

# Matters of public importance—your Assembly @ work

**Sitting week—4 to 8 April 2022**

**Issue 3/2022**

## Motion of no confidence in Minister

### On 6 April, the Leader of the Opposition moved a motion of no confidence in the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs for failing to keep students, teachers and school communities safe. During debate Members of all parties addressed the Assembly and provided reasons for supporting or not supporting the motion.

### The motion was negatived following a vote of the Assembly.

## Government Business

***Includes business items presented to the Assembly by the Executive including bills, motions, and papers***

### Bills introduced

###  [Education Amendment Bill 2022](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65838/) (presented 7 April)

###  Summary: This bill will amend the Education Act 2004 and the Education Regulation 2005 to revise the registration and registration review requirements for non-government schools. The bill will also make amendments to the legislation to clarify the definitions of suspensions, transfers, expulsions and exclusions as well as strengthening reporting requirements for all schooling sectors. The bill makes consequential amendments to a number of Territory Acts.

###  [Fair Trading and Other Justice Legislation Amendment Bill 2022](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65843/) (presented 7 April)

###  Summary: This bill will amend fair trading legislation of the Territory to provide greater consumer protection outcomes. The amendments will include reforms to the regulation of the real estate industry to improve professional standards and qualifications and streamline the licensing framework for the industry. Amendments will be made to the licensing framework for gaming machine suppliers in the relevant legislation. The bill will also amend bookmaking legislation to provide that only corporations and not individuals or syndicates may hold a sports bookmaking licence. A number of minor and technical amendments will also be made to the Retirement Villages Act 2012 and the Retirement Villages Regulation 2013 to clarify uncertainties predominantly relating to meeting procedures.

### Bills debated

###  [Domestic Animals Legislation Amendment Bill 2022](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65585/) (presented 10 February)

###  Summary: This bill will amend domestic animal legislation by introducing a requirement for newly acquired cats to be contained to a premises for their lifetime and to require all cats to be registered annually in the ACT.

###  Proceedings: Debate resumed on this proposed legislation on 6 April 2022 with all parties in the Assembly indicating support for the bill which was agreed to in principle following debate.

###  The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### [Road Transport Legislation Amendment Bill 2021 (No 2)](https://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_65324/) (presented 1 December 2021)

### Summary: This bill will amend the Territory’s road transport legislation to introduce a regulatory timeframe of three months before the owner of a vehicle that is kept at an ACT garage address must transfer its registration to the ACT. The bill will also introduce a legislative exemption to the regulatory timeframe for vehicles registered in the name of a transferred defence force member and their eligible family members. Amendments made by the bill will also introduce provisions in relation to the use of certain vehicles, including e-scooters, or animals on the road while under influence of alcohol or drugs. The bill will also make minor and technical amendments to road transport legislation.

###  Proceedings: Debate resumed on this bill on 5 April and received the support of all parties in the Assembly with the bill being agreed to in principle.

###  The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### Motion debated

###  World Health Day was the subject of a motion moved by the Minister for Health on 7 April. The motion included noting that each year the World Health Organization celebrates World Health Day to promote global awareness of the importance of health and focus attention on a specific theme, this year’s theme being “Our plant, Our health”. The motion noted that the ACT Government had jointed the Global Green and Healthy Hospitals network and was investigating a formal commitment to the World Health Organization’s COP26 Health Programme goals. The motion also acknowledged the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic across the world and the ACT and conveyed the Assembly’s thanks to all health workers who have provided exceptional care throughout the pandemic and continue to protect the ACT community.

###  A number of Members spoke to the motion which was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

### Ministerial statements

On 5 April, the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs made a ministerial statement concerning the first joint **Annual Impact Statement for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028** and **National Agreement on Closing the Gap 2020**. During the statement the Minister presented the following paper:

* ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028—ACT Impact Statement 2021

The Minister for Mental Health made a ministerial statement on 5 April concerning the **Bilateral Agreement on Mental Health and Suicide Prevention**. During the statement the minister outlined progress that the ACT Government had made in securing investment in mental health services for the ACT and provided details of that investment.

The Minister for Industrial Relations and Workplace Safety made a ministerial statement to the Assembly on 6 April providing an update on the **safety of workers in relation to psychosocial hazards**. A number of other Members spoke on the statement.

On 6 April, the Attorney-General made a ministerial statement concerning the Government’s **support for the ACT Courts**. During the statement the Attorney-General outlined a number of initiatives and improvements made to improve the ACT Courts to ensure it is appropriately and readily equipped to respond to community needs.

An update on the progress on implementation of the **ACT Children and Young People’s Commitment 2015-2025** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Minister for Families and Community Services on 7 April. During the statement the minister highlighted the Government’s commitment to providing access to quality healthcare, learning and employment opportunities for all children and young people in the ACT and outlined steps taken by the Government to progress initiatives in the ACT Children and Young People’s Commitment 2015-2025.

Further ministerial statements made during the sitting week related to:

 **Update on the ACT Government’s response to the COVID-19 emergency**—Minister for Health *(5 April)*

 **Heritage in Canberra—Looking Back to Shape Our Future**—Minister for Heritage *(5 April)*

 **ACT Disability Strategy**—Minister for Disability *(6 April)*

 **Discrimination Law Reform Listening Report**—Minister for Human Rights *(7 April)*

The full text of the statements can be found on the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/links/download.htm) site once finalised.

## Private Members’ Business

***Includes items presented to the Assembly by all non-Executive Members, including bills and motions***

### Motions debated

A motion concerning **household waste management** was moved by Ms Lawder MLA on 5 April. The motion included noting that Canberrans are supportive of recycling, reducing waste to landfill and cutting emissions and that some families have large amounts of waste, such as bigger families, people with disabilities, those with additional medical needs and multi-generational families. The motion also noted that at the time of promising a food organics and garden organics (FOGO) collection, Canberrans were not advised that this would mean a reduction in their general waste collection services or a charge for an additional or larger bin. Also included in the motion was noting that the Labor-Greens Government has no online mechanism for residents to provide feedback on the FOGO pilot.

The motion called on the Government to continue weekly rubbish pickups for Canberrans unless they opt out of weekly pickups, reassess charging for an additional or larger bin, investigate how a recyclable nappy rebate scheme could be introduced in the ACT and create an online option for residents to provide their feedback on the pilot and encourage participants to do so.

During debate an amendment was moved by the Government that included noting that since November 2021, the ACT Government had been undertaking a trial of FOGO collection services in four Belconnen suburbs, with the trial to inform the future design of a citywide household waste collection service. The motion also noted that the Government is engaging with participants to understand their experiences with the FOGO pilot and called on the Government to, among other things, continue to collate input and feedback from pilot participants, through online and other forums and consider and address the needs of Canberra households that produce a large amount of waste in the design of the citywide service, potentially including free additional bin upgrades for those who need more capacity and investigate better environmental options for nappy wast as part of the planning for the citywide FOGO service. The Government’s amendment was agreed to following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was passed by the Assembly.

**Digital access and inclusion** was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Orr MLA on 5 April. The motion including noting the importance of internet access for social connectivity, employment and lifelong learning and the importance of access to digital infrastructure and technology to achieve digital equality in the community. The motion also noted the important community service that public libraries have provided in Australia over the years and that investing in public library collections and infrastructure is necessary to maintain this important community service. The motion noted that the ACT Government is currently undertaking a community co-design process on the future of libraries through the *Imagine 2030* project, recognising that the role of libraries in our community and society is continually evolving. The motion called on the ACT Government to make improving digital access and inclusion a priority through the *Imagine 2030* libraries co-design process, including through consideration of wireless internet device loans and other initiatives to increase access to necessary digital equipment.

Following debate, the motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A motion concerning **housing choices** in the Territory was moved by Ms Lee MLA on 7 April. The motion included noting that the ACT is in a housing crisis and that the ACT Government’s Indicative Land Release Program 2021-22 to 2025-26 dictates that over the next five years, approximately 70 percent of the land for new housing delivered by the ACT Government will be for high density dwellings and that 25 percent will be land for detached housing with the remaining five percent for mid-density dwellings. The motion also noted that this approach was restricting Canberrans’ housing choices and is not delivering a mix of housing typologies to meet demand. The motion called on the Government to reframe the planned land release for the next five years to provide more options for mid-density and detached housing and ensure the new planning regime would deliver the housing choices Canberrans want and need. During debate an amendment moved by the Government noted that house prices were rising nationally and internationally and that the ACT is affected by these increases. The amendment also outlined the composition of the ACT’s existing dwelling stock as at 30 June 2021 and noted that the ACT Government’s Indicative Land Release Program continues to supply dwellings ahead of population growth and provides a mix of dwelling types and locations.

The amendment noted that the Grattan Institute had identified increasing density in inner and middle suburbs as the most effective way to increase housing affordability and the Demonstration Housing project is testing ideas for medium-density development. The amendment called on the Government to clearly identify, through District Strategies, likely locations for future density, particularly medium-density development. The amendment was agreed to following a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was passed.

**Co-operatives and alternative business models** was the subject of a motion moved by Ms Clay MLA, on behalf of Mr Davis MLA, on 7 April. The motion noted that Canberra businesses have an important role in reducing unemployment, underemployment, and economic inequality, including through alternative business models such as micro and small business, member and worker-owned co-operatives, social enterprises, and not-for-profit corporations and that co-operatives are values driven, community-based, democratic organisations that are owned and controlled by their workers and people who use their services. The motion also included noting that co-operatives can provide secure jobs and offer a viable and fairer alternative business model to gig-economy “job shares” which are driving greater rates of underemployment and casualisation nationally and internationally and in Australia and over 2000 co‑operatives are active in a diverse range of sectors, including agriculture, arts, childcare, health care, clubs, community services, education, energy, finance, hardware, housing, radio broadcasting, fishing, manufacturing, produce marketing, recycling, respite care, retail, superannuation funds, communications, transport, wholesale, and wine sales. The motion called on the ACT Government to provide accessible information on the establishment of co-operatives and other alternative business models that prioritise workers’ rights and dividends to their workers and communities to deliver social goods and to explore the utility of establishing a unit within the ACT Government to assist prospective co-operatives to navigate existing processes required to establish co-operatives and other alternative business models. Also included in the motion was calling on the Government to investigate the potential benefits and appropriate mechanisms for providing financial assistance of the formation of co-operatives and alternative business models or the transformation of businesses into co-operatives and alternative business models and seek to understand what Bologna in Italy is doing to make it a world leader in co-operative industry and, after considering this research, consider establishing an ongoing dialogue or formal partnership with that jurisdiction.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Further motions debated during the sitting week related to:

 **Resourcing for public schools in the Territory—Mr Hanson MLA** *(6 April)*

 **Bus travel—Mr Parton MLA** *(6 April)*

The full debate on the above motions and bill can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2021/links/download.htm) site once finalised.

The full terms of the above motions can be found in the [Minutes of Proceedings](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-the-chamber/chamber-documents).

## Petitions and petition responses

The following petitions were lodged—

* Traffic calming measures in Kambah—lodged by Dr Paterson *(5 April)*
* Vehicle ownership transfer between family members—lodged by Ms Clay *(5 April)*
* Residential Tenancies Act—Proposed inclusion of wellbeing clause—lodged by Mr Braddock *(5 April)*
* Installation of zebra crossing outside childcare centre in Watson—lodged by Ms Vassarotti *(6 April)*

A copy of the petitions can be found on the [Assembly website](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-the-chamber/petitions).

## Papers Presented

The following are papers of interest that were presented during the sitting week:

* Administrative Arrangements 2022 (No 1)
* Approvals of Variations to the Territory Plan—
* Variation to the Territory Plan 381—Local Centre shop size
* Variation to the Territory Plan 364—Gungahlin Town Centre—Amendments to the Gungahlin Precinct Map and Code
* Variation to the Territory Plan 365—Housing Choices—Boarding Houses and Co-Housing
* Auditor-General’s Report—No 13/2021—Campbell Primary School Modernisation Project Procurement—Government response
* Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Ministerial Appointment 2022 (No 1)
* Report of a Review of a Critical Incident by the ACT Inspector of Correctional Services—A serious fire at the Alexander Maconochie Centre on 12 May 2021
* Report of the Independent Reviewer, pursuant to the Government Agencies (Campaign Advertising) Act, for the period 1 July to 31 December 2021
* Review of Procurement ACT—October 2021
* Sport and active recreation report—Response to resolution of the Assembly of 22 April 2021

## Committee Activities

### Committee reports

#### Scrutiny Committee

####  [Scrutiny Report 14](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0008/1975904/Report-14-29Mar22.pdf)

This report, presented on 5 April, contained the committee’s comments on 12 pieces of subordinate legislation, four government responses and proposed Private Members’ amendments to one bill.

### Committee statements

#### Economy and Gender and Economic Equality—Standing Committee

####  The chair of the committee, on 5 April, made a statement concerning the committee’s consideration of statutory appointments for the period 1 July to 31 December 2021. At the conclusion of the statement the chair presented the following paper:

* Schedule of Statutory Appointments for the period 1 July to 31 December 2021—Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality

#### Environment, Climate Change and Biodiversity—Standing Committee

####  The chair of the committee, on 7 April, made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had resolved not to conduct an inquiry into the fossil emblem for the ACT, noting that a public vote had been conducted, with the winning fossil being *Batocara mitchelli*, and that the committee recommended that the Assembly adopt this as the fossil emblem for the ACT.

### Government responses to committee reports

#### Planning, Transport and City Services—Standing Committee

Report 8—Inquiry into Giralang Shops—Interim Report

#### Public Accounts—Standing Committee

Report 3—Inquiry into the Auditor-General’s Report No. 1 of 2020: Shared Services Delivery of HR and Finance Services

## Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT

### Electorate of Brindabella

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Johnathan Davis (ACT Greens)

Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Ginninderra

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Peter Cain (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Jo Clay (ACT Greens)

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

### Electorate of Kurrajong

Mr Andrew Barr (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Elizabeth Lee (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Shane Rattenbury (ACT Greens)

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Rebecca Vassarotti (ACT Greens)

### Electorate of Murrumbidgee

Emma Davidson (ACT Greens)

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)

Dr Marisa Paterson (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

### Electorate of Yerrabi

Mr Andrew Braddock (ACT Greens)

Ms Leanne Castley (Canberra Liberals)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

## Next Sitting

**Tuesday, 3 May 2022.**

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