- **Ms Vanessa Attridge**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Digital Services
- **Mr Mark Huxley**, Executive Group Manager, School Improvement
- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, Education and Care and Regulation Support
- **Mrs Lauren Callaghan**, Executive Branch Manager, Chief Financial Officer

Friday, 31 July 2026

Ministers

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Sport and Recreation

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, Minister for Trade, Investment and the Knowledge Economy, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Major Projects

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, Minister for Housing and Homelessness and Minister for Equality

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kate Starick**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Ms Rebecca Kelley**, Executive Branch Manager, Sport and Recreation, Economic Development
- **Mr Brendan Smyth**, Commissioner for International Engagement
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Mr Jonathan Kobus**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Strategy and Policy, Economic Development

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery—Places and Spaces

ACT Climate Change Council

- **Dr Arnagretta Hunter**, Chair

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Dave Pepper**, Director-General
- **Mr Sam Engele**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Ms Bethel Sendaba**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy Policy, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Ms Sophie Clement**, Executive Branch Manager, Infrastructure Development Delivery
- **Mr Kieran Lawton**, Executive Branch Manager, Office of Water, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Ms Ros Malouf**, Executive Branch Manager, Climate Change and Energy Programs, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Ms Fiona Wright**, Executive Group Manager, Climate Change, Energy and Water, Environment, Planning and Policy
- **Mr Bren Burkevics**, Executive Group Manager, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy, and Conserver of Flora and Fauna
- **Dr Renee Brewata**, Acting Senior Director, Office of Nature Conservation, Environment, Heritage and Parks, Environment, Planning and Policy

ACT Electoral Commission

- **Mr Damian Cantwell AM CSC**, Electoral Commissioner, ACT Electoral Commission
- **Mr Rohan Spence**, Deputy Electoral Commissioner, ACT Electoral Commission
- **Mr Scott Hickey CA**, Chief Finance Officer, ACT Electoral Commission

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

- **Ms Barbara Causon**, Acting ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

Monday, 3 August 2026

Ministers

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water, Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, Minister for Housing and Homelessness and Minister for Equality

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health, Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services and Minister for Gaming Reform

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Business and Industry, Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Education, Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing, Minister for Finance, Minister for the Public Service and Minister for Health Infrastructure

Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Minister for Human Rights, Minister for Community Services, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Women, Seniors and Veterans and Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Director General
- **Ms Jacinta Evans**, Executive Group Manager, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Fiona Dolan**, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning Policy and Service Design

Education Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Director-General
- **Ms Angela Spence**, Deputy Director-General
- **Dr Nicole Moore**, Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Ms Vanessa Attridge**, Executive Group Manager, Infrastructure and Digital Services
- **Mr Sean Moysey**, Executive Branch Manager, Education and Care Regulation and Support
- **Mr Matthew O'Rourke**, Executive Branch Manager, Education Projects and Property Upgrades

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Kate Starick**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Ms Teresa Comacchio**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, artsACT, Economic Development

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery—Places and Spaces

City Renewal Authority

- **Mr Craig Gillman**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Jennifer Ramsay**, Executive Group Manager, Enabling Operations
- **Ms Victoria Dance**, Executive Branch Manager, Urban Design

Tuesday, 4 August 2026

Ministers

Mr Andrew Barr MLA, Chief Minister, Minister for Trade, Investment and the Knowledge Economy, Minister for Tourism and Events and Minister for Major Projects

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Business and Industry, Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, Minister for Multicultural Affairs and Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations

Mr Chris Steel MLA, Treasurer, Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development, Minister for Heritage and Minister for Sport and Recreation

Ms Tara Cheyne, Attorney-General, Minister for City and Government Services and Minister for Transport

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Mr Russ Campbell**, Acting Head of Service and Director-General
- **Ms Kate Starick**, Deputy Director-General, Economic Development
- **Ms Teresa Comacchio**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, artsACT, Economic Development
- **Ms Michelle Dowdell**, Acting Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Mitch Pirie**, Acting Deputy Under Treasurer, Treasury
- **Mr Scott Austin**, Executive Group Manager, Finance and Budget, Treasury
- **Mr Chris Roberts PSM**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Economic and Financial, Treasury
- **Mr Patrick McAuliffe**, Executive Branch Manager, Investments and Borrowings, Treasury
- **Mr Robert Wright**, Deputy Director-General, Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy
- **Mr Andrew Metcalfe AO**, ACT Public Sector Standards Commissioner
- **Ms Christina Thompson**, Executive Branch Manager, Professional Standards Unit
- **Ms Rebecca Parton**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Work Safety Group
- **Ms Ellen Lukins**, Executive Branch Manager, Policy, Work Safety Group

City and Environment Directorate

- **Mr Sam Engele**, Deputy Director-General, Environment, Planning and Policy

Suburban Land Agency

- **Mr Adam Davey**, Chief Executive Officer

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Mr Anthony Haraldson**, Acting Deputy Director-General
- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery, Places and Spaces

Cultural Facilities Corporation

- **Ms Georgia Hendy**, Executive Director, Canberra Theatre Centre

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Sanzida Akhter**, Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs
- **Ms Tina Brendas**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion Division

Canberra Institute of Technology

- **Ms Ros Jackson**, Board Member

Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions

- **Ms Victoria Engel SC**, Director of Public Prosecutions

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Ms Bianca Kimber**, Parliamentary Counsel, ACT Parliamentary Counsel's Office

Appendix B: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	121
Male	84
Non-binary	0
Gender neutral	0
No data	8

Appendix C: Questions on notice and taken on notice

Questions on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	03/07/26	Women's Legal Centre	Mulleun Mura funding	Not received
2	03/07/26	ACT Shelter	Strata Commissioner Funding and Stamp Duty	22/07/26
3	03/07/26	Canberra Region Tourism Leaders	ACT Tourism Strategy	15/07/26
4	03/07/26	Canberra Business Chamber	Payroll Tax	22/07/26
5	03/07/26	YWCA	Women's Safety	22/07/26
6	03/07/26	ACTCOSS	26/27 Budget Community Sector perspective	22/07/26
7	20/07/26	YWCA	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	28/07/26
8	20/07/26	YWCA	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence	28/07/26
9	21/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Lease Variation Charge	25/08/25
10	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Penrhyn House Woden lease	12/08/26
11	22/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Employee transfers into ACT Government	10/08/26
12	21/07/26	Treasurer	Budget Population Growth Forecasts	09/08/26
13	21/07/26	Chief Minister	Infrastructure Spending	07/08/26
14	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Relocation of jobs out of Woden - impact on business	06/08/26
15	21/07/26	Auditor-General	Progress on Recommendations	03/08/26
16	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Secure Local Jobs Code - volunteers	12/08/26
17	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Closing the Gap	06/08/26
18	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Gender breakdown of Executive roles	05/08/26
19	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Flooding event at The Ivy, Phillip - 7 February 2026	09/08/26

20	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Woden Community Centre - site analysis	10/08/26
21	22/07/26	Treasurer	External budget submissions	04/08/26
22	22/07/26	Solicitor-General	Medical negligence claims	10/08/26
23	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Risk management	07/08/26
24	24/07/26	Solicitor-General	Changes to Judicial Appointment Notifiable Instruments	05/08/26
25	22/07/26	Treasurer	Payroll Tax	09/08/26
26	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Executive records statistics	10/08/26
27	25/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Mr Fluffy - loan	07/08/26
28	28/07/26	Chief Minister	Location of jobs in Molonglo Town Centre	11/08/26
29	22/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Employment transfers and liabilities	10/08/26
30	27/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Lease Variation Charge	25/08/26
31	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Callam Offices (Places and spaces)	06/08/26
32	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Definitions of worker classification groups	10/08/26
33	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Public servants based outside Canberra region	10/08/26
34	22/07/26	Treasurer	Budget offsets	09/08/26
35	22/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ICT Projects	07/08/26
36	27/07/26	Attorney-General	AMC remand conditions and court considerations re bail	19/08/26
37	24/07/26	Attorney-General	Former ACT Attorney-General Gordon Ramsay	07/08/26
38	22/07/26	Human Rights Commission	Palliative care investigations by the Human Rights Commission	06/08/26
39	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Footpath maintenance and repairs	10/08/26
40	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Animal Registration	10/08/26

41	28/07/26	Attorney-General	Progress on Recommendations	12/08/26
42	24/07/26	Attorney-General	Notifiable Instruments	12/08/26
43	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Kingston Shops	10/08/26
44	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Community funding tender - Catchment Groups (Procurement)	17/08/26
45	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Staff vote on new opening arrangements	24/08/26
46	28/07/26	Minister for Human Rights	Woolworths Entry Gates	13/08/26
47	22/07/26	Minister for Human Rights	Palliative care investigations by the Human Rights Commission	21/08/26
48	28/07/26	Attorney-General	Drug and alcohol sentencing list	07/08/26
49	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	CDS Erindale Reverse Vending Machine	10/08/26
50	27/07/26	Attorney-General	Bond management	20/08/26
51	23/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Preventing family, sexual and domestic violence/liquor reform	19/08/26
52	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Stormwater Management - Ivy	10/08/26
53	28/07/26	Attorney-General	Closing the Gap	07/08/26
54	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Dingoes	13/08/26
55	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Entrance to Amberfield site on Cotter Road	10/08/26
56	27/07/26	Attorney-General	FASD screening	12/08/26
57	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Basis for the project	12/08/26
58	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Domestic Animal Welfare and pet registration	10/08/26

59	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Waste recovery tracking	12/08/26
60	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Southern Memorial Park	12/08/26
61	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Woden Library - Access Canberra relocation consultation	07/08/26
62	27/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Justice Housing Program	13/08/26
63	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Woden Library - Access Canberra relocation costs	20/08/26
64	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Circular Economy and single use plastics	05/08/26
65	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Maliyan Park and rubber softfall	10/08/26
66	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Playground inspections	10/08/26
67	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Waste recovery rates	10/08/26
68	29/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Woden library - cafe (social enterprise opportunity)	07/08/26
69	24/07/26	Attorney-General	Changes to Notifiable Instruments	12/08/26
70	29/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Road resurfacing and defects (City and Government Services)	10/08/26
71	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Cat management plan	12/08/26
72	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Community funding tender - Catchment Groups (Labour, data and IP)	17/08/26
73	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Green waste in West Belconnen	12/08/26
74	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change,	Healthy Waterways Plan for Lake Tuggeranong	13/08/26

		Environment, Energy and Water		
75	29/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Active travel	12/08/26
76	22/07/26	Human Rights Commission	MyWay+ disability discrimination	06/08/26
77	24/07/26	Attorney-General	Correspondence with Solicitor-General and JCSD Officials	12/08/26
78	27/07/26	Attorney-General	Reducing recidivism by 25% by 2025	07/08/26
79	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Woden Library - needs analysis	10/08/26
80	24/07/26	Attorney-General	Briefings from DPP	12/08/26
81	27/07/26	Attorney-General	Bail and reducing Indigenous overrepresentation	10/08/26
82	24/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Street Sweeping	25/08/26
83	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Woden Library	10/08/26
84	28/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Community funding tender - Catchment Groups (Transition and continuity)	17/08/26
85			Withdrawn	N/A
86	24/07/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	In-house Prosecutions: Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner	18/08/26
87	29/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Public space amenity	18/08/26
88	24/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	CIT Whistleblowers	07/08/26
89	30/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	CIT - activation of West Plaza	07/08/26
90	30/07/26	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	The Social Compact	07/08/26
91	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	School Safety Program	25/08/26

92	28/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Course costs and expenditure	07/08/26
93	25/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Manuka Hotel - compliance with the DA	11/08/26
94	30/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Community Facilities (ACT Community, Recreation and Sports Facilities Needs Assessment and Social Infrastructure Audit - Final Report)	07/08/26
95	25/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Certifier roles	07/08/26
96	28/07/26	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Closing the Gap	14/08/26
97	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bus stops in Woden Town Centre	12/08/26
98	31/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Callam Offices	21/08/26
99	03/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Eastern Broadacre Studies	14/08/26
100	03/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Improvements to systems	14/08/26
101	03/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Inclusionary Zoning	11/08/26
102	30/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bus fleet (Transport Canberra)	12/08/26
103	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Cotter Road Services	12/08/26
104	21/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Urban Growth Boundary	11/08/26
105	03/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Heritage Vista Inquiry	07/08/26
106	29/07/26	Chief Minister	Molonglo Town Centre (Jobs)	11/08/26

107	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bus services for Molonglo Valley	12/08/26
108	31/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Yarralumla Creek flood mitigation	12/08/26
109	30/07/26	Minister for Transport	Fare Evasion (Transport Canberra)	20/08/26
110	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Rapid bus services	12/08/26
111	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bus Timetable changes	25/08/26
112	29/07/26	Chief Minister	Molonglo Town Centre - Education and Community Facilities	10/08/26
113	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bike cages	12/08/26
114	29/07/26	Chief Minister	Molonglo Town Centre - Commercial delivery	10/08/26
115	30/07/26	Minister for Transport	Public transport fare revenue (Transport Canberra)	25/08/26
116	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Woden Bus Interchange	12/08/26
117	03/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Lease Variation Charge Review	07/08/26
118	30/07/26	Minister for Transport	Passenger data (Transport Canberra)	25/08/26
119	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Carshare services	12/08/26
120	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Public transport patronage date	12/08/26
121	31/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Southern Gateway Planning and Design Framework	14/08/26
122	21/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Urban Growth Boundary	11/08/26
123	29/07/26	Chief Minister	Molonglo Town Centre - Governance and Accountability	10/08/26
124	29/07/26	Minister for Major Projects	Big Canberra Battery	11/08/26

125	03/08/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Licensee exclusion and gambling support services	20/08/26
126	27/07/26	Treasurer	Commonwealth funding for infrastructure projects & GST	13/08/26
127	27/07/26	Treasurer	Budget proposal frameworks and feedback	13/08/26
128	28/07/26	Gambling and Racing Commission	Gambling harm incidents	05/08/26
129	28/07/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Forecasted gambling tax revenue and harm reduction reforms	14/08/26
130	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Road Duplications	12/08/26
131	28/07/26	Chief Minister	Closing the Gap	14/08/26
132	28/07/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Horse Racing MOU funding	11/08/26
133	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Kingston Arts Precinct	10/08/26
134	28/07/26	Minister for Major Projects	Canberra Aquatic Centre	10/08/26
135	28/07/26	Minister for Major Projects	Closing the Gap	14/08/26
136	29/07/26	Minister for Major Projects	Big Canberra Battery	24/08/26
137	28/07/26	Chief Minister	Tuggeranong Urban Renewal Site	10/08/26
138	30/07/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Gaming machine revenue and EGM numbers	14/08/26
139	28/07/26	Treasurer	AEC Transparency Register Expenses	20/08/26
140	29/07/26	Minister for Major Projects	Kingston Arts Precinct	12/08/26
141	27/07/26	Evoenergy	Electrifying multi-unit dwellings	12/08/26
142	31/07/26	Minister for Transport	Local bus frequencies	12/08/26
143	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Firearms	25/08/26
144	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Life Sentences	25/08/26
145	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and	Firefighter Recruitment	14/08/26

		Emergency Services		
146	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	AMC Safety	25/08/26
147	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Civil Cases	14/08/26
148	03/08/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Molonglo Emergency Services Station	24/08/26
149	29/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Implementation of the 2025 Healthy Prison Review	13/08/26
150	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	City Policy Station	14/08/26
151	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Taser usage	25/08/26
152	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Charges Laid	20/08/26
153	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Paramedic Rostering and Complaints	20/08/26
154	29/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	ACT Ambulance service staffing	25/08/26
155	03/08/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	ACT Policing of dangerous driving Uriarra	14/08/26
156	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Dissent Cafe and Bar	20/08/26
157	03/08/26	Minister for Finance	Rateable Land	19/08/26
158	03/08/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Bushfire Preparedness	14/08/26

159	04/08/26	Minister for Finance	Finance - Review of programs	19/08/26
160	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	AMC Laundry Powder	18/08/26
161	28/07/26	Attorney-General	Retirement Villages Register	19/08/26
162	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	First Nations Engagement	25/08/26
163	29/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Strip Search Raking Technique	18/08/26
164	04/08/26	Minister for Finance	Landcare Procurement - compliance with s3.3 of the Government Procurement Rules 2024	19/08/26
165	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Engagement with the DPP	25/08/26
166	05/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Application of Lease Variation Charge	20/08/26
167	28/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Green waste in West Belconnen	12/08/26
168	05/08/26	Minister for Corrections	AMC population	25/08/26
169	05/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Lanyon Homestead Upgrades	18/08/26
170	31/07/26	Minister for Health	Midwifery continuity of care wait list	25/08/26
171	03/08/26	Minister for Mental Health	Safe Havens	25/08/26
172	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Squalor and hoarding	25/08/26
173	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Aged care and delayed discharge	14/08/26
174	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Palliative care	25/08/26
175	04/08/26	Work Health and Safety Commissioner	CIT WorkSafe Issue	06/08/26

176	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Outpatient clinic data	25/08/26
177	29/07/26	Minister for Health	MyDHR Accessibility	14/08/26
178	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Cardiology	25/08/26
179	03/08/26	Minister for Health Infrastructure	Asbestos and City Health Centre	19/08/26
180	31/07/26	Minister for Health	Reproductive Bereavement Care	14/08/26
181	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Sexual health and family planning	25/08/26
182	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Birth at home program	14/08/26
183	31/07/26	Minister for Health Infrastructure	Health - New Birth Centre	12/08/26
184	31/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Domestic Violence Primary Prevention Infrastructure Model	11/08/26
185	31/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Plans for new domestic violence sector network	13/08/26
186	05/08/26	Minister for Health	Health Facilities	14/08/26
187	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Palliative care	14/08/26
188	29/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Safety concerns and metrics	19/08/26
189	29/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Safer Families Levy	13/08/26
190	31/07/26	Minister for Health	Closing the Gap	21/08/26
191	29/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of	Cost of government evaluation of domestic violence initiatives	17/08/26

		Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence		
192	31/07/26	Minister for Health	Reproductive rights	14/08/26
193	30/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commissioner	Geocon 220 Northbourne Ave Project	10/08/26
194	05/08/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Reduction of operating hours of electronic gaming machines	20/08/26
195	03/08/26	Minister for Mental Health	Unmet need for psychosocial support	21/08/26
196	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Vaccinations	14/08/26
197	03/08/26	Minister for Health	Delayed discharge	25/08/26
198	31/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Domestic and family violence budget reporting	13/08/26
199	05/08/26	Minister for Health	Preventative health investment	14/08/26
200	31/07/26	Minister for Health Infrastructure	Burrangiri options	25/08/26
201	31/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	2026-27 Budget Allocations for Domestic & Family Violence Services	14/08/26
202	06/08/26	Chief Minister	Public, community and affordable housing	24/08/26
203	06/08/26	Chief Minister	Vacant land	Not received
204	04/08/26	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	First Nations Led Review	14/08/26
205	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Payment of architects	14/08/26
206	04/08/26	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner	19/08/26

207	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Replacement Rent Relief Fund	14/08/26
208	06/08/26	Chief Minister	Redevelopment of the Causeway	11/08/26
209	31/07/26	Minister for Education	Closing the Gap	18/08/26
210	05/08/26	Minister for Education	Artificial intelligence use in schools	21/08/26
211	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Pre-fabricated housing	14/08/26
212	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public housing in Jacka	14/08/26
213	31/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Data	17/08/26
214	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public housing definitions, data and targets	19/08/26
215	05/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Insourcing of public housing maintenance and repairs	14/08/26
216	31/07/26	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Education - heating and cooling program	21/08/26
217	05/08/26	Minister for Education	Funding for ACT schools	21/08/26
218	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Oaks Estate Strategic Plan	18/08/26
219	06/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Maintenance and clear ups in public housing (Housing ACT Social and affordable housing)	14/08/26
220	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Property Condition Assessments	18/08/26
221	05/08/26	Minister for Education	Early Learning - not-for-profit community playschools	21/08/26
222	30/07/26	Minister for Homes,	Dwellings owned by community housing providers	14/08/26

		Homelessness and New Suburbs		
223	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing Maintenance	14/08/26
224	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Applications for public housing	14/08/26
225	30/07/26	Speaker	Office of Legislative Assembly security guard cost	10/08/26
226	30/07/26	Speaker	In-Camera Hearings	10/08/26
227	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Probity Plan for construction of 1,000 public housing properties.	14/08/26
228	30/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public housing Development Applications and appeals	14/08/26
229	28/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Peppercorn leases	20/08/26
230	04/08/26	Minister for the Public Service	First Nations Cultural Capability	19/08/26
231	06/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Causeway area (Kingston)	17/08/26
232			Withdrawn	N/A
233	06/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Public Housing	14/08/26
234	06/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Dwelling types	14/08/26
235	06/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Homelessness policy and services	14/08/26
236	06/08/26	Minister for Mental Health	Safe Havens	21/08/26
237	06/08/26	Attorney-General	Strata Commissioner Funding	20/08/26
238	06/08/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Digitisation of Housing ACT records	14/08/26

239	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Stromlo to Cotter trail	17/08/26
240	31/07/26	Chief Minister	Aviation stimulus fund	20/08/26
241	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Dickson Pool	20/08/26
242	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Representative Body	13/08/26
243	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Golden Sun Moths	19/08/26
244	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Indoor Facilities	19/08/26
245	31/07/26	Chief Minister	ACT's Business Development Manager based in Singapore	24/08/26
246			Withdrawn	N/A
247			Withdrawn	N/A
248	31/07/26	Chief Minister	Fitzroy pavilion security bond	20/08/26
249	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Community sport engagement and funding	19/08/26
250	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Community Sport Funding	19/08/26
251	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Climate change strategy	17/08/26
252	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Solar panels	14/08/26
253	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Kangaroo cull	19/08/26
254	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Nature Conservation Strategy	13/08/26
255	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	H5N1 Preparedness	19/08/26

256	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Wombat Management	14/08/26
257	03/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	ACT Wildlife	17/08/26
258	05/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Ministerial responsibility for implementing an Assembly motion to protect the Western Edge	25/08/26
259	05/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Kangaroo cull	19/08/26
260	05/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Catchment Group procurement	21/08/26
261			Withdrawn	N/A
262	06/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Community stewardship and environmental education program procurement	24/08/26
263	06/08/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Landcare funding	19/08/26
264	04/08/26	Minister for Education	Air quality monitors	21/08/26
265	07/08/26	Minister for Education	Free three-year-old preschool program	21/08/26
266	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Community services - commissioning and procurement	17/08/26
267	07/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Acton Waterfront Development	18/08/26
268	07/08/26	Minister for Education	Funding for the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence System Foundations	21/08/26
269	11/08/26	Minister for Education	Education – Garran Primary School extension decision	21/08/26
270	06/08/26	Minister for Health	Disability services	25/08/26
271	11/08/26	Minister for Education	Education – planning for high schools in Woden	21/08/26

272	06/08/26	Minister for Education	Education	21/08/26
273	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Outside School Hours Care (OSHC) - tender process	21/08/26
274	05/08/26	Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity	Thriving Kids	14/08/26
275	10/08/26	Minister for Education	Meals in Schools program	21/08/26
276	04/08/26	Minister for the Public Service	Community Facilities (Oaks Estate Strategic Plan)	21/08/26
277	04/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Artist Hoardings Programs	18/08/26
278	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Local Community Organisations - Sustainability	18/08/26
279	04/08/26	Minister for Education	Asset management	Not received
280	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Early Childhood Education Centres - Land Use	25/08/25
281	07/08/26	Minister for Education	Violence in schools	21/08/26
282	04/08/26	Minister for Education	Learning Support Assistants	21/08/26
283	11/08/26	Minister for Education	Education - Specialist schools	21/08/26
284	07/08/26	Minister for Education	School attendance	21/08/26
285	04/08/26	Minister for Education	Heating in schools	25/08/25
286	05/08/26	Minister for Education	Implementation of One System Reforms	21/08/26
287	04/08/26	Minister for the Public Service	Community organisations (Vacant Government-owned Buildings)	21/08/26
288	07/08/26	Minister for Education	Learning support assistants	21/08/26
289	11/08/26	Minister for the Public Service	Community Facilities - Woden Community Centre	21/08/26
290	07/08/26	Minister for Education	Yarralumla Primary School Bilingual Program (Yarralumla Primary School)	21/08/26
291	05/08/26	Minister for Education	Education workforce preparation for Thriving Kids	21/08/26

292	05/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Ministerial responsibility for implementing an Assembly motion	25/08/26
293	11/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Staff changes	19/08/26
294	07/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	CIT EV Centre for Excellence	17/08/26
295	11/08/26	Minister for the Public Service	Public Service location decisions	24/08/26
296	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Convention Centre	Not received
297	05/08/26	Treasurer	Budget Process	25/08/26
298	04/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Cost of Living	20/08/26
299	10/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	EV Centre of Excellence	24/08/26
300	05/08/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Police pursuit policy	Not received
301	06/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	LVC reduction modelling	25/08/26
302	11/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Wellbeing Framework - young people assessment	Not received
303			Withdrawn	N/A
304	05/08/26	Treasurer	Budget Process	25/08/26
305	04/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Business Partnership Policy	25/08/26
306	06/08/26	Treasurer	Per cent of houses paying Land Taxation	20/08/26
307	05/08/26	Chief Minister	Senior Executive positions in the ACTPS filled on a substantive/temporary basis	Not received
308	04/08/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	CIT's CEO	24/08/26
309			Withdrawn	N/A

310	05/08/26	Treasurer	Housing ACT Funding Structure	20/08/26
311	11/08/26	Minister for Health Infrastructure	Infrastructure - carparking at the Canberra Hospital	24/08/26
312	06/08/26	Treasurer	Projected revenue offsets	25/08/26
313	04/08/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	CIT Governance Review	24/08/26
314	06/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	CIT Executive Roles	19/08/26
315	04/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	EV Training	17/08/26
316	04/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Arts funding	25/08/26
317	06/08/26	Attorney-General	Revenue collected from license fees for real estate agents.	25/08/26
318	11/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	EV Centre of Excellence	17/08/26
319	06/08/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Build-To-Rent and Affordable Housing Project Fund	25/08/26
320			Withdrawn	N/A
321	05/08/26	Attorney-General	Medical negligence claims	20/08/26
322	06/08/26	Treasurer	Policy on the indexation of fees and charges	20/08/26
323	06/08/26	Treasurer	'Divestment from the Economy of Genocide' petition	20/08/26
324	06/08/26	Chief Minister	Infrastructure program	24/08/26

Questions Taken on Notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	03/07/26	Mental Health Community Coalition ACT	Mental ill health - Gambling percentage	13/07/26
2	06/07/26	Health Care Consumer's Association	Palliative care - Clare Holland House	Not received

3	03/07/26	AEU	Classes without teachers by school level	13/07/26
4	03/07/26	Canberra Business Chamber	Impact of payroll tax on businesses	07/07/26
5	03/07/26	Canberra Region Tourism Leaders Forum	Research on the impact of a perceived lack of safety	Not received
6	21/07/26	ACT Government Solicitor	Requests for legal representation approved last 12 months	29/07/26
7	21/07/26	ACT Audit Office	Integrity Commission - date	29/07/26
8	21/07/26	ACT Audit Office	Integrity Commission - Advanced copies of reports provided	29/07/26
9	21/07/26	ACT Audit Office	Cost of delivering infrastructure projects	29/07/26
10	21/07/26	Treasurer	Payroll tax forecast and thresholds	03/08/26
11	21/07/26	Treasurer	Pegasus report - 202425 Business Growth	30/07/26
12	21/07/26	Treasurer	GST undercounts	30/07/26
13	21/07/26	Treasurer	Housing Stamp Duty Turnkey	30/07/26
14	21/07/26	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Historic Housing Debt	31/07/26
15	21/07/26	Treasurer	Funding from Commonwealth	30/07/26
16	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Cosmo Building	31/07/26
17	21/07/26	Treasurer	ACT pay offer	03/08/26
18	21/07/26	Chief Minister	Deferred projects	07/08/26
19	21/07/26	Treasurer	Election Commitments	03/08/26
20	21/07/26	Treasurer	FMA	30/07/26
21	21/07/26	Treasurer	Instruments	03/08/26
22	22/07/26	ACT Human Rights Commission	Data on racial vilification	29/07/26
23	22/07/26	ACT Ombudsman	Staffing	30/07/26
24	22/07/26	Attorney-General	Advice from Solicitor-General	31/07/26
25	22/07/26	Attorney-General	Dual commission cost	31/07/26
26	22/07/26	Attorney-General	Timing of Cabinet consideration of NI2026-161	13/08/26
27	22/07/26	Attorney-General	Real estate advertisement policy reforms	31/07/26
28	21/07/26	Treasurer	FMA Cultural Facilities Corporation	30/07/26

29	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Public Library Patronage	31/07/26
30	21/07/26	Minister for Finance	HBCS - key dates in divorce proceedings	09/08/26
31	21/07/26	Minister for Finance	Modelling - Low income renting households	09/08/26
32	21/07/26	Minister for Finance	Pension Rates Rebate Scheme	09/08/26
33	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ASMP - list of assets	31/07/26
34	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Tree Management Plan	31/07/26
35	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ACTPS Employees - Woden to Dickson move	05/08/26
36	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Lease ACTPS Dickson site	10/08/26
37	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Healthy Soils Fund - date of release	31/07/26
38	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	FOGO pilot survey	31/07/26
39	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Cost of sending waste to landfill	31/07/26
40	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Wild dogs	31/07/26
41	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Illegal dumping at Charnwood shops	31/07/26
42	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Garden City Cycleways Stage 1D - cost breakdown	31/07/26
43	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Public streetlights - fault data	25/08/26
44	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Claims for damage caused by potholes	31/07/26
45	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Road repair requests	31/07/26

46	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Loading zone infringements	31/07/26
47			Withdrawn	N/A
48	23/07/26	Inspector of Custodial Services	Healthy Prison Review recommendations	27/07/26
49	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ACTPS - Entitlements between Federal and Territory	05/08/26
50	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ACTPS growth	05/08/26
51	23/07/26	ACT Official Visitors	April 2026 incident at Behavioural Assessment Unit Canberra Hospital	29/07/26
52	22/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	FOGO recycling	31/07/26
53	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Frontline Service numbers	05/08/26
54	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	ACT PS workers residing outside ACT	10/08/26
55	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Policy - External Recruitment Agencies	06/08/26
56	21/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Recruitment Services Contracts	11/08/26
57	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Revenue from public unleased land permits	03/08/26
58	24/07/26	Public Trustee and Guardian	Breakdown of active matters	07/08/26
59	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Consultation on path and road closure fees	03/08/26
60	24/07/26	Public Trustee and Guardian	Auditor-General report recommendations	07/08/26
61	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Participation in controlled sports	31/07/26
62	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Medical clearance to participate in combat sports	03/08/26
63	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Response times for weekend noise complaints	31/07/26

64	23/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Accountability indicators	31/07/26
65	24/07/26	Minister for Transport	Bus stop near RSL Lifecare on Ellenborough Street	31/07/26
66	24/07/26	Minister for Transport	Transport and household travel survey	31/07/26
67	24/07/26	Public Trustee and Guardian	Estates open longer than 12 and 24 months	07/08/26
68	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Infrastructure planning report for Belconnen	06/08/26
69	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Eastern Broadacre Strategic Assessment - First Nations consultation	04/08/26
70	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Western Edge studies	04/08/26
71	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Development application decisions	06/08/26
72	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Open air carparks and park and ride in Gungahlin	04/08/26
73	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Molonglo town centre - subdivision design application	04/08/26
74	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Cost of loose fill asbestos eradication scheme	06/08/26
75	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Canberra Pony Club lease at Thoroughbred Park	04/08/26
76	24/07/26	Minister for Transport	Operating cost of Canberra Metro contract	30/07/26
77	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	St Francis Church in Nicholls - heritage listing	04/08/26

78	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	St Francis Church in Nicholls - DA	04/08/26
79	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	LVC revenue relating to Missing Middle Housing	09/08/26
80	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	ACT data centres - energy consumption	06/08/26
81	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Canberra House pattern book	04/08/26
82	24/07/26	Minister for Heritage	Increase in requests for heritage advice	04/08/26
83	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Deconcessionalised leases	06/08/26
84	24/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Trend in complaints about poor construction quality	06/08/26
85	24/07/26	Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority	Federal Joint Projects Levy	05/08/26
86	24/07/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	Provide report - review of legislation	05/08/26
87	24/07/26	Building and Construction Industry Training Fund Authority	Funding provided to CIT	03/08/26
88	27/07/26	Long Service Leave Authority	Levy rate-actuarial calculations	04/08/26
89	24/07/26	Public Trustee and Guardian	Budget submission	07/08/26
90	27/07/26	EvoEnergy	Reasons for power outages	06/08/26
91	27/07/26	EvoEnergy	Funding for maintenance of energy infrastructure	07/08/26
92	27/07/26	EvoEnergy	Complaints on 'best offer' information	07/08/26

93	27/07/26	EvoEnergy	Plan offers - considerations	07/08/26
94	27/07/26	EvoEnergy	Flat Rock proposal at Uriarra - impact on National Electricity Market	06/08/26
95	27/07/26	Icon Water	Suburbs with the most watermain failures	06/08/26
96	27/07/26	Gambling and Racing Commission	Gambling Harm - Individual incidents	04/08/26
97	27/07/26	Icon Water	Price regulations - report from ICRC	06/08/26
98	27/07/26	Gambling and Racing Commission	Number of staff and Org Chart	04/08/26
99	27/07/26	Icon Water and Evo Energy	Increase in borrowings	06/08/26
100	27/07/26	Gambling and Racing Commission	Reports on website	04/08/26
101	27/07/26	Chief Minister	City Hill Project Update	07/08/26
102	28/07/26	ACT Integrity Commission	Legal costs	06/08/26
103	27/07/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Decrease in gambling revenue	13/08/26
104	28/07/26	Legal Aid ACT	Funding	30/07/26
105	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Cost of staff travel	06/08/26
106	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Treasurer's advance	06/08/26
107	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Deprioritised programs	06/08/26
108	27/07/26	Minister for Finance	Rental Bonds	09/08/26
109	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Cost of delivery remedial massage course	06/08/26
110	27/07/26	Attorney-General	Rental Bond transferability	20/08/26
111	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Events at Woden Campus	06/08/26
112	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Decrease in revenue	06/08/26
113	27/07/26	Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development	Expected number of DA	12/08/26

114	27/07/26	Minister for Gaming Reform	Horseracing revenue	20/08/26
115	27/07/26	Treasurer	Residential Properties general rates - increases	11/08/26
116	27/07/26	Minister for Finance	Lease Variation Charge	16/08/26
117	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	EVs used in interstate trainings	06/08/26
118	27/07/26	Minister for Finance	Revenue-Valuers - Numbers and process for review	09/08/26
119	27/07/26	Treasurer	Short-term accommodation	11/08/26
120	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Impact of childcare centre closure	06/08/26
121	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Senior fitness classes	06/08/26
122	23/07/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	Program completion rates	06/08/26
123	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Average time for triple zero call to reach ACT Policing	14/08/26
124	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Categories of crime driving increase in callouts	25/08/26
125	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Officers engaged in SHIELD hubs	20/08/26
126	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Alcohol-related incidents	11/08/26
127	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Number of additional paramedics required	11/08/26
128	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Paramedics fit for work not currently rostered	07/08/26
129	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Requests for secondary employment	11/08/26
130	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and	Attrition rate and reasons for leaving	07/08/26

		Emergency Services		
131	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Bullying and Harassment complaints	07/08/26
132	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Bullying and Harassment complaints investigated	07/08/26
133	21/07/26	ACT Government Solicitor	Institutional Abuse Claims	29/07/26
134	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Call centre staffing numbers	11/08/26
135	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Workers compensation claims lodged	07/08/26
136	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Workers compensation claims from UFU action	07/08/26
137	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Number of times EAP accessed	06/08/26
138	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Union officials entering fire stations	13/08/26
139	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Complaints about union access to fire stations	06/08/26
140	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Other allegations involving union bullying and intimidation	13/08/26
141	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Complaints against union officials	07/08/26
142	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Drivers of staff accessing EAP	06/08/26

143	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Data on EAP for psychosocial or traumatic event	06/08/26
144	28/07/26	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services	Budget overtime for 2026-27	06/08/26
145	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Number of outlaw MC gang members in AMC	07/08/26
146	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Number of people on remand gang affiliated	07/08/26
147	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Corrections officer mandatory training	13/08/26
148	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Programs for detainees	10/08/26
149	28/07/26	Minister for Corrections	Sources of found contraband	10/08/26
150	29/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Budget Reporting Complementary Initiatives	11/08/26
151	29/07/26	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Community Sector Indexation and Funding Renewals	07/08/26
152	29/07/26	Minister for Women, Seniors and Veterans	Construction and Apprenticeships data reporting	07/08/26
153	30/07/26	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Staff cultural safety results and data	10/08/26
154	27/07/26	Chief Minister	Operation Kingfisher Report	07/08/26
155	27/07/26	Chief Minister	Minimisation of Harm	07/08/26
156	30/07/26	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Closing the Gap implementation government	10/08/26
157	27/07/26	Chief Minister	Separation Payment - Chief of Staff	07/08/26
158	27/07/26	Chief Minister	Delayed Projects	07/08/26
159	27/07/26	Chief Minister	ACT Public Service and Operation Kingfisher Report - DG Resignation	07/08/26

160	27/07/26	Chief Minister	Separation Payment - Chief of Staff	07/08/26
161	27/07/26	Chief Minister	City Renewal Authority - Grants and Contributions	07/08/26
162	29/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commission	Major Investigations - Number	05/08/26
163	29/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commission	Geocon Projects	05/08/26
164	29/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commission	ACT Public Service MOG - Psychological Hazards	05/08/26
165	29/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commission	Commission Advice - Woolworths Tuggeranong and Belconnen	05/08/26
166	29/07/26	Work Health and Safety Commission	CIT Work Health and Safety Incidents	05/08/26
167	30/07/26	Suburban Land Agency	Single dwelling blocks sold and released in previous financial year	11/08/26
168	30/07/26	Suburban Land Agency	Indicative Land Release Program	Not received
169	30/07/26	Suburban Land Agency	Average profit margin for typical residential block	Not received
170			Withdrawn	N/A
171	30/07/26	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Cultural awareness training	07/08/26
172	30/07/26	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Clocks	07/08/26
173	30/07/26	Office of the Legislative Assembly	Document accessibility	07/08/26
174	31/07/26	ACT Electoral Commission	Administrative funding	06/08/26
175	31/07/26	ACT Electoral Commission	Gift valuation	06/08/26
176	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Uber Health data and protection measures	12/08/26
177	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Senior Executive Acting Arrangements	17/08/26
178	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change,	Street sweeping in Tuggeranong	13/08/26

		Environment, Energy and Water		
179	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Clare Holland House	17/08/26
180	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Implementation of RANZCOG Guidelines	12/08/26
181	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Contracts awarded to Southern Harvest Cooperative	13/08/26
182	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Interim Pharmaceutical Agreement data	17/08/26
183	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Interim Pharmaceutical Agreement e-script timeline	17/08/26
184	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Elective surgeries data	17/08/26
185	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Category 3 emergency department	12/08/26
186	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	2 Dairy Rd Fyshwick - Southern Harvest EOI	17/08/26
187	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Nitrous Oxide retailers	17/08/26
188	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Better Regulation Legislation Amendment Bill	17/08/26
189	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Home Naloxone Program data and restrictions	17/08/26
190	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	CSEEP - Tender that led to review	20/08/26
191	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Consultation with catchment groups - survey	17/08/26
192	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	CSEEP tender - involvement of Probity Advisor	20/08/26
193	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Bulk billing target	17/08/26
194	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Clear and present threats to fish in the ACT	13/08/26

195	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and HealthLink referrals	10/08/26
196	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Procurement - Implementation of AG recommendations	16/08/26
197	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and Private health insurance usage	12/08/26
198	29/07/26	Minister for Health	Health and perinatal mortality and C-section data	14/08/26
199	29/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Health and Asbestos register	07/08/26
200	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Procurement - MOU between government unions	19/08/26
201	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Procurement - Concerns raised by unions	19/08/26
202	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Procurement - Reform and implementation	16/08/26
203	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Sustainable Household Scheme - EVs and cargo bikes financing	16/08/26
204	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Sustainable Household Scheme - Loans default rates	16/08/26
205	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Sustainable Household Scheme - Savings and uptake on EV loans	16/08/26
206	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	Government Procurement Act 2001 - Compliance	19/08/26
207	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Environmental Organisation Reviews - Two options put to Minister	19/08/26
208	31/07/26	Minister for the Public Service	Infrastructure - 1 Moore Street - Asbestos	07/08/26
209	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Territory Battery Project - Updates and further submissions	13/08/26
210	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Monitoring of microplastics in water	13/08/26
211	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Community advocacy and policy development in emissions reduction and the environment	17/08/26
212	31/07/26	Minister for City and Government Services	Queanbeyan sewerage treatment plant	19/08/26

213	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Woden outdoor pool - Consultation	13/08/26
214	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Vacant properties allocation	13/08/26
215	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Operation Kingfisher - Legal action	05/08/26
216	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Vacant Housing trend data	13/08/26
217	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Dickson skate park - Mini ramp	11/08/26
218	31/07/26	Minister for Sport and Recreation	Ice facility development - Update	10/08/26
219	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	International wetland city status	13/08/26
220	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Public housing maintenance data	13/08/26
221	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Housing ACT stock - proportion of public housing	13/08/26
222	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Public housing - Lost applications	13/08/26
223	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Public housing application process	13/08/26
224	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Transitional and crisis accommodation	13/08/26
225	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	ACT Housing records - storage costs	13/08/26
226	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Oaks Estate - Hard to let properties	13/08/26
227	30/07/26	Minister for Housing and Homelessness	Oaks Estate - conditional reports	13/08/26
228	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	CSEEP - Two procurement processes	17/08/26

229	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Territory Battery Project - Environmental Impact Statement	13/08/26
230	31/07/26	Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water	Modelling additional emissions due to delays with FOGO facility	13/08/26
231	03/08/26	Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity	Carers ACT announcement notification and meetings	07/08/26
232	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Carers ACT funding	11/08/26
233	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Community Sector boosted funding	11/08/26
234	03/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Gunners Place	13/08/26
235	03/08/26	Minister for Community Services	Community sector funding - 2026-27 Budget	17/08/26
236	31/07/26	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner - Funding breakdown	10/08/26
237	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Procurement Garran Primary School	21/08/26
238	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Procurement desktop review	18/08/26
239	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Heating and cooling infrastructure in schools	21/08/26
240	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Heating and cooling audit	21/08/26
241	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Distribution of funding to non-government schools	25/08/25
242	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Birrigai camps	18/08/26
243	30/07/26	Minister for Education	11-12 ATAR language supplementary	21/08/26
244	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Non-compliance with the Australian curriculum	18/08/26

245	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Flexible Education Review	18/08/26
246	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Flexible education demand	18/08/26
247	30/07/26	Minister for Education	Library and building funds	18/08/26
248	28/07/26	Minister for Finance	ACT Revenue - Tax re-assessments	16/08/26
249	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	CRA spending on security for events	12/08/26
250	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Government spending on Acton Waterfront	12/08/26
251	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Lockbridge contract for business case and advisory services	12/08/26
252	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Contracts awarded to Lockbridge last 5 years	12/08/26
253	30/07/26	Suburban Land Agency	Discrepancies between SLA plans and crown leases	12/08/26
254	04/08/26	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	mHub Program funding	17/08/26
255	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Desktop review of procurements	21/08/26
256	03/08/26	Treasurer	Transport of other students	20/08/26
257	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Berry Street Model	18/08/26
258	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Lyneham High School gym works	21/08/26
259	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Majura Primary School Library	18/08/26
260	03/08/26	Minister for Education	Toilet Infrastructure maintenance and upgrades	21/08/26
261	03/08/26	Minister for Education	High school in Woden Valley	21/08/26
262	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Breakdown of \$9.3 million funding	12/08/26
263	03/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Institutional abuse claims	14/08/26
264	03/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Settlement of institutional abuse claims	13/08/26

265	03/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Transition care plan data	Not received
266	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	\$39 million for CRA capital works	12/08/26
267	03/08/26	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Youth Centres	21/08/26
268	03/08/26	City Renewal Authority	Contracts with Dionysus	12/08/26
269	04/08/26	Treasurer	Free meals in schools	13/08/26
270	04/08/26	Treasurer	Ainslie property values	13/08/26
271			Withdrawn	N/A
272	04/08/26	Treasurer	Responsible investment policy framework	13/08/26
273	04/08/26	Treasurer	Procurement and investment - Application of Human Rights Act	20/08/26
274	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Potential misconduct investigation	14/08/26
275	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Pausing misconduct investigations due to mental health concerns	12/08/26
276	04/08/26	Minister for Major Projects	Kingston Arts Precinct	12/08/26
277	04/08/26	Minister for Major Projects	Lyric Theatre	17/08/26
278	04/08/26	Minister for Major Projects	Chief Engineer - Flooding in Phillip	07/08/26
279	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Capital works program - Savings	24/08/26
280	04/08/26	Attorney-General	Office of Parliamentary Counsel authorisation	19/08/26
281	04/08/26	Attorney-General	Data comparison for bills	12/08/26
282	03/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Infrastructure - Arts Venues	17/08/26
283	03/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Long term licences - Organisations	13/08/26
284	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Possible investigation	12/08/26
285	04/08/26	Chief Minister	Retrospective terminations	14/08/26

286	04/08/26	Minister for Business and Industry	Digital Account for Business	13/08/26
287	04/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Grant Funding - Artist Eligibility	13/08/26
288	04/08/26	Treasurer	Funding - Arts Organisations	20/08/26
289	04/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	Funding - WildBear Entertainment	11/08/26
290	04/08/26	Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy	MusicACT - Funding	13/08/26
291	04/08/26	Minister for Business and Industry	Small Businesses - Event Approvals	14/08/26
292	04/08/26	Minister for Finance	Secure Local Jobs Code - Advisory Council	19/08/26
293	04/08/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	Referred matters	13/08/26
294	04/08/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	CIT - Funding	Not received
295	05/08/26	Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations	CIT - Voluntary redundancies	14/08/26
296	04/08/26	Canberra Institute of Technology	CIT - Worksafe incidents	14/08/26
297	04/08/26	Minister for Finance	CIT - Secure Local Jobs Code	18/08/26
298	04/08/26	Minister for Finance	Secure Local Jobs Code - Cancelled certificates	19/08/26
299	04/08/26	Treasurer	Occupational licensing for engineers	20/08/26
300	04/08/26	Director of Public Prosecutions	Is raking technique common practice	11/08/26

301	04/08/26	Director of Public Prosecutions	Is raking technique a trained technique	11/08/26
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Appendix D: Submissions

No.	Submission by	Received	Published
1	Families ACT	29/06/26	13/07/26
2	Advocacy for Inclusion	30/06/26	13/07/26
3	SSAA ACT Inc	27/07/26	29/07/26
4	Mr Sean Harrison – right of reply	23/08/26	26/08/26

Appendix E: Ministry lists

To 24 July 2026

Andrew Barr MLA	Chief Minister Minister for Economic Development Minister for Tourism and Trade
Yvette Berry MLA	Deputy Chief Minister Minister for Education and Early Childhood Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs Minister for Sport and Recreation
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA	Minister for Health Minister for Mental Health Minister for Finance Minister for the Public Service
Chris Steel MLA	Treasurer Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development Minister for Heritage Minister for Transport
Tara Cheyne MLA	Attorney-General Minister for Human Rights Minister for City and Government Services Minister for the Night-Time Economy
Suzanne Orr MLA	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Affairs Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services Minister for Seniors and Veterans
Michael Pettersson MLA	Minister for Business, Arts and Creative Industries Minister for Children, Youth and Families Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA	Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister for Women Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Minister for Corrections Minister for Gaming Reform

From 30 July 2026

Andrew Barr MLA	Chief Minister Minister for Trade, Tourism and the Knowledge Economy Minister for Tourism and Events Minister for Major Projects
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA	Deputy Chief Minister Minister for Education Minister for Child Development and Wellbeing Minister for Finance Minister for the Public Service Minister for Health Infrastructure
Chris Steel MLA	Treasurer Minister for Planning and Sustainable Development Minister for Heritage Minister for Sport and Recreation
Tara Cheyne MLA	Attorney-General Minister for City and Government Services Minister for Transport
Suzanne Orr MLA	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity Minister for Housing and Homelessness Minister for Equality
Michael Pettersson MLA	Minister for Business and Industry Minister for Arts, Creative Industries and the Night-Time Economy Minister for Children, Youth and Families Minister for Multicultural Affairs Minister for Skills, Training and Industrial Relations
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA	Minister for Health Minister for Mental Health Minister for Police, Fire and Emergency Services Minister for Gaming Reform
Caitlin Tough MLA	Minister for Human Rights Minister for Community Services Minister for Corrections Minister for Women, Seniors and Veterans Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Appendix F: Additional Comments by Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA

It is instructive to analyse this report in light of the ACT Legislative Assembly's ongoing and sensible focus on fiscal sustainability.

Recommendations: **62**

Recommendations to increase budget spending: **23**

Recommendations to expand reporting and/or undertake more reviews that would increase administrative costs across the ACT Public Service: **34**

Other: **5**

Recommendations to offset existing or new budget spending, increase budget revenue from any source, or decrease budget spending: **0**

Huh.

Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA
Member for Brindabella

27 August 2026