



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

2004–2005–2006

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 72

WEDNESDAY, 23 AUGUST 2006

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

2 SCHOOL CLOSURES—CONSULTATION PERIOD

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of the debate on the motion of Mrs Dunne—That the ACT Government extend the consultation and decision period on school closures until the end of March 2007, and further that no school closures occur before December 2007—

Debate resumed.

Paper: Mrs Dunne, by leave, presented the following papers:

Towards 2020—

Copy of letter to Members of the Legislative Assembly from Mrs Dunne, dated 19 June 2006.

Joint press release by Mr Stefaniak and Mrs Dunne, dated 13 June 2006.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7

Mrs Burke	Mr Seselja
Mrs Dunne	Mr Smyth
Dr Foskey	Mr Stefaniak
Mr Mulcahy	

NOES, 8

Mr Barr	Mr Hargreaves
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Corbell	Ms Porter
Mr Gentleman	Mr Stanhope

And so it was negatived.

3 WORKCHOICES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REFORMS—EFFECT ON HEALTH OF WORKERS

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

- (1) acknowledges the relationship between job security and the health of workers;
- (2) acknowledges the growing evidence on the effects of the implementation of the new WorkChoices Bill on the health of workers; and
- (3) calls on the Chief Minister to convey to the Federal Government the Assembly's wish that these draconian laws be repealed.

Debate ensued.

Dr Foskey addressing the Assembly—

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

4 MINISTERIAL ARRANGEMENTS

Mr Stanhope (Chief Minister) informed the Assembly of the absence of Ms Gallagher (Deputy Chief Minister) and advised the Assembly that questions without notice normally directed to Ms Gallagher could be directed to Mr Stanhope.

5 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice being asked—

Paper: Mr Stefaniak, by leave, presented the following paper:

Epicentre—Block 8 section 48, Fyshwick—Pre-Application meeting—Record of discussion prepared by the ACT Planning and Land Authority, dated 4 October 2005.

Questions continued.

Paper: Mr Corbell (Minister for Planning) presented the following paper:

Epicentre—Block 8 section 48, Fyshwick—Copy of letter to the Development Manager, ING Real Estate Development Australia Pty Ltd from the General Manager, Urban Development, dated 6 October 2005.

Questions continued.

6 LEGAL AFFAIRS—STANDING COMMITTEE (PERFORMING THE DUTIES OF A SCRUTINY OF BILLS AND SUBORDINATE LEGISLATION COMMITTEE)—SCRUTINY REPORT 31—PUBLICATION OF REPORT—STATEMENT BY CHAIR

Mr Stefaniak (Chair) presented the following report:

Legal Affairs—Standing Committee (performing the duties of a Scrutiny of Bills and Subordinate Legislation Committee)—Scrutiny Report 31, dated 23 August 2006, together with the relevant minutes of proceedings—

and, by leave, moved—That the report be authorised for publication.

Question—put and passed.

Mr Stefaniak, by leave, made a statement in relation to the report.

7 WORKCHOICES INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS REFORMS—EFFECT ON HEALTH OF WORKERS

The order of the day having been read for the resumption of debate on the motion of Mr Gentleman (*see* [Entry 3](#))—

Debate resumed.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 9		NOES, 6	
Mr Barr	Mr Hargreaves	Mrs Burke	Mr Stefaniak
Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald	Mr Mulcahy	
Mr Corbell	Ms Porter	Mr Pratt	
Dr Foskey	Mr Stanhope	Mr Seselja	
Mr Gentleman		Mr Smyth	

And so it was resolved in the affirmative.

8 LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO MEMBER

Mr Corbell (Manager of Government Business) moved—That leave of absence be given to Ms Gallagher for today's sitting.

Question—put and passed.

9 A.C.T. EDUCATION SYSTEM—PROPOSED INQUIRY

Mr Stefaniak, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly calls on the Chief Minister to establish an inquiry under the *Inquiries Act 1991* into the future of the ACT education system over the next 25 years with the following terms of reference, procedures and timelines:

- (1) Terms of Reference—The inquiry will examine:
 - (a) Schooling in the ACT:
 - (i) the current structure of the schools system and possibilities for the future development of all sectors of the system;
 - (ii) the education, economic, social and environment benefits and costs of the current ACT schooling systems across all sectors;
 - (iii) the education, economic, social and environmental impacts of any changes in schooling;
 - (iv) developments in early childhood education;
 - (v) national and international comparisons with the ACT schooling system;
 - (vi) factors affecting the employment and retention of a high quality teaching force;
 - (vii) factors affecting high school retention rates;
 - (viii) factors affecting the drift from the government school sector; and
 - (ix) provisions for students with disabilities in all areas of the ACT education system;

- (b) Vocational Education and Training:
 - (i) the demand for vocational education and training and whether that demand is being met;
 - (ii) the relative performance of the ACT's providers of vocational and technical education;
 - (iii) the effectiveness of the ACT education system in addressing skill shortages;
 - (iv) linkages and co-operation between the vocational education and training sector and education sectors; and
 - (v) responsiveness of the vocational education and training sector to the needs of business and the wider community;
- (c) Higher Education:
 - (i) the demand for higher education and whether that demand is being met;
 - (ii) the preparedness of ACT students for higher education;
 - (iii) factors affecting educational outcomes of ACT students in higher education;
 - (iv) national and international comparisons with the ACT higher education system;
 - (v) linkages and co-operation between the higher education sector and education sectors;
 - (vi) responsiveness of the higher education sector to the needs of business and the wider community; and
 - (vii) any other related matters;
- (2) The inquiry process—The process should take the following steps:
 - (a) call for submissions on the future of the ACT education system and related matters;
 - (b) require submissions from key stakeholders;
 - (c) conduct public hearings and cross-examination of interested parties;
 - (d) stakeholders including, but not restricted to, the key agencies and organisations; and
 - (e) take submissions on the draft and finalise the concept and framework document for delivery to the ACT Government; and
- (3) Timeframes for the inquiry—The final report to be presented by 31 March 2008.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 6		NOES, 8	
Mrs Burke	Mr Smyth	Mr Barr	Mr Hargreaves
Mrs Dunne	Mr Stefaniak	Mr Berry	Ms MacDonald
Mr Mulcahy		Mr Corbell	Ms Porter
Mr Seselja		Mr Gentleman	Mr Stanhope

And so it was negatived.

10 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.24 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

MEMBERS' ATTENDANCE: All Members were present at some time during the sitting, except Ms Gallagher*.

*on leave

Tom Duncan
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly