Matters of public importance

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***Non-sitting and sitting weeks—6 November to 1 December 2017***

**Issue 13/2017**

**Condolence Motion**

On 28 November, a condolence motion was moved by the Chief Minister in relation to the recent passing of Mr Steve Doszpot, a sitting Member of the Assembly for the electorate of Kurrajong. A number of other Members spoke to the motion and at its conclusion all Members of the Assembly stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr Doszpot. As a further mark of respect the Assembly suspended for a short period of time.

**Government business**

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

***Bills introduced***

[**Building and Construction Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57251/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* by expanding the information sharing provisions about public safety to non-Territory agencies. The bill also amends the *Electricity Safety Act 9171* and the *Electricity Safety Regulation 2004* to create a concept of the electrical wiring rules which provides for incorporating provisions and requirements not included in the relevant Australian and New Zealand standard.

[**Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57252/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to introduce a fortification removal scheme in the ACT. The bill also prohibits the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.

[**Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2017 (No 2)**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57254/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend a number of the Territory’s criminal laws to implement recommendations made by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. The bill will also allow circle sentencing to occur in the Childrens’ Court, amend the offence of incitement and provide that an offender cannot be concurrently subject to a good behaviour order and a parole order.

[**Work Health and Safety Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57257/default.asp)

*Summary*: This bill will adopt the national model Work Health and Safety Regulation that governs the use, storage and handling of hazardous chemicals.

Copies of bills presented to the Assembly and associated explanatory statements can be accessed from the ACT Legislation Register at [www.legislation.act.gov.au](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au).

***Bills debated***

[**Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57076/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Crimes Act 1900* to provide a specific offence to capture the conduct of drive-by shooting. Provisions in the bill will also provide police with statutory power to establish and control a crime scene.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 28 November with all parties indicating their support for the passage of the legislation. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage a number of amendments were moved by the Government that were minor and technical in nature and in response to comments made by the Scrutiny Committee. The amendments were agreed to.

The amended bill was then passed by the Assembly.

[**Domestic Animals (Racing Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57092/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* by adding provisions that outline the obligations attached to those who own or have day-to-day control of greyhounds that are involved, or are intended to be involved, in greyhound racing outside the ACT. The bill also makes amendments to the *Domestic Animals Regulation 2001* by including additional information to be required for racing greyhound registrations, and the information that will be provided on certificates of registration. The bill also proposes amendments to the *Animal Welfare Act 1992* to make it an offence to conduct, or facilitate the conduct of, greyhound racing in the ACT.

*Proceedings:* This bill was debated together with the Racing (Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017 (see below entry). The bill was agreed to in principle.

The unamended bill was passed by the Assembly.

[**Inspector of Correctional Services Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57058/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will establish an independent Inspector of Correctional Services for the Territory and includes providing a broad and flexible operational structure for the Inspector.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 30 November with the Opposition indicating they would support the bill in principle but would be proposing an amendment during the detail stage. The bill was agreed to in principle.

The Opposition’s amendment moved during the detail stage related to the appointment of an Inspector of Correctional Services and was negatived after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[**Racing (Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57093/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Racing Act 1999* and several other pieces of Territory law by removing the legal framework for the administration and control of greyhound racing in the ACT.

*Proceedings:* This bill was debated together with the Domestic Animals (Racing Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017 on 28 November.

During debate the Opposition outlined its reasons for not supporting the two pieces of legislation with the ACT Greens indicating their support for the bills. The Racing (Greyhounds) Amendment Bill 2017 was agreed to in principle after a vote of the Assembly.

During the detail stage an amendment was moved by the Opposition seeking to amend the commencement date of the proposed legislation from 30 April 2018 to 30 June 2018. The amendment was not supported by the Government or the ACT Greens and was negatived after a vote of the Assembly.

The bill was then passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[**Reportable Conduct and Information Sharing Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57091/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend a number of Territory laws to further support the operation of the Reportable Conduct Scheme in relation to information sharing and the promotion of child safety.

*Proceedings: Proceedings:* The proposed legislation received tri-partisan support when debate resumed on 30 November 2017.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

[**Workers Compensation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57077/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will adopt the national model Work Health and Safety Regulation that governs the use, storage and handling of hazardous chemicals.

*Proceedings:* All parties in the Assembly supported the passage of this bill when debate resumed on 30 November 2017.

The bill was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

***Ministerial statements***

The following ministerial statements were made on 28 November—

A recent **mission to Germany and Spain** was the subject of a ministerial statement made by the Chief Minister. The statement focussed on matters covered during the mission including the light rail project, technologies and developments in public transport, renewable energies and smart cities.

The Minister for Planning and Land Management made a statement concerning **demonstration housing precincts**. The statement was in response to a resolution of the Assembly of 7 June 2017.

A number of further ministerial statements were made on 30 November relating to—

. 2017 annual report for the **2015-2018 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement** *(made by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torrs Strait Islander Affairs)*

. **ACT Health system-wide data review**—Quarterly update *(made by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing)*

. **European Union Delegation**—August-September 2017 *(made by the Minister for Planning and Land Management)*

. Veterans initiatives and outcomes from **Veterans Ministers’ Roundtable**—Update *(made by the Minister for Veterans and Seniors)*

The full text of the statements made by Ministers and Members can be accessed at www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

**Private Members’ business**

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

***Bills debated***

[**Domestic Animals (Dangerous Dogs) Legislation Amendment Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57082/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will amend the *Domestic Animals Act 2000* and the *Domestic Animals Regulation 2001* to strengthen laws in relation to dangerous dogs in the community.

*Proceedings*: Debate resumed on this proposed legislation on 29 November with the Government indicating they would be supporting the bill in principle but would be seeking to move amendments during the detail stage. The ACT Greens also stated their support for the proposed legislation in principle. The bill was agreed to in principle.

During the detail stage the Government moved a number of amendments to broaden the scope of the review of the Act and introduce a number of changes in relation to the operation of the Act. Debate ensued with the Opposition opposing a number of the amendments.

All proposed Government amendments were agreed to.

The amended bill was passed by the Assembly.

[**Crimes (Criminal Organisation Control) Bill 2017**](http://www.legislation.act.gov.au/b/db_57083/default.asp)

*Summary:* This bill will provide for a criminal organisation control regime to prevent, disrupt and deter the operations of any organised criminal organisations.

*Proceedings:* Debate resumed on this bill on 29 November with both the Government and ACT Greens indicating they would not be supporting the passage of the proposed legislation through the Assembly.

The bill was negatived after a vote of the Assembly.

A full record of the debates can be accessed at www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

***Motions debated***

A motion moved by Mr Pettersson on 29 November sought to highlight **Canberra’s achievements and future initiatives** for the Territory. The motion included calling on the Assembly to, where appropriate, promote Canberra’s achievements and highlight the range of opportunities that exist for private investment. Both the Opposition and the ACT Greens supported the motion.

The motion was passed by the Assembly without amendment.

Issues at the **Alexander Maconochie Centre** (AMC) was the subject of a motion moved by Mrs Jones on 29 November. The motion included outlining recent events that have occurred at the AMC and calling on the Government to conduct a full review of the policies and procedures relating to the transportation, accommodation and supervision of inmates who are receiving healthcare outside of the AMC and report back to the Assembly by February 2018. During debate the Government moved an amendment to the motion which included noting that there had been significant progress over the last five years to develop and improve the corrections system. It also included calling on the Government to continue to update the Assembly on developments in ACT Corrections. The amendment was passed by the Assembly.

The amended motion was then agreed to by the Assembly.

A further motion debated on 29 November related to **marriage equality law reform and discrimination**—Mr Steel

The full debate on the above motions can be accessed from www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard.

**Executive Members’ business**

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

***Motion debated***

**Pill testing services** to provide a harm reduction measure to keep young people safe was the subject of a motion moved by Mr Rattenbury on 30 November. The motion included noting that a number of studies have provided positive indications that pill testing minimises risky drug consumption. During debate the Opposition outlined why they would not support the motion with the Government indicating its support for the motion.

The motion was passed after a vote of the Assembly.

**Assembly business**

***Includes any business relating to the establishment or membership of a committee or the proposed referral of a matter to a committee. It also includes business which proposes to amend, disallow, disapprove or declare void any instruments which are made under specific Acts agreed to by the Assembly. Assembly business also includes any notice or order of the day which deals with the administration of the Assembly or how the Assembly conducts its proceedings***

***Motions debated***

A motion to disallow **Planning and Development (Lease Variation Charges) Determination 2017 (No 2)** was moved by the Opposition on 28 November. During debate the Opposition outlined its reasons for moving the disallowance motion.

Both the Government and ACT Greens indicated that they would not support the motion and stated their reasons for not doing so.

The motion was negatived after a vote of the Assembly.

The full terms of the above motion can be found [here](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0005/1132763/MOP041.pdf).

On 30 November a motion moved by the Opposition sought to refer to an Assembly standing committee for review and report, Continuing Resolution 9 of the Assembly relating to the procedures for the **election of a Senator for the Australian Capital Territory**. During debate an amendment was moved by the ACT Greens that included that the committee should examine whether the Legislative Assembly needs to adopt any new practices in relation to this matter. The amendment was agreed to.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

A motion amending continuing resolution 6 of the Assembly relating to the **declaration of Private Interests of Members** was agreed to by the Assembly on 30 November.

Later that day the Speaker presented a revised Statement of Registrable Interests form.

The Government moved a motion on 30 November that proposed the establishment of a **Select Committee on End-of-Life Choices in the ACT**. During debate on the motion two amendments were moved by the Opposition. The first amendment sought to omit the proposal that a Government member be the chair of the select committee. The next amendment proposed a change to the reporting date of the committee. The amendments were agreed to after a vote of the Assembly.

The amended motion was then passed by the Assembly.

The following Members were appointed to the select committee:

Ms Cheyne, Ms Cody, Mrs Dunne, Mrs Kikkert, Ms Le Couteur.

A motion referring the matter of whether the ACT should have a **mammal emblem** and what that emblem should be was passed by the Assembly after debate on 30 November.

The full terms of the above motions can be found [here](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/1133743/MOP043.pdf).

**Papers presented**

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

2015-16 Annual Report—Health Directorate—Corrigendum (*presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 28 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Administrator of the National Health Funding Pool *(presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 28 November)*

2016-17 Annual Report—Community Services Directorate—Corrigendum (*presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 30 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Health Directorate—Corrigendum (*presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 28 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission—Corrigendum (*presented by the Treasurer on 28 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—Justice and Community Safety Directorate—Corrigendum (*presented by the Treasurer on 30 November*)

2016-17 Annual Report—National Health Funding Body *(presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 28 November)*

2016-17 Annual Report—National Health Practitioner Ombudsman and Privacy Commission *(presented by the Minister for Health and Wellbeing on 28 November)*

2016-17 Annual Report—Transport Canberra and City Services—Corrigendum (*presented by the Minister for Transport and City Services on 28 November*)

2017-18 Capital Works Program Progress Report—Year-to-date 30 September 2017 *(presented by the Treasurer on 28 November)*

ACT Greenhouse Gas Inventory for 2016-17, including recalculations for 2015-16 *(presented by the Minister for Climate Change and Sustainability on 30 November)*

Auditor-General’s Report 10/2017 entitled *2016-17 Financial Audits—Overview* (*presented by the Speaker on 28 November*)

Community contributions made by gaming machine licensees—2016-2017 Report by the ACT Gambling and Racing Commission *(presented by the Minister for Regulatory Services on 28 November*)

Consolidated Financial Report—Financial quarter ending 30 September 2017 *(presented by the Treasurer on 28 November)*

Education and Care Services National Amendment Regulations 2017 *(presented by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development on 30 November)*

Government responses to resolutions of the Assembly—

. Parliamentary Triangle—Proposed sale of east and west block buildings *(presented by the Speaker on 30 November)*

. Funding for the Director of Public Prosecutions.

Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020—Progress Report *(presented by the Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety on 30 November)*

Schools for All Report—ACT Government’s investment in providing suitable withdrawal spaces and appropriate calming and sensory spaces in ACT public schools *(presented by the Minister for Education and Early Childhood Development on 28 November)*

**Petitions and petition response**

On 28 November 2017 the following petitions were lodged—

Rerouting of bus services from Anketell Street to Cowlishaw Street, Tuggeranong—Two petitions lodged by Mr Parton and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

One petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

Improved access to Mount Taylor—Two petitions lodged by Mr Steel and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

One petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

Dangerous dogs legislation—lodged by Mr Doszpot and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

On 30 November 2017 the following petitions were lodged—

Draft variation 344—Proposed delay—Petition lodged by Mr Steel and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management.

Lake Burley Griffin and surrounds—Heritage values—Petition lodged by Ms Lee and referred to the Minister for the Environment and Heritage.

The petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

Red Hill natural environment and surrounding existing green space—Integrated planning—Two petitions lodged by Ms Le Couteur and referred to the Minister for Planning and Land Management.

One petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Planning and Urban Renewal.

Torrens shops—Playground upgrade—Petition lodged by Mrs Jones and referred to the Minister for Transport and City Services.

The petition was also referred to the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services.

A copy of the terms of these petitions can be accessed from the Assembly [*Hansard*](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/hansard) site.

The following ministerial response to a petition was lodged—

Safe Schools Coalition Program

A copy of the response can be found [here](https://epetitions.act.gov.au/responses/Pet%2021-17.pdf).

**Committee activities**

***Committee reports presented***

**2016 ACT Election and the Electoral Act—Select Committee**

Report—*Inquiry into the 2016 ACT Election and the Electoral Act* *(presented on 30 November)*.

A copy of the report can be accessed [here](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0020/1133336/Select-Committee-on-the-2016-ACT-Election-and-Electoral-Act-Report.pdf).

**Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

Report 3—Draft Lower Cotter Catchment Reserve Management Plan *(presented 30 November)*

Report 4—Management of ACT Cemeteries *(presented 30 November)*

**Scrutiny Report 12** *(presented 28 November)*

This report contained the committee’s comments on 11 bills, two pieces of subordinate legislation and three government responses.

A copy of the report can be access [here](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0014/1130450/Report-12.pdf).

***Committee inquiries***

**Education, Employment and Youth Affairs—Standing Committee**

On 14 and 17 November 2017, the committee held hearings for its inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2016-17. The Committee heard evidence in relation to the following portfolios: Education and Early Childhood Development, Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Higher Education, Research and Training.

**Environment and Transport and City Services—Standing Committee**

The chair made a statement on 30 November in relation to the committee’s inquiry into a possible mammal emblem for the Territory.

**Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee**

The chair of the committee made a statement on 30 November informing the Assembly that it had resolved to conduct an inquiry into the future sustainability of health funding in the ACT.

A further statement was made by the chair indicating that the committee had also resolved to conduct an inquiry into the implementation, performance and governance of the National Disability Insurance Scheme in the ACT.

**Justice and Community Safety—Standing Committee**

[Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial reports](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-justice-and-community-safety/inquiry-into-annual-and-financial-report-2016-2017)

On 6 November 2017, the committee held its first public hearing inquiring into referred 2016–17 annual and financial reports. At the hearing, the committee examined the annual report of the ACT Electoral Commission and heard from the ACT Electoral Commissioner and Deputy Electoral Commissioner. The transcript for the hearing can be accessed at: <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/comms/justice03.pdf>.

On 8 November 2017, the committee held its second public hearing inquiring into referred 2016–17 annual and financial reports. At the hearing, the committee examined the annual reports of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate; ACT Policing; Human rights Commission; Legal Aid ACT; Director of Public Prosecutions; Public Trustee and Guardian; and ACT Gambling and Racing Commission. The Minister for Justice, Consumer Affairs and Road Safety, Minister for Corrections, Minister for Police and Emergency Services, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Minister for Regulatory Affairs and the Attorney General along with officials from ACT Policing; the Human Rights Commission; the Justice and Community Safety Directorate; the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate; the Community Services Directorate, Legal Aid ACT; Office of the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions; the Public Trustee and Guardian, and the Chair and Deputy Chair of the Sentence Administration Board appeared as witnesses.

The transcript for the hearing can be accessed at: <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/comms/justice04.pdf>

[Inquiry into Domestic and Family Violence—Policy approaches and responses](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/in-committees/standing-committees-current-assembly/standing-committee-on-justice-and-community-safety/inquiry-into-domestic-and-family-violencepolicy-approaches-and-responses)

On 23 November 2017, the committee held its first public hearing inquiring into domestic and family violence—policy approaches and responses.  The committee heard from the Chief Executive and Head of Practice, General Practice of Legal Aid ACT at the Hearing.  The transcript for the hearing can be accessed at: <http://www.hansard.act.gov.au/hansard/2017/comms/justice05.pdf>

**Planning and Urban Renewal—Standing Committee**

On 28 November the chair of the committee made a statement informing the Assembly that the committee had determined not to hold an inquiry into the petition relating to advertising billboards as the committee had recently conducted an inquiry and reported on the matter.

The chair also informed the Assembly on 28 November that the committee would not be continuing its inquiry into housing given the release of the Government’s announcement of a major consultation process on its Housing Choices Discussion Paper. The chair indicated that the considerable overlap of an inquiry and the Government’s consultation process could cause confusion for those wishing to make submissions and/ or contribute to the process.

***Government response to committee report***

**Health, Ageing and Community Services—Standing Committee**

Report 2—Inquiry into the Employment of People with Disabilities *(presented by the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth on 30 November)*

**Education Activities**

The office is currently working on delivering a range of new video resources for use in schools and by the community. New videos already available on the website include the [bar of the house](https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/Explore-your-Assembly/resources/bar-of-the-house) and a school group participating in a role play of an MPI during a visit to the Assembly as part of the [Mr Stink program](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WT7xT0q6yQo&feature=youtu.be) conducted in July.

The Assembly Education Officers attended the Australasian Parliamentary Educators Conference in Melbourne on 22-24 November. Twenty-five education professionals from Australia and the Pacific Region gathered to discuss and share information on such topics as how to engage youth in democracy through education, how to assist youth to identify and break the fake news cycle, and how to increase media literacy in today’s complex information overburdened world. There was a wealth of knowledge exchanged and educators showcased many engaging resources from their parliamentary education programs that included cartoon characters, poetry, role plays, audio/visual resources and virtual reality. Social media platforms have become a valuable way of assisting educators to promote their programs and increase participation in both their web-based resources and visitors’ programs and many tips and ideas were shared. Both officers agreed the conference was an invaluable professional development exercise.

Information on our various program offerings are available on the Assembly’s website.

**Retirement of Deputy Clerk**

On 30 November, the Speaker informed the Assembly of the upcoming retirement of the Deputy Clerk/ Serjeant-at-Arms. A number of Members made statements in relation to the retirement.

**Members of the Legislative Assembly for the ACT**

***Electorate of Brindabella***

Ms Joy Burch (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Mick Gentleman (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Nicole Lawder (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Mark Parton (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Andrew Wall (Canberra Liberals)

***Electorate of Ginninderra***

Ms Yvette Berry (Australian Labor Party)

Ms Tara Cheyne (Australian Labor Party)

Mrs Vicki Dunne (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert (Canberra Liberals)

Mr Gordon Ramsay (Australian Labor Party)

***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)

***Electorate of Murrumbidgee***

Ms Bec Cody (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Jeremy Hanson CSC (Canberra Liberals)

Mrs Giulia Jones (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Caroline Le Couteur (ACT Greens)

Mr Chris Steel (Australian Labor Party)

***Electorate of Yerrabi***

Mr Alistair Coe (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Meegan Fitzharris (Australian Labor Party)

Mr James Milligan (Canberra Liberals)

Ms Suzanne Orr (Australian Labor Party)

Mr Michael Pettersson (Australian Labor Party)

**Next sitting**

**Tuesday, 13 February 2018.**

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