

2004–2005

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE  
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

No. 45

WEDNESDAY, 23 NOVEMBER 2005

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1 The Assembly met at 10.30 a.m., pursuant to adjournment. A quorum of Members not being present, the Speaker (Mr Berry) ordered the bells to be rung. A quorum having been formed, the Speaker took the Chair and asked Members to stand in silence and pray or reflect on their responsibilities to the people of the Australian Capital Territory.

2 **A.C.T. PUBLIC SERVICE—INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS**

Dr Foskey, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly:

- (1) recognises the importance of creating a culture in the ACT Public Service which responds positively to internal criticism and concern;
- (2) acknowledges the potential for ongoing serious personal costs to all parties involved in complainants about a workplace;
- (3) notes:
  - (a) that a full investigation has been conducted into concerns regarding the ACT Government's Alcohol and Drug Program;
  - (b) results of the three investigations commissioned by the ACT Government and resulting reports that have been tabled in the Assembly; and
  - (c) the ACT Minister for Health has responded to the reports on behalf of the ACT Government in this Assembly; and
- (4) ensures recommended strategies are sufficiently supported and scrutinised.

Dr Foskey, by leave, moved the following amendment: Omit paragraph (4), substitute:

“(4) calls on the ACT Government to ensure recommended strategies are sufficiently supported and scrutinised.”.

Debate ensued.

Question—That Dr Foskey's amendment be agreed to—put and passed.

Question—That the motion, as amended be agreed to—put and passed.

### 3 RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE A.C.T. AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENTS

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

- (1) expresses concern at the deterioration in relations between the ACT Government and the Australian Government; and
- (2) calls on the ACT Government to work more constructively to enhance opportunities for the Territory in terms of Australian Government activities within the ACT.

Debate ensued.

Question—put.

The Assembly voted—

AYES, 7		NOES, 10	
Mrs Burke	Mr Smyth	Mr Berry	Mr Hargreaves
Mrs Dunne	Mr Stefaniak	Mr Corbell	Ms MacDonald
Mr Mulcahy		Dr Foskey	Ms Porter
Mr Pratt		Ms Gallagher	Mr Quinlan
Mr Seselja		Mr Gentleman	Mr Stanhope

And so it was negated.

### 4 QUESTIONS

Questions without notice were asked.

### 5 PRESENTATION OF PAPER

The Speaker presented the following paper:

Study trip—Report by Mr Smyth (Leader of the Opposition)—Meeting of Shadow Health Ministers—Sydney, 14 November 2005.

### 6 FEDERAL WELFARE REFORM LEGISLATION

Ms Porter, pursuant to notice, moved—That this Assembly recognises the effect of proposed Federal welfare reform legislation on members of the Canberra community.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

### 7 IN-SINK GARBAGE DISPOSAL UNITS

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

- (1) notes:
  - (a) the actions of the Minister for Planning in making the *Water and Sewerage Amendment Regulation 2005 (No 1)* on 29 July 2005, which reversed a ban on the installation of new in-sink garbage disposal units in the ACT; and
  - (b) that in-sink garbage disposal units are very water inefficient and therefore work against the Government's stated water efficiency policy; and
- (2) calls on the Minister for Planning to repeal the *Water and Sewerage Amendment Regulation 2005 (No 1)*.

Debate ensued.

Question—put and negated.

## 8 CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY—SAFETY ISSUES

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

- (1) recognises the importance of :
  - (a) safety in the construction industry as vital to our community; and
  - (b) industrial rights in the construction industry as an internationally recognised right and a means of workplace safety;
- (2) condemns the Federal Government for its attempts to reduce safety and restrict the rights of workers in the construction industry through provisions of the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act, namely the:
  - (a) exclusion of industrial action on the grounds of safety concerns;
  - (b) introduction of penalties of up to \$22 000 for individuals who partake in industrially motivated actions;
  - (c) exclusion of Construction Project Agreements; and
  - (d) ability of Australian Building and Construction Commission inspectors to enforce a penalty of imprisonment for six months against any worker who does not attend for questioning, answer questions or who obstructs an investigation or fails to hand over documents; and
- (3) calls on the Federal Government to revoke the Building and Construction Industry Improvement Act on the basis that it jeopardises the safety of the thousands of construction workers employed in the ACT.

Debate ensued.

Debate interrupted in accordance with standing order 34 and the resumption of the debate made an order of the day for the next sitting.

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## 9 ADJOURNMENT

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

Debate ensued.

Question—put and passed.

And then the Assembly, at 6.30 p.m., adjourned until tomorrow at 10.30 a.m.

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

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**Tom Duncan**  
Clerk of the Legislative Assembly