

**RECOMMENDATION 60**

**The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing table the business case for Upgrade and Maintain ACT Health Assets (UMAHA) stage 2 and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

A high level overview can be provided for both the UMAHA Stage 2 Business Case, and the Strategic Asset Management Plan.

**RECOMMENDATION 61**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a process that ensures transparency in contractual negotiations and dealings with contract panel members.**

Government response

Noted.

ACT Health currently undertakes all procurement activities and contract negotiations in accordance with the requirements of the ACT Government's *Procurement Act 2001* and *Procurement Regulation 2007* to ensure appropriate transparency and adherence with guidelines.

**RECOMMENDATION 62**

**The Committee recommends that the Minister for Health and Wellbeing table the report on the system-wide data review, which was provided to the ACT Government prior to consultation with the Health Directorate. The Committee further recommends that the report on the system-wide data review, post consultation be tabled, noting any amendments between the two versions.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The final System-Wide Data Review Outcomes Report will be tabled during the August 2018 sittings of the Legislative Assembly, and will reflect a further round of consultation undertaken within ACT Health.

**RECOMMENDATION 63**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government undertake work to consider the viability of moving cystic fibrosis clinic to Canberra Hospital to ensure Canberrans with cystic fibrosis are able to access the full suite of tests and allied health professionals they require.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Division of Medicine within the ACT Government has reviewed this issue previously and does not currently have the clinical space to run such a clinic at The Canberra Hospital Campus. However, this arrangement in no way impacts on patient access to a range of health professionals required to manage their condition. ACT Health will continue to review opportunities to relocate the current clinic at Canberra Hospital and Health Services.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 64**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with Cystic Fibrosis ACT to improve support for people in the ACT living with cystic fibrosis.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government supports this recommendation and will continue to work with Cystic Fibrosis ACT as the major stakeholder for this service.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 65**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a framework, including for maintaining prisoner health records, to ensure coordinated treatment between Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services and ACT Health.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The working model regarding the delivery of care and record management between Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services (Winnunga) and ACT Health continues to be established.

It is not anticipated that Winnunga and ACT Health will share access to each other's records, instead a handover process would occur. The systems regarding this handover process continue to be developed.

The group undertaking this work is aware of the requirement to develop a framework that maintains detainee health records in accordance with the Health Records Privacy Act, while still ensuring coordinated treatment for detainees occurs between Winnunga and ACT Health.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 66**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government address the need for a centralised facility or adolescent step up, step down program.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government has already committed to building a Child and Adolescent Mental Health Inpatient Unit. Planning for this unit has commenced.

In relation to the provision of services in the community, ACT Health has two northside Step Up Step Down facilities, one for adults (18-65 year olds) and one for adolescents (12-18 year olds). ACT Health also has one existing facility on the south side for young people aged 18-24 years, and a second facility for adults to be established with funding provided in the 2018-19 Budget. The build is expected to be complete in 2020-21.

In addition to facility-based Step Up Step Down programs, ACT Health also funds non-facility based outreach Step Up Step Down services through the Transition to Recovery program for 18-24 year olds and adults. This may suit those people who are not able to attend the north or south facilities. A further outreach support for the 'Step Down' component is the Wayback Support Program for suicidal crisis after care which is also non-facility based so it is suitable for ACT-wide access.

Step Up Step Down facility and non-facility based supports are an evidence based, effective and contemporary model of care, and are a key component of the stepped care approach to mental health treatment.

The relocation of any of these services has interdependencies with the availability of purpose built facilities elsewhere in the ACT. The addition of any further facilities would need to be subject to collaborative development of shared sector priorities arising from the Regional Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan, currently in development.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 67**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to support pill testing and consider future opportunities to run pill testing at events and locations across the ACT.<sup>1</sup>**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The pill testing trial at Groovin the Moo Canberra in April 2018 provided proof of concept that pill testing can be conducted at events in the ACT as a harm reduction measure. The ACT Government maintains a supportive policy environment for third parties to conduct pill testing at future events in the ACT with appropriate oversight and safeguards.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 68**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government sponsor an independent review of the pill testing trial, including legal, health and effectiveness issues and present this review to the Assembly.**

##### Government response

Noted.

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<sup>1</sup> Mr Wall MLA and Ms Lee MLA did not support this recommendation.

The pill testing trial conducted at Groovin the Moo Canberra was evaluated by Safety and Testing Advisory Service at Festivals and Events (STA-SAFE). The report of this evaluation is available at: <https://www.harmreductionaustralia.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/Pill-Testing-Pilot-ACT-June-2018-Final-Report.pdf>

The ACT Government would support the conduct of an independent evaluation of pill testing services offered at future events.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 69**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government dedicate funding to determining why sexually transmitted infections are generally trending up.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health supports additional research into the epidemiology of sexually transmissible infections in the ACT. Targeted research projects could investigate whether increased transmission of sexually transmissible infections is occurring in the community, and identify emerging trends and risk factors to inform the development and implementation of more targeted prevention and promotional activities. This research will be considered as part of future planning.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 70**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with partner agencies like Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, Aids Action Council, youth organisations and advisory committees to develop more targeted sexual health awareness campaigns to address the increase in STIs.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health currently provides funding to non-government organisations including the AIDS Action Council of the ACT, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, and Hepatitis ACT to undertake a range of services related to prevention of sexually transmissible infections and promotion of safe sex. ACT Health has and will continue to work closely with these groups to develop targeted sexual health awareness campaigns based on known risk factors and emerging disease trends or issues in the ACT.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 71**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate making free condoms available at more Government health centres and publish information on its websites about where free condoms are available.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

Free condoms are already available at many Government health clinics and non-government organisations, including the Canberra Sexual Health Centre, the Tuggeranong, Phillip and Belconnen Health Centres, the ACT Alcohol and Drug Service, the AIDS Action Council of the ACT, Sexual Health and Family Planning ACT, and Hepatitis ACT. ACT Health supports investigating the feasibility of other services which could provide free condoms, including the ACT Health Walk-in Centres. ACT Health will collate information about current sources of free condoms and make this available on the ACT Health website.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 72**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider reporting on sexual health including outcomes in public sexual health as part of the Budget Papers and include further statistical information as part of Annual Reporting.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health will explore the production of publicly available annual reports of public health data related to sexually transmissible infections.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 73**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with Arthritis ACT and other interested parties on an arrangement for maintaining appropriate and affordable access to hydrotherapy pools on the southside of Canberra.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Canberra Hospital rehabilitation pool will close with the opening of the new facility at University of Canberra Hospital. Stakeholders including Arthritis ACT have requested continued access to the pool at Canberra Hospital. This relates to the availability of hydrotherapy facilities on the south side of Canberra.

ACT Health has entered into an agreement with Arthritis ACT to continue access to the pool at Canberra Hospital until June 2019. ACT Health does not intend to keep the pool at Canberra Hospital open past that time, nor do we anticipate providing access to other groups. There are other options for hydrotherapy in the south side of Canberra, as outlined in the table below:

<b>Private South side Hydrotherapy Pools (heated to 33°C or greater)</b>	<b>South side ACT Government Public Schools with Hydrotherapy Pools (heated to 33°C or greater)</b>
Hughes Hydro – Hughes	Malkara Special School – Garran
Kings Calwell – Calwell	
Kings Swim – Deakin	
Calvary John James Pool – Deakin	

**RECOMMENDATION 74**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide details of the hydrotherapy pool at the Mt Stromlo aquatic centre, including specifications, associated equipment, costs, timelines, details of the hydrotherapy services to be provided, who will provide those services, and whether the pool will be available exclusively for hydrotherapy service.

Government response

Noted.

The current design of the Stromlo Leisure Centre (SLC) includes a multi-purpose program pool/learn to swim pool which can cater for some types of aquatics based hydrotherapy and gentle exercise offerings. There is no dedicated hydrotherapy pool.

The size of the program pool/learn to swim pool is 20 metres by 10 metres and a depth of 1.1 metres. The pool will be heated to 31-32°C.

There will be lane ropes and anchor points to enable the program/learn-to-swim pool to be divided into various configurations. A beach (zero depth) entry is also provided via the leisure pool, which is adjoining the program/learn-to-swim pool, with an aquatic wheel chair to assist mobility impaired in entering the pool.

Three accessible change room facilities are also provided at the SLC, one with an electric hoist and adult change table (similar to what is provided at the Gungahlin leisure Centre).

The cost of the warm water program/learn-to-swim pool is included in the total cost of the SLC. The total budget for the SLC is \$36.6 million.

Construction of the SLC is due to commence in September 2018 and be completed in early 2020.

Once an operator has been engaged by the Territory to manage the SLC, hydrotherapy service providers will be able to negotiate hire of the program pool/learn-to-swim pool with the operator. The operator of the SLC may also offer targeted programs. ACT Property Group aims to commence the tender process for the management of the SLC in the latter half of 2018-19.

**RECOMMENDATION 75**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government arrange for representatives of the Little Company of Mary to attend hearings of future Legislative Assembly estimates committees and Legislative Assembly committee hearings for annual reports on a basis similar to the Australian Federal Police.

Government response

Noted.

ACT Health will work with Calvary to discuss this moving forward.

**RECOMMENDATION 76**

The Committee recommends that the Health Directorate publish in each annual report a full account of (a) the money it receives from the Commonwealth government and (b) what the payments were for.

Government response

Agreed.

The Local Hospital Network Financial Statements already provide (a) the amount of funding received from the Commonwealth and (b) the detail on what the funding is for, described in the notes to the Financial Statements (for 2016-17, see pages 377 and 385 note 5 respectively).

**RECOMMENDATION 77**

The Committee recommends that relevant officials from the Health Directorate provide the Assembly with all the reasons for the downgrade in the accreditation status for the radiology department.

Government response

Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.

**RECOMMENDATION 78**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a detailed plan to the Assembly on measures being implemented to ensure the radiology training accreditation moves back to an A grade accreditation rating within the next 12 months.

Government response

Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.

**RECOMMENDATION 79**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide advice to the Assembly on the current status of accreditation for ACT public hospitals and for each of the separate divisions and accreditation of services by individual medical colleges, including the anticipated dates for future accreditation inspections.

Government response

Agreed.

Information will be provided to the Assembly when practicable.

**RECOMMENDATION 80**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with Epilepsy ACT to develop clear sustainable funding options for the organisation.**

Government response

Agreed.

ACT Health will engage with Epilepsy ACT and assess their proposal once it has been received. ACT Health is always interested in proposals which look to improve health outcomes for consumers, improve the health system, and help Canberrans to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community.

**RECOMMENDATION 81**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish details of the Restorative Justice program, including funding, relations with external participants and advisers and others (such as universities), including evaluation of the program.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Restorative Justice Scheme has been operating since January 2005. For eleven years the scheme remained in phase one, involving referrals for juvenile offences of a less serious nature.

In the 2015-16 Budget, the Government announced funding of \$2.058 million over four years for the expansion of Restorative Justice to include serious offences and offences committed by adults as well as juveniles. The expanded staffing included four new positions (three convenors and an admin/court liaison worker) and funding to provide professional supervision of convenors and training to build the Restorative Justice Unit's capacity to manage domestic and family violence and sexual offences matters which will become eligible in 2018.

In the 2016-17 Budget, the Government announced funding for a second ASO6 Indigenous Guidance Partner who could assist with the increase in referrals following the expansion of the Restorative Justice Unit. The introduction of the Redress Scheme sees the Restorative Justice Unit playing a role on behalf of the ACT Government in providing the Personal Direct Response process for eligible matters in relation to ACT Government institutions where Personal Direct Response is identified as an important component of a redress package. A full-time equivalent convenor to manage extra workload is being recruited currently.

The Restorative Justice scheme allows restorative justice conferencing options for victims and offenders to be integrated into the formal criminal justice system at appropriate points, maximising potential for formal and informal justice outcomes. Referring entities in the ACT's Restorative Justice scheme include the Restorative Justice Unit itself, ACT Policing, Child and Youth Protection Services, Director of Public Prosecutions, the Courts, ACT Corrective Services, the Sentence Administration Board and the Victims of Crime Commissioner.



A recent study of phase one of Restorative Justice by the Australian National University and the Australian Institute of Criminology was commissioned by Justice Planning and Safety Programs, in the Legislation, Policy and Programs Branch. While acknowledging the difficulties of finding significant outcomes for research conducted outside randomised control conditions the results revealed that for juvenile offenders, participation in RJ conferences extended the timeframe for subsequent recidivism.

As a victim centric conferencing scheme, Restorative Justice's core business is to meet the unmet justice needs of victims and does not provide a dedicated offender rehabilitation service. In practice, however, RJ conferencing creates experiences of deeper accountability that can promote 'intersections of opportunity' for offender engagement in targeted criminogenic programs for medium to higher risk offenders. Restorative Justice can in this way be seen as an important component in an interconnected justice system that works together in a timely and coordinated manner to bring accountability for victims and reduce harmful behaviours in the community.

#### Restorative City Project

In June 2018, it was announced that as part of the 2018-19 Budget, \$187,000 would be funded from the Confiscated Assets Trust to develop Canberra as a restorative city. The funding will primarily support the provision of a full-time equivalent ASO6 Restorative Engagement Officer who will support the Restorative Communities Network. This position will be responsible for the planning and coordination of workshops and events that bring people together to consider and support Restorative initiatives across sectors. This position will sit in the Justice Planning and Safety Programs. It will report on workshop initiatives and outcomes to the government including a final summary report, provide secretariat support to the Restorative Communities Network and will assist to link restorative communities or agencies with interested community members. The recruitment process to fill the Restorative Engagement Officer position is currently underway.

A sum of \$50,000 is allocated to the Australian National University to promote the sustainability of restorative initiatives: \$25,000 is allocated to the Conflict Resolution Service to support the training of Conflict Resolution Service staff to provide restorative justice and practice in their service delivery; \$10,000 will support the delivery of three workshops across the 2018-19 financial year; and \$9,000 will support the ongoing development of the Restorative Community Network's website as a site for shared learning and development.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 82**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the results of the last review of juror payments, and also address issues of juror payment where prolonged and demanding attendance and attention is required in the case of long trials.**

#### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The 2008-09 Budget provided additional funding for increases in payments made to persons attending the Supreme Court for jury service through an increase in jury fees, establishment of a flat travel allowance and provision of lunch where service extends over a lunch period. This budget initiative better aligned the payments made to jurors in the ACT with those provided in NSW.

Consideration was given to reports at the time that reviewed a range of issues impacting on juries and juror payments, including:

- *Practices, Policies and Procedures that influence Jury Satisfaction in Australia* – Report to the Criminology Research Council (July 2007)  
<https://aic.gov.au/publications/rpp/rpp87>
- NSW Law Reform Commission – *Report 117 Jury Selection* (September 2007)
- <http://www.lawreform.justice.nsw.gov.au/Documents/Publications/Reports/Report-117.pdf>.

Arrangements are already in place for the regular payment of jurors involved in long trials. These arrangements will be enhanced with the implementation of the new jury management system which has been funded in the 2018-19 Budget. The ACT Courts and Tribunal will consider whether there are other issues relating to jury payments in long trials and how they might be addressed.

### **RECOMMENDATION 83**

**The Committee recommends that the process used to appoint the new Director of Public Prosecutions be made public.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

The position, including an appointment guideline detailing the process for appointment and selection criteria, was advertised on the ACT Justice and Community Safety Directorate website on 27 July 2018.

### **RECOMMENDATION 84**

**The Committee recommends that the announcement for the appointment for the new Director of Public Prosecutions be made as soon as possible.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

The recruitment process to fill the Director of Public Prosecutions role is presently underway and the outcome of that process will be announced when an appointment has been made.

**RECOMMENDATION 85**

**The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate prepare a list of Auslan interpreters to ensure availability in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Courts and Tribunal will maintain a list of Auslan interpreter providers. Booking Auslan interpreters through recognised providers is preferable to establishing a list of individual Auslan interpreters. This is because providers are better placed to establish and maintain a large pool of Auslan interpreters and to provide an assurance that the interpreters have the requisite qualifications and training.

**RECOMMENDATION 86**

**The Committee recommends that the Justice and Community Safety Directorate works with registered training organisations including the Canberra Institute of Technology to ensure an adequate skill base for Auslan interpreters to service the courts.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Directorate will liaise with the Chief Minister's Treasury and Economic Development Directorate about the Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT) and other relevant registered training organisations providing adequate Auslan interpreter skills based training in order to provide interpreter services in courts.

The directorate notes that CIT is currently not offering any courses relating to Auslan or other interpreter services in courts.

**RECOMMENDATION 87**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare a detailed review on the age of criminal liability in the Territory, including an analysis of current offenders and the consequential impacts throughout the justice system and present this review to the Assembly.**

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government is intending to undertake a consultation process on the age of criminal responsibility in 2018 to consider whether reform is appropriate and amendment required to the *Criminal Code 2002*. As part of this community consultation process, an analysis of current offenders and the consequential impacts throughout the justice system may be required.

The consultation will need to include consideration of any model of care reforms required as a consequence of any changes to the age of criminal liability.

**RECOMMENDATION 88**

**The Committee recommends that the topic of the age of criminal liability be raised with the Standing Committee of Attorneys-General as a matter for national consideration, and the results of this action be included in the review to be prepared for the Assembly.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government notes that any consideration of change to the age of criminal responsibility should reflect a nationally consistent approach. The Attorney-General will raise the issue with the Council of Attorneys-General for national consideration once community consultation is underway in the ACT to inform the ACT Government's position on this issue.

**RECOMMENDATION 89**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government formally engage with those currently calling for changes to the age of criminal responsibility, in order to give this issue a thorough and robust hearing.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will conduct a public consultation process on the age of criminal responsibility to inform the ACT Government's position and any future reform.

**RECOMMENDATION 90**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare a detailed plan for the development and implementation of a Drug and Alcohol Court for the ACT for the Assembly, including firm deadlines for its implementation.<sup>2</sup>**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government will continue the development work on the design for the court, including the model of operation and policies and procedures, which will assist in finalising costs of establishing and running a Drug and Alcohol Court in the ACT.

ACT Health will work actively with JACS as they develop the implementation plan for the Drug and Alcohol Court.

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<sup>2</sup> Ms Orr MLA and Ms Cheyne MLA did not agree to the inclusion of a timeline. It is their view that the evidence given by officials indicated that a firm timeline would be unhelpful.

**RECOMMENDATION 91**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that ACT drug and alcohol rehabilitation services are adequately resourced to respond to demand, including any increased demand expected from the opening of the Drug and Alcohol Court.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

ACT Health is working with the Alcohol and Other Drug treatment service providers, the majority of whom are non-government organisations, to understand current demands on the treatment system and the impact the proposed Drug and Alcohol Court will have on services, and to identify solutions and mitigation strategies.

**RECOMMENDATION 92**

**Given the delays to the new courts building, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide the Assembly with a revised timeline on the completion of the new court building and the Assembly be informed of any further variations to that completion date.**

Government response

Agreed.

Based on advice from the contractor, it is currently anticipated that completion of Stage 1 will be achieved in September 2018. Stage 2 can only commence once Stage 1 is completed and the contractor advises that the Stage 2 works will take approximately 40 weeks. Accordingly, completion of Stage 2 is expected to be achieved in mid-2019. The Government will inform the Legislative Assembly of any variations to this completion timeline.

**RECOMMENDATION 93**

**Given the delays to the new courts building, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare an estimate of the consequential costs and impact, including delayed trials or use of alternative venues, and present it to the Assembly on a quarterly basis in conjunction with building updates.**

Government response

Agreed in part.

Under the Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract arrangements, Juris Partnership assumes full risk for the time it takes to complete the works. Accordingly, the contractor is not entitled to any additional payments due to completion being later than the dates set out in the contract.

Payments to Juris Partnership do not commence until completion of Stage 1 has been achieved and, as the end date of the contract is fixed, the 25-year operational phase of the PPP contract is truncated to the same extent as the delay to completion. This results in a saving to the Territory compared to the payments that would have been made had the project been completed on time. These savings are greater than the project management and other costs incurred as a direct result of the prolonged period of construction.

The 2018-19 Budget estimates include adjustments associated with the revised project completion timeline for the Courts PPP project. This includes estimated impacts of material consequential costs and the overall savings returned to Government.

The Government will provide a report on the consequential costs and other impacts of the delays in the new courts building following completion of Stage 1.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 94**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government appoint an eighth magistrate as a priority.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Government announced the appointment of Louise Taylor as the ACT's eighth permanent Magistrate on 10 August 2018.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 95**

**The Committee recommends that details of the new caseload management program for courts and tribunals be published in the next Justice and Community Safety Directorate annual reports to show expenditure on the program to date and be updated in future estimates and financial statements from the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.**

##### Government response

Agreed in part.

The 2017-18 JACS Annual Report will include a description of the new integrated courts management system and details of its implementation.

The financial statements published in the JACS Annual Report do not include detailed reports on individual capital projects such as the implementation of the new integrated courts management system. However, ACT Treasury publishes a quarterly report on all capital projects with a budget greater than or equal to \$10 million which includes details of the expenditure on the new integrated courts management system. A copy of the reports can be obtained from the Treasury's web site at <https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/publications>.

**RECOMMENDATION 96**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government analyse the factors contributing to the 18 per cent increase above target in custody days at Bimberi Youth justice centre and report findings to the Assembly.**

Government response

Agreed.

Variance in custody days is influenced by the offences committed, court practices, and the opportunity for young people to engage with diversion and early intervention services. Since 2011, the impact of reforms under the *Blueprint for Youth Justice 2012-2022* has reduced the number of young people in custody. However, this figure can fluctuate due to the relatively low number of young people in custody in the ACT.

The target for custody days at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre was reviewed and adjusted from 7,500 to 5,000 following a recommendation (Recommendation 125) by the Select Committee on Estimates 2016-17, to better reflect the occupancy of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.

The ACT Government has committed to providing the Legislative Assembly with a regular update on Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including outcomes against headline indicators. The last update was provided in March 2018.

The Blueprint Taskforce, established in August 2017, will report to the Government shortly on its findings and recommendations for actions to be prioritised for the next five years of the Strategy. A key focus of the Blueprint is to continue to reduce the number of young people who are in contact with the youth justice system.

**RECOMMENDATION 97**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table the Human Rights Commission's review into practices at Bimberi Youth justice Centre, along with its response, as quickly as practicable.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Human Rights Commission 'Commission Initiated Consideration' of Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is yet to be finalised. The Human Rights Commission will release the report on completion. The ACT Government will table the Human Rights Commission report and the government's response, noting that identifying client information and information that could potentially impact the safety and security of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre will not be released.

**RECOMMENDATION 98**

The Committee recommends that a program for public consultation and input into the Victims of Crime Charter of Rights be developed and publicly promoted to ensure the community (especially victims and those affected by crime) are given the best opportunity to have input into drafting the final documentation.

Government response

Agreed.

The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) is currently implementing a comprehensive public consultation process in relation to the development of an ACT Charter of Rights for Victims of Crime.

JACS is running a series of community engagement forums, providing opportunity for input via the 'Your Say' website and meeting with individual community members and stakeholders who wish to make submissions. Public consultation is focusing on engaging with people who have been impacted by crime and diverse groups who are more vulnerable in the justice system.

The Victims of Crime Commissioner has also made direct contact with Victims who have received support from Victim Support in recent years to inform them of the consultation and offer support to individuals who wish to participate in the consultation.

**RECOMMENDATION 99**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular updates to the Assembly on the outcomes of negotiations with the United Firefighters Union relating to planned capital works at the Ainslie Fire Station.

Government response

Agreed in part.

The United Firefighters Union has formally raised the planned capital works at Ainslie Fire Station as a dispute. As this matter is currently being heard in the Fair Work Commission, it would be inappropriate to provide commentary on this matter on this matter. However, the Government will provide an update to the community before any works start.

**RECOMMENDATION 100**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures transition areas are included in the design and planning for all new fire stations in the ACT, and that where possible, these areas are retrofitted into existing stations to limit contamination and maximise safety for firefighters.

Government response

Agreed in principle.



The ACT Emergency Services Agency will ensure that the design of all future new and upgraded fire stations maximises the safety of firefighters. Appropriate building design for fire stations is one of the factors that can be used to limit any potential contamination of firefighters following exposure to smoke and other toxins encountered at emergency incidents. Other factors include decontamination procedures implemented prior to departure from the incident and the cleaning methods used for personal protective clothing. The use of a transition area, such as those installed at West Belconnen, South Tuggeranong, and Belconnen Fire Stations, may not be the most appropriate solution at other locations.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 101**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide and update to the Assembly on the expected release date of *ACT Policing Futures Program – Policing for Tomorrow’s ACT*.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

ACT Policing will continue to provide updates on achievements by the ACT Policing Futures Program to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services. As the ACT Policing Futures Program is a program of continual development and improvement, it will be implemented over a period of time with no single release date for the program in its entirety. The Government will keep the Canberra community informed through the usual means.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 102**

**Given the increase in outlaw motorcycle gang activity, and comments from the Chief Police Officer, the Committee recommends the ACT Government consider further initiatives to address organised crime.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

Countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs and maintaining public safety is of primary focus for the ACT Government and ACT Policing. The ACT Government remains committed to working with ACT Policing to identifying practical and effective responses to organised crime that also respect the ACT’s human rights framework. A number of legislative amendments have been made to increase the tools available to police and enhance the response capacity of police officers. Most recently, these have included legislation passed on fortifications, drive-by shootings and crime scene powers.

ACT Government will also continue to work with jurisdictional partners in support of a national approach for combating organised crime.

**RECOMMENDATION 103**

**The Committee recommends that the Minister for Emergency Services and ACT Policing work with industry to improve the success rate for laying charges for fuel theft compared to the number of fuel theft offences reported.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Minister for Police and Emergency Services and ACT Policing will continue working with industry and explore if anything more can be done in relation to this matter. ACT Policing investigates petrol drive-offs as 'theft' offences. In addition to investigating reports of petrol drive offs, ACT Policing engages with petrol station owners about measures they can take to help prevent this crime type.

**RECOMMENDATION 104**

**The Committee recommends that the Chief Police Officer work with the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) to ensure that the survey of police satisfaction is appropriate and asks the right questions relating to women's safety.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Chief Police Officer for the ACT will continue working with all relevant partner agencies including ANZPAA to ensure the National Survey of Community Satisfaction remains an accurate and appropriate method of surveying community perception of safety and policing satisfaction.

The Government is committed to improving safety and promoting gender equality. The 2018-19 budget commits additional funding to improve actions under the ACT Women's Plan. This plan sets out the following strategies in relation to women's safety:

- Promote the use of Women's Safety Audits at events run by the ACT Government;
- Investigate the use of the Safety Mapping Tool to guide ACT Government planning;
- Review the 'Crime Prevention through Environmental Design General Code' from a safe and inclusive communities perspective (with a focus on women) and review language used in this Code;
- Determine the process by which women's perspectives can be incorporated into Master Plans, Territory Plan reviews and urban design processes;
- Include women, and in particular young women aged 15-21, in the planning and design study of local centres. This study will identify resilience, liveability and accessibility at the local level and provide a comparative basis to test planning and design responses in line with national best practice; and
- Conduct lifestyle analysis of women customers (to improve transport options for women).

**RECOMMENDATION 105**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular updates to the Assembly on the progress of implementing the Winnunga Nimmityjah Model of Care in the Alexander Maconochie Centre.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

Recommendation 5 of the Moss Report is the integration of Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Service (Winnunga) to provide a holistic approach to health care at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) in a culturally safe way. On 22 June 2018, a contract between the ACT Government and Winnunga was signed which enables Winnunga to provide 24/7 health care to detainees at the AMC. Work has commenced on the implementation of the Winnunga health services model of care at the AMC and a Commissioning Working Group has been convened to oversee this. The Minister will provide an update on the implementation of the Winnunga model of care at AMC to the Assembly in early 2019.

**RECOMMENDATION 106**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise the Assembly what strategies are being considered to cope with the growing detainee population at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.**

Government response

Agreed.

A number of options to address the increased demand at the Alexander Maconochie Centre are being considered. Once a position has been finalised the Minister for Corrections will update the Assembly.

**RECOMMENDATION 107**

**The Committee recommends that the Government extend the application period for funding from the greyhound industry transition package for an additional few months, noting that a number of individuals and organisations were expecting to make applications but none had been received very close to the end of the financial year.**

Government response

Not agreed.

The 30 June 2018 deadline for applications for greyhound industry transition support was advertised consistently and extensively. Potential applicants were also provided with an opportunity to express an interest in support prior to the 30 June 2018 deadline, and complete a formal application in the week following the deadline. Applications to support individuals, a business and to support greyhound re-homing were received, and are being considered by Woden Community Service and the Greyhound Industry Transition Taskforce. Subject to meeting the eligibility criteria, these applications will be processed and support packages provided by 30 September 2018.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 108**

**The Committee recommends that the Government, in its review of the gambling code, review the ACAT appeals process for matters under the Gambling Code of Conduct to ensure complainants and those with lived experience of gambling harm are given opportunities to participate in the process.**

##### Government response

Noted.

As part of its review of the *Gambling and Racing Control (Code of Practice) Regulation 2002*, JACS will consider a broad range of options to strengthen the Territory's gambling harm minimisation framework. JACS will also be considering the manner in which disciplinary issues for gaming machine licensees come before the ACT Civil and Administrative Tribunal, and how complainants and those with experience of gambling harm are able to participate in those proceedings.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 109**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government, as part of the Housing Choices review, give particular attention to ensuring diversity in housing options to meet the needs of Canberra's ageing population.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

This recommendation for ensuring diversity in housing options to meet the needs of Canberra's ageing population is already included as an important consideration in the Housing Choices project, which is currently underway.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 110**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continues to engage with People with Disabilities ACT on its commitment to make sure all new public housing accessible.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

Where Housing ACT constructs dwellings it aims to build them so that they meet the Class C adaptable standards or Gold Liveable Guidelines. These dwellings are suitable for people with disabilities and provide flexible housing options and accommodation where tenants can age in place. Housing ACT does purchase dwellings; however, these properties are not typically accessible. Housing ACT does have a program of making modifications to its properties to support people with disabilities, from ramps, grab rails and changes to bathrooms, laundries and kitchens to make them accessible to people with disabilities. In 2017-18, around \$1.7 million was spent on modifications.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 111**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government establish an access advisory group to advise on planning/housing.**

##### Government response

Noted.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will consider options for establishing an ACT Government access advisory group to provide advice on planning/housing matters.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 112**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise the work of the billboards working group and ensures community views are considered, given considerable community interest and the number of months since the ACT Government provided its response on this issue to the Assembly.**

##### Government response

Noted.

The working group is continuing to meet and prioritise the implementation of the Standing Committee's recommendations on billboards, and to consider community views.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 113**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with FrogWatch ACT to develop sustainable funding options for the program.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The ACT government will provide funding of approximately \$65,000 to the FrogWatch program in the 2018-19 financial year to deliver a number of projects.

Frogwatch will assess frog numbers and habitat as a bio-indicator of urban wetland health and help to build complexity and resilience in our urban environments. Also, Frogwatch volunteers are investigating how climate change is impacting on frog breeding seasons. Both these projects will assist us to better understand the value of frog populations as an indicator of catchment health. In addition, EPSDD will further consider sustainable funding options for the Frogwatch program including investigating integrating it with the Waterwatch program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 114**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government identify key projects to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Apollo 11 moon landing, in conjunction with former workers at the tracking station, and allocate funding to ensure a comprehensive commemoration in July 2019.**

##### Government response

Agreed in part.

Government has already identified funding in the 2018-19 budget through the *Ngunnawal to NASA* initiative which will look to commemorate the anniversary in Namadgi National Park in the following way.

The focus of this project is on highlighting the locations of the three space tracking facilities in the park, with a focus on Honeysuckle Creek and Orroral as walking trail hubs. These infrastructure improvements will support on site commemorative events in 2019.

The Government has already commenced engagement with former workers at both tracking stations which will be ongoing throughout the design and development phases of the project.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 115**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government action heritage recommendations outlined in the report on the *Appropriation Bill 2017-2018 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2017-2018*.**

##### Government response

Not agreed.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate has assessed the merits of this recommendation and determined that it does not accord with the criteria for effective, accurate and appropriate accountability indicators as per the ACT Audit Office's *ACT Government Strategic and Accountability Indicators Report No.2*.

**RECOMMENDATION 116**

**The Committee recommends that a small amount of operational support is provided to the National Trust to allow it to continue its representative role for the heritage sector, which could be a small annual grant or in-kind support (for example free storage and meeting space).**

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government acknowledges the valuable contribution of community heritage organisations promoting and conserving heritage places and objects in the ACT, as well as the many other community and not for profit organisations that provide valuable services, and note the challenges affecting their activities.

The Trust is one of many heritage interest and volunteer groups who promote and conserve heritage in the ACT.

While the ACT Government is unable to fund the operational expenses of every community organisation, the Trust is able to make a community pre-budget submission. The ACT Government has encouraged this before and provided advice on how to develop a stronger business model.

The ACT Government will continue to work collaboratively and meet regularly with the National Trust to provide advice and assistance to ensure any business cases, heritage grant application and pre-budget submissions are appropriate for consideration.

The Trust has also been encouraged to explore the range of other funding sources available to the community in addition to ACT Government funding through private sector foundations, grants and sponsorship.

**RECOMMENDATION 117**

**The Committee recommends, in the short-medium term, the ACT Government focus on eliminating greenhouse gas emissions from transport and natural gas.**

Government response

Agreed.

With the move to 100 per cent renewable electricity, transport and natural gas will represent more than 80 per cent of the Territory's emissions by 2020. So, these sectors will be central to future action.

The Government is considering policy options to reduce emissions from these and other sectors as part of the development of new climate change policy leading to emission reductions in line with recently announced interim emission reduction targets for 2025, 2030, 2040 and net zero emission by 2045.

**RECOMMENDATION 118**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore further options for reducing natural gas in new developments, including further 'all electric' suburbs such as Ginninderry stage 1.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Government has agreed to support a pilot demonstration project of an all-electric area in Stage 1 of the Ginninderry precinct. The pilot project will include the first 350 residences where gas will not be connected. The pilot project will be jointly managed by Evoenergy, the ACT's electricity network operator, the Ginninderry Joint Venture, the ACT Government and Reposit Power. The results of the pilot will inform government consideration of future energy infrastructure and planning policies.

**RECOMMENDATION 119**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate the development of zero emissions buildings, including high density residential and commercial buildings.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Government will work with the property industry to help facilitate zero emissions buildings. The Climate Change Minister recently issued a challenge to the property sector to build the ACT's first zero emission high density residential or commercial building.

The Government is considering policy options to reduce emissions from the building sector as part of the development of new climate change policy as well as through a refresh of the planning strategy and the demonstration housing project.

**RECOMMENDATION 120**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government should ensure all new/infill estates/developments are compatible with a zero emissions future, prioritise sustainable transport, and emphasise living infrastructure to adapt to a warmer climate.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Government agrees and is investigating policy options to reduce emissions from new developments and to make them fit for purpose in a warming climate with more intense weather events. Some of the measures being considered are improved "climate wise" building specifications and enhanced provision for living infrastructure.

Transport Canberra and City Services are currently progressing a review of their transport strategy, Transport for Canberra. The prioritisation of sustainable transport will be a key theme of the new strategy, and the importance of public transport and sustainable travel links to new developments is recognised.



The ACT Planning Strategy Refresh 2018 is considering how strategic land-use planning of the city can support the achievement of the Government's zero emissions future, promote sustainable transport options and design in living, green infrastructure in urban renewal.

### **RECOMMENDATION 121**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government set a milestone date by which time all registered vehicles in the ACT will be zero emission vehicles.<sup>3</sup>**

#### Government response

Noted.

The Government supports the transition to zero emissions vehicles and recently published the ACT's *Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-2021* to guide this process in the ACT.

The action plan contains a variety of measures to support enhanced uptake of zero emission vehicles, including a Government commitment to a zero emission vehicle fleet, new charging infrastructure, and incentives for consumers to purchase zero emission vehicles.

The Government will give consideration to a milestone date by which all vehicles will be zero emission vehicles.

### **RECOMMENDATION 122**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:**

- **develop a strategy for transitioning its fleet (including buses) to be zero emissions; and**
- **explore partnering with the Commonwealth Government to transition fleet vehicles to be zero emission.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

The ACT's *Transition to Zero Emissions Vehicles Action Plan 2018-2021* includes a Government commitment to shift to a zero emission passenger vehicle fleet from 2019-20.

The Government is actively engaging with manufacturers of zero emissions vehicles, including heavy vehicles. The ACT is also working with other jurisdictions, including the Commonwealth, to investigate a range of complementary approaches to encourage electric vehicles, including through joint procurement.

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<sup>3</sup> Mr Wall MLA and Ms Lee MLA did not agree with this recommendation.

**RECOMMENDATION 123**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government produce and publish a plan for how the ACT electricity supply will cope with different scenarios of electric vehicle uptake.**

Government response

Agreed.

In implementing the ZEV Action Plan, the Government continues to work closely with Evoenergy, the ACT's electricity network operator, to model and monitor different scenarios of projected electric vehicle uptake. The ACT is also working closely with Evoenergy in planning the rollout of the 50 charging stations to ACT Government sites as announced in the 2018-19 Budget.

Through the ongoing implementation of the Government's commitment to zero emissions, the Government will also be looking at how to continue to deliver 100 per cent renewable electricity.

**RECOMMENDATION 124**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a complete breakdown of the makeup of energy costs, including investment in renewable energy, administrative costs and maintenance of infrastructure such as wires and poles.**

Government response

Noted.

The Independent Competition and Regulatory Commission (ICRC) already publishes information on components of ACT electricity costs, including retail costs, investment in renewable energy, wholesale costs and network costs. Current information is available on page vi of ICRC's *Final decision: Retail electricity price recalibration 2018-19*, available at <http://www.icrc.act.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/Report-3-of-2018-Retail-electricity-price-recalibration-2018%E2%80%9319.pdf>

**RECOMMENDATION 125**

**The Committee recommends that clearer advice on the delineation of work between the Suburban Land Agency and Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate is documented and made available to other directorates and future Assembly Estimates committees and Standing committees.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate will work with the Suburban Land Agency to prepare a document which clearly delineates the work between the Directorate and the Agency.

**RECOMMENDATION 126**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete work on the 'expression of interest database' to include requirements relating to on-sale of affordable properties.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

Restrictions on the resale of dedicated Affordable Home Purchase properties are being investigated as part of the development of a new ACT Housing Strategy and initiatives it is considering.

**RECOMMENDATION 127**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify the rationale behind the targets for public housing and community housing site allocation and land release.**

Government response

Agreed.

Detail on the rationale of the targets will accompany the publication of future housing targets.

**RECOMMENDATION 128**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide more ambitious targets to the City Renewal Authority and Suburban Land Agency for affordable housing, community housing or public housing targets.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

Targets for affordable, community and public housing are informed by the location, suitability and development potential of land made available through the Government's Indicative Land Release Program.

The targets also need to consider the development capacity of the Community Housing Sector and Housing ACT, as well as the impact on broader ACT costs and benefits and budget.

**RECOMMENDATION 129**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explains how the sites allocated to community housing providers will be allocated.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Government has been providing, and will continue to provide, advice to the Community Housing Sector on the allocation of sites through regular interaction with registered providers, including through the Community Housing Industry Association ACT Chapter.

### **RECOMMENDATION 130**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government adjusts its land release program so as to support Assembly motion of 11 April 2018 about the need for ‘growing social housing stock to at least maintain a minimum of 7.1 percent of the ACT’s housing stock’ over the long term and provide an increased supply of affordable rental housing.**

#### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Government recognises the need to continue to grow land supply in response to population growth and to grow social and affordable housing provision as the city expands. The setting of community, public and affordable housing supply targets within the Indicative Land Release Program will help grow the presence of these housing types, noting these targets will also be informed by the location, suitability and development potential of land as well as the development capacity of community and public housing providers.

### **RECOMMENDATION 131**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides sufficient capacity to Housing ACT to take on new land opportunities and have the capital to develop on that land.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

Housing ACT delivers an annual Capital Program to realign and renew public housing stock so that it better meets the needs of tenants and responds to the changing needs of those in our community who need it most. In 2017-18, the capital program spent \$50 million to provide housing to meet tenant needs. Work is underway to develop a plan for the strategic management of the public housing portfolio. *The Public Housing Asset Management Plan* will set the strategic vision for growth and renewal of the public housing portfolio and guide the development of our five year capital works program from 2019-20 to 2024-25.

### **RECOMMENDATION 132**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government reduce land tax for community housing providers.**

#### Government response

Noted.

The Government is considering a range of measures to increase affordable rental opportunities for Canberrans on lower incomes as part of the development of the new ACT Housing Strategy.

This includes investigating possible incentives to encourage private landlords to rent their properties at affordable rental rates through the Community Housing sector to ensure that properties are well managed and made available to those most in need.

### **RECOMMENDATION 133**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertakes a comprehensive assessment of future growth areas for Canberra, in consultation with the community, as part of the current Transport for Canberra and Planning Strategy review processes.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Planning Strategy Refresh 2018 is considering the long term future growth of Canberra. Studies currently underway to inform the strategic approach to the management and direction of Canberra's future growth and will consider areas for infill and greenfield development and the services required to support these. This work is ongoing and is integrated with transport, housing, infrastructure and climate change considerations. There has been ongoing consultation (and current) with community on these topics.

### **RECOMMENDATION 134**

**The Committee recommends that the Government coordinate land release with light rail development so as to maximise the financial return to the Territory.**

#### Government response

Noted.

The Government will continue to release land along the light rail corridor where appropriate. The timing and location of release will consider both financial and non-financial objectives in order to best respond to the growing needs of the Canberra community and to consider the optimum outcomes for accommodating growth.

### **RECOMMENDATION 135**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prepare and publish a policy for owners of properties with loose-fill asbestos that still own and live in a property beyond 2020.**

#### Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government maintains its position that demolition is the only way to fully address the ongoing health, social, practical and financial consequences of living in houses contaminated with loose fill asbestos insulation.

The *Dangerous Substances Regulation 2004* supports safe occupation in the medium term through the requirement to implement an Asbestos Management Plan.

It is expected that only a small number of contaminated properties will remain occupied beyond 2020. The Government will consider the circumstances of the remaining occupied properties and provide further support and advice to these owners.

### **RECOMMENDATION 136**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government decide and announce whether properties with no current evidence of loose fill-asbestos will be allowed to be occupied beyond 2020.**

#### Government response

Noted.

Loose fill asbestos fibres were originally pumped into the roof spaces of residential properties in the ACT as a form of insulation. Despite the remediation program conducted in the late 1980s through to the early 1990s, it is now known that these fibres migrated into the wall cavities and sub floors of these houses. For many properties, the fibres had also made their way into living areas.

Whilst sampling tests in an individual house may show no evidence of loose fill asbestos fibres in the living areas, the fibres still remain in the cavities of the structure and continue to present a health risk to occupants and visitors.

For this reason, all properties identified as contaminated with loose fill asbestos insulation will remain on the *Affected Residential Premises Register*, until they are demolished and appropriately deregistered.

As noted in response to Recommendation 135, the Government will consider the circumstances of the small number of properties expected to remain occupied beyond 2020 and provide further support and advice to these owners.

### **RECOMMENDATION 137**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government detail how the balance of the Commonwealth loose-fill asbestos loan facility is currently being utilised.**

#### Government response

Agreed.

All borrowing and loan proceeds are held as cash of the Territory Banking Account until being paid out of the Territory Banking Account in accordance with an approved budget appropriation. As at 30 June 2018, the total actual amount of budget appropriation drawn down from the Territory Banking Account for the Asbestos Eradication Scheme is \$849 million.

**RECOMMENDATION 138**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government put in place a mechanism to inform the community which blocks have dual occupancy rights due to them being in the loose-fill asbestos buyback concession scheme.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will explore the most appropriate mechanism to inform the community which blocks in the Residential RZ1 Suburban Zone are part of the loose-fill asbestos buy back scheme and put this in place.

**RECOMMENDATION 139**

The Committee recommends that new accountability indicators be established to better reflect and measure the work performed by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment.

Government response

Noted.

The Commissioner does not agree that new accountability indicators need to be established to better reflect and measure the work performed by the Office of the Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment. The current accountability indicators align to the main functions of the independent statutory role and its enabling legislation (*Commissioner for Sustainability and the Environment Act 1993*).

It is noted that the Auditor-General reviewed the accountability indicators in 2017-18 and made no specific recommendations in relation to the Commissioner's indicators. If there were to be any changes made to the accountability indicators, these would be negotiated between the Commissioner and the Government.

The ability for the Commissioner to initiate her own investigations is the core of the independence of the statutory role and should not be diminished.

**RECOMMENDATION 140**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government maintain an open and consultative dialogue with businesses in the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings, particularly in relation to the extensive changes, such as is occurring with waste collection management, which are being undertaken to activate the rear laneways of these buildings.

Government response

Agreed.

The Government has undertaken, and will continue to undertake, extensive consultation with the owners and tenants of the Sydney and Melbourne Buildings. The City Renewal Authority has appointed a project officer to manage this engagement. The Authority will continue to engage with stakeholders to investigate ways that these iconic buildings, and their environs, can be redeveloped to achieve outcomes consistent with the Government's Statement of Expectations of the Authority, and the Authority's Precinct Renewal Program.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 141**

**The Committee recommends that the City Renewal Authority publish a quarterly report detailing how the CBD improvements levy is being expended.**

##### Government response

Agreed in part.

The Government will produce an annual report on the management of the levy (through the City Renewal Authority and the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate) and a biannual report to levy payers in accordance with the Performance and Accountability Framework approved by the Authority's Board.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 142**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish the minutes of the first three meetings of the Suburban Land Agency Board.**

##### Government response

Noted.

The Suburban Land Agency Board has complied with the publishing expectations of Board Minutes since the receipt of an instruction from the Minister received in October 2017.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 143**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish its policy for how residential sales agencies are chosen for work undertaken for the Suburban Land Agency.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

Procurement of sales agents is undertaken in accordance with the *Government Procurement Act 2001*. The process of appointment is in accordance with the Act and business needs at the time of the procurement.

The Government agrees to the development of a policy specific to the Suburban Land Agency and will make this policy publically available.



**RECOMMENDATION 144**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government always engage a sales agent independent of the valuer engaged, to minimise conflicts of interest.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Suburban Land Agency is committed to ensuring that potential or real conflicts are addressed consistent with high standards of governance and probity.

**RECOMMENDATION 145**

**The Committee recommends that the Budget papers include the Suburban Land Agency's profit target as a percentage of total revenue from land sales.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Suburban Land Agency's Gross Profit Margin and Net Profit Margin is published in the Key Performance Indicators section of the Suburban Land Agency's Statement of Intent.

**RECOMMENDATION 146**

**The Committee recommends that the Suburban Land Agency ensure that all staff and members of the Suburban Land Agency have completed record-keeping training and undertake record-keeping refresher training every 12 months.**

Government response

Agreed.

As part of the ongoing training program for staff, mandatory Records Management Information Sessions will be conducted.

**RECOMMENDATION 147**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider what work can be done to extend the life of Chromebooks provided to students in order to minimise e-waste.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government considered e-waste when planning its Chromebook initiative. In consultation with Google a three year lifespan for these devices has been set, which reflects the device manufacturing life.

The Government will explore options for donating devices which remain useable after this time. The ACT Government also has a process of recycling e-waste through Shared Services ICT.

**RECOMMENDATION 148**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government create an early childhood educators' Professional Development Fund to support the ongoing need for training of specialist educators in the early childhood sector.**

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government strongly supports professional development in the early childhood education sector. However, ultimately employers are responsible for meeting the cost of training and professional development among their workforce and should be prioritising this in their business model.

The ACT Government is considering how it can encourage continued professional development and increased professionalism among the early childhood educator workforce as part of its Early Childhood Strategy.

**RECOMMENDATION 149**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake a feasibility study into the cost of extending ACT preschool access to three year olds.**

Government response

Noted.

The ACT Government has set a goal of incremental provision of free, universal early childhood education as a key part of the Early Childhood Strategy and has begun working towards how this can be achieved.

**RECOMMENDATION 150**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that school playgrounds include substantial tree cover to provide shade and allow natural play spaces, particularly in light of the climate becoming hotter and drier.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government already has a tree planting program for government schools, with the goal of providing shade to students and, where feasible, to buildings. Deciduous trees have been planted as large specimens to provide cool shade during summer and to allow solar access during winter. This program is based on a review of shade in playgrounds and is coordinated with the building tuning and heat mitigation programs occurring through Public School Infrastructure Upgrade funding.

**RECOMMENDATION 151**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct an audit of existing government preschool and primary school accommodation to determine future capacity needs and the impact extending preschool to three year olds.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government is working towards the goal of free universal early childhood education as a part of its Early Childhood Strategy and has already begun considering issues associated with infrastructure capacity.

**RECOMMENDATION 152**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop more accurate assessment tools to determine future enrolment demand in ACT Government schools in both existing and potential future suburbs.**

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government undertakes enrolment projection modelling for each ACT public school. The modelling is regularly updated for the latest available data from the schools census, land release and dwelling forecasts, birth data and ABS population estimates. Demographic experts are being engaged to refine the model as required.

**RECOMMENDATION 153**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to work with a wide range of appropriate, trained professional staff, including psychologists and allied health experts, to meet the increased demand for these types of services in our schools.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government provides a range of supports to meet the needs of individual students. The Future of Education Strategy will include a focus on the wider needs of students that enable educational access and participation.

Additionally the ACT Government has the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) initiative in place to meet the increased demand for psychology and allied health experts in schools.

CAMHS provides an early intervention program which is based in ACT primary schools and works with the whole school providing professional learning for teachers, whole class social and emotional wellbeing activities and a targeted group work program for children and their parents/carers to learn ways to support their child to better regulate their emotions and behaviour. CAMHS provides a school/vocational day program for up to two terms for young people aged 12-18 which aims to reduce severity of mental health issues and enhance school vocational engagement, social functioning and life skills.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 154**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider increasing its target of 20 school psychologists to keep up to demand with the growing enrolments in ACT Government schools and the increasing complexity of health and social issues, to work to achieving the ratio of 1 psychologist to 500 students.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The ACT Government has funded its election commitment to provide an increase of 20 school psychologists. Need for further additional growth in school psychologists is being assessed as part of policy work already underway.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 155**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide updates in Annual Reports on the progress of recruitment of school psychologists and other trained professional staff with relevant allied health expertise.**

##### Government response

Noted.

The Annual Report Directions already require the publication of workforce profile information.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 156**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake an audit of all transportable buildings in use in ACT public schools to assess whether their continued use is best practice and the best, cost efficient, solution to changing enrolments in schools.**

##### Government response

Noted.

Transportable classrooms are an appropriate response providing short to medium term expansion of a school during elevated enrolment demand.

**RECOMMENDATION 157**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government consult more closely with community groups, in both the health and disability sectors, affected by the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme to assist them to identify future funding pathways.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to work closely with community groups in both the health and disability sectors to assist them to identify future pathways, noting that market stewardship in an NDIS environment is the responsibility of the National Disability Insurance Agency.

**RECOMMENDATION 158**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues to provide adequate funding for advocacy for people interacting with the National Disability Insurance Scheme.**

Government response

Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget committed funding for two years to fund increased advocacy support for people interacting with the NDIS. The Government will continue to monitor the demand for advocacy services as the NDIS moves towards full scheme in 2019-20.

**RECOMMENDATION 159**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work closely with the Commonwealth Government to find a long-term solution for people with mental health issues that do not qualify under current National Disability Insurance Scheme guidelines.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT and Commonwealth Governments have finalised the Bilateral Agreement on the National Psychosocial Support Measure which will enhance funding for psychosocial support measures for people with functional impairment resulting from severe mental illness who are not found eligible for the NDIS, or who are otherwise not engaged with the NDIS.

**RECOMMENDATION 160**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government to explore what may be appropriate initiatives and support programs for children in the 'middle years', including extending adolescent support to eight-year-olds.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will explore options for initiatives to meet the needs of children between 8-12 years of age as part of the Future of Education Strategy's implementation plan.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 161**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop more consider additional mechanisms, both formal and informal, for consulting with the Territory's diverse multicultural communities and better engage Canberrans from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds who do not participate in a particular multicultural community.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate has a range of formal and informal mechanisms in place for consulting with community members. The Directorate is working on a range of additional engagement mechanisms, both formal and informal, to ensure broad representation from the multicultural community in the upcoming Youth Assembly and the 2018 ACT Multicultural Summit. The strategy will include engagement through YourSay, face to face meetings, forums and written responses. The Multicultural Advisory Council will continue to provide a mechanism for consultation broadly with people from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

In addition, processes such as the Housing Summit, the development of the Carer's Strategy and the Family Violence Hub have specifically engaged Canberra from CALD backgrounds who do not necessarily identify with a particular multicultural community organisation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 162**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider developing performance indicators to measure the success of such consultation with multicultural communities and culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator. Consideration will be given to a performance indicator that could provide a measure relating to consultation with multicultural communities and culturally and linguistically diverse Canberrans.

**RECOMMENDATION 163**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government examine whether existing budget indicators adequately measure young peoples' engagement beyond youth justice and child and youth protection.

Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator

**RECOMMENDATION 164**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider developing and reporting specific performance indicators that focus on youth issues such as inclusion and engagement, health and mental health, employment, and so forth.

Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will be undertaking a process during 2018-19 to review a number of the performance indicators to improve their relevance as a performance measure and the quality of information being provided through the indicator.

The regular publication of 'A Picture of ACT's Children and Young People' includes a range of indicators related to health, mental health, engagement with education and employment, lifestyles wellbeing and community engagement.

ACT Health collects information and reports on a range of indicators relating to the health and wellbeing of the young people in the ACT. Some of this data is available in *Healthy Canberra: ACT Chief Health Officer's Report 2018* and on the HealthStats ACT website.

**RECOMMENDATION 165**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the progress of the new job brokering service for asylum seekers and refugees, including numbers served and measurable outcomes.

Government response

Agreed.

Measurable outcomes, including the number of people benefiting from the program, are incorporated in the program's twelve month monitoring and evaluation plan. This information will be reported in the 2018-19 Multicultural Framework Ministerial Statement.

**RECOMMENDATION 166**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the progress of the expanded English language program for asylum seekers and refugees, including numbers served and measurable outcomes.**

Government response

Agreed.

Measurable outcomes, including number of people benefiting from the two programs, form part of annual reporting on these activities. This information will be reported in the 2018-19 Multicultural Framework Ministerial Statement.

**RECOMMENDATION 167**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with other States and Territories on ways to ensure reciprocal rights for seniors card holders.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to participate in the Australasian Seniors Card Managers Network and promote reciprocal rights for seniors card holders, while also noting that the eligibility criteria to access the seniors card is determined by each state and territory government independently.

**RECOMMENDATION 168**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish application guidelines and approvals of Veterans' grants.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Veterans Grants guidelines and the successful applications will be published and available publicly on the Community Service Directorate website.

**RECOMMENDATION 169**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government explore the viability of rental assistance or relief for office accommodation for Veterans' groups.**

Government response

Noted.

ACT Property Group manages community facilities for the ACT Government. There is an existing process for applications that is available for any group or member of the community. Rents are based on a cost recovery basis. ACT Property Group's role also involves advising ACT Government on office accommodation requirements to support service delivery objectives, and accommodation is provided on a commercial basis.



**RECOMMENDATION 170**

**The Committee recommends that the Minister for Women and the Chief Police Officer collaborate with the agency that delivers the National Survey on Women’s Safety to ensure the best methodology for the survey is utilised.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Minister for Women, and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, regularly meets with the Chief of Police and will continue to do so to ensure Police are involved in the development of ongoing priorities across government to help make our whole community safer.

The National Survey on Women’s Safety is conducted by the Social Research Centre for the Australia New Zealand Policing Advisory Agency (ANZPAA) on behalf of Australian police jurisdictions.

The portion of the survey relating to women’s feelings of safety in public places is taken from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing. The results of the survey are both used by policing agencies and published annually in the Report on Government Services (ROGs). The study aims to monitor levels of satisfaction with policing services and feelings of public safety of both men and women across Australian jurisdictions. Data collected via the survey is considered a key indicator of service quality and a source of information for jurisdictions to monitor community perceptions and levels of satisfaction with policing.

The survey commenced in 2000-01 and has an established methodology. The results from the survey are confirmed in other surveys including the Australian Bureau of Statistics’ Personal Safety Survey.

**RECOMMENDATION 171**

**The Committee recommends that the Minister for Women and the Chief Police Officer work together to identify ways to make women safer and feel safer.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Minister for Women, and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, regularly meets with the Chief of Police and will continue to do so to ensure Police are involved in the development of ongoing priorities across government to help make our whole community safer.

The gendered nature of women’s safety is extremely complex, and cannot be addressed through local initiatives alone. Whole of community changes in attitude and behaviour take many years to achieve. That is why the ACT Government supports the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010–2022, especially as it relates to the Bystander and Stop it at the Start Campaigns, which incorporate radio and TV advertisements, social media and community education initiatives.

The ACT Government's Commitment to a coordinated response to family and domestic violence focuses on improving safety in the community. The Coordinator General for Family Safety and the Chief Police Officer meet regularly and have been working collaboratively to respond to systemic issues impacting on family safety, especially the safety of women.

Additionally, the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26 and the corresponding First Action Plan 2017-19 is the ACT Governments Framework for addressing issues that impact women and girls in the ACT, including safety and perceptions of safety. The First Action Plan is currently underway. It is a whole of Government plan that was developed in consultation and has been committed to by all ACT Government Directorates.

All actions in the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26, First Action Plan, will be implemented and reviewed by the end of 2019.

The Minister for Women and the ACT Office for Women regularly engages and coordinates reporting across the ACT Government and will continue to engage through this mechanism.

The ACT Government is committed to maintaining and improving community safety across the ACT as a whole. The Chief Police Officer for the ACT will work with the Office for Women and partner agencies to ensure that any initiatives to assist in making women safer (and feel safe) are identified and considered for implementation.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 172**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate a list of qualified Auslan interpreters, in conjunction with the languages register, that can be made available to the ACT courts in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

Information on qualified local and national Auslan interpreters will be provided to the Justice and Community Safety Directorate so that it can be accessed by the Courts in the event of hearing impaired people being called up for jury duty.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 173**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues efforts across the Community Services Directorate and ACT Health to provide suitable accommodation options for young people needing long term residential care.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Office for Disability will continue in its efforts to support suitable accommodation options for young people with disability needing long term residential care in partnership with ACT Health and Housing ACT.

The ACT Government recognises the need for a range of supported accommodation options for people with a diversity of needs across our community. The 2018-19 Budget included \$22.8 million to fund a range of supported accommodation options, some of which will be suitable for young people.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 174**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to address funding needs to meet demand by frontline domestic violence and rape crisis services.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget committed additional funding of \$1.68 million over four years from 2018-19 to boost provision of these frontline services. Funding beyond 2019-20 has been provisioned while the Government examines future expected demand.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 175**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider providing performance indicators for domestic violence and rape crisis frontline services in order to track demand.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

The demand pressures for Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC) and Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS) are ongoing and are expected to increase in the future.

The additional funding for CRCC and DVCS in this year's budget is intended to respond to existing pressures.

Funding beyond 2019-20 has been provisioned while the Government examines future expected demand, with further assessment to be undertaken before the 2019-20 Budget based on a more comprehensive assessment of current and expected future demand. A series of existing measures will be used to assess this.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 176**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish accountability targets for specific prevention and early intervention measures relating to family and personal violence and report on these to the Assembly regularly.**

##### Government response

Agreed in principle.

Improving the evidence base around domestic and family violence in the ACT is a challenging and complex long-term process. It requires commitment from data custodians, cultural change, sufficient resourcing and system updates. The Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety is working to progressively improve the domestic and family violence evidence base in the ACT through a staged and focused process.

The Family Safety Hub is being established as the key innovation mechanism to facilitate long-term systemic transformation across the ACT, in order to prevent, intervene early, and address domestic and family violence and its impacts.

A Family Safety Hub Evaluation Framework (currently under development) will guide measurement of the outcomes and impact of each 'Family Safety Hub Challenge' and of the Hub itself.

Results and findings will be reported annually to the Legislative Assembly through the Ministerial Statement on Family Safety.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 177**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to support early intervention parenting support programs.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Child and Family Centres will continue to provide early intervention parenting support programs to families through a range of programs. Information on programs provided by the Child and Family Centres is available at <http://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/Child-and-Family-Centres-ACT-2018.pdf>

#### **RECOMMENDATION 178**

**The Committee recommends the ACT Government continue to engage with Marymead on the New Horizons program to ensure continuity and benefits for the Territory.**

##### Government response

Noted.

The New Horizons program is currently funded by the Commonwealth Department of Social Services to provide services to the ACT.

ACT Health is always interested in proposals which look to improve health outcomes for consumers, improve the health system, and help Canberrans to contribute to the social and economic fabric of the community.

#### **RECOMMENDATION 179**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the outcomes of the functional family therapy and the family group conferencing pilot programs.**

##### Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate will report on the outcomes of the Functional Family Therapy and Family Group Conferencing programs in the 2018-19 Community Services Directorate Annual Report.

**RECOMMENDATION 180**

**The Committee recommends that, in light of comments by the Children and Young People Commissioner that she has no jurisdiction to advocate for parents or other carers, the ACT Government cease to recommend that parents/carers with concerns regarding child protection decisions direct their concerns to the Commissioner.**

Government response

Not agreed.

It is noted that the Children and Young People Commissioner is also the Public Advocate. Child and Youth Protection Services receive requests from the Public Advocate and Children and Young People Commissioner for information regarding concerns that have been raised about Child and Youth Protection Services' services, conduct and decision making. The Human Rights Commission investigates the matter and provides findings and recommendations to Children, Youth and Families for consideration. In addition, the Public Advocate may request information regarding child protection matters and has authority under the Children and Young People Act 2008 to advocate on behalf of children and young people, including in court processes. For specific information about the powers, process and purpose of the Children and Young People Commissioner, please contact the Human Rights Commission or view information about their services at <http://hrc.act.gov.au/>.

Child and Youth Protection Services will continue to provide this important information to parents and carers regarding avenues to address any concerns they might have with decision making, conduct or services provided by Child and Youth Protection Services.

Parents and carers will also continue to be provided with information about the Red Cross Birth Parent Advocacy Service or the advocacy support available from Carers ACT, as appropriate. Both of these services were funded under *A Step Up for Our Kids* specifically to ensure that parents and carers have an independent source of advice and advocacy.

**RECOMMENDATION 181**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider recommendations from the Children and Young People Commissioner and preliminary suggestions from the Law Reform Advisory Council regarding the need to make more Child and Youth Protection decisions externally reviewable.**

Government response

Noted.

ACT Government has committed, through the Glanfield Inquiry (Recommendation 12), to review what decisions made by Child and Youth Protection Services should be subject to internal or external merits reviews. Work on this recommendation is progressing, led by the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, with the support of the Community Services Directorate. Consultation with a range of stakeholders will be considered in responding to the Glanfield Inquiry (Recommendation 12).

**RECOMMENDATION 182**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government make sure that its forthcoming carers' handbook provide clear and comprehensive information regarding all currently available pathways for review or the raising of concerns regarding care and protection decisions, and that this information be accurately reflected in communications with parents and carers from Child and Youth Protection Services.

Government response

Agreed.

The Carers' Handbook will provide comprehensive information about the child protection and out of home care systems, and will include information about the available pathways for seeking review of decisions or raising a concern about decisions made by Child and Youth Protection Services.

**RECOMMENDATION 183**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government table as quickly as practicable the joint Justice and Community Safety Directorate/Community Services Directorate paper regarding what care and protection decisions should be reviewable on their merits.

Government response

Agreed.

The discussion paper will be a publicly available document.

**RECOMMENDATION 184**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government:

- provide an update in the 2019-20 Budget Statement G on implementation of the new facilities management contract; and
- consider implementing additional performance indicators in future Budget Statements for Output 1.1 that measure delivery performance under the new Total Facilities Management Contract and client complaint levels.

Government response

Part 1 – Agreed in part.

An update of the implementation of the new facilities management contract will be provided in the 2018-19 Community Services Directorate Annual Report rather than the Budget papers. Under the ACT Government's governance framework, updates on performance against budget priorities are reported in the Annual Report.

Part 2 – Agreed.

Consideration will be given to an appropriate performance indicator that could be included in the budget papers to measure performance of the new Total Facilities Management contract.

**RECOMMENDATION 185**

The Committee recommends that future ACT Budget Statements report on the number of full time equivalent (FTE) employees to client service roles, both in the budget and Forward Estimates.

Government response

Noted.

The Estimated Employment Level (table 36 of Budget Paper G, page 35) is intended to provide a high level summary of Housing ACT's staffing resources and requirements.

Detailed staffing data is published annually through the *State of the Service* report as well as in agencies' annual reports.

**RECOMMENDATION 186**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a reconciliation of the information in Estimates Question Taken on Notice 422 and evidence provided at the hearing of 27 June 2018 about the number of homelessness support and accommodation places. This reconciliation should provide a definition of support and accommodation places.

Government response

Agreed.

In 2018-19, the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector has been contracted to provide 942 support places and 347 accommodation places at any one time. This correlates with the information provided in Estimates Question Taken on Notice 422.

To ensure sector efficiency and data comparison, in 2016-17 outputs across the homelessness sector were standardised to the number of individuals/family units assisted 'at any one time'. It is not possible to reconcile this number to individual bed places as the approach counts both families and individuals as a single unit. For example: one support placement could be one person for a month – or a family of six for three months; one accommodation placement could be one person in a one-bedroom unit, or a family of six in a four bedroom property.

Support means any form of general or specialist service(s) provided by an organisation to a service user, which helps to address their homelessness or the factors contributing to them being at risk of homelessness.

Accommodation means crisis accommodation and transitional housing places available in the ACT Specialist Homelessness sector.

**RECOMMENDATION 187**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to address funding needed to make sure that Canberra's crisis accommodation is not in a position where it needs to turn away people in need.**

Government response

Agreed.

The 2018-19 Budget has allocated \$6.5 million over four years to provide further support to our frontline services. This includes \$586,000 to OneLink to extend its operating hours and brokerage funds so that appropriate crisis support can be provided when it is needed.

OneLink, the ACT's Central Intake Service for human services including the homelessness sector, operates under the principle of 'No Wrong Door' or 'No Turn Away'. 'No Turn Away' means that OneLink assesses all requests for support (accommodation and services).

For clients seeking one-off assistance (eg a simple information request), OneLink will provide this immediately. For clients seeking access to the human services system, OneLink will assess and prioritise their needs before connecting them with support. Clients are connected with services based on OneLink's assessment of their needs. As many of the clients on OneLink's waiting list have complex lives and multiple needs, they will remain on the waiting list until all their needs are met.

**RECOMMENDATION 188**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government funds additional crisis accommodation physical beds, as well as support services.**

Government response

Agreed.

In 2018-19, the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector has been contracted to provide 942 support places and 347 accommodation places at any one time.

The provision of crisis accommodation and support services to people experiencing long-term homelessness requires specific expertise in addressing multiple complex issues to break their cycle of homelessness. Research continues to confirm that providing physical accommodation without appropriate wrap-around specialist support, can perpetuate these complex issues.

OneLink, managed by Woden Community Service, connects people at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, with accommodation services in the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector. These services provide wrap-around case management and specialist support. The ACT Government will continue to support the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector to develop innovative models that address the root causes of homelessness.



**RECOMMENDATION 189**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government clarify if funding for older women's homelessness services includes any new beds.**

Government response

Agreed.

Over \$1.7 million, over four years, will help establish support for older women who are either homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. The ACT Government will work with the community sector and service users over the coming months to design a new program, including the service model and form of support to ensure the funding meets their needs. The model will be designed to support older women across a range of tenures, for example some women will need supports to help them stay in their current home (out of crisis beds) while others will need short and medium supported accommodation and transitions to longer term affordable accommodation that meets their needs.

**RECOMMENDATION 190**

**The Committee recommends that the percentage figures for the Community Serviced Directorate Strategic Indicator 1 be supplemented with a line showing the number of applicants or people in greatest need that were actually housed within three months in each financial year.**

Government response

Noted.

The number of applicants or people in greatest need that were actually housed within three months in each financial year would not be available at the time when the Budget Papers go to print. The information, however, is published in the Community Services Directorate Annual Report.

**RECOMMENDATION 191**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise the finalisation of the Housing Affordability Strategy.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government is developing a new Housing Strategy for the ACT which will be released in 2018.

**RECOMMENDATION 192**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work with the homelessness sector on how to spend the \$100,000 allocated for staff training in the sector.**

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government is working with ACT Shelter and Joint Pathways to develop a professional development and training framework for the ACT Specialist Homelessness Sector. The Framework is scheduled to be finalised in 2018-19.

**RECOMMENDATION 193**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop transitional housing with appropriate levels of support for people leaving Alexander Maconochie Centre in parallel with the throughcare program.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Community Services Directorate is working in partnership with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate to ensure people leaving the Alexander Maconochie Centre have access to appropriate accommodation pathways, with service support to sustain their ongoing participation in the community.

**RECOMMENDATION 194**

**The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to give priority to, and increase investment in, public transport and active transport.**

Government response

Agreed.

The Government is currently developing an integrated transport strategy which will include investment principles to ensure ongoing priority is given to sustainable travel options. Some of the Government's priorities over the coming years will include light rail and the new bus network, providing increased bus priority infrastructure, upgrading and expanding park and ride and park and pedal facilities and providing more cycling facilities in urban areas. The Government will also continue to investigate emerging technology that is sustainable and has the potential to serve the needs of our growing city.

The 2018-19 Budget provided \$28.670 million over four years for walking and cycling initiatives, as detailed by the following table. (The majority of this expenditure is considered by the *Keeping our growing city moving – Better infrastructure for active travel* initiative presented in 2018-19 Budget Paper 3, page 166).

<b>Walking and Cycling Initiatives</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2018-19 Budget</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Belconnen bikeway	5,000	5,450	-	-	10,450
Off-road rapid bike network	500	1,500	-	-	2,000
Active streets around schools	500	500	500	500	2,000
Age friendly suburbs	-	2,000	-	-	2,000
Heysen Street cycle link	200	1,000	-	-	1,200
Tuggeranong Town Centre	1,000	1,500	1,500	-	4,000
WHOHEAT - World Health Organisation Health Economic Assessment Tool	50	-	-	-	50
Woden Town Centre	750	3,535	558	148	4,991
Keeping our growing city moving – Pialligo pedestrian upgrades	150	-	-	-	150
More services for our suburbs – Best of Canberra mountain bike experience – design	74	300	-	-	374
More jobs for our growing city – New tracks and trails at the National Arboretum	225	225	-	5	455
Footpath and cycle way upgrades (Better Infrastructure Fund)	1,000	-	-	-	1,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9,449</b>	<b>16,010</b>	<b>2,588</b>	<b>653</b>	<b>28,670</b>

The 2018-19 Budget also provided \$17.799 million for public transport related initiatives, as detailed by the following table.

<b>Public Transport Initiatives</b>	<b>2018-19</b>	<b>2019-20</b>	<b>2020-21</b>	<b>2021-22</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2018-19 Budget</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>	<b>\$'000</b>
Keeping our growing city moving – Light Rail Network 2 – City to Woden early planning	12,500	-	-	-	12,500
Keeping our growing city moving – Better infrastructure for the Rapid Transport Network	1,050	-	11	21	1,082
Keeping our growing city moving – Flexible public transport	1,125	-	-	-	1,125
Keeping our growing city moving – Keeping off-peak concession travel free	-	-	-	-	-
Keeping our growing city moving – Mitchell light rail stop	150	-	-	-	150
Keeping our growing city moving – Light Rail Stage 1 – commencing operations	850	-	-	-	850
Bus major component overhauls (Better Infrastructure Fund)	800	-	-	-	800
Bus depot upgrades (Better Infrastructure Fund)	792	-	-	-	792
Disability Discrimination Act compliant bus stops (Better Infrastructure Fund)	500	-	-	-	500
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>17,767</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>17,799</b>

**RECOMMENDATION 195**

To enable the community to more fully understand the impact of the changes to the bus network, the Committee recommends that the ACT Government release modelling on:

- the difference in travel times between Gungahlin suburbs and Civic;
- the effects of cancelling some dedicated school bus services, including the numbers of children taking dedicated school buses to and from school, the number of children taking regular buses to school, and the traffic congestion impact of more parents choosing to drive their children to school;
- the difference in total travel times for current users of school bus services; and
- the difference in total travel times for current users of Xpresso services and the number of exiting users of these services.

Government response

Noted.

TCCS will have regard to this recommendation, noting:

- travel times will differ according to individual circumstances;
- timetables for the new network are yet to be developed, as timetable development is dependent upon the finalisation of routes, which is currently the subject of community consultation; and
- TCCS will need to compare actual usage of the final bus network with patronage in the new bus network once it is operational.

**RECOMMENDATION 196**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that its procurement process for the next tranches of 40 buses encourages purchase of low emissions (e.g. electric or hybrid) buses.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government is currently trialling two electric buses and one hybrid bus. This trial will help to inform the procurement process for the next 40 buses. The ACT Government will seek to ensure that the purchase of new buses provides value for money taking into consideration a range of factors including operational costs, environmental performance, energy efficiency, sourcing, and disability accessibility compliance. This assessment will include the relative maturity of the electric/hybrid bus market in Australia, the challenges of introducing fully electric buses and the lessons learned from the alternative fuel trial currently underway compared with the ready availability of low emission Euro VI diesel buses.

**RECOMMENDATION 197**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provides additional de-identified data from MyWay using the ACT's open data portal. This data would include patronage on individual routes at specific times of day.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

TCCS will investigate increasing the range of patronage data published at [www.data.act.gov.au](http://www.data.act.gov.au).

**RECOMMENDATION 198**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government converts the current trial of free off-peak travel for concession card holders into a permanent change in fare policy.

Government response

Noted.

The Government has extended the trial for a further 12 months to 30 June 2019 and will consider further extensions in due course.

**RECOMMENDATION 199**

The Committee recommends the ACT Government consider providing free off-peak travel for school students whose parents/guardians are eligible for free off-peak travel, in addition to their usual student concession arrangements.

Government response

Noted.

The Government will explore this in the context of future Budget rounds.

**RECOMMENDATION 200**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on proposed staffing numbers at transport interchanges, both currently and in the new network, broken down by time of day, as part of Annual Reports.

Government response

Agreed in part.

TCCS will publish the number of staff based at key transport interchanges in the TCCS annual report, from the 2018-19 financial year.

**RECOMMENDATION 201**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to trial demand responsive transport services and report to the Assembly on the progress of any such trials on a quarterly basis.

Government response

Agreed in principle.

The Minister for Transport Canberra and City Services will provide periodic updates to the Assembly on the progress of any demand responsive transport services as appropriate.

**RECOMMENDATION 202**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government release indicative plans for improving community safety around transport stops and interchanges, such as improved and increased lighting of streets and pedestrian pathways.

Government response

Noted.

The Minister for Transport and City Services will provide detail on the proposed infrastructure to support the new bus network once the bus network has been finalised.

**RECOMMENDATION 203**

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government assure parents of student with special needs that the Special Needs Transport service will continue to be made available and the ACT Government meet the cost of the service until a resolution between the Australian Government and states and territories is determined.

Government response

Agreed.

The ACT Government will continue to provide the Special Needs Transport Program as an in-kind service for students with disability who meet eligibility requirements, until there is agreement at a national level about the future of supported transport under the NDIS.