ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

Open Access release outcome decision – Partial access granted

Document Category: Ministerial Briefs

Title of document: Minister for Police and Emergency Services – Quarter 1 2021 briefs

Description of the information: Question Time Briefs provided to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services between 1 January and 31 March 2021.

The original record of this document contained information the release of which would be contrary to the public interest. This information has been redacted from this publicly available version of the document for the reasons outlined below.

Grounds for decision to withhold disclosure

It was decided certain information contained in the document would not be disclosed as, on balance its release would be contrary to the public interest test set out in section 17 of the FOI Act.

I have included below the relevant factors considered in making this decision.

2.1 Factors favouring disclosure in the public interest

(a) Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:

(i) promote open discussion of public affairs and enhance the government's accountability;

(ii) contribute to positive and informed debate on important issues or matters of public interest;

(iv) ensure effective oversight of expenditure of public funds;

(viii) reveal the reason for a government decision and any background or contextual information that informed the decision.

I consider that the release of the ministerial briefs may be expected to help inform ongoing discussions and debate on matters of continued public importance. The disclosure of this information additionally helps in promoting government accountability and transparency.

2.2 Factors favouring non-disclosure in the public interest

(a) Disclosure of the information could reasonably be expected to do any of the following:

(ii) prejudice the protection of an individual's right to privacy or any other right under the Human Rights Act 2004.

On balance, I consider the ministerial briefs to be in the public interest to release, with minor redactions. This includes redactions to the personal information of ACT Policing staff where disclosure could reasonably be expected to prejudice their right to privacy.

Review rights

My decision to release or withhold open access information is a reviewable decision as identified in Schedule 3 of the FOI Act. You can seek an Ombudsman review of this outcome under section 73 of the Act within 20 working days from the day that my decision is published on the Justice and Community Safety Directorate website, or a longer period allowed by the Ombudsman.

If you wish to request a review of my decision, you may write to the ACT Ombudsman at:

ACT Ombudsman
Attention: ACT Strategy and FOI Section
GPO Box 442
CANBERRA ACT 2601
Via email: actfoi@ombudsman.gov.au

Further assistance

If you have any queries regarding this Open Access release, please contact JACSFOI@act.gov.au or phone (02) 6207 2167.

Authorised by

L. Callow

Lauren Callow
Information Officer
9 April 2026

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

OPEN ACCESS Q1 2021 SCHEDULE
PORTFOLIO: MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
Question Time Briefs - Sitting Days 9-11 February 2021					
1	1-2	Question Time Briefs Index - 9-11 February 2021	February		
2	3-5	ACT Policing COVID-19 Response and Preparedness	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
3	6-8	Half Yearly Statement of Performance	February		
4	9-12	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders	February		
5	13-14	Assaults on police and frontline community service providers	February		
6	15-18	Serious and Organised crime response	February		
7	19-21	OMCG incidents	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
8	22-23	Safety of Women in our Community	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
9	24-28	Property Crime (Rates, Strategy and OTO Campaign)	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
10	29-33	Cannabis Reforms	February		
11	34-35	Key Data ACT Policing	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
12	36-39	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
13	40-42	ACT Policing Workforce	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
14	43-45	AFP Initiative: Mental Health	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
15	46-47	Complaints regarding ACT Policing	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
16	48-50	Futures Program - Progress and Transition	February	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
17	51-54	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	February		
18	55-59	National Security Issues	February		
19	60-61	Bushfire Council FOI	February		
20	62-67	2019-20 Bushfire Season	February		
21	68-69	2020-21 Bushfire Season	February		
22	70-72	Bushfire Recovery (Canberra Times article 7 Feb 2021)	February		
23	73-77	Key Data ESA	February		
24	78	ACTAS Resourcing	February		
25	79	ACTF&R Resourcing	February		
26	80-83	Election Commitments	February		
27	84	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)	February		
28	85	Blueprint for Change	February		
29	86	Cladding	February		
30	87-91	Independent Integrity Commission	February		
2020-21 Budget Day - Sitting Day 9 February 2021					
31	92-93	Budget Day Index - 9 February 2021	February		
32	94-106	2020-21 Budget Summary (including summary of JACS Initiatives)	February		
33	107-109	2020-21 Budget Initiatives Summary - MPES	February		
34	110-111	ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Development and Construction of Acton Station	February		
35	112	Strategic Accommodation study for Policing (Territorial)	February		
36	113	Economic survival package - PACER (ACTAS and ACTP)	February		

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
37	114	ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre Feasibility Study	February		
38	115	Enhanced Forensic Medical Services	February		
39	116	ACTP Emergency Cost Pressures	February		
40	117	Emergency Services Agency critical ICT investment	February		
41	118-119	COVID-19 Public Health Response - ACT Policing	February		
42	120	Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service (ACTAS and ACTP)	February		
43	121	Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations	February		
44	122-123	Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre	February		
45	124-128	Rollovers - MPES	February		
46	129	2020-21 Budget Staffing FTE by Ministerial Portfolio - MPES	February		
47	130-141	2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Controlled	February		
48	142-148	2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Territorial	February		
49	149-151	2020-21 Strategic and Accountability Indicators - Output 4.1 Emergency Services	February		
50	152-153	2020-21 Strategic and Accountability Indicators - Strategic Objective 2 Crime Related Community Safety	February		
Question Time Briefs - Sitting Days 30-31 March 2021					
51	154-155	Question Time Briefs Index - 30-31 March 2021	March		
52	156-158	ACT Policing COVID-19 Response and Preparedness	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
53	159-161	Half Yearly Statement of Performance	March		
54	162-165	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders	March		
55	166-167	Assaults on police and frontline community service providers	March		
56	168-171	Serious and Organised crime response	March		
57	172-174	OMCG incidents	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
58	175-176	Safety of Women in our Community	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
59	177-181	Property Crime (Rates, Strategy and OTO Campaign)	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
60	182-186	Cannabis Reforms	March		
61	187-188	Body Worn Cameras	March		
62	189-190	Key Data ACT Policing	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
63	191-194	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
64	195-197	ACT Policing Workforce	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
65	198-200	AFP Initiative: Mental Health	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
66	201-202	Complaints regarding ACT Policing	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
67	203-205	Futures Program - Progress and Transition	March	Partial	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)
68	206-208	Bushfire Recovery	March		
69	209-210	Bushfire Royal Commission Response	March		
70	211-213	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)	March		
71	214-218	National Security Issues	March		
72	219-220	Bushfire Council FOI	March		
73	221-227	2019-20 Bushfire Season	March		
74	228	2020-21 Bushfire Season	March		
75	229-233	Key Data ESA	March		
76	234	ACTAS Resourcing	March		
77	235	ACTF&R Resourcing	March		
78	236-240	Election Commitments	March		

No.	Folio	Description	Date	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
79	241	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)	March		
80	242	Blueprint for Change	March		
81	243	Cladding	March		
82	244-247	Independent Integrity Commission	March		

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
QUESTION TIME BRIEFS PACK
9-11 FEBRUARY 2021

COVID-19 Related	
1.	ACT Policing COVID-19 Response and Preparedness
Joint QTBs	
2.	Half Yearly Statement of Performance
3.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
4.	Assaults on police and frontline community service providers
5.	Serious and Organised crime response
6.	OMCG incidents
7.	Safety of Women in our Community
8.	Property Crime (Rates, Strategy and OTO Campaign)
9.	Cannabis Reforms
ACT Policing QTBs	
10.	Key Data ACT Policing
11.	ACT Policing Crime Statistics
12.	ACT Policing Workforce
13.	AFP Initiative: Mental Health
14.	Complaints regarding ACT Policing
15.	Futures Program - Progress and Transition
SEMB QTBs	
16.	Closed Circuit Television (CCTV)
17.	National Security Issues
ESA QTBs	
18.	Bushfire Council FOI
19.	2019-20 Bushfire Season

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

20.	2020-21 Bushfire Season
21.	Bushfire Recovery (Canberra Times article 7 Feb 2021)
22.	Key Data ESA
23.	ACTAS Resourcing
24.	ACTF&R Resourcing
25.	Election Commitments
26.	ComCen Update (UFU issues, recruitment of call techs) (recent developments in NSW)
27.	Blueprint for Change
28.	Cladding
JACS Ongoing Issues	
29.	Independent Integrity Commission

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-017

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: **ACT Policing Preparedness and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Talking points:

- ACT Policing is committed to the safety of our community and will continue to support Canberrans during the current COVID-19 situation. ACT Policing members remain visible and mobile on our roads and in the community.
- ACT Policing's workforce is flexible and adaptable to emergency situations. Police members are trained and extremely competent in responding and operating in rapidly changing environments.
- ACT Policing has an established COVID-19 Taskforce which continues to ensure its frontline resources remain well positioned and able to continue to provide a 24/7 policing response to the community.
- As of 15 January 2021 ACT Policing have conducted 21952 compliance checks in total on 6078 individuals as some individuals have more than one compliance check.
- Border compliance checks were conducted between 22 December 2020 and 3 January 2021. Roadside border checks were conducted on a total of 8678 vehicles entering the ACT.
- Should a breach be identified, police have a discretion in how to deal with the matter, however an educational approach is always considered in the first instance. If there is an intentional non-compliance, the person involved can expect enforcement action.
- ACT Policing is working collaboratively with ACT Health in relation to the compliance and enforcement of directions under the Public Health Act 1997 (ACT) for COVID-19 measures.
- ACT Policing's Covid Compliance Team has utilised the interactions they have with the community as an opportunity to educate the public on social distancing and compliance measures.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing will support ACT Health in a monitoring, compliance and enforcement role of the Health Direction by returning travelers to Australia who will be quarantining in an ACT hotel.
- ACT Policing has received a number of reports of non-compliance, all of which have been managed with ACT Health who remain the lead agency in response to COVID-19.
- The ACT's existing criminal laws provide a suite of offences. This means the Territory is prepared with the measures needed to ensure people who threaten or harm others with the spread of COVID-19 can be charged.
- Police have made it clear to the community that threats involving COVID-19 and spitting or coughing on emergency workers could end in serious penalties, including jail.
- ACT Policing is also continuing to work with Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach in providing support to victims of family violence during the current situation.

<u>Possible breach of Public Health Directions by visitors to Parliament House</u>

- ACT Policing commenced enquiries regarding a possible breach of the Public Health Directions by a group from Cumberland LGA in the last week of January. This matter has been referred to NSW Police for follow up.
- ACT Health has advised that the risk to the public as a result of this potential breach is low.
- Fines or official cautions may be issued by police to anyone that does not comply with current Public Health Directions.

<u>ACT Policing Health and Welfare</u>

- ACT Policing COVID-19 taskforce is continuing to ensure that ACT Policing officers have Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), such as hand sanitiser, gloves, protective eyewear and P2/N95 masks readily available as required.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing introduced a COVID-19 app available on all members' UOC phones so important operational and safety information is easily accessible.
- ACT Policing's Covid Compliance Team have developed a system of checking those in quarantine or self-isolation which keeps officers safe and doesn't expose them to the virus.
    - In the case of those in self-isolation, a spot-check consists of police phoning to advise they are at the location, and asking those in the house to identify themselves and physically produce identification, such as a driver's licence, usually from a window.
- ACT Policing's Welfare Network and the COVID-19 Taskforce continue to work together to provide welfare and support mechanisms to members, address any concerns and clarify processes in regards to possible COVID-19 exposure.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-051

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services
Corrections

Half Yearly Statement of Performance

Accountability Indicators

Output 4.1: Emergency Services

Table 23: Accountability Indicators Output 4.1

	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 YTD Targets	2020-21 YTD Result	Variance (%)
Prevention and Preparedness				
a. Desktop audit of ACT Government Directorate Bushfire Operational Plans activities [a]	n/a	n/a	n/a	
b. Field assessment of Access Management Upgrades and Hazard Reduction burns conducted in accordance with Bushfire Operational Plans of ACT Government Directorates [1]	100%	100%	n/a	
c. Percentage of ESA staff who have completed accredited training in AIIMS [b]	70%	70%	76%	9
Response and Recovery				
d. Structure Fire incidents responded to within target [c]	90%	90%	93%	3
e. Road Rescue incidents responded to within target [d]	90%	90%	93%	3
f. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 50th percentile (minutes) [e]	8	8	8.75	9
g. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 90th percentile (minutes) [e]	15	15	14.26	(5)
h. Percentage of Patient Transport Service 'fixed booking' attended by booked time[2];	65%	65%	75%	15
i. Total cost per head of population [f]	$394.86	$390.06	$391.39	(1)
Total Cost ($'000)	173,994	88,135	84,364	(4)
Controlled Recurrent Payments ($'000)	146,193	72,354	72,354	-

The above Accountability Indicators should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators:

a. This indicator is discontinued in 2020-21 as it is not reflective of the actual performance of the Rural Fire Services (RFS) but rather performing audits of ACT Government directorates' commitments under the Bushfire Operational Plans.

b. AIIMS – Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System. This accountability indicator captures training provided to Emergency Services Agency (ESA) staff only on the AIIMS system.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	XX/XX/2020	
Cleared for public release by:	Chief Operating Officer	Ext: 78420
Contact Officer name:	Dragana Cvetkovski	Ext: 54389
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-051	

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c. Target refers to the response to structure fires within 10 minutes.
d. Target refers to the response to road rescues within 13 minutes.
e. Priority 1 records that are incomplete due to operator or system errors, or where incidents are outside the ACT, or where the priority rating has been changed, are excluded.
f. The 2020-21 original target is based on an estimated population of 440,643 estimated according to the most recent population projections for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) by ACT Treasury (ACT Population Projects 2018-2058: Table 1 - Summary, 2017-2058).

Note(s):

1. ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) have not been notified of any access management upgrades or hazard reduction burns completed in accordance with an approved Bushfire Operational Plans in the first half of 2020-21 financial year. Therefore, no field assessments have been conducted and the result of this indicator is Not Applicable.
2. The higher than target outcome is a result of improved booking procedures, with a focus on avoiding conflicts in booking time.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Accountability Indicator

Output 2.1: Corrective Services

Table 21: Accountability Indicators Output 2.1

	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 YTD Targets	2020-21 YTD Result	Variance (%)
a. Completion rates of Community Corrections Orders:				
- The proportion of Community Corrections supervision orders successfully completed within the counting period	68%	68%	73%	7
- The proportion of Community Corrections reparation orders successfully completed within the counting period [1]	60%	60%	38%	(37)
b. Average cost per detainee per day for all detainees [a]	$354	$354	$359	1
c. Average cost per day for community based offenders [2]	$39	$39	$44	13
Total Cost ($'000) [3]	92,831	49,928	45,164	(10)
Controlled Recurrent Payments ($'000)	84,377	44,312	44,312	-

The above Accountability Indicators should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators:

a. The 2020-21 target for this indicator was revised up from $310 to $354. The increase to this target reflects the projected population for 2020-21; the actual results for the first two quarters and the projected result for the last two quarters of 2020-21.

Note(s):

1. Reduced successful completion of Community Services Work orders (reparation orders) during this period reflects an increase of offenders who have not completed their community service hours within the court ordered period.
2. The average daily cost per offender has increased due to a decrease in offender numbers in the same period from 1278 in 2019-20 to 1073 in 2020-21.
3. There have been delays in the full implementation of the Justice Housing Program and general repairs and maintenance orders.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-018

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Talking points:

- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. It is important that they are aware of available support services, and that they know we fully support them in minimising exposure to stressors, and in recovering from any ill effects experienced in their line of work.

ACT Emergency Services Agency

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its volunteers and staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- The ESA has a Director – Welfare Programs, which is a full-time senior manager position. Their role and responsibility is to work across the ESA to develop welfare and wellbeing initiatives.
- In addition to delivering initiatives internally, the Director – Welfare Programs is also a member of the Council of Ambulances Australia (CAA) Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Group, and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Mental Health and Wellbeing Network. This allows the ESA to work collaboratively in sharing resources and developing partnerships with our interstate colleagues.
- Mental health training packages are available for all ESA volunteers and staff, to ensure that we are providing education that will increase the resilience of our workforce. The ESA is currently delivering an advanced program for the ACT Ambulance Service which provides personnel with a psychological first aid framework to support staff when they have been exposed to a potentially traumatic event.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	21/01/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Commissioner	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-018	

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- This program is modelled on the Victorian Ambulance MANERS Psychological First Aid training. The ESA also arranges Mental Health First Aid courses, which provides education and information on the mental health conditions and disorders that people face in their community and workplace.
- The ESA has made a concerted effort to increase the number of Peer Support Officers that are trained and available across the ESA. Peer Support Officers are volunteers or staff in their respective service who offer early intervention and peer support to personnel. Assistance can be requested by the individual or through a notification process by their manager or service. All four services now have a Peer Support Program, which is a first in the ESA.
- The ESA has three volunteer Chaplains to provide support across the whole of the ESA.
- In addition, the ESA maintains relationships with not-for-profit organisations such as Beyondblue and Soldier On. These organisations provide opportunities for collaboration and wellbeing service provision, such as yoga, counselling, and social activities where staff can engage.
- The ESA has also committed to providing its personnel with access to the Road to Mental Readiness Courses through Lifeline. In addition, the Australian Defence Force has offered the ESA two places on the Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills (ARRTS) Program each year. The program assists personnel to address wellbeing issues, individual recovery, and improve confidence and resilience through the medium of arts.
- The ESA also works closely with Fortem Australia. Fortem is an evidence-based community support organisation that offers Australia's national security officials and first responders (working as employees or volunteers) with comprehensive and integrated wellbeing support. The ESA Commissioner, Ms Georgeina Whelan, is a board member of Fortem.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

ACT Policing

- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- ACT Policing members are routinely exposed to traumatic events in the course of their duties such as attending suicides, fatal motor vehicle accidents, family violence incidents and serious assaults.
- Research has indicated cumulative exposure to traumatic incidents has the potential to increase the risk factors for psychological injury.
- The operational requirement to work a rotating roster of day and night shifts also has an impact on the mental wellbeing of members.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing Welfare Officer roles. These Welfare Officers provide support to members for a range of matters including critical incidents, work-place matters, personal matters, and as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7.
- Through the ACT Government's funding for ACT Policing's transition to a new model of police service, ACT Policing now has two dedicated psychologists who provide a proactive and response support service to ACT Policing members.
- All AFP members also have 24/7 access to a clinician from the AFP Psychological Services team, as well as the AFP Chaplaincy Network.
- ACT Policing is listening and acting on health advice, and strengthening measures to help protect ACT Policing members as well as the community from COVID-19.
- As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, the AFP is providing additional welfare support to members who are self-isolating due to COVID-19.
- In 2017, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Organisational Health commenced a project aimed at reducing the psychological impact of traumatic exposure within the AFP.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- An AFP project team conducted a review of the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police and developed an equivalent AFP wellbeing program which is currently under evaluation.
- In August 2018, AFP Organisational Health commenced this pilot wellbeing program with a number of ACT Policing teams. The program encourages members to seek early assistance with support from supervisors.
- This program is anticipated to assist in facilitating early intervention and support for ACT Policing members where required. The pilot is currently under evaluation and these results will determine appropriate future action.
- Additional resources available to ACT Policing members include a Fitness app and the 'equipt' wellbeing app.
- In 2019, the AFP committed to providing access to the Road2 Mental Readiness courses through Lifeline. These courses were launched in February 2019 and though currently on hold due to Covid restrictions, will be open to ACT Policing members for at least the next two years.
- This is an Australian-first partnership and the program will equip officers with coping strategies and tools to encourage them to address mental health concerns earlier. The program originated with Canadian armed forces before being expanded to first responders with great success ofer 10 years of operation.
- As at 31 December 2019, a total of 238 ACT Policing employees have completed the Road 2 Mental Readiness training since it was launched.
- First responders that have participated in the program have shown an increase in resiliency skills, a decrease in stigmatising attitudes and an increase in mental health wellbeing.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-019

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ASSAULTS ON POLICE AND FRONTLINE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Talking points:

- Police and frontline community service providers are regularly exposed to a risk of assault and injury as an unfortunate reality of their jobs.
- Assaults on police and emergency services personnel warrant a strong response from Government.
- The *Crimes (Protection of Frontline Community Service Providers) Amendment Act 2020* commenced on 10 June 2020. The Act creates a new offence specifically for assaults against frontline workers including:
    - Police officers;
    - Protective service officers and special protective service officers;
    - Corrections workers;
    - Paramedics
    - Firefighters and volunteer firefighters; and
    - Emergency services employees and volunteers.
- This new standalone offence sends a clear message that violence against workers providing critical frontline services will not be tolerated.
- Previously, offenders have been charged with common assault when an assault has been committed against a frontline worker. The new standalone offence will improve accountability by ensuring that the true nature and seriousness of the crime is described on a criminal record.
- The Amendment Act also creates new offences for driving at police and ramming police vehicles to send a clear signal that those who engage in this dangerous behaviour will be held to account.
- Emergency first responders are required to step forward to face risks that others are expected to step away from, and it is appropriate for the law to specifically reflect this and support them.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	25/01/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:76244
Contact Officer name:	Stephanie Johns	Ext: 59908
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-019	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Government is also committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment through policies, procedures, and strategies to mitigate the risk of assault and injury. This includes training all of our emergency services personnel, to assist in identifying and managing potentially high risk situations.

Key Information

Background information

Prior to the passage of the the *Crimes (Protection of Frontline Community Service Providers) Amendment Bill 2020*, there were no specific ACT offences for assaulting police or emergency service workers while executing their duties.

All other jurisdictions in Australia have introduced specific offence provisions for assaulting police.

Between 30 June 2011 and 16 March 2020, ACT Policing recorded 374 instances of assaults upon police.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council recently conducted a review of penalties for assaults on police and other emergency service workers, corrective services officers and other public officers. Terms of Reference were issued by the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP in early December 2019. The Council publicly released the Final Report on 1 October 2020 (https://www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/657742/final-report-assault-public-officers.pdf).

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-020

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE

Criminal gangs are involved in illegal activities across Australia, including serious drug offences, fraud and property crime, vehicle rebirthing, firearms offences, money laundering, extortion and serious assaults.

TALKING POINTS

- Countering serious and organised crime and maintaining public safety is a primary focus for the ACT Government.
- Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCGs) have been identified as having high involvement in serious criminal activities. A February 2020 report by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that violent and profit-motivated offending is common among members of OMCGs, and that there is evidence that joining an OMCG increases a person's propensity to commit crime.
- As at 13 January 2021, there are four known OMCGs operating in the ACT, two of which have increasingly limited influence. The total number of members associated with the ACT chapters of these gangs is approximately 30-40 people. This is a decrease from previously reported numbers of approximately 70 members in 2018-2019 and is a result of members being deported, imprisoned or fleeing interstate.
- In 2020, in the ACT, 29 OMCG members were charged with a total of 47 offences. In this period, 9 firearms were seized.

Key Taskforce Nemesis figures (Criminal Motorcycle Gang related figures)	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Criminal gang members charged*	27	37	29
Offences charged	78	85	47
Firearms seized	20	12	9

*A person may be charged more than once in a year

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76244
Contact Officer name:	Stephanie Johns	Ext: 59908
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-020	

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- The ACT Government is strongly committed to targeting, disrupting, and prosecuting organised criminal gang members and ensuring the safety of all Canberrans.
- ACT Policing'sTaskforce Nemesis continues to focus on operational and investigative responses to criminal gang activity. Through the Taskforce, ACT Policing continues to proactively disrupt criminal gang members to deter and detect criminal activity. The Government has provided continued investment to ensure that ACT Policing has the resources it needs to combat criminal gangs in the ACT.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, $1.6 million over four years was provided to Taskforce Nemesis. These resources fund two specialist officers – a forensic accountant and surveillance team member – to bolster the ability of the taskforce to combat organised crime, strip criminal wealth and improve surveillance capability to monitor the activity of criminal gangs.
- The 2019-20 Budget delivered a further $2.8 million over four years to the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions to assist with efforts to combat serious and organised crime including to strip criminals of their criminal profits.
- During the 2019-20 financial year, almost $1.5 million was forfeited to the Territory under the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003*. These funds came from the seizure of cash, 16 motor vehicles and 6 real estate properties and mostly involved offenders convicted of serious drug offences. The funds will be used by the ACT Government to fund projects related to criminal justice activities, crime prevention and assistance to victims of crime.

<u>Recent legislative reform</u>

- The *Confiscation of Criminal Assets (Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Act 2020* commenced on 29 August 2020. The Act introduces an ACT-specific unexplained wealth scheme to more effectively prevent and investigate organised crime and target the criminal profits of organised crime groups.

- The new scheme complements existing confiscation of criminal assets laws in the ACT. The new unexplained wealth scheme allows the police and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to intervene when there is a suspicion that part of a person's wealth was not lawfully acquired. The court must make an unexplained wealth order if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a person's total wealth exceeds the value of the person's wealth that was lawfully acquired and that the whole or any part of the person's wealth was derived from serious criminal activity.
- The unexplained wealth scheme allows ACT Policing and the DPP to more effectively target those involved in drug trafficking or other serious organised criminal activity and those masterminding or directing criminal activity at arms-length.
- The Commonwealth *Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Act 2018* passed Parliament on 19 September 2018. The Act extends Commonwealth unexplained wealth orders to certain ACT offences.
- The *Crimes (Disrupting Criminal Gangs) Legislation Amendment Act 2019*, which was passed in November 2019, introduced a range of measures to improve public order and safety in the Territory including:
    - New tiered offences of serious affray;
    - Increased penalties for offences of fighting (section 391 of the *Crimes Act 1900*) and offensive behaviour (section 392 of the *Crimes Act 1900*);
    - Increased maximum penalties for specified offences committed in connection with a criminal group or by a person associated with a criminal group;
    - A civil exclusion order scheme under the *Liquor Act 2010* that allows the Chief Police Officer to apply to the court for an order to prohibit a certain person from entering or remaining on licensed premises for a stated period; and
    - A licence cancellation scheme under the *Liquor Act 2010* and the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* that allows the Chief Police Officer to make an application for the cancellation of a person's licence on the basis of their criminal activity.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 76244
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-020	

- These measures address serious public safety concerns about the risk to community safety posed by organised crime.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 1 September 2018. The Act introduced provisions that allow the Chief Police Officer to apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that an occupier remove fortifications from their premises. The Act also introduces provisions which prohibit the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.
- These laws work to make the ACT a hostile environment for criminal gangs by preventing the establishment of fortified premises such as criminal gang club houses.
- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017. The Act introduced statutory crime scene powers to allow police officers to preserve evidence in a timely manner at crime scenes in both public and private places while taking the least restrictive approach to limiting a person's right to privacy.
- The Act also creates a new offence of 'drive by shooting' which deals with people shooting at a building, including a home, whether from a car or otherwise. The offence is punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.

Background

A review of the effectiveness of ACT policing powers to target, disrupt, investigate and prosecute criminal gang members in conjunction with a statutory review of the ACT crime scene powers was undertaken by Dr Terry Goldsworthy of Bond University in late 2019. The Report on this review was tabled in the Assembly on 20 February 2020. The Report highlights that the ACT Government has successfully implemented legislative responses to combat serious and organised crime to date, and that these legislative tools are effective and proportionate. The Report does not indicate a need for further significant legislative reform, other than an ACT-specific unexplained wealth scheme which has now been introduced.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-020	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-021

Portfolio: Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

ISSUE: CRIMINAL OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG

TALKING POINTS:

- The ACT Government and ACT Policing are committed to countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs, and maintaining public safety.
- Taskforce Nemesis is focussed on combating criminal motorcycle gang behaviour in the ACT. The taskforce often collaborates across whole-of-government to create innovative strategies to disrupt criminal gang behaviour.
- In 2016, the ACT Government provided $6.4 million over four years for the expansion of Taskforce Nemesis to target organised crime syndicates including Criminal Motorcycle Gangs. This funding included eight staff: four investigators, two intelligence officers, one Forensic Accountant and an Investigative Assistant.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, ACT Government committed a further $1.594 million over four years to bolster the capability of Taskforce Nemesis in providing funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member and associated equipment and training.
- ACT Policing will continue to ensure an appropriate police response to target and disrupt those seeking to cause harm in our community.
    - ACT Policing is also in a unique position as it can call on specialist and surge capabilities from the broader AFP to meet changing operational environments.
- In 2017, the Federal Government provided funding to combat organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Taskforce Nemesis has an embedded NAGS member, enabling interoperability and liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS bring together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/02/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-021	

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- ACT Policing has established a whole-of-government interagency working group, with representatives from a number of local and Commonwealth government agencies to consider all aspects of criminal gang behaviour in the ACT. The group is based on the Commonwealth NAGS model that brings a whole-of-government approach to addressing this issue.
- The confiscation of criminal assets is an effective tool to assist in the prevention and disruption of serious and organised crime and prevents the reinvestment of illegally obtained wealth into criminal activity.
- It is anticipated additional agencies will be invited to future working groups to further drive Taskforce Nemesis' ambitions to disrupt Criminal Motorcycle Gang activities.

Operational successes

Taskforce Nemesis Criminal Motorcycle Gang related figures (at 13 Jan 21)	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Criminal gang members charged *(person may be charged on numerous occasions)*	27	37	29
Offences charged	78	85	47
Firearms seized	20	12	9

OMCGs in Canberra

- As at January 2021:
  - There are four known Criminal Motorcycle Gangs, two of which have increasingly limited influence, operating in the ACT.
  - The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Motorcycle Gangs is estimated at approximately 30-40 people.
  - This is a decrease from the previously reported numbers of approximately 70 members in 2018-19 and is as a result of members being deported, imprisoned or fleeing insterstate.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Criminal Motorcycle Gang membership has traditionally been relatively stable, however, changes to criminal gang membership in recent years highlight a shift towards more fluid concepts of membership.
- Serious and organised crime is not limited to openly-identifiable criminal gangs and ACT Policing will continue to proactively target, prosecute and disrupt those involved in serious and organised crime in the ACT - regardless of their individual affiliations.

Background information

- While 'patch-overs' have been known to occur from time to time, large numbers of patch overs have occurred in recent years. These changes to club numbers can affect the structure and strength of a Criminal Motorcylce Gang, and has had a significant impact upon the strength and rivalry between Criminal Motorcycle Gangs in the ACT.
- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. 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 Policing has had additional powers available since 2017 that have enhanced its ability to respond to and prosecute criminal gang-related acts of violence after the fact.
- Recent legislative amendments to help equip ACT Policing in combating criminal motorcycle gang activity has included:
    - Laws providing powers to remove fortification from dwellings;
    - Laws enabling police to establish crime scenes;
    - A tiered regime of affray offences;
    - Laws allowing police to apply to exclude individuals from working in certain industries or attending licensed premises.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-022

Portfolios: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Talking points:

- Canberra remains one of Australia's safest cities.
- ACT Policing is committed to the safety of members of our community and are continuing to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ACT Policing will continue to work with Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach in providing support to victims of family violence.
- There were 3198 family violence related incidents in 2019-20 compared to 2984 for previous financial year, an increase of 7.2 per cent.
- Family violence related assault offences increased by 1.6 per cent (or 19 offences), when compared to the previous financial year. From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, there has been 1177 family violence related assault offences reported to ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing treat all reports of assaults seriously and invest every available effort in providing a safe community for ACT residents.
- In 2019-20, the ACT recorded a result of 92.3 per cent for residents who feel safe at home during the night. This is 4.2 per cent above the national average (88.1 per cent).
    - 41.3 per cent of ACT residents surveyed felt safe on public transport in the ACT at night. This is well above the national average of 33.5 per cent.
    - These strong results reflect the efforts of the ACT Government and ACT Policing working with partner agencies and the community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-022	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Public Transport Safety

- All public transport vehicles in the ACT are fitted with CCTV security cameras, which are used in accordance with ACT Government guidelines, relevant regulations and legislation.
- Safety for all of those who live in our community is important to this Government and ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing undertakes education and prevention strategies and works with community organisations to educate members of the community on personal safety, which include measures that can be put in place to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

YWCA Canberra survey

- YWCA Canberra is a feminist not-for-profit organisation that has provided community services and represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929.
- A survey conducted by the YWCA indicated more than half of women surveyed still experienced sexism or feeling unsafe at night:
    - The survey was a one-off survey by YWCA as part of their 90th year anniversary. The survey consisted of 1090 Canberra women aged 18 and older across every post code, education level and income bracket in the city.
    - 24 per cent of 18-24 year old women stated that they had experienced emotional, physical, verbal or financial abuse in a domestic or interpersonal relationship over the last twelve months.
- ACT Policing treat all reports of assaults seriously and invest every available effort in providing a safe community for ACT residents.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-023

Portfolios: Attorney-General

Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: PROPERTY CRIME (Strategy, Outsmart the Offender Campaign and rates)

Talking points:

- The final progress report on the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 3 December 2020.
- The *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20* saw good results, with overall property crime rates reducing over the life of the strategy.
- The report shows that the ACT continues to be one of the safest places to live in Australia.
- The number of property offences in the ACT decreased over the four years of the Strategy. In 2019-20 there were 17,737 recorded property offences, which is 3,933 less than four years ago in 2015-16.
- However, to keep property crime rates down we must not become complacent, there is still work to be done.
- While consideration regarding a new statergy is underway, a number of important activities are continuing to ensure a whole of government focus on property crime is maintained. For example:
    - The *Outsmart the Offender* campaign will continue to raise awareness about how the community can take steps to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime – including campaigns focusing on protecting your home, vehicle, bike and other property.
    - The *SafeHome* program will continue to improve home security for households in the ACT that are vulnerable to property crime.
    - The *Strong Connected Neighbourhoods* program will continue to run along Ainslie Ave and expand into Illawarra Court to prevent or reduce opportunities for crime, and promote community safety

Cleared as complete and accurate:		
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ACT Policing cleared by:	Sch 2, s2.2(a)(ii)	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Jennifer McNeill	
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and security, to develop pro-social and law abiding community engagement.

ACT Policing focus on property crime

- ACT Policing continues to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders, including the establishment of the Community Policing Proactive Intervention and Disruption Team in October 2020.
- This team will continue the focus on reducing recidivism and calls for service, and be aligned to the Reducing Recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025 Plan and use a whole-of-Government approach.
- ACT Policing's Community Intelligence Team analyses a variety of information sources (incidents, information reports, human source management team etc.) to identify patterns, convergences and prioritisation to maximise crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety.
- ACT Policing has also continued to target persons involved in recidivist criminal activity through intelligence-led policing. This has enabled core groups to be identified as being directly involved in the theft of motor vehicles and has provided police with opportunities to detect, disrupt and prosecute persons involved in the commission of such offences.

Outsmart the Offender campaign

- The *Outsmart the Offender* campaign is a joint ACT Government and ACT Policing initiative, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch and Crimestoppers, aimed at raising awareness about what individuals can do to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to property crime.
- The campaign has been developed with longevity in mind, and will continue to be rolled out in 2021, with the final installation targeting tradie tool theft to be launched in the coming months.
- The key messages of the campaign are based on what ACT Policing have told us about the tactics offenders are using to steal cars and our valuables, and break into our homes and businesses.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Ideally people wouldn't need to worry about becoming a victim of property crime, and our police officers do a great job at keeping Canberra safe, tracking down and arresting offenders.
- However, we all have a role to play and can take steps to safeguard our homes, businesses, cars and personal property.
- The campaign targets important areas of prevention, including:
    - *Lock and hide to protect your ride* – targeting motor vehicle theft and theft from vehicles
    - *Keep out a break-in* – targeting home burglary
    - *Lock up, cover up* – targeting theft from apartments
    - *Lock it or lose it* – targeting bicycle theft
    - *Keep burglars out of your business* – targeting theft from small businesses.
- Since the launch of the campaign in late 2019, ACT Policing have seen some great results in social media engagement on the *Outsmart the Offender* campaign topics, which have been traditionally difficult to engage people on:
    - *Lock and hide to protect your ride* - has reached over 105,000 on Facebook with total engagement sitting around 3,500
    - *Keep out a break-in* – has reached over 120,000 people on Facebook and over 21,000 on Twitter, with engagement across the two platforms sitting around 7,800
    - Engagement across the other areas for key messages is also high, sitting at a reach between 70,000 and 100,000 people on each campaign topic.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background Information

Property Crime Rates

Offence Type	2018-19 FY	2019-20 FY	Financial YTD 01/07/2020 – 31/12/2020
Total Robbery	209	223	67
Armed Robbery	*104*	*103*	*22*
Unarmed Robbery	*105*	*120*	*45*
Total Burglary	2627	2292	989
Burglary dwellings	*1659*	*1363*	*615*
Burglary shops	*419*	*370*	*147*
Burglary other	*549*	*559*	*227*
Motor Vehicle Theft	1234	1262	658
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	8732	8109	3381
Property damage	4954	4175	1894
Other offences against property*	2198	1464	827
TOTAL	**19954**	**17525**	**7816**

*Other offences against property include fraud, traffic, drug and weapon offences and other offences not classified elsewhere

Source: PROMIS as of January 27, 2021

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Further Background Information

ACT Policing reported the following property crime offences in its 2019-20 Annual Report:

TABLE 4.2: OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY BY OFFENCE TYPE — FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARISON

Offence type	2018–19	2019–20	Change (%)
Robbery	209	223	6.7%
Armed robbery	104	103	-1.0%
Unarmed robbery	105	120	14.3%
Burglary	2627	2292	-12.8%
Burglary dwellings	1659	1363	-17.8%
Burglary shops	419	370	-11.7%
Burglary other	549	559	1.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1234	1262	2.3%
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	8732	8109	-7.1%
Property damage	4954	4175	-15.7%
Other offences against property*	2198	1464	-33.4%
Total	**19,954**	**17,525**	**-12.2%**

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2020

*Other offences against property include fraud, traffic, drug and weapon offences and other offences not elsewhere classified

Under the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20, four of the five targets were achieved:

- The ACT was below the national rate of 683 victims of unlawful entry with intent per 100,000 population, with an ACT rate of 613 in 2019.
- The year on year increase in the 'other' theft rate has been stopped. The ACT recorded 139 per 100,000 population in 2019-20, 82 less than in 2015-16.
- There were small increases in property damage in 2016-17 and 2018-19, however in 2019-20 the rate of property damage was 94 per 100,000 population, 31 less than 2015-16.
- The bicycle theft rate has remained steady at 17 thefts per 100,000 population.
- The main challenge for the ACT in relation to property crime continues to be motor vehicle theft. The target to date has not been achieved, with the ACT remaining above the national rate and seeing a 2.3% increase from 2018-19 to 2019-20.

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ACT Policing cleared by:	Sch 2, s2.2(a)(ii)	
Cleared for release	Yes	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-048

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services

ISSUE: Cannabis reforms

Talking points:

- The Government takes a harm minimisation approach to drug use in our community.
- We do not endorse personal use of cannabis and we know there are health risks for individuals that do use it. However, we also acknowledge the simple reality of cannabis use in Canberra.
- Before 31 January 2020, it was an offence for adults to possess cannabis or to cultivate cannabis plants, in small quantities for personal use.
- Where adults did possess cannabis or cultivate cannabis plants in small quantities, the Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 allowed for a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice to be served, as an alternative to arrest and prosecution.
- Changes to the law that came into effect on 31 January 2020 mean that it is no longer an offence for an adult to possess or cultivate cannabis in small quantities
- The changes are intended to reduce drug harm in our community by shifting our response to cannabis use from one that focuses on the justice system (discouraging people from seeking help when they need it) to one that focuses on health.
- Importantly, Canberrans need to be aware that there are still restrictions on when and where cannabis can be used or grown. It remains illegal to:
  - sell or share cannabis.
  - use cannabis in public places or around children.
  - grow more than two plants per person or four plants per household.
  - grow plants hydroponically or in places accessible to the public.
  - drive with cannabis in your system.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

How was ACT Policing engaged regarding the development of the Bill?

- The Government worked closely with ACT Policing throughout the process of considering and amending the Private Members Bill beginning in December 2018.
- ACT Policing contributed ongoing advice regarding operational and technical aspects of the Private Members Bill and development of the Government's amendments.
- ACT Policing's concerns about how these changes would be operationalised have been known to government and on the public record for some time, including through a public submission to a Legislative Assembly Committee's inquiry into the legislation in March 2019 and their appearance at Committee's hearings in May 2019.

How has the Government responded to ACT Policing's position on the cannabis reforms?

- ACT Policing's perspectives on how the proposed changes could be implemented were used by the Government to craft a range of amendments that were ultimately put forward by the Government and passed by the Legislative Assembly.
- This is the first time an Australian government has attempted to progress this type of reform. As with other significant harm minimisation reforms over the decades, there are elements of the legislation that are new and unfamiliar.
- The Government has taken on board the views and comments of ACT Policing and other stakeholders to provide as much clarity and certainty as possible for everyone, in what is previously unbroken ground in this country.

Why doesn't the Act remove the exception for possession/cultivation of cannabis if other offences are also committed?

- Applying the offences or exceptions in that way is likely to have a discriminatory effect on disadvantaged groups who have historically had more contact with the criminal justice system for non-possession offences.
- This would run counter to the intent of the changes, which is to recognise and respond to personal use of cannabis as a health issue rather than a criminal justice issue.

How will the status (dried/fresh/harvested) cannabis be determined by the authorities?

- While there is no strict scientific measure of whether cannabis is fresh or dry embedded in the legislation, we are confident that it will be generally apparent whether cannabis is dried and ready for use, or is recently harvested and in the process of being dried.
- As with all legislation, there will be certain matters that are subject to a degree of discretion and deliberation by police and courts.

- It is also important to remember that these changes only relate to possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal use and cultivation at a home and there are no changes to people who possess larger amounts of cannabis or numbers of plants.

Why do offences still apply to people under 18 years of age?

- Consideration of human rights was given to the differences in how the legislation treats adults and people under 18 years old (who are not exempted from the possession offence).
- It is necessary to differentiate between adults and people under 18 years of age as scientific evidence points to the higher likelihood of detrimental impact to the developing brains for minors who use cannabis relative to adults.
- This is consistent with other protections introduced by the Government that make it an offence to expose children and young people to cannabis.
- People under 18 years old remain eligible for the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice Scheme, meaning offences do not automatically attract a criminal record.
- This approach is consistent with the access to other harmful substances such as alcohol and tobacco, which are legal for adults but restricted for children and young people.

What has/hasn't changed

- These amendments took effect on 31 January 2020. The Minister for Health has released guidance on health and legal risks in the form of a Notifiable Instrument, which has been accompanied by a public information and communication campaign.
- Individuals need to understand that cannabis has not been entirely legalised and there will be a number of restrictions and offences that remain in place:
    - The removal of penalties only applies to persons over 18 who are in the ACT.
    - The permitted amount of cannabis an individual can possess remains 50 grams in line with the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice scheme. A higher limit of 150 grams applies to cannabis that has been harvested but is not yet dried.
    - It will remain illegal to sell, gift or share cannabis with others. This includes sharing plants or seeds even if no money changes hands.
    - There will be a limit of two plants per person. These plants can only be grown at an individual's home and only in a place not accessible to the public. Hydroponic or other methods of artificial cultivation are not permitted.
    - No more than four plants can be grown at one home and there is a strict liability offence for having more than four plants at one residence.
    - It will be an offence to use cannabis in a public place or in a way that a child is exposed to smoke or vapour.
    - Similarly, cannabis must be stored away from children or young people.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	01/02/2021	
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- Like all other Australian jurisdictions, the ACT has a zero-tolerance approach to drug driving and the Government is not proposing amendments in relation to drug driving at this time.
- The changes do not extend to persons under 18 years of age. However, Simple Cannabis Offence Notices will remain available for police to use in relation to children and young people.

Who did the ACT Government engage when developing it's amendments?

- In preparing its amendments, the ACT Government considered a range of views and perspectives, including those gathered through the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Service's inquiry into the Bill.
- ACT Government directorates worked closely with ACT Policing to understand their concerns and, as best as possible, make sure the Act was practical to implement.
- The ACT proactively wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Director of Public Prosecutions on these amendments. Their current position is to decline to express a definitive view on the implications of the laws for Commonwealth offences.

Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure

About the reforms

- We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to have attempted these reforms and there is still some uncertainty about how these changes will unfold given the complex legal environment.
- Whilst no other Australian jurisdiction has legalised the personal use of cannabis, national and ACT surveys show community support for the decriminalisation and/or legalisation of cannabis for personal use.
- There are differing interpretations of Commonwealth legislation in this area – particularly the Commonwealth Criminal Code – which in turn leads to different views about the extent to which states and territories are able to legislate regarding cannabis use.
- We are aware of the views of some Ministers in the Australian Government. The ACT Government wrote to the Australian Attorney-General and Minister for Health outlining our reasoning for the changes. The ACT Government has also responded to the concerns raised by the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board in writing. Possession of cannabis remains as an offence under Commonwealth law, however, the ACT is of the view that the changes authorising the possession of personal amounts of cannabis are consistent with Commonwealth law.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Prior to amendments passed in September 2019 and development of amendments

- Under the former ACT legislation it was an offence to possess cannabis or to cultivate cannabis plants, including in small quantities for personal use.
- The Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 allowed for the use of a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) as an alternative to an arrest for the possession of cannabis, if the offence is possession of cannabis weighing no more than 50 grams or possession of no more than two cannabis plants. A SCON is effectively a $100 fine which, if paid within 60 days, avoids a criminal conviction being recorded for the offender.
- On 28 November 2018, Michael Pettersson MLA introduced the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018* (the Bill) into the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- The Private Members Bill proposed to legalise the personal cultivation, possession and use of small amounts of cannabis for persons aged 18 or older; possession and use of up to 50 grams of cannabis and cultivation of up to four cannabis plants.
- The Private Member's Bill was referred to a Standing Committee inquiry. The Government made submissions outlining amendments it intended to make to the Private Member's Bill. The inquiry reported on 6 June 2019.
- The Government tabled its response to the inquiry in September 2019.
- The Government provided its full Government Amendment Bill and Supplementary Explanatory Statement to the Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee made no comments on the Government's amendments.
- The ACT Greens moved a number of amendments to the Private Members Bill. The Government supported amendments to release information on health and legal risks of using cannabis prior to commencement and review the amendments after three years. The Government did not support amendments to allow artificial cultivation, establish a new advisory council, conflate drugs of dependence with medicinal cannabis or introduce new Objects to the Act.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-024

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

ACT Policing

Staffing

	2018-19[3]	**2019-20**	**2020-21 YTD Jul - 6 Jan 2021**
FTE[1]	977.94	967.17	992.45*
Headcount	927	923	960**
Sworn	710	697	716
Professional	217	225	231
PSO	n/a	1	13 ***

[1] This figure represents ACT Government funded positions, which includes capability provided by the AFP of 107 FTE
*YTD FTE was taken from 6 January 2021
**YTD Headcount was at 11 January 2021 as per the information provided in the Annual Report Hearing Brief.
*** PSO increase is due to staffing in ACT Watch House.

ACT Policing Budget

Original 2017-18 Appropriation	Revised 2017-18 Appropriation	Original 2018-19 Appropriation	Revised 2018-19 Appropriation	Original 2019-20 Appropriation	Revised 2019-20 Appropriation
$161,331,000**	$158,895,000	$166,919,000	$166,279,000	$169,451,000	$170,195,350

**As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

2019-20 Budget Adjustments

The following adjustments occurred:

- $715,000 for Support for increasing financial pressures for core policing functions – Forensic Medical Contract
- $29,000 for the Disability Justice Strategy

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Call Outs –Financial Year comparison

Category	2018-19 FY # of call outs	2018-19 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS	2019-20 FY # of call outs	2019-20 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS
Priority 1	265 19.2% decrease from 2017-18 (328)	0:08:04 0:01:04 increase from 2017-18	180 32.1% decrease from 2018-19	0:06:03 0:02:01 decrease from 2018-19
Priority 2	14,189 5.6% decrease from 2017-18 (13,432)	0:53.58 0:19:48 increase from 2017-18	15,365 8.3% increase from 2018-19	0:58:04 0:04:46 increase from 2018-19
Priority 3	27,455 12.5% decrease from 2017-18 (24,408)	5:03:00 1:04:00 increase from 2017-18	24,014 12.5% decrease from 2018-19	9:10:08 4:06:08 increase from 2018-19

Summary of Key Strategies

As part of the *Purchase Agreement 2017-21,* ACT Policing supports a whole–of-government approach in achieving the objectives of ACT Government Strategies, particularly those addressing crime. These Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20*.
- *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22*.
- *Supporting the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*
- *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-28*.
- *ACT Road Safety Strategy 2011-20*.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-025

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING CRIME STATISTICS

Talking points:

General crime trends

- I am pleased to see that the number of overall offences reported in the 2019-20 financial year shows **a decrease of 5.0 per cent** (or 1900 reported offences) when compared to the previous financial year.
- There has been an 11% decrease in the number of offences reported to police in the last ten years.
- ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity and I thank the Chief Police Officer and all police officers for their efforts to reduce crime and keep Canberra safe
- While a number of incidents ACT Policing attend do not necessarily result in a criminal offence being identified, it is taking police longer to resolve incidents due to the increasingly complex underpinning social issues present.

Offences against the person

- The total number of offences recorded against the person in the 2019-20 financial year was 3649, **a decrease of 252 offences** when compared to the 2018-19 financial year.
- There were six homicide related offences in 2019-20, **a decrease of two** when compared to the previous financial year.

Family violence

- There were 1209 family violence related assault offences reported to ACT Policing in the 2019-20 financial year. This has increased from 1162 offences reported in 2018-19.
- The ACT Government and ACT Policing are proactively responding to family violence issues in our community in an effort to keep victims safe and reduce the likelihood of these incidents occurring.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	27/11/2020	
Cleared for public release by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
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- ACT Policing operates a perpetrator-focused model that shifts the focus onto early intervention of low-level family violence perpetrators and identifying at-risk behaviour, which alleviates the burden on victims to take action, seek solutions and support for themselves and/or families.

Offences against property

- For the 2019-20 financial year, the number of property damage offences decreased by more than **14 per cent (or 727 offences)** when compared to the previous financial year.
- Theft (excluding motor vehicles) has **decreased by almost 3 per cent** (from 8471 to 8226) in the 2019-20 financial year, when compared to the 2018-19 financial year.
- Motor vehicle theft has unfortunately increased **by more than 3 per cent** (1242 offences to 1284) in 2019-20 when compared to 2018-19.
- Although the ACT has some of the lowest property crime rates in Australia, we need to remain vigilant because property crime can affect anyone. It is often opportunistic in nature.
- Under the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, ACT Policing worked in collaboration with the Government to develop the Outsmart the Offender community campaign.
- The campaign worked to provide key messages about how people can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to motor vehicle and bicycle theft, home and apartment burglary, and theft from their business or tradies' tools. ACT Policing also continues to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders.
- ACT Policing's Community Intelligence Team analyses a variety of information sources (incidents, information reports, human source management team etc.) to identify patterns, convergences and prioritisation to maximise crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background Information

One of the main sources of data for these publications is the live database from ACT Policing's case management system, the Police Real-time Online Management Information System (PROMIS). As PROMIS is live, crime data is continually revised as people report crime and investigations progress. This means there can be variances in the statistics data set if drawn from the live database on a different date.

Due to different counting methodologies, data included in ABS publications will differ to other publications such as as the ACT Policing Website crime statistics and the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile. This is because they are based on specific counting rules in order to allow national comparison across jurisdictions

Publications can count the number of offences reported to police, the number of charges, offenders or victims. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime.

When considering data relating to victims of crime, the most widely used source of data is the number of victims recorded in PROMIS. It is important to note however, not all crime is reported to police.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Offence Group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	12m Change	Long Term Change	2020-21*
Homicide	4	6	7	4	7	8	2	11	8	6	-25%	50%	7
Assault - FV	857	746	694	685	742	1141	1364	1180	1162	1209	4%	41%	508
Assault Non-FV	1672	1610	1549	1385	1273	1417	1700	1662	1783	1587	-11%	-5%	727
Sexual Assault	342	437	460	443	453	485	569	511	638	518	-19%	51%	238
Other offences against person	138	87	83	104	110	253	358	226	310	329	6%	138%	165
Robbery - armed	149	143	102	89	111	78	136	124	104	106	2%	-29%	22
Robbery - other	116	111	83	62	64	78	113	106	105	125	19%	8%	45
Burglary dwellings	2519	1830	1550	1436	1552	1476	1649	1679	1660	1379	-17%	-45%	617
Burglary shops	350	336	259	253	267	432	335	287	419	375	-11%	7%	147
Burglary other	620	450	463	424	579	724	581	590	550	568	3%	-8%	227
Motor vehicle theft	1317	1184	867	755	1045	1034	1325	1494	1242	1284	3%	-3%	660
Theft (excl MV)	11164	9470	10169	9378	10084	10975	9633	9794	8741	8226	-6%	-26%	3387
Property damage	7366	5950	5506	4322	4726	5122	5373	4645	4962	4235	-15%	-43%	1895
Other offences	10157	9695	9359	10792	10679	10366	12069	12829	12912	12749	-1%	26%	5622
Total	36771	32055	31151	30132	31692	33589	35207	35138	34596	32696	-5%	-11%	14267

* As at 31 December 2020

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-026

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING WORKFORCE

Talking points:

ACT Policing Workforce Composition:

	2018-19[3]	**2019-20**	**2020-21 YTD (JUL-JAN)**
FTE[1]	977.94	967.17	992.45 (as at 6 Jan)
Headcount[2]	927	923	960 (as at 11 Jan)
Sworn	710	697	716
Professional	217	225	231
PSO		1	13

[1] This figure represents ACT Government funded positions, which includes capability provided by the AFP of 107 FTE

[2] Headcount is as at 30 June of the respective financial year

[3] These figures are as per the 2019-20 ACT Polcing Annual Report

- ACT Policing has **716** sworn police officers (as at 11 January 2021), this has increased by 19 since the end of last financial year.
- In the 2019-20 financial year, 73 new recruits graduated and joined ACT Policing as follows via three recruit courses:
    - 14 new recruits commenced with ACT Policing on 2 December 2019;
    - 29 new recruits commenced on 21 March 2020; and
    - 30 new recruits commenced on 9 May 2020;
- In 2019-20, 53 ACT Policing members separated from the organisation. Of these members, 37 were sworn and 16 were professional.
- In the first half of the 2020-21 financial year (1 July to 31 December 2020), 15 ACT Policing members separated from the organisation.

Police Service Reforms

- In March 2017, ACT Policing commenced a Policing Futures reform program to ensure the organisation is best positioned to serve the Canberra community now and into the future.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-026	

- The Futures program will ensure that our police officers are provided with the tools, technology, governance, policies and resources to do their work efficiently, effectively and to the best of their ability.
- On 30 May 2019, the ACT Government announced $33.9 million in funding to transition ACT Policing to a community focused policing model. This funding includes recruitment for more than 60 positions over four years.
- This marks the first step towards a new community focused model of policing, which will focus on operationalising intelligence, building proactive policing capacity and growing community engagement capabilities.

If asked about a freeze on AFP/ACT Policing transfers

- There is no freeze on regional transfers.
- Ensuring there is regular mobility both into and out of ACT Policing is a priority for the AFP as it generates benefits for both staff and the organisation as a whole.
- In determining mobility releases out of ACT Policing, ACT Policing's primary consideration is to ensure that resourcing meets the requirements set out by the ACT Government, and the expectations of the ACT community.
- Transfers 'at current level' are considered on a case by case basis using an open and transparent decision making framework. Where ACT Policing members are found suitable for promotions or higher duties positions for longer than six months in duration outside of ACT Policing, these transfers are automatically approved in accordance with the AFP's governance framework.
- Mandatory releases to national AFP ensure that ACT Policing members have regular opportunities for significant professional development across the organisation.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

If asked about police overtime:

- ACT Policing continuously monitors workloads to minimise, where possible, the requirement for members to undertake overtime. However, like all emergency services and other police forces, overtime continues to be used to support operational priorities where required.
- The need for overtime is influenced by a range of factors including (but not limited to):
    - The ongoing response to COVID-19
    - Significant investigations or response to critical incidents
    - Responses to family violence and mental health incidents which require lengthy engagement to provide appropriate support for victims and clients
    - Responses to incidents near the end of a rostered shift
    - Unplanned absences (sick leave, workplace injuries)
    - Attendance at court
    - Major events such as football games, sporting events and other entertainment events, staffed by ACT Policing on overtime on a cost recovery basis
- ACT Policing recognises the need to limit the amount of overtime required to be worked by its members. But as an emergency response agency, some level of overtime should be expected to ensure community safety.
- All factors that influence overtime requirements are regularly reviewed in an effort to minimise their occurrence.
- ACT Policing reports overtime expenditure in the ACT Policing Annual Report (Financial Statements).

Financial Year	Overtime, Penalties and Allowances
2013-14	$6.711m
2014-15	$6.974m
2015-16	$6.657m
2016-17	$7.110m
2017-18	$9.068m
2018-19	$8.842m
2019-20	**$8.661m**
YTD JUL- 1 JAN 2021	$3.186m

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TRIM Ref:	2020/000092-019	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-027

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: AFP INITIATIVE: MENTAL HEALTH

Talking points:

- The AFP continues to demonstrate that the physical and mental health of its people is a high priority by engaging professional expertise and support from both inside and outside Australia.
- The AFP will continue to explore new ways of providing support and easing the pressures on a workforce that is under constant pressure to get the job done.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing the role of Welfare Officers providing peer support to members, families and former members and act as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistanceThese members are available 24/7.
- Through the ACT Government's funding for ACT Policing's transition to a new model of police service, ACT Policing now has two dedicated psychologists who provide a proactive and response support service to ACT Policing members.
- All AFP members also have 24/7 access to a clinician from the AFP Psychological Services team, as well as the AFP Chaplaincy Network.
- As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, the AFP is providing additional extra welfare support to members who are self-isolating due to COVID-19.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key initiatives

- As AFP members, ACT Policing have access to a range of support methods, including:
    - Assistance through the ACTP Welfare Team, the ACTP Psychologists and ACTP Injury Prevention and Management. Health support services can also be access through an AFP centralised triage team comprised of clinical staff and subject matter experts that can provide members with immediate referral, advice or action.
    - The AFP has a contracted external Employee Assistance Program, provided by Benestar, which is a confidential counselling service available to all personnel, former members and their families, 24/7.
    - The AFP Early Access Program provides early, coordinated and effective responses to work related injury/illness including medical, psychological and vocational rehabilitation.
        - Over the past two financial years the update of Early Access in ACTP has increased by 18 per cent in 2018-19 and 25 per cent in 2019-20. This increase is likely due to an increase in awareness and stigma reduction.
    - The Welfare Officer Network provides peer support to members, families and former members for a range of matters including critical incidents, work place matters an personal matters. There are three police officers performing the role as a Welfare Officer in ACT Policing and are available tomembers 24/7.
    - The AFP employs an exercise psychologist who provides in-house rehabilitation capability in partnership with case managers and clinicians as part of a holistic stepped care approach to rehabilitation.
- SHIELD
    - The 2019-20 federal budget committed $65 million to the AFP over four years to implement a new health model known as SHIELD.
    - SHIELD will include dedicated teams of clinical resources focused on building trust with staff, early intervention, preventing injuries and improving operational performance.
    - Health and wellbeing services will be embedded into each regional command across Australia to help provide a suite of health and

wellbeing services tailored to support individuals and their teams to operate at their best.

  - As emoloyees of the AFP, ACT Policing members will have access to these services.

- Comcare Fast Track
  - Introduction of a streamlined process to expedite the processing of claims where the employer statement concurs with the employee statement.
  - The AFP Injury Mangement team is also working closely with Comcare to develop a Service Level Agreement to expedite psychological claims meeting a particular set of criteria to ensure early support and treatment is accessible.
  - A dedicated AFP Comcare team has also been introduced to manage the AFP's compensation claims.
- Assaults on Police
  - The Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019 created three new offences in the Crimes Act 1900 (ACT) relating to assaults on Police and other frontline workers:
    - An offence for assaults against police officers, an certain frontline workers, with a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment
    - An offence for intentionally or recklessly driving t a police officer to risk, with a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment, and
    - An offence for driving at and causing damage to a police vehicle, with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.
  - These new laws recognise that police and other frontline workers have duties and responsibilities which mean they are routinely called on to render assistance in volatile and dangerous situations. Having this recognised was particularly important in 2020 during the pandemic where people would spit on officers while claiming to have COVID-19.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-028

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: COMPLAINTS REGARDING ACT POLICING MEMBERS

Talking points:

- ACT Policing takes all allegations of member misconduct seriously and all complaints are thoroughly investigated.
    - Complaints relating to serious misconduct are investigated by the AFP Professional Standards area and are also reported to the Commonwealth Ombudsman for additional oversight.
    - Complaints relating to customer service matters and minor misconduct are investigated by ACT Policing's Complaint Management Team.
- Long term trends show alleged conduct breaches have continued to decrease over the last five financial years with 168 alleged conduct breaches being recorded in 2019-20 compared to 296 in 2015-16.
- Thirty nine per cent of alleged conduct breaches were reported by an AFP member, including conduct that was self-reported. This high percentage of internally-generated complainants indicates the strength and integrity of the AFP complaint management framework.
- From 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, Professional Standards received 37 complaints relating to ACT Policing resulting in 80 alleged conduct breaches.

<u>Use of Force</u>

- All AFP members, including ACT Policing members, must act in accordance with Commissioner's Order 3 (CO3), which provides governance around the use of force by members.
- Under CO3, all ACT Policing sworn members are required to successfully complete use of force training and assessments annually.
- The training focuses on communication and conflict de-escalation as alternatives to physical force, in addition to the practical interpretation and knowledge in applying the appropriate of use of force.

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- ACT Policing reviews every use of force incident to ensure it complies with AFP standards and policies.
- Positively, the introduction of Body Worn Cameras has vastly decreased the time taken to investigate use of force complaints and serves by providing independent and accurate evidence of the member's conduct.

Commonwealth Ombudsman Review

- ACT Policing is committed to an effective, efficient and transparent complaints management process.
- ACT Policing works closely with AFP Professional Standards, the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity and the Commonwealth Ombudsman to ensure that ACT Policing employ a best practice approach to the management of complaints.
- While the AFP has a robust complaint management framework, we continue to work with our integrity stakeholders to improve systems wherever possible.
- In early 2019, the Commonwealth Ombudsman initiated the "*Complaint Assurance Project*" (CAP) – an own-motion initiative to assess the effectiveness of complaint management frameworks and promote critical self-reflection upon complaint management practices.
    - ACT Policing is one of a number of agencies which undertook the CAP.
    - ACT Policing welcomes any opportunity to identify room for improvement. ACT Policingare committed to delivering a professional policing service to the ACT.
- In December 2019, the Ombudsman provided conclusion to this project. ACT Policing is reviewing the recommendations of this project.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-029

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: FUTURES PROGRAM - PROGRESS AND TRANSITION

Talking points:

- In May 2019, the ACT Government announced the investment of $33.9 million over four years to enable ACT Policing to transition from a response-focused police services model towards a more community-focused and crime preventative model of police service.
- This investment will see the recruitment of more than 60 new ACT Policing personnel, and marks the first step towards the delivery of a more visible, proactive and connected police service.
- It allows ACT Policing to focus more efforts on education, disruption, prevention, diversion, community engagement and problem-solving activities to support key Government priorities and targets.
- As part of this investment in ACT Policing, the ACT Government is funding new tools and technology for police officers such as:
    - Additional Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and firearm sensors: ACT Policing continues to roll-out BWCs across its police force, with great success to date.
    - Online reporting: Development of this capability has commenced. Online reporting is a multi-year project, an initial tool will be launched on the ACT Policing website in the 2020-21 financial year.

<u>ACT Policing PSM recruitment:</u>

- The Operationalised Intelligence Team has transitioned to a business-as-usual function. This team will continue to improve real time situational awareness and support better decision making for ACT operational members. The team has already positively impacted ACT Policing response to critical incidents such as missing persons investigations and dangerous offenders.

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- Additional support members have been recruited, including a psychologist and occupational therapist, to provide mental health and wellbeing support for ACT Policing members.
- The first Proactive Policing team of 10 members has been recruited, and are operating in the Canberra community. A full assessment and transition to business as usual is planned for early 2021. Two additional teams will be recruited over the four year lifespan of the Police Services Model funding.
- The initial research and development for a new Evidence Based Policing Team based on global best practice is now underway. The team is expected to provide strategic advice on crime prevention methods when it commences later in 2021.

Key improvements

- Recent staff polls undertaken within ACT Policing have shown:
    - the number of members that strongly agree they now receive better real time situational awareness has increased by 221% since September 2020.
    - The number of members that agree processes enable them do their job in the most effective way has increased by 69% since the Futures Program.
- As part of the PSM, a number of improvement projects are being undertaken to improve efficiency, sustainability and service to the community, including:
    - A review of court processes to save time for the public and ACT Policing members
    - A review of mandatory training and a revised training model
    - Establishing a new family violence and vulnerable people hub proof of concept
    - A new model for addressing missing persons cases
    - A review of how ACT Policing addresses non-suspicious deaths

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Improved DNA collection process and overall forensic collection culture
- DNA back-capture process review
- Understanding community expectations of police
- A new online crime reporting capability
- Reviewing firearms licencing and registration process
- Establishing an evidence-based policing cell
- Ongoing review of technology and tools needed by members.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-029	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-030

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

Talking points:

HOT TOPICS

Expansion of the Public Safety CCTV Network into Braddon

- The government installed a Public Safety CCTV Network camera in Lonsdale Street Braddon in December.
- Lonsdale St is a popular commercial area and night-time entertainment area in the City.
- The camera, which is connected part of the Public Safety CCTV Network, has strengthened ACT Policing's to keep Canberrans safe and investigate and prosecute crime.
- The camera routes information over the CBRfree network and was therefore cost efficient to install.
- The installation of the camera is part of the government's ongoing focus on safer public places, venues, and events.

Henry Rolland Park – Theft of Brass

- The Public Safety CCTV Network in Henry Rolland Park was used by ACT Policing to identify a person associated with the theft of brass from this popular Canberra amenity.
- This matter is currently before the Courts.
- The CCTV cameras that operate at Henry Rolland Park were installed in 2019 at an approximately cost of $100,000. These cameras help to keep the public and assets safe at this location.

Public Safety CCTV Network Expansion into Glebe Park

- Glebe Park is a wonderful public amenity in Civic that remains popular with individuals and families alike.
- The safety of users of this location remains a priority to the government as part of its ongoing focus on safer public places, venues, and events.

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Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext: 78628
Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The government is working to expand the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network into Glebe Park to strengthen public safety and better support ACT Policing to investigate crimes that occur in the park.
- The cost of the installation is approximately $190,000 and is being funded from the government investment of $475,000 towards CCTV upgrades in the ACT Budget 2018-19.
- Eight CCTV cameras will be installed which is anticipated to be completed in the first half of 2021.

General

- The government remains focused on creating safer public spaces, venues and events for all Canberrans to enjoy.
- The ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network enhances the safety of Canberra's public venues and open spaces, providing a level of reassurance to the Canberra community. The Public Safety CCTV Network is a key tool in protecting the safety and security of all Canberrans.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to the government and the ACTP to support, public safety monitoring, event management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court.
- A key priority for the use of the CCTV Network is to ensure that the privacy of individuals is protected and that it is operated within the ACT's Human Rights Frameworks. The CCTV Network is a closed network and not connected to any other database or system that can be used to identify people.

New Camera Technology and Privacy

- Manufacturers of CCTV systems continue to enhance the technology and capability of their products at a significant rate. These enhancements have dramatically improved the quality and resolution of live and recorded footage that is available to ACT Policing and the government to monitor public safety and investigate crime.
- Manufacturers are also including in their CCTV software search capabilities that allow for a faster and more accurate review of recorded footage to support the investigation of crime or missing people.

- All government CCTV systems are stand alone, do not use facial biometrics and do not connect to any other database that can be used to identify individuals. Footage is deleted after 30 days if not used to support the investigation of crime.
- Canberrans can rest assured that all government CCTV systems are operated within the ACT's strong human rights and privacy frameworks and that their privacy is protected.

Portable Solar Powered CCTV units

- There are 22 solar powered CCTV cameras operating in the ACT that help to keep Canberrans and their property safe.
- Solar powered CCTV units require no fixed infrastructure to operate and will transmit data over the mobile phone network.
- Solar powered CCTV units continue to be used at crowded place events to enhance public safety. Four units are located on rural roads to help deter rural crime and help investigate bushfires caused by stolen and burnt cars.
- Solar powered CCTV is also used to help deter and investigate illegal dumping and other crimes across Canberra.
- The outcomes of the trial will further benefit the Government's understanding of how this technology can be used to support public and asset safety and security.

Key Information

If asked about facial-biometric capability of the Public Safety CCTV Network

- The Public Safety CCTV Network does not utilise facial-biometric capability.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network complies with ACT privacy and human rights laws.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Live and recorded CCTV footage from light rail stops is available to ACT Policing.

If asked about CCTV Network Security

- The Public Safety CCTV Network operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the Network is by officers with authorised access and restricted to specially programmed computers.

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Contact Officer name:	David Wheeler	Ext: 55089
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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- The stand-alone solar powered CCTV units transmit encrypted data to secure servers which are only accessible by officials with authorised access.

If asked about current Network capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV Network is located at Canberra City, Braddon, Henry Rolland Park, GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, Manuka shopping precinct, Kingston shopping precinct, Jolimont Bus Station, Tuggeranong CBD, and Haig Park.
- CCTV footage is recorded by these systems 24 hours a day. Footage is retained for 30 days as required by the *Territory Records Act 2002,* after which it is automatically deleted unless required for investigative purposes.
- ACT Policing has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV Network. The purpose of the monitoring is to enhance public safety by identifying anti-social or criminal activity early and dispatching Police resources in a timely manner. ACT Policing may also use the Network at any other time to assist with incident management, investigations, and response.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-031

Portfolio/s: Chief Minister

Police and Emergency Services

Special Minister of State

ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

TALKING POINTS

Australian Government Critical Infrastructure Reforms (Chief Minister)

- Critical infrastructure is essential to the function of our daily lives in the ACT.
- The ACT's establishment of a second power supply is one example of how the ACT is strengthening the resilience of our critical infrastructure.
- The ACT remains supportive of the focus by the Australian Government to strengthen the security of Australia's critical infrastructure by reforming the Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018.
- The ACT maintains its own critical infrastructure arrangements and relationships between government and non-government owners and operators.
- This relationship was used to great effect during the 2019-20 bushfire season to share information about critical infrastructure.

Cyber Security and Online Safety (Special Minister of State)

- The ACT remains an attractive target for cyber criminals.
- The cyber threat is persistent. State actors, criminal syndicates, issue motivated groups and self-motivated individuals continue to target children, families, businesses, online critical infrastructure and steal Government intellectual property.
- Cyber security remains a top priority for the ACT Government.
- Our specialist teams work to protect information managed by the ACT Government and regularly meet withthe National Cyber Security Committee to monitor the cyber threat environment.

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Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Bren Burkevics	Ext: 78628
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-031	

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- In response to recommendations from the Auditor-General's audit on data security, the ACT has engaged a provider to undertake a thorough risk and threat assessment of the ACT's environment. This is in addition to a wide range of other activities to strengthen the ACT's cyber security resilience.
- The ACT supported the development of *Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020*, launched August 2020. The strategy responds to continuing malicious cyber threats and activities faced by Australians.
- With more Canberrans working and studying online due to COVID-19, the potential for online harm is increased. Visit the eSafety Commissioner's website for ways to keep you and your family safe online.
- I encourage all Canberrans to follow the IT security advice of the Australian Cyber Security Centre available at cyber.gov.au.

Foreign Interference (Chief Minister)

- The ACT values its open and transparent international engagement with other governments to progress matters of mutual benefit.
- Unfortunately, some foreign actors are pursuing opportunities to interfere for example with decision makers, intellectual property, and IT systems in Australia. The ACT is not immune from this interference.
- Foreign interference activities go beyond routine diplomatic influence practiced by governments. Interference may be coercive, covert, deceptive and clandestine in nature and can cause harm to the ACT's interests.
- The ACT partners with the Australian Government and other states and territories on efforts to protect our systems of government, democracy, critical infrastructure, education and media.
- Concerns about foreign interference should be reported to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

Public Spaces and Venue Safety (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- Canberra's public places and events remain a safe and attractive place for communities and families.
- While the national terrorism public alert level remains at PROBABLE, there is no specific or credible threat to the ACT at this time.

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- The ACT Government and ACT Policing continually monitor the security threat environment. We must all remain vigilant to the threat of terrorism.
- The government remains ready as COVID restrictions ease to host safe and enjoyable public events.
- We will continue to use CCTV, vehicle protection barriers and other measures as appropriate to protect Canberrans.

Countering Violent Extremism (Chief Minister)

- Our best defence against violent extremism is maintaining a welcoming and inclusive city, where diversity is respected and celebrated.
- Unfortunately during COVID-19 we have seen an increase in racial abuse and hate speech directed towards some members of our community – this is unacceptable and goes against what the ACT stands for.
- The ACT Government recognises communities play an important role in preventing and countering violent extremism, alongside government agencies. This is a shared challenge and requires a whole-of-society approach.
- The ACT's approach is focussed on education, effective community dialogue and safeguarding those most vulnerable to the messages of violent extremists.
- The ACT Government and ACT Policing continue to work to keep Canberrans safe from all forms of violent extremism in partnership with our Commonwealth, State and Territory colleagues.
- I encourage families, friends and communities to contact authorities for help and advice if you are concerned someone may be radicalising or vulnerable to violent extremism.
- Concerns can and should be reported to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Please visit the Living Safe Together website for more information.

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Fixated Threat Capability (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- In the ACT Budget 2019-20, the Government announced $1.08 million over three years to establish and trial a fixated threat capability for the ACT. This capacity has been established.The ACT now has specially trained officers from ACT Policing, and mental health professionals from Canberra Health Services co-located and working closely together to assess and manage fixated individuals in the ACT.
- A fixated individual is a person with an unhealthy obsession or perceived grievance with another person. In many cases, a fixated individual may have undiagnosed or untreated mental health issues.
- A focus for the ACT's fixated threat capability is to reduce harm to the community by engaging (or sometimes re-engaging) fixated individuals with appropriate mental health or other community support services.
- The establishment of this capability completes the ACT's implementation of the October 2017 agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to adopt a national approach to assessing and managing fixated individuals.

Counter Terrorism (Chief Minister)

- The ACT is a successful and harmonious multicultural society. This is one of our greatest strengths against acts of terrorism and violent extremism occurring in Canberra.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation, its democratic values and the rule of law, not by race, religion or ethnic background.
- The ACT supports community leaders and activities to promote our vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.
- We as a government reject those who seek to impose their world view on others through intimidation and violence.
- Anyone who singles out any particular group as a target for hatred plays into the hands of terrorists.
- My government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community. We work closely with ACT Policing and other law

enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism and violent extremism.

- We cannot eliminate the risk of terrorism any more than any other serious crime. But we will do all we can to keep our community safe from those who seek to do us harm.
- Terrorism is a national issue, and we work closely with our interstate and Commonwealth partners on the national security challenges we face. We need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these evolving issues.
- The Australian National Security website contains information about Australia's security threat environment and terrorism in Australia.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening, call Triple-Zero (000).

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-043

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services

ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL – RELATIONSHIP WITH ESA

Talking points:

- I (Minister Gentleman) and the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) have always, and continue to, value a strong, constructive working relationship with the ACT Bushfire Council.
- The ESA continues to meet with the Bushfire Council on a regular, scheduled basis, and works constructively with the Council and its members.
- As part of this strong, constructive working relationship, it is normal process for the Bushfire Council Chair and the ESA Commissioner to discuss issues that may impact the ESA and the Council working together effectively.
- The ESA has always ensured the Bushfire Council is well briefed on its operations. This has included thorough briefings, bringing Council members into Incident Management Rooms, and facilitating tours of firegrounds for Council members.
- The ESA stands by the work of the ESA Operational Review and the 38 After-Action Review sessions. The review process has been the most open and transparent review in the ESA's history. This review sought the views of hundreds of volunteers and staff.
- The ESA provides secretariat services to the Bushfire Council as per its responsibilities under the *Emergencies Act 2004*. The secretariat undertakes tasks for the Council with direction provided from the Chair.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background:

- Under the *Emergencies Act 2004* the Bushfire Council has the function of advising the Minister for Police and Emergency Services about matters relating to bushfires.
- On 26 November 2020, Canberra Times journalist Dan Jarvis-Bardy (The applicant) submitted an FOI application for '*Copies of all correspondence from the ACT Emergency Services Agency Commissioner to the ACT Bushfire Council on September 22, 2020, and, copies of all correspondence from the council to the commissioner between September 22, 2020, and November 26, 2020.'*
- The ESA identified the documents within scope, which were provided to the applicant on 21 January 2021.
- These documents were used to publish an article in the Canberra Times on 25 January 2021, claiming that the ESA had lost confidence in the Council and the advice it provides.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-032

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2019-20 BUSHFIRE SEASON

Talking points:

Conditions

- As everyone in our community is aware, the 2019-20 Bushfire Season was a very challenging season right across Australia.
- The lead up to the 2019-20 bushfire season saw some of the driest conditions on record. During the season, we saw some of the most unprecedented weather conditions in Australia's history. Large parts of Australia were impacted by significant fires with unpredictable and dangerous fire behaviour fuelled by hot, dry and windy conditions. These conditions meant fires developed easily and were hard to stop.

Thank you

- Much is owed to the expertise and professionalism of the ACT Rural Fire Service, ACT Fire & Rescue, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Aviation Fire & Rescue Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, ACT Policing and the Australian Defence Force. The ACT would also like to thank the National Resource Sharing Centre and Fire and Emergency Services in other jurisdictions who boosted our capability.
- I would like to thank staff across all ACT Government Directorates for their support to the Emergency Coordination Centre in managing the government response to these fires and keeping our community safe.
- The ferocity of the season has been felt by many of our volunteers who gave their time responding to bushfires here in the ACT, engaging with the community and deploying interstate.
- I commend all emergency service volunteers who answered the call to protect our community. I would also like to thank the family, friends, partners and workplaces of those volunteers, whose support enabled them to contribute to the continued protection of our community.
- I also thank volunteers for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as volunteers.

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- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement. A number of reviews were undertaken into the 2019-20 bushfire season including the ESA Operational Review, the Review on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response, the ACT Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into 2019-20 Bushfire Season and the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

ESA Operational Review

- An external consultant was engaged to conduct an operational review to analyse the effectiveness of the ESA's preparation, planning, response and recovery.
- To assist the review, approximately 38 After-Action Review (AAR) workshops were conducted with volunteers and staff. The external consultant analysed the feedback as part of the evaluation process and used this information to compile a final report, providing recommendations on areas of improvement.
- The report has identified a requirement to improve the ACT's capacity to establish and sustain operations across multiple incidents over a protracted season and an additional focus on planning skills and procedures.
- There are 31 recommendations themed into the following categories:
    - Capability;
    - Collective Training and Exercise;
    - Preparedness;
    - Personnel;
    - Planning; and
    - Incident Management.
- While some recommendations can be addressed immediately, others require long-term planning and consultation with stakeholders or may be impacted by the outcomes of other reviews, including the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements, due to report on 28 October 2020.

Review on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response

- The ESA Deputy Commissioner, Mr Ray Johnson, was tasked with leading the review of the whole of government response to the 2019-20 bushfire

season. The review considered the ACT's coordination, response and recovery.

- The *Report to the Minister for Police and Emergency Services on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response during the 2019-20 Bushfire Season* concludes that the overall view of stakeholders was that the legislative framework was sound, and that the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) fulfilled its functions during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The Final Report did, however, recommend amendments to the Act to clarify roles, and provide greater support to the Emergency Controller. These amendments were passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly during the August 2020 sitting period.

ACT Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into 2019-20 Bushfire Season

- At the conclusion of the 2019-20 bushfire season, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety undertook a review of ACT emergency services responses to the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The final report titled *Review of ACT Emergency Services Responses to the 2019-20 Bushfire Season* was completed on 29 September 2020.
- The report identifies 26 recommendations for Government to consider implementing in order to enhance ACT Government's preparation and response to bushfires.
- The ACT Government has prepared its response which I understand has been made available to all Members of the Legislative Assembly will be made publicly available.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

- The Royal Commission (Commission) into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20.
- The Commission will examine coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters as well as improving resilience and adapting to changing climatic conditions and mitigating the impact of natural disasters. The inquiry will also consider the legal framework for Commonwealth involvement in responding to national emergencies.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Commission received approximately 1,600 written submissions and has served ACT Government Directorates and Agencies with several Notices to Give Information and Notices to Produce. Public hearings have also been conducted.
- The ESA and EPSDD also facilitated a tour of the Orroral Valley Fire Ground for the Commission. This occurred on 23 April.
- The Royal Commission released its report on 28 October 2020 and this is currently being considered by all jurisdictions, including the ACT.

Public Messaging During Bushfire Threat

- One of the clear lessons from the 2003 Canberra bushfires was that people wanted to know early about approaching bushfire and with as much advance warning as possible.
- I am proud of the efforts of all ACT Government Directorates in keeping Canberrans informed and safe during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- A survey of 823 community members was recently conducted to determine the effectiveness of the communication and engagement during the 2019-20 bushfire season. Key findings of the survey included:
    - 98 percent of respondents knew the ACT was in a State of Alert / State of Emergency;
    - 93 percent of respondents agreed that they felt well informed about the recent ACT;
    - 89 percent of respondents said they knew what to do if a bushfire threatened them; and
    - 50 percent of respondents created a bushfire survival plan.

Australian Defence Force (ADF) Helicopter

- The ESA is satisfied that the ADF followed their safety protocols in relation to reporting the incident and the information flow was consistent and appropriate between ESA and ADF. The Department of Defence has publicly stated that the crew of the helicopter were dealing with an inflight emergency. This meant that the radio traffic was focussed on the safety of the crew.

- ESA first became aware of the fire following reports from the Mt Tennant fire tower and initiated a response of fire units and heavy plant at 1:49pm. This was within 20 minutes of the initial ignition at 1:30pm. At 1:52pm, two aviation resources were also tasked to respond to the incident.
- While the ESA did all that they could to reduce the initial spread of the Orroral Valley fire, it was difficult to access due to the topography. The fire was also driven by other factors making suppression challenging, including the weather and the dry environmental conditions.

Use of Australian Defence Force (ADF)

- On 4 January 2020, the Prime Minister announced ADF assistance for the bushfires burning across Australia. This included boots on the ground, planes in the sky and ships out at sea all supporting the bushfire fighting effort and recovery.
- In the ACT, arrangements have long been in place for the ADF to be accommodated as part of our Emergency Coordination Centre. Therefore, the personnel deployed to the ACT were able to have an almost immediate impact in assisting our community.
- Some of the tasks the ADF assisted in included, but was not limited to:
    - Fireground surveillance
    - Door knocking
    - Personnel transport; bus and helicopter
    - Provision of accommodation for interstate crews including catering at ADFA
    - Provision of heavy plant and other equipment along with trained operators
    - Incident Management Team, Emergency Coordination Centre and planning support
    - Hand crews for development of helipads and indirect fire attack.
- The excellent work of all services, including the ADF, minimised the impact of these fires and ensured there was no loss of life as a result of the bushfires that surrounded the ACT.

Respiratory Protection

- The best respiratory protection for volunteers for the effects of smoke is a matter of great concern to the ESA.
- The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council note in their Managing Bushfire Smoke Exposure guidelines that the P2 masks currently available to our members are the current minimum bushfire standard.
- As part of its commitment to innovation and improvement, the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) has trialled, through the Brigades, a number of different types of P2and P3 masks during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The ACTRFS has also been in close consultation with their NSW counterparts as they are also considering options.
- Due to varying types of masks – full face and half face – the ACTRFS needs to be confident in the decision that they procure a product that is best fit for the Service.
- This process cannot be rushed. Any changes may not be implemented prior to next bushfire season, but it will be well-considered with the safety and wellbeing of its personnel being the main priority.

Volunteer Firefighter Payment Scheme

- When the Federal Government first announced the Volunteer Firefighter Payment scheme, it was only available to NSW Rural Fire Service members. The hard work of the ESA ensured this payment was also made available to ACT members.
- The ESA also took all reasonable steps to ensure eligible volunteer members who submitted an application, received payment as quickly as possible.
- The ESA also assisted volunteers with completing the application forms when help was requested, and engaged in regular updates with volunteers to keep them informed.
- I am advised by the ESA that they have only received positive feedback from volunteer members on their handling of the Volunteer Firefighters' Financial Support Program.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-033

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2020-21 BUSHFIRE SEASON

Talking points:

- The ACT's 2020-21 Bushfire Season officially commenced on 1 November 2020, the season was delayed by one month due to significant rainfall during spring.
- The Australian Seasonal Bushfire Outlook, recently released by the Bushfire and Natural Hazards CRC, predicts the 2020-21 Bushfire Season will be very different than the previous two, with wetter than average conditions expected through spring and summer.
- As a result of the recent rain, and the expectation of further rainfall in the coming months with the current La Niña ALERT, it is anticipated that forest flammability will remain low over the coming months.
- Grass growth due to recent rain could increase the risk of fast-moving grass fires this summer.
- While the Canberra community enjoys the benefits of living in the bush capital, it comes with bush and grass fire risk that requires preparedness, sound plans, and shared responsibility.
- Canberrans should continue to prepare for the season by taking actions to reduce the bushfire risks around and within their property, and to review their Survival Plans.
- In response to the La Nina weather pattern, the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has launched a new annual awareness campaign, 'Are you Emergency Ready?'. The campaign incorporates a Multi-hazard Emergency Survival Plan, replacing the traditional Bushfire Survival Plan. The campaign aims to encourage our community to prepare for any emergency be that bushfire, storm, flood, or extreme heat.

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- The ESA has also developed a range of education resources to help support the community to prepare for an emergency. The resources allow the community to download, complete, and store their Survival Plan from any digital device, and importantly, share it with family and friends. The resources are available via the ESA website and I encourage everyone to familiarise themselves with this information.
- In December 2020, I wrote to all Members of the Legislative Assembly encouraging Members to pass the educational information onto constituents to prepare for the season.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-052

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

Business and Better Regulation

Chief Minister

ISSUE: BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Talking points:

HOT TOPICS

The Canberra Times Article, 7 February 2021 (Minister for Business and Better Regulation)

- The smoke from the surrounding region that enveloped the ACT in early 2020 had a negative impact on Canberra's businesses.
- These businesses were provided with financial support options under the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements that was jointly activated by the ACT Government and the Australian Government in early in 2020.
- Information to businesses about how to seek support was made available on the Access Canberra webpage. This included the establishment of a business support enquiry service.
- Concessional loans up to $500,000 and a small business grant of $50,000 were activated and available throughout 2020.
- In addition, the ACT Government is delivering on behalf of the Australian Government a $10,000 small business grant for wineries that have been affected by wine grape smoke taint.
- The Australian Government also activated the Disaster Recovery Allowance which provides income support payments for up to 13 weeks to employees, primary producers and sole traders who can demonstrate they have experienced a loss of income as a direct result of the bushfires.
- Several businesses have taken up the opportunity to apply and have received financial support under these programs.
- The government encourages any business that may still require bushfire recovery support to contact their insurer and Access Canberra on 13 22 81 as soon as possible to discuss support options.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

GENERAL

Whole of Government Recovery Arrangements (Chief Minister)

- Supporting the ACT community to recover from the recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic remains a key focus for this government.
- Natural disasters impact on the social, economic, built, and environmental values of communities. Recovering from disaster continues long after the emergency has finished.
- The Black Summer bushfires, 2020 hailstorm and the COVID-19 pandemic are all examples of significant natural disasters in the ACT that required the ACT Government to progress recovery initiatives.
- The ACT is a strong, resilient, and cohesive community where the government, businesses, communities, families, and individuals all work collaboratively to address identified recovery needs.
- This government has delivered wide ranging recovery support to ACT businesses, families, and individuals in response to the 2020 disasters. These include grants and loans, fee and charge waivers and deferrals, tax waivers, rent relief and rebates.
- The ACT Government remains closely engaged with the Australian Government to deliver recovery support to impacted ACT individuals, businesses and communities in response to the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I encourage any Canberran that requires ongoing support to recovery from recent natural disasters to contact their insurer and Access Canberra on 13 22 81 as soon as possible to discuss options.

Support to Farmers and Rural Lessees (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- The government expresses its sincere condolences to all those that have been directly and indirectly affected by the Orroral Valley bushfire in Namadgi.
- The ACT's farming community and rural lessees in the south of Canberra have incurred losses through the damage caused by the fires. This includes damage to fences, pastures, and farm equipment.

- The government has provided emergency fodder in the immediate aftermath of the fire. Repairs to significant distances of fencing has also been completed.
- Bushfire relief measures jointly activated by the ACT and Australian Governments, including grants and loans, were made available to rural lessees for consideration in the aftermath of the fire.
- I recently met with representatives of the rural landowners to discuss unmet needs and options for the government to assist with these unmet needs.
- I encourage any rural landowner that requires ongoing bushfire recovery support to contact their insurer, and Access Canberra on 13 22 81 as soon as possible to discuss options.

Key Information

<u>If asked specifically about whether ACT businesses are excluded from the agency's $50,000 recovery grants program.</u>

- No ACT business was specifically excluded from applying for the $50,000 grant program. However, loss of profit was not eligible for payment.
- Businesses that incurred a loss of profit were eligible to apply for support for a concessional loan.

<u>If asked how many smoke-impacted ACT businesses received grants and loans.</u>

- For businesses that suffered a loss of income due to indirect impact of the bushfires, including through smoke impact, the ACT Government activated the concessional loans and wine grape smoke taint grants.
- Three smoke-impacted ACT businesses successfully applied for concessional loans.
- Five wine grape smoke taint grants are being processed for wine grape producers who operate in the ACT.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-034

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ESA KEY DATA (as at 1 July 2020)

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
297.19	45.3%	54.7%	1..3%	1.3%	1.9%

Vehicles

Emergency Ambulance Vehicles	Patient transports	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
29	5	10	2	46

Call Outs

ACT Ambulance Service – Operational Activity	2018-19		2019-20	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Medical (includes aeromedical)	56,877	51,359	61,043	61,379
Dual Response (Fire, Storm, etc.)	2,352	2,388	762	770
Total Incidents	**59,229**	**53,747**	**61,805**	**62,149**

Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson
- Fyshwick
- Woden
- Greenway
- Calwell

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
350.06	5.6%	94.4%	3.1%	0.6%	1.1%

Community Fire Unit Volunteers
834

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	CFU Trailers	Total
32	9	6	62	109

Call Outs

ACT Fire & Rescue – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Fires				
Structure Fires	256	1,411	223	1,189
Mobile Property Fires	259	455	242	439
Landscape fires, bush and grass	173	397	198	542
Other fires	251	437	241	611
Total Fires	**939**	**2,700**	**904**	**2,781**
Hazardous conditions	376	849	350	775
Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	353	392	431	485
System initiated FALSE alarms	5,355	11,545	5,825	11,709
Other	1,582	2,378	1,642	2,528
Total other emergencies and incidents	**7,666**	**15,164**	**8,248**	**15,497**
Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,171	2,845	1,000	2,516
Medical Assists	420	586	412	585
Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	187	263	209	264
Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)	**1,778**	**3,694**	**1,621**	**3,365**
Total ACTF&R Operational Activity	**10,383**	**21,558**	**10,773**	**21,643**

Stations

There are a total of nine stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Ainslie
- Fyshwick

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-034	

- Phillip
- Kambah
- Chisholm
- South Tuggeranong, Calwell

As part of the 2019-20 ACT Budget, work commenced on the due diligence and preliminary design for two new combined ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire & Rescue stations, to be located in Acton and the Molonglo Valley.

ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
15	62.5%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%

ACTRFS Volunteers
457

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
62 + 15 trailers	7	0	84

Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Grass and bushfires	77	354	88	658
Smoke investigations	2	4	8	17
Vehicle fire	33	26	26	34
Motor vehicle accident	4	5	2	2
Storm/flood (assisting ACTSES)	65	71	28	8
Structure Fires	1	2	5	20
Hazard Reductions	46	410	27	123
Other Fires/Incidents	0	0	126	675
Total Incidents	**56**	**181**	**310**	**1,537**

Stations

There are a total of eight sheds:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Hall
- Molonglo, Holt
- Rivers, Cotter Road Stromlo
- Jerrabomberra, Symonston
- Guises Creek, Royalla
- Southern, Tharwa

- Tidbinbilla

Fire Towers

There are four fire towers

- Mount Tennent
- Kowen
- Coree
- One Tree Hill

ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
10	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%

ACTSES Volunteers
400

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
20 + 23 trailers	8	0	51

Call Outs

ACT State Emergency Service – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Storm and flood	502	613	1,723	2,061
Search and rescue	11	94	16	130
"Operational assistance to other services (provision of flood boat service, lighting towers, catering)"	29	182	65	332
Total Incidents	**542**	**889**	**1,804**	**2,523**

Stations

There are a total of seven units and one support group:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct
- Rivers Unit, Cotter Road, Stromlo
- ESA Headquarters Support

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Emergency Services Agency (ESA) General

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
110.91	43%	57%	2.6%	1.8%	9.6%

MAPS Volunteers
49

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
0	8	3	11

Facilities

- ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn
- ESA Workshops, Fairbairn
- ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn
- ESA Training Centre, Hume

Volunteer Firefighters' Support Fund

Key Information

- The ACT will have access to this funding including fighting fires in NSW.
- The Rural Fire Service (RFS) currently have 422 volunteers. Currently estimates are that there may be upwards of 80 eligible RFS applicants.
- The State Emergency Service (SES) currently have 356 volunteers. Currently estimates are that there may be upwards of 10 eligible applicants.
- It is estimated that 200 or so ACT volunteer firefighters may be eligible in total.
- It is not currently known how much funding this will equate to for the ACT.
- The ACT Government (ESA) will administer the payments, develop detailed implementation guidelines and bear any associated administration costs. This is consistent with the agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales.

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Cleared for public release by:	Commissioner	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-034	

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-035

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) RESOURCING

Talking points:

- The Canberra community can have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance service.
- Demand on our ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) is at the highest levels ever. Despite this growing demand, the ACT has continued to record some of the best response times in the country, as well as high levels of patient satisfaction.
- The dedication and professionalism of our paramedics should be highly commended as they continue to provide life-saving services to members of the community who are experiencing their worst day.
- The ESA continues to provide support for our ambulance workforce and remains focussed on their health and welfare as they continue to meet community expectations.
- Recent funding packages have delivered:
    - 53 additional paramedics
    - seven additional ambulances
    - powered stretchers in all 30 emergency ambulance vehicles, which will reduce physical demands on paramedics and improve patient safety.
- This recognises the support required to maintain a nation leading ambulance service.

Key Information

- Data published in the Report on Government Services shows that ACT Ambulance Service continues to deliver the country's fastest response rates and leading performance in answering Emergency 000 calls for assistance. This impressive result has once again been achieved despite an increasing demand for services.

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Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-036

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT FIRE & RESCUE RESOURCING

Talking points:

Recruitment

- ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is currently addressing challenges to staffing levels caused by the large number of ACTF&R staff who are approaching 55 years of age and the increase in age-related retirements
- Whilst it is difficult to determine the exact number of firefighters who will retire over the next 24 months, ACTF&R stragtegic workforce planning has identified that the worst case scenario is that up to 30 ACTF&R staff will retire in the next 24 months.
- The ESA intends to recruit 180 firefighters (99 additional; 81 replacement) over the next five years. This includes staff required for the new Acton (city) and Molonglo stations, crewing of the new aerial pumper, and an increase to the relief ratio.

Overtime

- In order to support the provision of a 24 hour service to the ACT community, it is necessary at times for the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) staff, including ACTF&R staff, to work overtime. No one in the ESA is “forced” to undertake overtime. Firefighters are offered opportunities to work overtime through an internal, on-line recall roster.
- The ESA monitors ACTF&R overtime and takes matters of staff welfare seriously and has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community, including training additional ACTF&R peer support officers.
- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. Any firefighters that feel the amount of overtime they are chosing to work is affecting their health and wellbeing are encouraged to access the welfare initiatives available.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-037

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY (ESA) GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS AND PRIORITIES

Talking points:

1) 10th Legislative Assembly Parliamentary and Governing Agreement Commitments

Recruit an additional 99 new firefighters and add new fire trucks and equipment

- Under the enterprise agreement reached between the government and the United Firefighters Union in June 2020, the ACT Fire and Rescue Service will recruit an additional 99 new firefighters over the life of the agreement through a series of recruit colleges.
- The ESA intends to recruit 180 firefighters (99 additional; 81 replacement) over the next five years. This includes staff required for the new Acton (city) and Molonglo stations, crewing of the new aerial pumper, and an increase to the relief ratio.
- Recruit College 44 commenced in February 2021 with 20 recruits, and will be followed in July 2021 by Recruit College 45.
- ACT Fire and Rescue has also commenced implementing other aspects of the enterprise agreement, including health and wellbeing initiatives and skills and training incentives, in consultation with the United Firefighters Union and ACT Fire and Rescue staff.

Build new fire and ambulance stations in the City and Molonglo

- The construction of new joint stations in the City (Acton) and Molonglo was a commitment of the ACT Labor Party during the 2020 election.
- The Government announced $939,000 funding in the 2019-20 budget to progress due diligence and forward design for future joint stations in the City and the Molonglo Valley.
- In August 2020, the Government announced funding of over $45 million for the design and construction of a joint fire and ambulance station at Acton.

- Forward design for the new Acton Station is currently underway with key stakeholders, before the government goes to market for the construction phase later in 2020-21.
- Feasibility studies for the Molonglo station are also underway, which will help inform the planning, budget and location for a new Molonglo Station.

Continued funding for PACER operations

- The PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response) Program was successfully trialed in 2019-20, with funding provided in the 2019-20 Budget.
- The establishment of a second PACER team is a priority under the 10th Assembly Parliamentary and Governing Agreement.
- ACT Health is the lead agency for this initiative, with support from ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Policing.
- The Government recently announced $14.7 million to continue funding for PACER's operation for the next four years.
- The program began as a trial service operating four days a week in December 2019. The ACT Government provided an additional $720,000 as part of a Mental Health Support Package (MHSP) announced in May 2020 to expand the service's operation from four to seven days a week. This $14.7 million commitment will see the seven day a week model continue for the next four years.
- The PACER team now features 29 highly trained first responders across the three agencies to call on for its daily 2:00pm to midnight shifts.

2) Continuing Budget and/or 9th Legislative Assembly Commitments

A new hybrid electric fire pumper

- In 2019, the Government announced a partnership with Rosenbauer Australia for the development and delivery of a hybrid electric fire truck, to meet the challenges under the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25.
- A single select procurement exemption was granted by the Director General, JACS, to engage Rosenbauer for the design and the development of one hybrid electric fire truck.

- The ESA conducted a full open tender process for the purchase of Frontline fire trucks for ACT, and Rosenbauer were the successful tenderer.
- Extensive consultation has occurred with ACT Fire & Rescue staff, Union and cross directorates, which included feasibility options.
- The ESA is progressing the purchase under programs such as the Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) fund.
- The ESA will use the allocated vehicle money from Acton station to supplement the ZEG fund.
- The scheduled delivery date of the vehicle is mid July 2022 and is to be placed at the New Acton Station.

<u>Strengthen bushfire preparedness and responses, with continued investments in volunteer firefighters</u>

- The ESA received funding in the 2019-20 Budget Review for a range of initiatives to strengthen the ACT's bushfire preparedness, including funding to continue the ACT's contribution to the National Emergency Alert system, an additional seven Electronic Fire Danger Rating Signs to upgrade the remaining manual signs, and a six-month trial to install fire detecting cameras in key locations around the ACT.
- Work on the fire detecting camera trial was initially delayed due to the severity of the 2019-20 bushfire season followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but is now underway.
- The manual fire danger rating signs have now been upgraded.
- ESA previously received funding in the 2019-20 Budget to contract a second medium helicopter to combat bushfires, and capital funding in that budget to upgrade the ACT Rural Fire Service facilities at the Hume Helibase:
  - the second helicopter formed part of the ACT's aviation bushfire response during the 2019-20 bushfire season
  - the works at the Hume helibase were completed in 2020.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Upgrade ACTSES facilities, including Majura SES in Hackett

- The ESA received funding over two years in the 2019-20 Budget for a major upgraded to the ACT State Emergency Services Majura Unit located at Hackett to cater for a growth in its membership base.
- Forward design work was completed in the first half of 2020 to enable government to approach market for construction.
- The successful contractor was appointed in the second half of 2020 and will progress detailed design and construction of the works in 2021.

Key Information

- ESA is currently working with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Government commitments.

Background Information

Status of Government Commitments

- The table below shows the current status of each ESA related Government Commitment:

Title	**Included in Budget (which year)**	**Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)**
ACT Fire and Rescue Staffing and Development (includes firefighter recruitment).	2020 Budget annoucement	In Progress
Construction of joint station in Acton	2020 Budget announcement	In Progress
Construction of joint station in Molonglo	Not yet funded	Not yet
Continuation of PACER program	2020-21 Budget	In Progress
A new hybrid electric fire pumper	Included in funding for construction of joint station in Acton, and the successful application for Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) funding	In Progress
Strengthen bushfire preparedness and responses, with continued investments in volunteer firefighters.	2019-20 Budget 2019-20 Budget Review	In Progress
Upgrade ACT State Emergency Service facilities, including Majura SES in Hackett.	2019-20	In Progress

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-038

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ESA COMMUNICATION CENTRE (COMCEN) REFORM

Talking points:

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is working with staff and the unions on the proposed changes. Ongoing consultation is occurring through an ACT Fire & Rescue specific Workplace Consultative Committee, where issues specific to the future ComCen model are being discussed with United Firefighters Union representatives.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project is to expand the current call-taking, dispatch and incident support services across the ESA ComCen to provide a single one agency approach. The new ESA positions will be known as Communication Officers.
- Recruitment for Communications Officers has commenced via a community based recruitment. Successful applicants will be provided with training to manage Emergency Triple Zero (E000) calls directed to the ComCen. The current agreed in principle position will free up 12 qualified firefighters to return to front line operations. Recruitment for ACTAS call takers has commenced prior to Enterprise Agreement negotiations.
- The ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology. This includes integrating systems to facilitate the provision of timely information between services, external agencies, and with the public. This technology also includes the concepts of CCTV, drone capability and aerial camers.
- This reform will also allow ESA to provide a dynamic and diverse workforce. The reform process will also allow ESA to adapt to evolving response with an all hazards apporoach.

Key Information

- During EA discussions, agreements were reached with the United Firefighters Union as to the final disposition of the ESA Communications Centre, which provides a clear pathway forward for the reform.
- The ESA is working with staff and unions to progress the reforms, and will communicate with all staff and volunteers.

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Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext: 78383
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-039

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

Talking points:

- All eight of the original Blueprint For Change recommendations are substantially addressed or have been completed.
- Following an independent review of the Blueprint for Change program, a recommendation was made to transition the program to business as usual within ACTAS.
- The recommendation was supported by the ACTAS Chief Officer, the ESA Commissioner and the ACTAS Governance and Compliance Committee. The transition took effect on 1 July 2020.
- The Blueprint program saw the delivery of significant initiatives within ACTAS such as the Peer Support program, MANERS training, Leadership Framework and safe workplace and respectful conversations training.
- It is important ACTAS does not lose traction on the good work undertaken as part of the Blueprint program.
- Moving forward, a project resource was transferred from the People and Culture team to ACTAS to lead the new team. It will be resourced to focus on the delivery of ACTAS strategic priorities, including the delivery of a comtemporary service delivery model, a modernised structure, leadership development, and staff health and wellbeing.
- Concurrently, it will review those outcomes already delivered through Blueprint to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- This important work continues in collaboration with the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.

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Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-039	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-040

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: CLADDING

- ACT Fire & Rescue is a contributing member of the Cladding Review Working Group led by Environment Planning Sustainable Development Directorate. This is a multi-agency working group and information is shared by all parties.
- ACT Fire & Rescue has developed a training package for all firefighters explaining what combustible cladding is, the potential risks to firefighters and what precautions firefighters should take when responding to a building that may contain combustible cladding, including firefighting strategy.
- As a response agency, ACT Fire & Rescue draws no distinction between public and private buildings and will work with all members of the community to preserve life, property and the environment.

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Contact Officer name:	Georgeina Whelan	Ext: 78383
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-041

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Independent Integrity Commission

ACT Policing Update:

- The AFP supports the establishment of an independent integrity body in the ACT.
- The AFP has existing robust internal and external integrity mechanisms, including the AFP's Professional Standards Framework, independent oversight from ACLEI and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, enshrined in Commonwealth legislation (the AFP Act and the LEIC Act).
- ACT Policing also has extensive reporting obligations to the ACT Government.
- Additional oversight over ACT Policing members will duplicate existing arrangements and add complexity in its administration owing to external oversight frameworks already in existence.
- Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP
- Date: 27 July 2018

Integrity Commission background

- The ACT Legislative Assembly passed the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* on 29 November 2018. The Act commenced in part on 1 July 2019, and was effective on 1 December 2019.
- Establishing the Commission was an item in the Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly for the ACT.
- The Act was the product of two Select Committee inquiries, sustained public consultation and extensive negotiations between the Government, the Opposition and Greens MLAs.
- The Act creates an ACT Integrity Commission tasked with investigating corrupt conduct relating to the public sector, referring complaints to appropriate entities and conducting education and training.

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Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Amie Gunawan	Ext: 71764
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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- The Integrity Commission has jurisdiction to investigate corrupt conduct committed by a range of public officials, including ACT public servants, MLAs and their staff, statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors.
- The Commission must prioritise the investigation of serious or systemic corrupt conduct.
- The ACT Integrity Commission is tasked with investigating prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to retrospectively review matters committed after the Territory acquired self-government in 1989.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government committed funding of $8.4m over four years towards the establishment of the Integrity Commission.
- From 1 December 2019, the Integrity Commission was able to receive complaints about alleged corrupt conduct across the ACT public sector. It will prioritise the investigation of serious corrupt conduct and systemic corrupt conduct but that does not mean that less serious or singular instances of corruption will be overlooked.

Integrity Commissioner Appointment and Acting Appointments

- On 14 May 2019, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly announced the appointment of Mr Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC as the Integrity Commissioner, with the endorsement of all three parties in the Assembly.
- Mr Cowdroy is a former justice of the Federal Court of Australia and has also served as an additional judge of the ACT's Supreme Court as well as in other judicial roles and as a presidential member of the Australian Administrative Appeals Tribunal. He is the chairperson of the Australian Electoral Commission. He also served in the Navy reserve as a captain, as well as on the the Defence Force discipline appeal tribunal, and was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for his services to the Returned and Services League of Australia, as well as the legal community.
- Mr Cowdroy's appointment commenced on 1 August 2019.
- On 25 November 2020, the ACT Legislative Assembly speaker announced that Mr Cowdroy would be resigning from his role as Commissioner in 2021.

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Cleared for public release by:	Executive Branch Manager	Ext:
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-041	

The speaker has appointed the Hon. Acting Judge Michael Adams QC as the acting Integrity Commissioner, who commenced in the role on 12 January 2021, for a term of up to six months. Emeritus Professor John McMillan AO has been appointed as alternate acting Commissioner for a term of up to six months, to take effect as needed.

CEO Appointment

- Mr John Hoitink was recently appointed as the chief executive officer of the Integrity Commission, with a commencement date of 28 October 2019.
- Mr Hoitink was formerly the acting CEO of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and executive director of ICAC's investigation Division. He worked for ICAC for fifteen years prior to the appointment.

Media reporting

- On 14 November 2019, *The Canberra Times* reported that the ACT Integrity Commission will operate on a Budget of $2.5 million over three years. On the issue of funding, it further reported that the chief executive, Mr John Hoitink, warned the ACT Government that the Commission has to "be an organisation which has a critical mass, which has genuine teeth and can actually go and do the job we are supposed to be doing."
- On 1 March 2020, the *Canberra Times* reported that the Integrity Commission has received more than 40 referrals, two of which relate to legacy issues. It noted that a percentage of the referrals will go to preliminary investigation.
- *The Canberra Times* further reported that the CEO of the Commission, Mr Hoitink, has cautioned against the organisation being used as a political weapon and noted that the Commission's temporary office space is "not fit for purpose" as it does not have a hearing room, evidence storage or interview rooms.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Coverage of ACT Policing

- Corrupt conduct committed by members of ACT Policing is currently investigated by Commonwealth bodies including the Australian Federal Police's Professional Standards Unit and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
- The ACT Government believes the ACT should have oversight of corrupt conduct committed by its police force.
- The Legislative Assembly currently lacks legislative power to pass laws with respect to ACT Policing.
- The Commonweath Government would need to amend a range of Commonwealth laws to remove the impediments that block the Legislative Assembly from legislating about ACT Policing, including parts of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*.
- The Government tabled the *Integrity Commission (ACT Policing) Amendment Bill 2018 (Exposure Draft*) in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2018.
- The purpose of the exposure draft was to signal to the Assembly, ACT Policing and the Australian Government that the ACT is committed to the Integrity Commission acquiring oversight of corrupt conduct committed by ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has formally advised the ACT Government that it does not support the ACT Integrity Commission acquiring jurisdiction over ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has advised they are open to strengthening information sharing with the ACT Integrity Commission to enhance the level of insight into ACT Policing integrity matters.
- On 20 August 2019, *The Canberra Times* reported that the ACT Chief Minister had 'appealled to (Commonwealth) Attorney-General Christian Porter to relinquish oversight of ACT Policing to the territory's new integrity body'. To my knowledge, the Commonwealth has not responded to this request.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Oversight of the Integrity Commission

- The Commission is subject to oversight by the Inspector of the Integrity Commission (Inspector) which, at present, is the ACT Ombudsman.
- The Inspector has authority to assess and report on the Commission's compliance with the *Integrity Commission Act*; investigate complaints about the Commission and its staff; and make recommendations about the performance of the Commission's functions under the *Integrity Commission Act.*
- The Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission also provides accountability and oversight functions in relation to the Integrity Commission. It may examine matters related to corruption and integrity in public administration; inquire into matters referred to it or matters considered to be a concern to the community; and monitor, review and report on the performance of the powers and functions of the Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
2020-21 BUDGET DAY PACK INDEX
9 FEBRUARY 2021

No.	Title
1.	2020-21 Budget Summary (including summary of JACS Initiatives)
2020-21 Budget Initiatives	
2.	2020-21 Budget Initiatives Summary - MPES
3.	ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Development and Construction of Acton Station
4.	Strategic Accommodation study for Policing (Territorial)
5.	Economic survival package - PACER (ACTAS and ACTP)
6.	ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre Feasibility Study
7.	Enhanced Forensic Medical Services
8.	ACTP Emergency Cost Pressures
2020-21 Delayed Budget	
9.	Emergency Services Agency critical ICT investment
10.	COVID-19 Public Health Response - ACT Policing
11.	Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service (ACTAS and ACTP)
12.	Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations
13.	Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre
Rollovers	
14.	Rollovers - MPES

2020-21 Staffing	
15.	2020-21 Budget Staffing FTE by Ministerial Portfolio - MPES
2019-20 Audited Outcome and 20-21 Budget Variance	
16.	2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Controlled
17.	2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Territorial
MPES Strategic and Accountability Indicators	
18.	2020-21 Strategic and Accountability Indicators - Output 4.1 Emergency Services
19.	2020-21 Strategic and Accountability Indicators - Strategic Objective 2 Crime Related Community Safety

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

JACS2021/143-002-001

Portfolio/s: JACS Ministers

DELAYED BUDGET DECISIONS

Attorney-General

Increased Magistrates Court resourcing

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	310	0	0	0	**310**
Offset – Expenses	-310	0	0	0	**-310**
Net cost of services	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**

The Government will provide additional capacity in the Magistrates Court from the Confiscated Assets Trust to manage the backlog of court activities resulting from COVID-19.

Enhancing administration of the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	130	399	0	0	**529**

The Government will provide additional staff to administer the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme. These additional resources will help ensure the scheme continues to provide critical support to the victims of crime in a timely manner while a review of the administration of the scheme is finalised.

More support for the Public Trustee and Guardian

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	400	410	420	431	**1,661**
Revenue	494	506	519	532	**2,051**
Net cost of services	**-94**	**-96**	**-99**	**-101**	**-390**

The Government will increase Community Service Obligation funding to the Public Trustee and Guardian (PTG) to reflect the increased cost and complexity in managing the affairs of clients. The PTG will also increase its own-source revenue to reflect the cost of managing its clients' accounts.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	08/02/2021	
Cleared by:	Deputy Director General	Ext: 53504
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Contact Officer name:	Dragana Cvetkovski	Ext: 54389
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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Improving road safety through Mobile Device Detection Cameras

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Expenses – Transport Canberra and City Services Directorate	726	2,073	1,922	1,973	**6,694**
Expenses – Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	210	762	911	929	**2,812**
Expenses – Justice and Community Safety Directorate	0	144	150	154	**448**
Revenue	0	6,311	7,762	5,570	19,643
Net cost of services	**936**	**-3,332**	**-4,779**	**-2,514**	**-9,689**

The Government will introduce mobile device detection cameras, as part of the ACT's road safety camera program, to support law enforcement activities and to increase road safety.

Minister for Gaming

Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council

Empty Cell	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Expenses	249	489	502	515	**1,755**

The Government will establish a Community Clubs Ministerial Advisory Council to support more sustainable clubs. Funding will also provide for the development of policy and legislation to support the introduction of $5 bet limits and $100 load-up limits on electronic gaming machines. The Government intends for a staged rollout of the new limits to commence by the end of 2022.

Gaming Machine Authorisation Surrender Incentive – extension

	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Expenses	0	0	0	0	**0**

The Government will extend the gaming machine authorisation surrender incentive for an additional six months to June 2021. The extension will utilise the remaining funding available from the $3.75 million originally provided for the measure.

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Cleared by:	Deputy Director General	Ext: 53504
Information Officer name:	Jennifer McNeill	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Minister for Corrections

AMC Reintegration Centre – Soil rectification contingency

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Capital	1,754	3,870	0	0	**5,624**
Depreciation	0	82	141	141	**364**

The Government will increase the contingency for the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC) Reintegration Centre project to address soil rectification issues subject to further investigation. The Centre will accommodate up to 60 low-risk detainees and an Industries Building to enhance opportunities for employment for detainees when they are released.

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	1,452	797	0	0	**2,249**

The Government will undertake further investigations into the existence of poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at eight current Emergency Service Agency sites and the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station. This critical work is required to ensure the safety of Government sites and workplaces.

Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Capital	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	**NFP**
Depreciation	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	**NFP**
Expenses	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	**NFP**
Net cost of services	**NFP**	**NFP**	**NFP**	**NFP**	**NFP**

The Government will relocate ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre from its current site at Belconnen to a fit for purpose facility which will better meet the business and operational needs of ACT Policing. The cost of this initiative has been withheld to secure value for money when the Government approaches the market.

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ACT Government
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	1,934	3,965	4,064	4,166	**14,129**
Offset – Health Funding Envelope	0	-3,965	-4,064	-4,166	**-12,195**
Net cost of services	**1,934**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,934**

The Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service brings together a team of experts to better respond to Canberrans in mental health crisis. Police, paramedics and mental health clinicians provide in-community assessment and treatment of people, significantly reducing demand on the Emergency Department. The Government will continue to provide ongoing funding for the PACER service, with services expanded to operate seven days per week.

COVID-19 Public Health Response

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses – ACT Health Directorate	9,839	0	0	0	**9,839**
Expenses – Education Directorate	4,163	0	0	0	**4,163**
Expenses – Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	3,539	0	0	0	**3,539**
Expenses – Justice and Community Safety Directorate	2,434	0	0	0	**2,434**
Expenses – Transport Canberra and City Services	2,450	0	0	0	**2,450**
Expenses – ACT Local Hospital Network	500	0	0	0	**500**
Expenses – Community Services Directorate	328	0	0	0	**328**
Expenses – Provision	0	16,593	0	0	**16,593**
Offset – Savings	-6,418	0	0	0	**-6,418**
Offset – Savings Provision	0	-5,336	0	0	**-5,336**
Hotel quarantine fees	1,138	437	0	0	**1,575**
Net cost of services	**15,697**	**10,820**	**0**	**0**	**26,517**

The Government will continue the COVID-19 response through the next phase of the pandemic in the coming 12 months. This initiative will continue to support the whole of government response to the health emergency. This initiative will be funded through a cost sharing arrangement between the Commonwealth and the Territory.

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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

ECONOMIC AND FISCAL UPDATE DECISIONS

Attorney-General

Increased Magistrates Court resourcing

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	0	310	0	0	0	**310**

The Government will fund additional capacity in the Magistrates Court to quickly address any backlog of cases as a result of reduced court activity arising from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This initiative was published on 19 June and remains unchanged.

Minister for Gaming

Continuing the Gaming Machine Authorisation Surrender Incentive

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	1,635	2,115	0	0	0	**3,750**

The Government will extend the Gaming Machine Authorisation Surrender Incentive until 4 December 2020. The initiative will provide gaming machine licensees with the opportunity to access a payment of $15,000 per authorisation if they voluntarily surrender a gaming machine authorisation.

This initiative was published on 19 June, but it was included in the *Supporting Community Clubs* initiative. The financial estimates have been revised to reflect activity to date and to incorporate the extension of the scheme until 4 December 2020.

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Supporting Community Clubs

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	5,138	0	0	0	0	**5,138**

The Government is providing further support to Canberra's community clubs and Casino, to enable them to keep staff employed through a waiver/refund of gaming machine tax liabilities for clubs for March 2020 activity (for larger clubs that pay gaming tax monthly) or for first quarter 2020 activity (for smaller clubs that pay gaming tax quarterly).

The Government has also made an additional $1.5 million contribution to the Clubs Diversification Fund, which will support clubs in the ACT to keep staff employed on the Clubs award rate.

This estimate has been revised down from the original estimate, due to initial take-up of measures being lower than originally estimated. The final cost of this initiative will depend on the final take-up of available measures.

Additionally, the Government has amended legislation to allow payment of award wages to staff to be claimed as community contributions where an emergency declaration has been made and provide incentives for clubs to prepare food for the vulnerable.

This initiative was published on 19 June, for presentation purposes, the voluntarily surrender of gaming machine authorisation component is now reflected in the *Continuing Gaming Machine Authorisation Surrender Incentive* initiative.

Minister for Corrections

Contraband detection and intelligence solution

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Capital	0	610	0	0	0	**610**
Depreciation	0	0	58	58	58	**174**
Associated Expenses	0	212	0	0	0	**212**
Total Expenses	**0**	**212**	**58**	**58**	**58**	**386**

The Government will provide additional contraband detection equipment at the Alexander Maconochie Centre to improve operational safety and security for both staff and detainees.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

More ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Construction of Acton Station

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Expenses	0	7,335	8,354	10,745	15,709	**42,143**
Depreciation	0	0	0	0	1,690	**1,690**
Total Expenses	**0**	**7,335**	**8,354**	**10,745**	**17,399**	**43,833**
Associated Capital	0	6,653	29,423	7,983	1,127	**45,186**

The Government will provide an additional 99 firefighters by 2024-25 to ensure ACT Fire & Rescue operational response capability is able to meet the increased demand for its services.

The Government will also design and construct a joint ACT Fire & Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service station at Clunies Ross Street, Acton, which will become operational in the 2022-23 financial year. The new station will help to improve Fire & Rescue and the ACT Ambulance Service emergency response times.

Strategic accommodation study for Policing

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Expenses	0	687	0	0	0	**687**

The Government will undertake two feasibility studies to consider strategic accommodation options for the Winchester Police Centre in Belconnen and the ACT Policing Gungahlin Police presence currently located at the Joint Emergency Services Centre in Gungahlin.

Emergency Services Agency critical ICT investment

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Capital	0	550	0	0	0	**550**
Offset – Capital	0	-253	0	0	0	**-253**
Net Capital	**0**	**297**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**297**
Depreciation	0	0	59	59	59	**177**

The Government will strengthen critical ICT systems and spatial awareness infrastructure used by front-line staff of the Emergency Services Agency in the delivery of emergency services to the ACT community.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Minister for Human Rights

Additional resources for the Victims of Crime Commissioner

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	0	130	0	0	0	**130**

The Government will provide additional resources to the Victims of Crime Commissioner to meet increased demand for the Victims of Financial Assistance Scheme and the Victims Services Scheme during COVID-19. These schemes provide critical support to the victims of crime.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

CONTINUATION OF ACTIVITIES CEASING AT 30 JUNE 2020

Attorney-General

Legislation, Policy and Programs - Funding to Deliver Government Priorities

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	1,096				**1,096**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**6.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will fund additional capacity to deliver the Government's legislative initiatives, legal policy and justice system programs by providing a stable, permanent and experienced workforce.

Implementing the Commonwealth Redress Scheme for Institutional Child and Sexual Abuse

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses JACS	431				**431**
ACT Policing	40				**40**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**4**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

As part of the Commonwealth Redress Scheme, the Government will provide funding to support eligible survivors of abuse in Government institutions through a redress payment, counselling and psychological care.

Expense: ($0.431m in 2020-21)

The funding for this initiative has been split across several directorates. The table above shows the JACS components only.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Strengthening legal and court support for vulnerable young people and families affected by domestic and family violence

Financial Impacts Summary	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts[(a)]						
Expenses - Justice and Community Safety Directorate	0	250	256	260	262	**1,028**
Expenses – ACT Legal Aid	0	313	321	329	337	**1,300**
Expenses – Education Directorate	82	85	0	0	0	**167**
Offset – Expenses – Education Directorate	-82	-85	0	0	0	**-167**
Total Additional FTEs (number)						
Courts	0	2	2	2	2	
Legal Aid	0	3	3	3	3	

The Government will invest in court and legal support services for families and young people impacted by domestic and family violence by:

- continuing support for ACT Courts to deal with applications for Family Violence Orders;
- continuing to contribute to Legal Aid's Family Violence Unit which is based at the ACT Courts building; and
- improving access to legal assistance for young people and their families through the introduction of a Legal Liaison pilot program in schools.

More Support for families and inclusion: Enhancing the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	391				**391**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**2.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will provide more resources to administer the new Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme and outstanding claims under the previous court-based Victims

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of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme, to improve the claims experience for scheme participants.

Minister for Corrections

Winnunga Model of Care at the AMC

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	874				**874**
CAT funded					
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**5.6**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

This measure will address the immediate need to provide culturally appropriate holistic health and well-being services to members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).

Minister for Police and Emergency Services

Economic Survival Package – Police, Ambulance and Clinician Emergency Response (PACER)

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expenses					
ACTAS (ESA)	240	0	0	0	**240**
ACT Policing	240	0	0	0	**240**
ACT Health	240	0	0	0	**240**
Total	720	**0**	**0**	**0**	**720**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**2.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will fund ACT Policing, the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and the ACT Health Directorate as part of the tri-service mental health emergency co-response PACER to strengthen first-response capability for acute mental health episodes in order to provide in-situ mental health assessment treatment and care.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Traffic Operation Centre (TOC) Feasibility Study

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	258				**258**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The current TOC facility is 'not fit for purpose'. This initiative will fund an assessment of requirement to provide a viable solution for TOC.

ACT Policing 2020-21 - Enhanced Forensic Medical Services

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts[(a)]					
Expenses – ACT Policing	729	0	0	0	**729**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	

The Government will increase funding for the provision of on-call forensic medical services available to ACT Policing. Additional funding will support services such as the medical assessment of people in custody, coronial and criminal investigations including documenting evidence of injuries of assaults for victims of violent crimes, attending death scenes to assist in the coronial process and providing expert evidence for court.

ACT Policing Emergency Cost Pressures

Empty Cell	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	879	0	0	0	**879**

The Government will provide funding to ACT Policing for costs associated with combating the 2019-20 bushfire crisis and for the implementation of initiatives to keep members of the community safe during the COVID 19 pandemic, including providing Personal Protection Equipment for police officers and additional cleaning and intercoms at Police Stations.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Minister for Human Rights

Victim Services Scheme: therapeutic support for victims

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	204				**204**
CAT funded					
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will continue to support victims by providing resources to address scheme demand. This initiative will ensure victims of family violence and other violent crimes can access therapeutic support aimed at minimising the traumatic impacts of crime, improving personal safety and assisting victims and their families to actively pursue recovery.

More Support for families and inclusion: Enhancing the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	391				**391**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**2.5**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will provide more resources to administer the new Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme and outstanding claims under the previous court-based Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme, to improve the claims experience for scheme participants.

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Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: JACS2021/143-002-006

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2020-21 Budget Summary – Police & Emergency Services

Talking points:

The 2020-21 Budget continues investment in Police and Emergency Services including:

- **$42.1 million** over four years to provide increased firefighting capacity to ensure ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) operational response capability is able to meet the increased demand for its services.
- **$45.2 million** over four years to design and construct a joint ACT Fire & Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) station at Clunies Ross Street, Acton. The new Acton Station construction is expected to be completed in 2023. Given its location, the new Acton Station is expected to be one of the busiest stations and help to improve emergency response times.
- **$0.3 million** in 2020-21 to strengthen critical ICT systems and spatial awareness infrastructure used by front-line staff of the Emergency Services Agency in the delivery of emergency services to the ACT community.
- **$2.2 million** over two years to undertake further investigations into the existence of poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at eight current Emergency Service Agency sites and the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station, undertake work, health and safety works and prepare management and remediation plans as necessary.
- **$0.5 million** to ACT Ambulance Services (ACTAS) and ACT Policing for the first six months of 2020-21 to strengthen first - response capability for acute mental health episodes in order to provide in-situ mental health assessment treatment and care (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER)). The PACER service is based on an integrated service model that brings together Police, paramedics, and mental health

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clinicians to support the safe assessment and treatment of people experiencing acute mental health episodes. In addition to JACS components, **$0.240 million** was provided to ACT Health for their services relating to this initiative.

- **$10.4 million** over four years to provide ongoing funding to ACTAS and ACT Policing for the PACER service. In addition to JACS components, **$3.7 million** was provided to ACT Health for their services relating to this initiative.
- **$0.9 million** in 2020-21 to fund ACT Policing for costs associated with combating the 2019-20 bushfire crisis and for the implementation of initiatives to keep members of the community safe during the COVID 19 pandemic, including providing Personal Protection Equipment for police officers and additional cleaning and intercoms at Police Stations.
- **$0.7 million** in 2020-21 to undertake two feasibility studies to consider strategic accommodation options for the Winchester Police Centre in Belconnen and the ACT Policing Gungahlin Police presence currently located at the Joint Emergency Services Centre in Gungahlin.
- **$0.3 million** in 2020-21 to fund an assessment of requirement to provide a viable solution for Traffic Operations Centre until a strategic and long-term option is made available.
- **$0.7 million** in 2020-21 to increase funding for the provision of on-call forensic medical services available to ACT Policing.
- **$2.4 million** in 2020-21 to ACT Policing to continue the COVID-19 response through the next phase of the pandemic in the coming 12 months. This initiative will ensure a workforce is in place to respond to health emergency and public safety compliance requirements.
- Funding to relocate ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre from its current site at Belconnen to a fit for purpose facility which will better meet the business and operational needs of ACT Policing.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

In addition, **$1.8 million** over five years was provided in the 2019-20 Budget Review. This includes:

- **$1.1 million** over five years to further strengthen bushfire preparedness and provide more support to the ACT Rural Fire Service.
- **$0.7 million** in 2019-20 to increase funding for the provision of on-call forensic medical services available to ACT Policing.

Budget initiatives related to Emergency Services	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	Total
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2020-21 Budget Initiatives						
Recurrent						
More ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Construction of Acton Station		7,335	8,354	10,745	15,709	42,143
Economic Survival Package — Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER)		240				240
Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service		803	1,646	1,687	1,729	5,865
Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations		1,452	797			2,249
Total 2020-21 Recurrent initiatives	-	9,830	10,797	12,432	17,438	50,497
Capital						
More ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Construction of Acton Station		6,653	29,423	7,983	1,127	45,186
Emergency Services Agency critical ICT investment		297				297
Total 2020-21 Capital initiatives	-	6,950	29,423	7,983	1,127	45,483
2019-20 2nd Appropriation Initiatives						
Recurrent						
Strengthening bushfire preparedness	396	115	118	121	124	874
Total 2019-20 2nd Appropriation Recurrent initiatives	396	115	118	121	124	874
Capital						
Strengthening bushfire preparedness	226					226
Total 2019-20 2nd Appropriation Capital initiatives	226	-	-	-	-	226
Budget initiatives related to ACT Policing	**2019-20**	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000
2020-21 Budget Initiatives						
Recurrent						
Strategic accommodation study for Policing		687				687
Economic Survival Package — Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) (Territorial)		240				240
Traffic Operation Centre (TOC) Feasibility Study		258				258
Enhanced forensic medical Services		729				729
ACT Policing Emergency Cost Pressures		879				879
COVID-19 Public Health Response		2,434				2,434
Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service (Territorial)		623	1,277	1,309	1,342	4,551
Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre		NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	-
Total 2020-21 Recurrent initiatives	-	5,850	1,277	1,309	1,342	9,778
Capital						
Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre		NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	-
Total 2020-21 Capital initiatives	-	-	-	-	-	-
2019-20 2nd Appropriation Initiatives						
Recurrent						
Enhanced forensic medical services	715					715
Total 2019-20 2nd Appropriation Recurrent initiatives	715	-	-	-	-	715

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Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

REC20/3582

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Development and Construction of Acton Station (JACS E02 and JACS CW02)

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	7,335	8,354	10,745	15,709	**42,143**
Depreciation	0	0	0	1,690	**1,690**
Total Expenses	**7,335**	**8,354**	**10,745**	**17,399**	**43,833**
Associated Capital	6,653	29,423	7,983	1,127	**45,186**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	30.9	36.9	46.9	70.3	

The Government will provide increased firefighting capacity to ensure ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) operational response capability is able to meet the increased demand for its services.

In addition, the Government will also design and construct a joint ACT Fire &Rescue and ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) station at Clunies Ross Street, Acton. The new Acton Station construction is expected to be completed in 2023. Given its location, the new Acton Station is expected to be one of the busiest stations and help to improve emergency response times.

Expense: ($42.143m over 4 years)

The funding is for:

- $40.435m to recruit an additional 69 firefighter positions at existing Fire and Rescue Stations (27 positions to support the new EBA, and 18 firefighters to increase the relief ratio). An additional 24 firefights to staff Acton Station (12 FTE in 2022-23, increasing to 24 in 2023-24) and one additional mechanic.
- $0.708m to fund 2 FTE (SOGB and SOGC) over 2 years to coordinate and implement the new workforce strategy as part of the new EBA and to coordinate the higher than usual level of recruitment, as well as increased level of training and professional development for firefighters.
- $1.0m attributed to the EBA salary uplift for 2020-21 for existing staff.

Capital: (45.186m over 4 years)

The funding will be used for:

- $40.317m over 4 years starting from 2020-21 to construct and fit-out the new joint station for ACTF&R and ACTAS at Acton.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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- $4.869m in 2020-21 to address backpay from October 2017 as part of the implementation of the new EBA.

Further Information

The key deliverables for this initiative are:

- Establishment of implementation team in July 2020
- Delivery of 2 recruit colleges per year in financial years 2020-21, 2021-22, 2022-23 and 2023-24, training a total of (36) new firefighters each year.
- Establishment of new positions including new commander roles and day work positions, to be filled progressively as staff are recruited or promoted.
- Allocation of staff to new appliances and new stations as/when those stations and appliances become operational from 2020-21 onwards.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

REC20/38350

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

Strategic Accommodation (JACS CW08)

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	687	0	0	0	**687**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**1.2**				

The Government will undertake two feasibility studies to consider strategic accommodation options for the Winchester Police Centre in Belconnen and the ACT Policing Gungahlin Police presence currently located at the Joint Emergency Services Centre in Gungahlin.

Expense:

The funding is to undertake feasibility studies to outline the detail for design and scoping of the two ACT Policing Accommodation Priorities to address operational inefficiencies and growing capacity issues:

1. Gungahlin Police presence ($0.246m)
2. Winchester Police Centre ($0.246m)
3. FTE to project resourcing ($0.195m)

The feasibility study will provide ACT Government an independently developed solution for the most cost-effective option/s for the ACT Policing Accommodation Priorities. It is expected the following deliverables will be achieved through the feasibility study:

- Future economic cost of the current facilities, including required upgrades to bring to a "good" level;
- Alternative sites available and suitable for ACT Policing and associated costs;
- Benefit to ACT Government should current accommodation and land become vacant; and
- Cost of a purpose-built new facility for ACT Policing facilities.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

REC20/41561

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

Economic Survival Package – Police, Ambulance and Clinician Emergency Response (PACER)

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expenses					
ACTAS (ESA)	240	0	0	0	**240**
ACT Policing	240	0	0	0	**240**
ACT Health	240	0	0	0	**240**
Total	720	**0**	**0**	**0**	**720**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**2.00**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will fund ACT Policing, the ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) and the ACT Health Directorate as part of the tri-service mental health emergency co-response PACER to strengthen first-response capability for acute mental health episodes in order to provide in-situ mental health assessment treatment and care.

JACS Budget statements only include funding for ACTAS and ACT Policing.

ACTAS Expense: ($0.240m in 2020-21)

- The funding is for 2 FTEs for first 6 months of 2020-21.

ACT Policing Expense: ($0.240m in 2020-21)

- The funding is for 2 FTEs for first 6 months of 2020-21.

Further Information:

- PACER service is based on an integrated service model that brings together Police, paramedics, and mental health clinicians to support the safe assessment and treatment of people experiencing acute mental health episodes
- ACTAS is responsible for physical health assessment, the mental health clinician is responsible for mental health assessment and related planning and police officer is responsible for the safety of the person and the team and logistics.
- It is anticipated that there will be ongoing increase in demand for mental health services through the pandemic and recovery.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

REC21/4887

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

Traffic Operation Centre (TOC) Feasibility Study

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts					
Expenses	258				**258**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**	

The current TOC facility is 'not fit for purpose'. This initiative will fund an assessment of requirement to provide a viable solution for TOC.

Expense: ($0.258m in 2020-21)

- This funding was provided as part of the Phase 2 'Screwdriver Ready' minor capital works projects to provide a viable solution for TOC.
- The outcome of the feasibility study is relocation of the TOC from its current site at Belconnen to a suitable facility which will better meet the business and operational needs of ACT Policing (see initiative brief on *Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre*).

Cleared as complete and accurate:	04/02/2021	
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ACT Government
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM:REC21/4036

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ACT Policing 2020-21 - Enhanced Forensic Medical Services

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts[(a)]					
Expenses – ACT Policing	729	0	0	0	**729**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	**0.0**	

The Government will increase funding for the provision of on-call forensic medical services available to ACT Policing. Additional funding will support services such as the medical assessment of people in custody, coronial and criminal investigations including documenting evidence of injuries of assaults for victims of violent crimes, attending death scenes to assist in the coronial process and providing expert evidence for court.

Expense: ($0.729m in 2020-21)

This initiative will assist in funding the increase in the ACT Policing's Forensic Medical Contract for 2020-21.

Further Information

- ACT Health has been providing this service under contract since 2009.
- The forensic medical services provided are critical to the success of criminal and coronial investigations and essential in the provision of timely (24/7) medical assessment/treatment to persons in custody at the Watch House.
- The service eases pressure on the Canberra Hospital's Accident and Emergency Department as persons in custody can be assessed and treated at the ACT Watch House rather than being escorted to the hospital in the first instance.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

REC20/38367

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ACT Policing Emergency Cost Pressures (20/418)

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses	879	0	0	0	**879**

The Government will provide funding to ACT Policing for costs associated with combating the 2019-20 bushfire crisis and for the implementation of initiatives to keep members of the community safe during the COVID 19 pandemic, including providing Personal Protection Equipment for police officers and additional cleaning and intercoms at Police Stations.

Expenses: ($0.879m in 2020-21)

- $0.879m to cover ACT Policing's 2019-20 Budget overspend incurred from supporting the ACT Bushfire and COVID-19 responses.

Further Information:

- ACT Policing incurred additional expenses related to staff overtime, personal protective equipment and additional cleaning and intercoms at police stations.
- Through COVID-19 ACT Policing implemented a number of initiatives including the provision of Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) and additional cleaning products.
- During 2019-20 bushfire season, ACT Policing provided traffic management, support in disseminating public information primarily by doorknocking and provision of public safety at locations where the ESA was engaged in operations.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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ACT Government
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: REC21/3556

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

MPES 2020-21 Delayed Budget Initiative – Emergency Services Agency Critical ICT Investment (JACS CW 04)

	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	**Total**
	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	$'000	**$'000**
Capital	0	550	0	0	0	**550**
Offset – Capital	0	-253	0	0	0	**-253**
Net Capital	**0**	**297**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**297**
Depreciation	0	0	59	59	59	**177**

The Government will strengthen critical ICT systems and spatial awareness infrastructure used by front-line staff of the Emergency Services Agency in the delivery of emergency services to the ACT community.

Capital: ($0.550m in 2020-21, offset by savings of $0.253m from current ESA projects)

The initiative will provide capital funding to replace and upgrade Government critical ICT systems and spatial awareness infrastructures. This amount is partially offset by savings in current ESA projects totalling $0.253m.

Further Information:

The major business needs that will be addressed through this initiative include the upgrading and replacing of telephony and voice recording systems for emergency response. The initiative will also allow for the implementation of the national Advanced Mobile Location (AML) technology to better identify the location of calls to E000.

Estimated Timing:

The delivery of these initiatives is expected to be delivered within the 2020-21 financial year.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: REC21/1275

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

MPES/HEALTH 2020-21 Delayed Budget Initiative – COVID-19 Public Health Response (HEA E01)

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Expenses – ACT Health Directorate	10,390	938	0	0	**11,328**
Expenses – Education Directorate	4,163	0	0	0	**4,163**
Expenses – Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate	2,809	0	0	0	**2,809**
Expenses – Justice and Community Safety Directorate	**2,434**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**2,434**
Expenses – Transport Canberra and City Services	1,071	0	0	0	**1,071**
Expenses – ACT Local Hospital Network	500	0	0	0	**500**
Expenses – Community Service Directorate	328	0	0	0	**328**
Expenses – Provision	0	16,593	0	0	**16,593**
Depreciation	0	12	12	12	**36**
Offset – Savings	-6,418	-5,336	0	0	**-11,754**
Total Expenses	**15,277**	**12,207**	**12**	**12**	**27,508**
Associated Revenue	-8,860	-6,858	0	0	**-15,718**
Associated Capital	118	0	0	0	**118**

The Government will continue the COVID-19 response through the next phase of the pandemic in the coming 12 months. This initiative will ensure a workforce is in place to respond to health emergency and public safety compliance requirements, as well as preparing the Territory for a future vaccine program.

Expenses: ($2.434m in 2020-21)

- $1.540m for ACT Policing Taskforce team to undertake compliance checking for residence self-quarantining and business checks and other reoccurring supplier costs; and
- $0.894m for ACT Policing static guarding relating to 6 flights.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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Further Information:

- The Public Health Emergency has been extended until 17 February 2021 by the Health Minister. Restrictions maybe eased or tightened depending on the nature of the Pandemic.
- The COVID Taskforce is effort over and above normal ACT Policing resourcing and resourcing drawn into the taskforce must be backfilled.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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ACT Government
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: REC21/1265

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

MPES/HEALTH 2020-21 Delayed Budget Initiative – Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service (HEA E04) (PACER ONLY)

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expenses:					
ACTAS	803	1,646	1,687	1,729	**5,865**
ACT Policing	623	1,277	1,309	1,342	**4,551**
Health	509	1,043	1,070	1,097	**3,714**
Offset – Health Funding Envelope	0	-3,965	-4,604	-4,166	**-12,735**
Net Expenses	**1,934**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**1,934**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**8**	**16**	**16**	**16**	

The Government will continue to deliver the COVID-19 Mental Health Support Package through to 30 June 2021. The Government will also provide ongoing funding for the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early response service.

JACS Budget statements only include funding for ACTAS and ACT Policing.

ACTAS Expense: ($5.865m over four years)

- ACTAS will receive funding to cover 5 FTE (4 FTE Paramedics and 1 FTE Team leader) for 6 months in 2020-21 and then ongoing funding in the future years.

ACT Policing Expense ($4.551m over four years)

- ACT policing will receive funding to cover 6 FTEs (4 FTE x Police officers, 1 FTE x Team leader Sergeant and 1 FTE x Operational Support Professional Staff) for 6 months in 2020-21 and then ongoing funding in the future years.

Further Information:

- The Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service is based on an integrated service model that brings together Police, paramedics, and mental health clinicians to support the safe assessment and treatment of people experiencing acute mental health episodes
- It is anticipated that there will be ongoing increase in demand for mental health services through the pandemic and recovery

Cleared as complete and accurate:	02/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: REC21/1254

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

MPES 2020-21 Delayed Budget Initiative – Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations (JACS E22)

Financial Impacts Summary	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Totals $'000
Expense Impacts[(a)]					
Expenses	1,452	797	0	0	**2,249**
Total Additional FTEs (number)	**0.96**	**1.15**	**0**	**0**	

The Government will undertake further investigations into the existence of poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) at eight current Emergency Service Agency sites and the site of the former Charnwood Fire Station, undertake work, health and safety works and prepare management and remediation plans as necessary. PFAS was a commonly used substance in firefighting foam in NSW and the ACT and was used for training purposes.

Expense: ($2.249m over two years)

- The funding will cover 0.96 FTEs in 2020-21 and 1.15 FTEs in 2021-22
- The remaining funding will be used for interim management plan and early remediation actions

Further Information:

- This initiative will undertake invasive testing and further investigation to determine the extent of PFAS contamination on and around the identified sites stated in the preliminary investigation.
- Procurement of urgent and unavoidable WHS measures will be prioritised for completion by early 2021. Scope for other priority investigations to be finalised and endorsed by relevant stakeholders in February 2021 with tendering and evaluation completed by April 2021.
- Completion of comprehensive assessment and report findings is expected to be delivered to all relevant stakeholders by December 2021.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: REC21/1260

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

MPES 2020-21 Delayed Budget Initiative – Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre (JACS CW 04)

	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	**Total $'000**
Capital	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP
Total Additional FTE	1.1	0.2	0	0	
Depreciation	0	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP
Associated Expenses	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP
Net Expenses	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP	NFP

The Government will relocate ACT Policing's Traffic Operations Centre from its current site at Belconnen to a suitable facility, which will better meet the business and operational needs of ACT Policing.

PLEASE NOTE THAT AMOUNTS RELATING TO THIS INITIATIVE WERE NOT PUBLISHED IN THE BUDGET STATEMENTS DUE TO THE RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH COMPROMISING LEASE NEGOTIATIONS. BUDGET STATEMENTS REFER TO THESE NUMBERS AS NFP (NOT FOR PUBLISHING).

Expenses: ($NFP)

This initiative will provide funding for ongoing lease costs including the 3 months pro-rata in 2020-21 year.

Capital: ($NFP)

The initiative will provide capital funding for the fit-out of the preferred leased site. This includes necessary security enhancements for an ACT policing facility, space for vehicle management and suitable office accommodation. This also includes funding for 1.3 FTEs from ACT Policing and JACS across two years:

- 2020-21 – 1 x ACT Policing for 6 months, 0.6 x SOGB for JACS; and
- 2021-22 – 0.2 x SOGB for JACS.

Further Information:

A scoping study has been completed and suggested to vacate and sell existing TOC site and enter a long-term lease elsewhere. Fit-out, associated building services and security works will need to be undertaken to fit the requirement of ACT Policing.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Estimated Timing:

The project is estimated to be physically completed in December 2021.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	03/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

JACS2021/143-002-008

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ACT Budget 2020-21 - Rollovers (MPES)

FMA Section 16B Rollovers (2018-19 to 2019-20)

Section 16b Rollovers

- **Attachment A** provides details of the Police and Emergency Services portfolio FMA s16b rollovers from 2018-19 to 2019-20 including reasons, amount rolled and revised completion dates.
- Directorate re-profiled $1.864m capital works funding, of which $0.205m directly related to your portfolio, $1.036 related to yours and other Ministers' portfolios for Better Infrastructure Fund (BIF) and $0.623m related to other JACS Ministers' portfolios.
- There was $0.515m for Territorial capital projects reprofiled out of 2018-19 with all relating to your portfolio.
- Directorate re-profiled $4.692m of recurrent funding (**Attachment B**), of which $1.133m directly related to your portfolio, $0.500m related to yours and other Ministers' portfolios for Workers' Compensation true-up and $3.059m related to other JACS Ministers' portfolios.

Background

- Section 16b of the Financial Management Act 1996 (FMA), 'Rollover of Undispersed Appropriation', allows, in certain circumstances, unspent appropriation to be rolled over to the following year by an instrument signed by the Treasurer.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	05/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

2020-21 Budget Rollovers

Reprofiling to and from future years

- **Attachment A (Capital projects)** provides details of revised funding profile by projects including reasons, amounts reprofiled and revised completion dates for capital works projects.
- Total of $42.621m for Departmental projects was reprofiled into 2021-22 ($13.332m out of 2019-20, $27.531m out of 2020-21, $0.673m out of 2022-23 and $1.085m out of 2023-24). Departmental capital reprofiling is summarised in the table below.

	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
Total JACS - Departmental	-13,332	-27,531	42,621	-673	-1,085
Attorney-General	-2,939	2,012	927	0	0
Minister for Corrections	-4,136	-31,885	34,683	1,338	0
Minister for Police and Emergency Services	-5,515	1,635	6,976	-2,011	-1,085
Human Rights	-293	258	35	0	0
BIF	-449	449	0	0	0

- The total of $2m for Territorial capital projects was reprofiled into 2021-22 ($1.832m out of 2019-20 and $0.168m out of 2020-21).
- **Attachment B (Recurrent projects)** provides details of revised funding profile by projects including reasons and amounts.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	05/02/2021	
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Attachment A: ACT Budget 2020-21 - Capital Rollovers (MPES)

CAPITAL ROLLOVERS	Reason for rollover	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000	Estimated physical completion
Approved s16B Rollover of Undisbursed Appropriation from 2018-19 to 2019-20							
Directorate							
Better support when it matters - More paramedics	The new ambulance vehicles are fully operational and the project is physically complete. The rollover is required to financially complete the project.	34					Jun-19
ESA Station Upgrade and Relocation — Phase 2 Due Diligence	The rollover was required due to delays in engaging a suitable contractor to complete the Hume Training Centre ACT Fire & Rescue transition facility, due to the specialist nature of the work. The project is expected to be physically complete by June 2022.	171					Jun-22
ESA Urban Search and Rescue and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Equipment Replacement	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. This is an ongoing program.	53					Ongoing
ESA Vehicle Replacement Program	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. This is an ongoing program.	74					Ongoing
More services for our suburbs - Enhancing Our Bushfire Preparedness	The rollover was required due to the need to undertake this work in the cooler months and delays in obtaining contractors who can undertake this specialised work. The project is expected to be physically completed by June 2021.	164					Jun-21
More services for our suburbs - Equipment upgrades for first responders	A rollover of $292,000 was required due to the timing of invoices for the new defibrillators. A rollover of $202,000 was required to complete the installation of the remaining six electric stretchers to be fitted into ambulances in the 2019-20 financial year. The project is physically complete.	494					Jun-20
More services for our suburbs - More paramedics and ambulances	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. The project is physically complete.	103					Aug-20
More services for our suburbs - New aerial pumper for ACT Fire and Rescue	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. The project is expected to be physically completed by June 2021.	16					Jun-21
Strengthening Emergency Services - Territory Radio Network upgrade - Phases 2 and 3	An under-estimation of re-profiling of funds from the 2019-20 financial year resulted in an overspend in the 2018-19 financial year. The over-spend at the project level was funded by available capital funds within the total JACS capital appropriation in 2018-19. The project is expected to be physically completed by March 2022.	-1,597					Mar-22
Upgrading ESA Communications Centre and Non-Emergency Patient Transport Facilities	The rollover was required due to a delay in obtaining critical hardware for the communications tower at the back-up ESA Communications Centre at Hume. This project is physically complete.	693					Jun-20
Total approved s16b Directorate capital rollover - MPES		**205**					
Territorial							
Better support when it matters — Enhanced security for ACT Policing	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. The project is physically completed and pending financial finalisation.	29					Sep-20
More services for our suburbs — Keeping Canberrans safe in public place	The rollover was required due to the timing of invoices. The project is expected to be physically completed by June 2021.	247					Jun-21
Better Infrastructure Fund	The rollover was required to financially complete the Tuggeranong Police Station Upgrade	239					Sep-19
Total approved s16b Territorial capital rollover - MPES		**515**					
Total approved s16b Directorate and Territorial capital rollover - MPES		**720**					
2020-21 Budget Rollovers - Reprofiling to and from future years							
Directorate							
Better support when it matters — More frontline firefighters - Second crew at Ainslie Station	The project was delayed as the project's scope was under negotiation with the United Firefighters Union (UFU), hence the rollover from 2019-20 to future years is required.	-270	70	200			Jun-22
Better support when it matters - More paramedics	Rollover was required to request for a fund re-direction to another existing capital project via FMA s14b in 2020-21. Subsequently, the funding re-direction to Emergency Services Agency critical ICT investment and Upgrading ESA communications centre and Non-Emergency Patient Transport facilities capital projects was approved as part of the 2020-21 delayed budget process.	-32	32				Jun-19
Boosting equipment for the ACT Emergency Services Agency	Rollover of $0.644m from 2020-21 forward to 2019-20 to make payment for the Aerial Appliance. A further rollover of $0.786m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 relates to timing in contract negotiation of the pumper.	644	-1,430	786			Jun-22
Emergency Services Agency Station Upgrade and Relocation — Aranda station	The project is physically complete. Rollover was required to finalise payment of invoices.	-177	177				Mar-20
ESA – Station Upgrade and Relocation — Phase 2 Due Diligence	Rollover of $0.089m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 and a further rollover of $0.164m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is to align the project with the overall delivery of the ESA Station Relocation and Upgrade program.	-89	-75	164			Jun-22
ESA Urban Search and Rescue and Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear Equipment Replacement	Rollover of $0.264m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 was required due to delays in the procurment process for the new detectors and equipment. A further rollover of $0.1m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is to continue investigations into appropriate respiratory protective devices for ACT Fire & Rescue.	-264	164	100			Ongoing

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Attachment A: ACT Budget 2020-21 - Capital Rollovers (MPES)

ESA Vehicle Replacement Program	Rollover of $2.827m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 was required due to delays in specification development and procurement as a result of an extended bushfire season and COVID-19. A further rollover of $1.096m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is to complete the body building component of the Baractric ambulance and 4WD ambulance. In addition, a total of $3.096m funding has been re-profiled from 2022-23 and 2023-24 to 2021-22 in order to to address a forecast funding shortfall for the ESA Vehicle Replacement Program, which protects ESA's emergency response capability through the timely replacement of aging response vehicles.	-2,827	1,731	4,192	-2,011	-1,085	Ongoing
More ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Construction of Acton Station	Consultation process with key internal and external stakeholders is underway, however there are delays resulting from negotiations with the UFU on the consultation process. Consultation with Unions, agreement and sign-off on design is critical to ensure timely delivery of the project within budget. This delay will impact on spend profile. The design consultants have been engaged. Other elements of the project have been brought forward and the procurement process for the F&R pumper is underway to mitigate the financial impact.		-500	500			Jun-24
More services for our suburbs - Enhancing our bushfire preparedness	Rollover was required to complete works and finalise invoice payments for Specialist Intelligence Gathering capability (SIG) technical equipment.	-127	127				Jun-21
More services for our suburbs - Equipment upgrades for first responders	Rollover was required to facilitate financial completion for the delivery of ambulances and installation of Electric Stretchers. The project is physically complete.	-473	473				Jun-20
More services for our suburbs - More paramedics and ambulances	The rollover was required due to project delays caused by equipment resourcing issues out of Asia. The project has been physically completed and is pending financial closure.	-370	370				Aug-20
More services for our suburbs - New aerial pumper for ACT Fire and Rescue	The rollover is require to pay final commissioning costs which will be incurred in 2020-21.	-323	323				Jun-21
New Stations for ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire & Rescue	A rollover of $0.597m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 is required to finalise invoice payments for the engagement of design contract. A further rollover of $0.120m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is required due to delays in due diligence for Molonglo station in line with delay to Acton station delivery.	-597	477	120			Jun-22
Strengthening bushfire preparedness	Procurement commenced in last quarter of 2019-20 with delivery and installation of equipment occurring in 2020-21. The rollover is required to undertake these activities.	-129	129				Jun-21
Strengthening Emergency Services - Territory Radio Network Upgrade - Phases 2 and 3	Rollover of $0.063m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 is required to cover radio perpherals and procurement of Mobile Data Terminal. A further rollover of $0.275m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is to recommence the roll out of mobiles into Rural Fire Service and State Emergency Service after bushfire season.	-63	-212	275			Mar-22
Upgrading ESA communications centre and Non-Emergency Patient Transport facilities	Rollover was required for ongoing work to finalise telecom and repeater. The project is physically complete.	-52	52				Jun-20
Upgrading the ACT State Emergency Service's Majura Unit facility	Rollover of $0.366m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 is required to undertake procurement of the design contract and engagement of contractor which took longer than anticipated. A further rollover of $0.639m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is due to delays and outcomes of Development Application (DA) and other factors that have impacted on the scope and timing of the project.	-366	-273	639			Jun-22
Total Directorate budget rollover - MPES		**-5,515**	**1,635**	**6,976**	**-2,011**	**-1,085**	
Territorial							
Better support when it matters — Enhanced security for ACT Policing	Rollover was required to finalise projects which were delayed due to COVID-19. The project is physically completed and pending financial finalisation.	-382	382				Sep-20
Boosting police for a growing city	Rollover was required to finalise invoice payment and CCTV cameras installation in 2020-21. The project is expected to be physically complete by June 2021.	-35	35				Jun-21
Delivering better facilities for ACT Policing	Rollover of $0.563m from 2019-20 to 2020-21 is required to progress projects which were delayed due to COVID-19 and to undertake review of around 100 work items along with Major Projects Canberra, ACT Policing and JACS to arrive at priorities and effective delivery planning. A further rollover of $2m from 2020-21 to 2021-22 is required to align with current cash flow forecast based on the work packages and schedule.	-563	-1,437	2,000			Jun-23
More services for our suburbs — Keeping Canberrans safe in public places	Rollover was required to progress project which was put on hold for a period of time due to project personnel assisting with Bushfire and hail incidents in the ACT in 2019-20.	-150	150				Jun-21
Upgrading ACT Policing facilities	Rollover was required to complete Winchester Police Centre lift upgrade which was delayed due to the timing of arrival of lift shipment from overseas (Lithuania).	-518	518				Jun-21
Better Infrastructure Fund	Projects physically complete. Rollover was required to finalise payment of invoices ($65k for Gungahlin Station Upgrade; $119k for City Police Station Bathroom Upgrades)	-184	184				Jun-20
Total Territorial budget rollover - MPES		**-1,832**	**-168**	**2,000**	**0**	**0**	
Total Directorate and Territorial budget rollover - MPES		**-7,347**	**1,467**	**8,976**	**-2,011**	**-1,085**	

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Attachment B: ACT Budget 2020-21 - Reprofiling (MPES) (Recurrent)

RECURRENT REPROFILING - DIRECTORATE	Reason for reprofiling	2019-20 $'000	2020-21 $'000	2021-22 $'000	2022-23 $'000	2023-24 $'000
Approved s16B Rollover of Undisbursed Appropriation from 2018-19 to 2019-20						
Better protective clothing for our firefighters	The procurement process to finalise tender documentation took longer than anticipated which resulted in the tender going out to market a lot later than expected.	1,133				
Workers' Compensation Acquittal	The rollover was required to enable payment of the 2018-19 true-up invoice which was accrued in 2018-19.	500				
Total approved s16b capital rollover - MPES		**1,633**	**0**	**0**	**0**	**0**
2020-21 Budget Reprofiling - Reprofiling to and from future years						
Commonwealth Grant — Traffic Signal UPS (Uninterrupted Power Supply) Upgrade	In order to upgrade the power supply, ACTEW needs to isolate the intersection so other traffic lights are not affected. ACTEW has experienced a four fold increase in isolation requests in all areas (residential, commercial, etc) this year and have a considerable backlog. This is a part of the Commonwealth funded grant of $2.088m (NDRP funding). This is a sub initiative of this overall funding.		-75	75		
Better protective equipment for ACT firefighters	Rollover of $2.266m was required from 2019-20 to 2020-21 due to delays in the procurement. A number of external factors have contributed to the delay including: change of the AUS/NZS standard during the procurement stage; availability of the Fire & Rescue uniform committee during industrial dispute and the bushfire season.	-2,266	2,266			
Gungahlin Joint Emergency Services Centre — Future Use	Rollover of $30k was required from 2019-20 to 2020-21 due to further consideratons of future use of JESC.	-30	30			
Commonwealth Grant — Natural Disaster Resilience Program	Funds will be expended in 2020-21 on projects identified as congruent with those already completed.	-85	85			
Commonwealth Grant — Prepared Communities National Partnership	The remaining funds in the Prepared Communities project is earmarked to operationalise the analysis provided by the Flood Study Information Portal (FSIP) in FY 2020-21.	-56	56			
Total budget reprofiling - MPES		**-2,437**	**2,362**	**75**	**0**	**0**

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET

JACS2021/143-002-009

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

2020-21 Budget Staffing FTE by Ministerial Portfolio – MPES

Justice and Community Safety Directorate Budget Initiatives related to Minister for Police and Emergency Services portfolio					
2020-21 Budget Initiatives	**2019-20**	**2020-21**	**2021-22**	**2022-23**	**2023-24**
	FTE	**FTE**	**FTE**	**FTE**	**FTE**
Recurrent					
ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Development and Construction of Acton Station		29.00	35.00	46.00	70.30
Economic Survival Package — Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER)		1.00			
Expanding the Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response (PACER) service [1]		2.50	5.00	5.00	5.00
Management and remediation of firefighting substances at Fire Stations		0.96	1.15		
Expenses on Behalf of the Territory					
Relocating ACT Policing's Traffic Operation Centre[2]		0.60	0.20		
Total Recurrent Initiatives (Excl. EBT)	**0.00**	**33.46**	**41.15**	**51.00**	**75.30**
Total Recurrent Initiatives (incl. EBT)	**0.00**	**34.06**	**41.35**	**51.00**	**75.30**
Capital					
ACT Fire & Rescue Staff and Development and Construction of Acton Station		1.90	1.90	0.90	
Total Capital Initiatives	**0.00**	**1.90**	**1.90**	**0.90**	**0.00**
Notes:					
1. Led by ACT Health, ongoing funding provided.					
2. Initiative to be managed by CWI for ACT Policing					

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: JACS2021/143-002-016

Portfolio/s: JACS Ministers

ISSUE: 2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Controlled

Talking points:

These notes refer to JACS Controlled Budget Statements (extracts of statements attached)

Significant variations are as follows:

Operating Statement

- Controlled recurrent payments:

  The increase of $12.099 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to new 2020-21 initiatives ($14.237 million), Commonwealth Grants ($6.320 million), net rollovers of projects ($2.861 million), impact of 2019-20 Budget review initiatives ($1.094 million) and the transfer of capital funding to recurrent for Courts Public Private Partnership (PPP) ($0.638 million), partially offset by the transfer of the transport regulation and safety policy function from the Justice and Community Safety (JACS) Directorate to Transport Canberra and City Services (TCCS) Directorate ($3.608 million), Shared Services changed funding model ($3.523 million), savings relating to Workers' compensation premium adjustment, COVID-19 Public Health Response and the Office of the Coordinator General for the Whole of Government (Non-Health Response to COVID-19) ($3.343 million), revised superannuation and indexation parameters ($1.954 million) and the transfer of More support for families and inclusion – Drug and Alcohol Court to Canberra Health Services (CHS) ($0.442 million).
- Sale of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers:

  Since publication of the 2019-20 Budget Statements, JACS has adopted Australian Accounting Standard AASB 15, 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers' which has resulted in renaming 'User Charges' to 'Sales of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers'. The significant variances are explained below:
  - the increase of $8.881 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to higher Helicopter charges ($4.7 million) associated with 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses and higher client funded legal services by the ACT Government Solicitor's Office in 2019-20; and
  - the decrease of $5.679 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to higher revenue in 2019-20 relating to

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Helicopter charges ($4.7 million) associated with 2019-20 bushfires emergency incident responses and other adjustments.

- Grants and Contributions:

  Since publication of the 2019-20 Budget Statements, JACS has adopted Australian Accounting Standard AASB 1058, 'Income of Not-for-Profit Entities' which has resulted in the reclassification of some revenue items from 'Resources Received Free of Charge' and 'Other Gains' to 'Grants and Contributions' and 'Gains from Disposal of Assets'. The significant variances are explained below:
  - the increase of $5.050 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the change of funding arrangement relating to the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD) receiving direct government funding for the provision of Shared Services Finance and Human Resources services in 2019-20 with the Directorate receiving these services as Resources Received Free of Charge ($4.001 million), and a one-off contribution of land and building in Hackett in 2019-20 from the CMTEDD and TCCS, to be used for the upgrade of the ACT State Emergency Services Majura facility ($0.452 million); and
  - the decrease of $0.786 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the one-off contribution of land and building in Hackett in 2019-20 from the CMTEDD and TCCS, to be used for the upgrade of the ACT State Emergency Services Majura facility ($0.452 million) and other adjustments.

- Other revenue: the increase of $1.811 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the recoveries for workers on short-term contracts under the Jobs for Canberrans Fund ($0.726 million) and higher revenue recoveries in the Emergency Services Agency (ESA) ($0.716 million).

- Employee expenses:
  - the increase of $22.387 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is primarily due to wage increases, additional staffing and higher overtime and allowance payments associated with the 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses; and
  - the decrease of $4.583 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the higher expenses in 2019-20 relating to wage increases, additional staffing and higher overtime and allowance payments associated with the 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses ($22.386 million), savings relating to Workers' Compensation Premium Adjustment (2.581 million) and the transfer of the transport regulation and safety policy function to TCCS ($1.5 million), partially offset by new initiatives ($10.696 million), the increase in estimates mainly relating to

high demand for legal services and other activities ($6.061 million), net impact from previous years initiatives ($3.679 million) and other adjustments.

- Supplies and services: the increase of $12.174 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to increase in various operating expenses associated with 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses.
- Depreciation and Amortisation:
  - the decrease of $10.378 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the rollovers of capital works projects to 2020-21 and delay in the construction of the new ACT Courts Facilities through a Public Private Partnership (PPP) contract (where Stage 2 was completed in early 2020).
- Grants and purchased services:
  - the decrease of $2.877 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the rollovers of the Justice Housing Program initiatives to 2020-21;
  - the increase of $6.173 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the National Legal Assistance Partnership and other Commonwealth Grants ($4.592 million), Disaster Risk Reduction Commonwealth Grants ($2.088 million) and rollovers of Commonwealth Grants to 2020-21 ($0.332 million), partially offset by reclassification of expenses to Supplies and Services for Justice Housing Program ($1.080 million).
- Borrowing costs:
  - the decrease of $2.286 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the delay in completion of ACT Courts Facilities PPP; and
  - the increase of $1.396 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the full year interest repayments for the ACT Courts Facilities PPP compared to 2019-20 which was part year impact only (due to Stage 2 being completed in early 2020).
- Other expenses: the decrease of $0.550 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget and similar increase of $0.722 million in the 2020-21 budget is mainly due to the lower impaired receivables associated with Ambulance Transport Services in 2019-20.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Balance Sheet

- Cash and Cash Equivalents: the increase of $10.940 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget and the decrease of $8.375 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome are mainly due higher cash holdings in 2019-20 to meet outstanding commitments as at 30 June 2020.
- Other Assets: the increase of $2.067 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to higher Emergency Services Agency related stock items such as uniforms, medical supplies and fire and rescue consumables in 2019-20.
- Property, Plant and Equipment: the increase of $11.608 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to new initiatives and rollovers of capital projects.
- Intangible Assets: the decrease of $21.606 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to realignment of the budget estimates closer to the actual asset profile.
- Capital Works in Progress: the decrease of $17.569 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to capital projects rollovers.

- Payables:
    - the increase of $6.129 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the higher accrued expenses associated with ACT Courts Facilities PPP ($3.810 million) and operating expenses relating to the 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses ($2.100 million); and
    - the decrease of $4.111 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to higher accrued expenses in 2019-20 associated with ACT Courts Facilities PPP and operating expenses relating to the 2019-20 bushfire emergency incident responses.
- Current and Non Current Lease Liabilities:
    - the decrease of $27.342 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the 2019-20 Budget including the impact of expected accommodation lease liability which was subsequently recognised by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (ACT Property Group) as a result of whole of Government Policy; and
    - the decrease of $2.417 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to the repayment of PPP liabilities.

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- Current and Non Current Employee Benefits:
    - the increase of $18.837 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to higher annual leave provision primarily driven by increased staffing level resulting in higher leave entitlements and the impact of wages increases; and
    - the decrease of $7.349 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to adjustments relating to backpay of employee benefits.
- Current and Non Current Other Provisions: the increase of $0.738 million the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the increases in provisions relating to make good of the Directorate's leased accommodation, removal and minor remediation associated with decommissioned fuel tanks and per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS).

Statement of Changes in Equity

- Capital injections:
    - the decrease of $10.616 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to rollovers of capital projects to future years; and
    - the increase of $7.790 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to new capital initiatives.

Cash Flow Statement

Variations in the Statement are explained in the notes above.

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Financial Statements

Table 29: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Operating Statement

2019-20 Budget $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Var %	2021-22 Estimate $'000	2022-23 Estimate $'000	2023-24 Estimate $'000
	Income						
	Revenue						
340,481	Controlled Recurrent Payments	346,923	359,022	3	359,972	366,268	375,645
16,725	Sale of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers	25,606	19,927	-22	17,545	18,025	18,522
413	Grants and Contributions	5,463	4,677	-14	4,627	4,733	4,840
12,878	Other Revenue	13,954	15,765	13	11,792	12,139	12,503
370,497	**Total Revenue**	**391,946**	**399,391**	**2**	**393,936**	**401,165**	**411,510**
	Gains						
0	Gains from Disposal of Assets	148	0	-100	0	0	0
0	**Total Gains**	**148**	**0**	**-100**	**0**	**0**	**0**
370,497	**Total Income**	**392,094**	**399,391**	**2**	**393,936**	**401,165**	**411,510**
	Expenses						
217,098	Employee Expenses	239,485	234,902	-2	233,597	237,266	244,082
32,969	Superannuation Expenses	32,503	34,715	7	34,304	35,545	36,022
95,036	Supplies and Services	107,210	106,410	-1	105,484	107,388	110,547
39,385	Depreciation and Amortisation	29,007	29,057	..	36,247	36,787	40,203
7,133	Grants and Purchased Services	4,256	10,429	145	7,860	8,550	8,737
13,478	Borrowing Costs	11,192	12,588	12	12,186	11,968	11,732
2,428	Other Expenses	1,878	2,600	38	2,458	2,462	2,466
407,527	**Total Expenses**	**425,531**	**430,701**	**1**	**432,136**	**439,966**	**453,789**
-37,030	**Operating Result**	**-33,437**	**-31,310**	**6**	**-38,200**	**-38,801**	**-42,279**
	Other Comprehensive Income						
0	Increase/(Decrease) in Asset Revaluation Surplus	-219	0	100	-600	-8,000	-13,550
0	**Total Other Comprehensive Income**	**-219**	**0**	**100**	**-600**	**-8,000**	**-13,550**
-37,030	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**-33,656**	**-31,310**	**7**	**-38,800**	**-46,801**	**-55,829**

Note(s):

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1. Since publication of the 2019-20 Budget Statements, JACS has adopted Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15, 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers', and AASB 1058, 'Income of Not-for-Profit Entities', from 1 July 2019. This has resulted in:

   a. the renaming of 'User Charges' to 'Sales of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers'; and

   b. the reclassification of some revenue items from 'Resources Received Free of Charge' and 'Other Gains' to 'Grants and Contributions' and 'Gains from Disposal of Assets'.

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Table 30: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Balance Sheet

Budget at 30/6/20 $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	Budget at 30/6/21 $'000	Var %	Estimate at 30/6/22 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/23 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/24 $'000
	Current Assets						
8,322	Cash and Cash Equivalents	19,262	10,887	-43	10,706	10,525	10,344
14,299	Receivables	13,912	12,948	-7	11,985	11,022	10,059
1,933	Other Assets	4,000	4,001	..	4,001	4,001	4,001
24,554	**Total Current Assets**	**37,174**	**27,836**	**-25**	**26,692**	**25,548**	**24,404**
	Non Current Assets						
530,142	Property, Plant and Equipment	533,502	545,110	2	596,936	575,229	534,356
30,780	Intangible Assets	9,174	9,774	7	10,092	7,499	4,285
27,459	Capital Works in Progress	27,935	10,366	-63	7,810	1,274	975
588,381	**Total Non Current Assets**	**570,611**	**565,250**	**-1**	**614,838**	**584,002**	**539,616**
612,935	**TOTAL ASSETS**	**607,785**	**593,086**	**-2**	**641,530**	**609,550**	**564,020**
	Current Liabilities						
6,074	Payables	12,203	8,092	-34	6,343	6,265	8,095
8,261	Lease Liabilities	3,346	3,548	6	3,598	3,499	3,368
85,089	Employee Benefits	101,435	94,322	-7	95,545	96,573	97,834
614	Other Provisions	1,037	700	-32	290	200	100
870	Contract Liabilities	1,648	1,495	-9	1,495	1,495	1,495
100,908	**Total Current Liabilities**	**119,669**	**108,157**	**-10**	**107,271**	**108,032**	**110,892**
	Non Current Liabilities						
177,161	Lease Liabilities	154,734	152,115	-2	151,368	152,631	154,338
1,335	Employee Benefits	3,826	3,590	-6	3,372	3,154	2,936
2,300	Other Provisions	2,615	2,614	..	2,615	1,616	540
180,796	**Non-Current Liabilities**	**161,175**	**158,319**	**-2**	**157,355**	**157,401**	**157,814**
281,704	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**	**280,844**	**266,476**	**-5**	**264,626**	**265,433**	**268,706**
331,231	**NET ASSETS**	**326,941**	**326,610**	**..**	**376,904**	**344,117**	**295,314**
	REPRESENTED BY FUNDS EMPLOYED						
267,528	Accumulated Funds	261,745	261,414	..	312,308	287,521	252,268
63,703	Asset Revaluation Surplus	65,196	65,196	-	64,596	56,596	43,046
331,231	**TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED**	**326,941**	**326,610**	**..**	**376,904**	**344,117**	**295,314**

Note(s):

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

1. Since publication of the 2019 20 Budget Statements, JACS has adopted Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15, 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers', and AASB 1058, 'Income of Not for Profit Entities', from 1 July 2019. This has resulted in reclassifing 'Other Liabilities' to 'Contract Liabilities'.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 31: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Statement of Changes in Equity

Budget at 30/6/20 $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	Budget at 30/6/21 $'000	Var %	Estimate at 30/6/22 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/23 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/24 $'000
	Opening Equity						
270,753	Opening Accumulated Funds	271,993	261,745	-4	261,414	312,308	287,521
63,703	Opening Asset Revaluation Reserve	65,415	65,196	..	65,196	64,596	56,596
334,456	**Balance at the Start of the Reporting Period**	**337,408**	**326,941**	**-3**	**326,610**	**376,904**	**344,117**
	Comprehensive Income						
-37,030	Operating Result - Including Economic Flows	-33,437	-31,310	6	-38,200	-38,801	-42,279
0	Inc/Dec in Asset Revaluation Reserve Surpluses	-219	0	100	-600	-8,000	-13,550
-37,030	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**-33,656**	**-31,310**	**7**	**-38,800**	**-46,801**	**-55,829**
0	**Total Movement in Reserves**	**0**	**0**	**-**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Transactions Involving Owners Affecting Accumulated Funds						
33,805	Capital Injections	23,189	30,979	34	89,094	14,014	7,026
33,805	**Total Transactions Involving Owners Affecting Accumulated Funds**	**23,189**	**30,979**	**34**	**89,094**	**14,014**	**7,026**
	Closing Equity						
267,528	Closing Accumulated Funds	261,745	261,414	..	312,308	287,521	252,268
63,703	Closing Asset Revaluation Reserve	65,196	65,196	-	64,596	56,596	43,046
331,231	**Balance at the end of the Reporting Period**	**326,941**	**326,610**	**..**	**376,904**	**344,117**	**295,314**

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Information Officer name:	Moira Crowhurst	
Contact Officer name:	Dean Browne	Ext:54013
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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ACT Government
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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 32: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Cash Flow Statement

2019-20 Budget $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Var %	2021-22 Estimate $'000	2022-23 Estimate $'000	2023-24 Estimate $'000
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
340,481	Controlled Recurrent Payments	346,923	359,022	3	359,972	366,268	375,645
15,193	Sale of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers	21,040	18,320	-13	15,938	16,418	16,915
0	Grants and Contributions	378	0	-100	0	0	0
26,959	Other	31,179	34,278	10	30,391	30,827	31,280
382,633	**Operating Receipts**	**399,520**	**411,620**	**3**	**406,301**	**413,513**	**423,840**
	Payments						
215,148	Employee	226,104	240,907	7	231,696	235,304	242,058
32,971	Superannuation	31,510	35,417	12	34,303	35,544	36,021
94,665	Supplies and Services	98,558	107,522	9	103,579	105,466	108,607
7,133	Grants and Purchased Services	4,256	10,429	145	7,860	8,550	8,737
13,569	Interest Expenses	11,208	12,817	14	12,415	12,197	11,961
15,571	Other	15,324	15,666	2	15,524	15,528	15,532
379,057	**Operating Payments**	**386,960**	**422,758**	**9**	**405,377**	**412,589**	**422,916**
3,576	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**	**12,560**	**-11,138**	**-189**	**924**	**924**	**924**
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
0	Proceeds from Sale of Property, Plant and Equipment	430	0	-100	0	0	0
0	**Investing Receipts**	**430**	**0**	**-100**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Payments						
26,236	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	22,754	24,203	6	86,437	14,268	7,418
7,569	Purchase of Land and Intangibles	311	3,612	#	3,362	451	313
33,805	**Investing Payments**	**23,065**	**27,815**	**21**	**89,799**	**14,719**	**7,731**
-33,805	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**	**-22,635**	**-27,815**	**-23**	**-89,799**	**-14,719**	**-7,731**

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 32: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Cash Flow Statement (continued)

2019-20 Budget $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Var %	2021-22 Estimate $'000	2022-23 Estimate $'000	2023-24 Estimate $'000
	CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
33,805	Capital Injections	23,189	30,979	34	89,094	14,014	7,026
33,805	**Financing Receipts**	**23,189**	**30,979**	**34**	**89,094**	**14,014**	**7,026**
	Payments						
4,731	Repayment of Lease Liabilities - Principal	5,877	400	-93	400	400	400
4,731	**Financing Payments**	**5,877**	**400**	**-93**	**400**	**400**	**400**
29,074	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**	**17,312**	**30,579**	**77**	**88,694**	**13,614**	**6,626**
-1,155	**NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**	**7,237**	**-8,374**	**-216**	**-181**	**-181**	**-181**
9,477	**CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD**	**12,025**	**19,261**	**60**	**10,887**	**10,706**	**10,525**
8,322	**CASH AT THE END OF REPORTING PERIOD**	**19,262**	**10,887**	**-43**	**10,706**	**10,525**	**10,344**

Note(s):

1. Since publication of the 2019-20 Budget Statements, JACS has adopted Australian Accounting Standards AASB 15, 'Revenue from Contracts with Customers', and AASB 1058, 'Income of Not-for-Profit Entities', from 1 July 2019. This has resulted in:

   a. the renaming of 'User Charges' to 'Sales of Goods and Services from Contracts with Customers'; and

   b. the reclassification of some revenue items from 'Resources Received Free of Charge' and 'Other Gains' to 'Grants and Contributions' and 'Gains from Disposal of Assets'.

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: JACS2021/143-002-015

Portfolio/s: JACS Ministers

ISSUE: 2019-20 Audited Outcome & 2020-21 Budget Variance - Territorial

Talking points:

These notes refer to the Territorial Budget Statements (extract of statements attached)

Significant variations are as follows:

Statement of Income and Expenses on behalf of the Territory

- Payment for expenses on behalf of the Territory: the increase of $13.959 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to new budget initiatives, net impact of prior years' initiatives and other adjustments.
- Taxes, fees and fines: the increase of $0.563 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to lower than expected court imposed fines in 2019-20.
- Other revenue: the increase of $0.641 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome compared to 2019-20 budget and a similar decrease of $0.656 million in the 2020-21 budget is mainly due to higher insurance recoveries for legal matters in 2019-20.
- Supplies and services: the increase of $11.777 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to higher payments to the Australian Federal Police relating to additional ACT Policing initiatives.
- Grants and purchased services:
    - the increase of $2.239 million in 2019-20 audited outcome from 2019-20 budget is mainly due to emergency relief funding provided to clubs under the COVID-19 Economic package.
    - the increase of $1.608 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to additional funding for continuing the Gaming Machine Authorisation Surrender Incentive.

Statement of Assets and Liabilities on Behalf of the Territory

- Capital works in progress:
    - the increase of $2.859 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to increase in works in progress for ACT Policing facilities.

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- the increase of $3.698 million in the 2020-21 budget from the 2019-20 audited outcome is mainly due to new budget initiative, net capital reprofiling and other adjustments.

- Property, plant and equipment: the decrease of $4.190 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome from the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to delays in completion of capital projects.

- Payables: the increase of $1.101 million in the 2019-20 audited outcome compared to the 2019-20 budget is mainly due to the increase in accruals relating to Redress Program and Territorial legal expenses and ACT Policing facilities capital works.

Statement of Cash Flows on Behalf of the Territory

Variations in the Statement are explained in the notes above.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 33: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Statement of Income and Expenses on behalf of the Territory

2019-20 Budget $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Var %	2021-22 Estimate $'000	2022-23 Estimate $'000	2023-24 Estimate $'000
	Revenue						
189,329	Payment for Expenses on Behalf of the Territory	190,873	204,832	7	204,013	204,516	204,644
6,249	Taxes, Licences, Fees and Fines	5,963	6,526	9	6,689	6,681	6,889
2,682	Other Revenue	3,323	2,668	-20	2,667	2,673	2,753
198,260	**Total Revenue**	**200,159**	**214,026**	**7**	**213,369**	**213,870**	**214,286**
198,260	**Total Income**	**200,159**	**214,026**	**7**	**213,369**	**213,870**	**214,286**
	Expenses						
1,600	Employee Expenses	1,586	1,621	2	1,642	1,663	1,685
179,025	Supplies and Services	178,887	190,664	7	193,497	194,981	195,008
3,122	Depreciation and Amortisation	3,147	3,162	..	3,610	3,969	3,532
8,696	Grants and Purchased Services	10,935	12,543	15	8,870	7,868	7,947
514	Other Expenses	377	518	37	518	518	518
8,425	Transfer Expenses	8,393	8,680	3	8,842	8,840	9,128
201,382	**Total Expenses**	**203,325**	**217,188**	**7**	**216,979**	**217,839**	**217,818**
-3,122	**Operating Result**	**-3,166**	**-3,162**	**..**	**-3,610**	**-3,969**	**-3,532**
-3,122	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**-3,166**	**-3,162**	**..**	**-3,610**	**-3,969**	**-3,532**

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 34: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Statement of Assets and Liabilities on behalf of the Territory

Budget at 30/6/20 $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	Budget at 30/6/21 $'000	Var %	Estimate at 30/6/22 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/23 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/24 $'000
	Current Assets						
411	Cash and Cash Equivalents	699	699	-	699	699	699
4,702	Receivables	4,931	4,931	-	4,931	4,931	4,931
5,454	**Total Current Assets**	**5,630**	**5,630**	**-**	**5,630**	**5,630**	**5,630**
	Non Current Assets						
78,300	Property, Plant and Equipment	74,110	74,189	..	80,901	76,631	72,580
341	Capital Works in Progress	3,200	6,898	-116	5,347	6,179	7,011
78,300	**Total Non Current Assets**	**77,310**	**81,087**	**-5**	**86.248**	**82,810**	**79,591**
83,754	**TOTAL ASSETS**	**82,940**	**86,717**	**-5**	**91,878**	**88,440**	**85,221**
	Current Liabilities						
4,278	Payables	5,379	5,379	-	5,379	5,379	5,379
0	Interest-Bearing Liabilities	54	54	-	54	54	54
10	Employee Benefits	21	20	-5	20	20	20
306	Other Provisions	175	175	-	175	175	175
4,594	**Total Current Liabilities**	**5,629**	**5,628**	**..**	**5,628**	**5,628**	**5,628**
	Non Current Liabilities						
0	Interest-Bearing Liabilities	262	261	..	261	261	261
0	**Non-Current Liabilities**	**262**	**261**	**..**	**261**	**261**	**261**
4,594	**TOTAL LIABILITIES**	**5,891**	**5,889**	**..**	**5,889**	**5,889**	**5,889**
79,160	**NET ASSETS**	**77,049**	**80,828**	**5**	**85,989**	**82,551**	**79,332**
	REPRESENTED BY FUNDS EMPLOYED						
48,704	Accumulated Funds	46,592	50,372	8	55,533	52,095	48,876
30,456	Asset Revaluation Surplus	30,457	30,456	..	30,456	30,456	30,456
79,160	**TOTAL FUNDS EMPLOYED**	**77,049**	**80,828**	**5**	**85,989**	**82,551**	**79,332**

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 35: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Statement of Changes in Equity on behalf of the Territory

Budget at 30/6/20 $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	Budget at 30/6/21 $'000	Var %	Estimate at 30/6/22 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/23 $'000	Estimate at 30/6/24 $'000
	Opening Equity						
48,569	Opening Accumulated Funds	47,728	46,592	-2	50,372	55,533	52,095
30,456	Opening Asset Revaluation Reserve	30,457	30,457	-	30,456	30,456	30,456
79,025	**Balance at the Start of the Reporting Period**	**78,185**	**77,049**	**-1**	**80,828**	**85,989**	**82,551**
	Comprehensive Income						
-3,122	Operating Result - Including Economic Flows	-3,166	-3,162	..	-3,610	-3,969	-3,532
-3,122	**Total Comprehensive Income**	**-3,166**	**-3,162**	**..**	**-3,610**	**-3,969**	**-3,532**
0	**Total Movement in Reserves**	**0**	**0**	**-**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	Transactions Involving Owners Affecting Accumulated Funds						
3,257	Capital Injections	2,030	6,938	242	8,771	531	313
3,257	**Total Transactions Involving Owners Affecting Accumulated Funds**	**2,030**	**6,938**	**242**	**8,771**	**531**	**313**
	Closing Equity						
48,704	Closing Accumulated Funds	46,592	50,372	8	55,533	52,095	48,876
30,456	Closing Asset Revaluation Reserve	30,457	30,456	..	30,456	30,456	30,456
79,160	**Balance at the end of the Reporting Period**	**77,049**	**80,828**	**5**	**85,989**	**82,551**	**79,332**

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

Table 36: Justice and Community Safety Directorate: Cash Flow Statement on behalf of the Territory

2019-20 Budget $'000		2019-20 Audited Outcome $'000	2020-21 Budget $'000	Var %	2021-22 Estimate $'000	2022-23 Estimate $'000	2023-24 Estimate $'000
	CASH FLOWS FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
189,329	Payment for Expenses on Behalf of the Territory	190,873	204,832	7	204,013	204,516	204,644
6,049	Taxes and Fines	5,418	6,326	17	6,489	6,481	6,689
3,256	Other	3,771	3,242	-14	3,241	3,247	3,327
198,634	**Operating Receipts**	**200,062**	**214,400**	**7**	**213,743**	**214,244**	**214,660**
	Payments						
1,600	Employee	1,576	1,621	3	1,642	1,663	1,685
179,025	Supplies and Services	178,657	190,664	7	193,497	194,981	195,008
8,696	Grants and Purchased Services	10,935	12,543	15	8,870	7,868	7,947
8,739	Transfer of Territory Receipts to the ACT Government	8,340	8,994	8	9,156	9,154	9,442
574	Other	35	578	#	578	578	578
198,634	**Operating Payments**	**199,543**	**214,400**	**7**	**213,743**	**214,244**	**214,660**
0	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM OPERATING ACTIVITIES**	**519**	**0**	**-100**	**0**	**0**	**0**
	CASH FLOWS FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES						
	Payments						
3,257	Purchase of Property, Plant and Equipment	2,842	6,938	144	8,771	531	313
3,257	**Investing Payments**	**2,842**	**6,938**	**144**	**8,771**	**531**	**313**
-3,257	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM INVESTING ACTIVITIES**	**-2,842**	**-6,938**	**-144**	**-8,771**	**-531**	**-313**
	CASH FLOWS FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES						
	Receipts						
3,257	Capital Injections	2,030	6,938	242	8,771	531	313
0	Proceeds from Borrowings	961	0	-100	0	0	0
3,257	**Financing Receipts**	**2,991**	**6,938**	**132**	**8,771**	**531**	**313**
0	Repayment of Borrowings	634	0	-100	0	0	0
3,257	**NET CASH INFLOW/(OUTFLOW) FROM FINANCING ACTIVITIES**	**2,357**	**6,938**	**194**	**8,771**	**531**	**313**
0	**NET INCREASE/(DECREASE) IN CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS**	**34**	**0**	**-100**	**0**	**0**	**0**

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411	**CASH AT THE BEGINNING OF REPORTING PERIOD**	**665**	**699**	**5**	**699**	**699**	**699**
411	**CASH AT THE END OF REPORTING PERIOD**	**699**	**699**	**-**	**699**	**699**	**699**

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2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: JACS2021/143-002-024

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2020-21 STRATEGIC AND ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS
OUTPUT 4.1 EMERGENCY SERVICES
Strategic Objective

Safe Community — Emergency Services

Table 4: Strategic Indicator 3: Emergency Related Community Safety

Success	Strategic Indicator	2019-20 Targets	2019-20 Actuals	2020-21 Targets
Increased community resilience for emergencies	Percentage of planned community engagement and awareness events conducted	90%	91%	90%
	Percentage of leaseholders within the Bushfire Abatement Zone with a Farm Fire-wise Plan	100%	93%	100%
	Number of sub-plans to the ACT Emergency Plan reviewed	6	4	6
	ACT Public Information Coordination Centre for ESA lead emergency response – number of exercises conducted	2	2	2
	Percentage of Emergency alerts, updates and warnings to the ACT community through the use of the SPOT System	100%	100%	100%
	Maintain or increase volunteer levels. Percentage change in levels	1%	+7.01%	1%
Reduced loss of life and loss/damage to property	Percentage of structure fires confined to room of origin	80%	65%	80%
	Percentage of 132 500 storm and flood callouts acknowledged within 24 hours	95%	100%	95%
Reduced impact on the environment from bushfires	Percentage of bushfires kept below five hectares within the ACT	100%	96%	100%

Historical performance trends of these Strategic Indictors can be found in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate's 2019-20 Annual Report.

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Accountability Indicators

Output 4.1: Emergency Services

Table 23: Accountability Indicators Output 4.1

.	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 YTD Targets	2020-21 YTD Result	Variance (%)
Prevention and Preparedness				
a. Desktop audit of ACT Government Directorate Bushfire Operational Plans activities [a]	n/a	n/a	n/a	
b. Field assessment of Access Management Upgrades and Hazard Reduction burns conducted in accordance with Bushfire Operational Plans of ACT Government Directorates [1]	100%	100%	n/a	
c. Percentage of ESA staff who have completed accredited training in AIIMS [b]	70%	70%	76%	9
Response and Recovery				
d. Structure Fire incidents responded to within target [c]	90%	90%	93%	3
e. Road Rescue incidents responded to within target [d]	90%	90%	93%	3
f. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 50th percentile (minutes) [e]	8	8	8.75	9
g. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 90th percentile (minutes) [e]	15	15	14.26	(5)
h. Percentage of Patient Transport Service 'fixed booking' attended by booked time[2];	65%	65%	75%	15
i. Total cost per head of population [f]	$394.86	$390.06	$391.39	(1)
Total Cost ($'000)	173,994	88,135	84,364	(4)
Controlled Recurrent Payments ($'000)	146,193	72,354	72,354	-

The above Accountability Indicators should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators:

a. This indicator is discontinued in 2020-21 as it is not reflective of the actual performance of the Rural Fire Services (RFS) but rather performing audits of ACT Government directorates' commitments under the Bushfire Operational Plans.
b. AIIMS – Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System. This accountability indicator captures training provided to Emergency Services Agency (ESA) staff only on the AIIMS system.
c. Target refers to the response to structure fires within 10 minutes.
d. Target refers to the response to road rescues within 13 minutes.
e. Priority 1 records that are incomplete due to operator or system errors, or where incidents are outside the ACT, or where the priority rating has been changed, are excluded.

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f. The 2020-21 original target is based on an estimated population of 440,643 estimated according to the most recent population projections for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) by ACT Treasury (ACT Population Projects 2018-2058: Table 1 - Summary, 2017-2058).

Table 23: Accountability Indicators Output 4.1 (Continued)

Note(s):

1. ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) have not been notified of any access management upgrades or hazard reduction burns completed in accordance with an approved Bushfire Operational Plans in the first half of 2020-21 financial year. Therefore, no field assessments have been conducted and the result of this indicator is Not Applicable.
2. The higher than target outcome is a result of improved booking procedures, with a focus on avoiding conflicts in booking time.

ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

2020-21 BUDGET DAY BRIEF

TRIM: JACS2021/143-002-025

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2020-21 STRATEGIC AND ACCOUNTABILITY INDICATORS STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE 2 – CRIME RELATED COMMUNITY SAFETY

Safe Community

An effective criminal justice system underpins the safety of the community. Although neither the Directorate nor the ACT Government can control all of the factors that impact on community safety, effectiveness can be measured by examining the level of crime against people and property and whether the justice system deals with offenders in a way that reduces the risk of further offending.

Table 3: Strategic Indicator 2: Crime Related Community Safety

Success	Strategic Indicator	2019-20 Targets	2019-20 Actuals	2020-21 Targets
Reduction in level of crime	Number of known and reported criminal offences:			
	- against the person per 100,000 population [1]	682	826	<800
	- against property per 100,000 population [2]	4,875	4,163.1	<4,875
Perceptions of safety	The proportion of people who felt 'safe' or 'very safe': [a]			
	- at home by themselves during the night	=> 89%	92.3%	=>89%
	- walking by themselves in their neighbourhood during the night	=> 54.3%	54.2%	=> 54.3%
	- by themselves travelling on public transport during the night [3]	31.1%	41.3%	n/a

Historical performance trends of these Strategic Indictors can be found in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate's 2019-20 Annual Report.

Explanation of Strategic Indicators:

a. Perceptions of safety indicators are drawn from the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing, a self-reporting survey conducted by the Social Research Centre. The sample size and landline-based methodology may limit how representative the results are of the ACT population as a whole.

Note(s):

1. The target has been amended in 2020-21 to align with ACT Policing's performance measure target outlined in the Purchase Agreement 2017-21. National and local initiatives over recent years have resulted in an expected increase in reporting domestic and family violence related incidents.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	04/02/2021	
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Information Officer name:	Moira Crowhurst	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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2. ACT Government and ACT Policing have undertaken a range of targeted activities aimed and keeping property crime rates low under the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020*.
3. This indicator is discontinued in 2020-21 as this target has been consistently met and is no longer an indicator that drives JACS performance. ACT results against the national average will continue to be reported and monitored in the Report on Government Services.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	04/02/2021	
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ACT Government
Justice and Community Safety

MICK GENTLEMAN MLA
MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES
QUESTION TIME BRIEFS PACK
30-31 MARCH 2021

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2.	Half Yearly Statement of Performance
3.	Wellbeing and support for frontline emergency responders
4.	Assaults on police and frontline community service providers
5.	Serious and Organised crime response
6.	OMCG incidents
7.	Safety of Women in our Community
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18.	Bushfire Royal Commission Response (NEW)
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Justice and Community Safety

21.	Bushfire Council FOI
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-017

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: **ACT Policing Preparedness and Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic**

Talking points:

- ACT Policing is committed to the safety of our community and will continue to support Canberrans during the current COVID-19 situation. ACT Policing members remain visible and mobile on our roads and in the community.
- ACT Policing's workforce is flexible and adaptable to emergency situations. Police members are trained and extremely competent in responding and operating in rapidly changing environments.
- ACT Policing has an established COVID-19 Taskforce which continues to ensure its frontline resources remain well positioned and able to continue to provide a 24/7 policing response to the community.
- As of 22 March 2021 ACT Policing have conducted 23,008 compliance checks in total.
- Border compliance checks were conducted between 22 December 2020 and 3 January 2021. Roadside border checks were conducted on a total of 8678 vehicles entering the ACT.
- Should a breach be identified, police have a discretion in how to deal with the matter, however an educational approach is always considered in the first instance. If there is an intentional non-compliance, the person involved can expect enforcement action.
- ACT Policing is working collaboratively with ACT Health in relation to the compliance and enforcement of directions under the Public Health Act 1997 (ACT) for COVID-19 measures.
- ACT Policing's Covid Compliance Team has utilised the interactions they have with the community as an opportunity to educate the public on social distancing and compliance measures.
- ACT Policing will support ACT Health in a monitoring, compliance and enforcement role of the Health Direction by returning travelers to Australia who will be quarantining in an ACT hotel.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/11/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-017	

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- ACT Policing has received a number of reports of non-compliance, all of which have been managed with ACT Health who remain the lead agency in response to COVID-19.
- The ACT's existing criminal laws provide a suite of offences. This means the Territory is prepared with the measures needed to ensure people who threaten or harm others with the spread of COVID-19 can be charged.
- Police have made it clear to the community that threats involving COVID-19 and spitting or coughing on emergency workers could end in serious penalties, including jail.
- ACT Policing is also continuing to work with Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach in providing support to victims of family violence during the current situation.

Possible breach of Public Health Directions by visitors to Parliament House

- ACT Policing commenced enquiries regarding a possible breach of the Public Health Directions by a group from Cumberland LGA in the last week of January. This matter has been referred to NSW Police for follow up.
- ACT Health has advised that the risk to the public as a result of this potential breach is low.
- Fines or official cautions may be issued by police to anyone that does not comply with current Public Health Directions.

ACT Policing Health and Welfare

- ACT Policing COVID-19 taskforce is continuing to ensure that ACT Policing officers have Personal Protection Equipment (PPE), such as hand sanitiser, gloves, protective eyewear and P2/N95 masks readily available as required.
- ACT Policing introduced a COVID-19 app available on all members' UOC phones so important operational and safety information is easily accessible.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/11/2020	
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Contact Officer name:	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:		
TRIM Ref:		

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- ACT Policing's Covid Compliance Team have developed a system of checking those in quarantine or self-isolation which keeps officers safe and doesn't expose them to the virus.
    - In the case of those in self-isolation, a spot-check consists of police phoning to advise they are at the location, and asking those in the house to identify themselves and physically produce identification, such as a driver's licence, usually from a window.
- ACT Policing's Welfare Network and the COVID-19 Taskforce continue to work together to provide welfare and support mechanisms to members, address any concerns and clarify processes in regards to possible COVID-19 exposure.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-017	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-051

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services
Corrections

Half Yearly Statement of Performance

Accountability Indicators

Output 4.1: Emergency Services

Table 23: Accountability Indicators Output 4.1

	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 YTD Targets	2020-21 YTD Result	Variance (%)
Prevention and Preparedness				
a. Desktop audit of ACT Government Directorate Bushfire Operational Plans activities [a]	n/a	n/a	n/a	
b. Field assessment of Access Management Upgrades and Hazard Reduction burns conducted in accordance with Bushfire Operational Plans of ACT Government Directorates [1]	100%	100%	n/a	
c. Percentage of ESA staff who have completed accredited training in AIIMS [b]	70%	70%	76%	9
Response and Recovery				
d. Structure Fire incidents responded to within target [c]	90%	90%	93%	3
e. Road Rescue incidents responded to within target [d]	90%	90%	93%	3
f. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 50th percentile (minutes) [e]	8	8	8.75	9
g. Ambulance priority 1 - Incident Response Time 90th percentile (minutes) [e]	15	15	14.26	(5)
h. Percentage of Patient Transport Service 'fixed booking' attended by booked time[2];	65%	65%	75%	15
i. Total cost per head of population [f]	$394.86	$390.06	$391.39	(1)
Total Cost ($'000)	173,994	88,135	84,364	(4)
Controlled Recurrent Payments ($'000)	146,193	72,354	72,354	-

The above Accountability Indicators should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators:

a. This indicator is discontinued in 2020-21 as it is not reflective of the actual performance of the Rural Fire Services (RFS) but rather performing audits of ACT Government directorates' commitments under the Bushfire Operational Plans.

b. AIIMS – Australasian Inter-Service Incident Management System. This accountability indicator captures training provided to Emergency Services Agency (ESA) staff only on the AIIMS system.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/03/2021	
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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-051	

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c. Target refers to the response to structure fires within 10 minutes.
d. Target refers to the response to road rescues within 13 minutes.
e. Priority 1 records that are incomplete due to operator or system errors, or where incidents are outside the ACT, or where the priority rating has been changed, are excluded.
f. The 2020-21 original target is based on an estimated population of 440,643 estimated according to the most recent population projections for the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) by ACT Treasury (ACT Population Projects 2018-2058: Table 1 - Summary, 2017-2058).

Note(s):

1. ACT Rural Fire Service (RFS) have not been notified of any access management upgrades or hazard reduction burns completed in accordance with an approved Bushfire Operational Plans in the first half of 2020-21 financial year. Therefore, no field assessments have been conducted and the result of this indicator is Not Applicable.
2. The higher than target outcome is a result of improved booking procedures, with a focus on avoiding conflicts in booking time.

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Accountability Indicator

Output 2.1: Corrective Services

Table 21: Accountability Indicators Output 2.1

	2020-21 Targets	2020-21 YTD Targets	2020-21 YTD Result	Variance (%)
a. Completion rates of Community Corrections Orders:				
- The proportion of Community Corrections supervision orders successfully completed within the counting period	68%	68%	73%	7
- The proportion of Community Corrections reparation orders successfully completed within the counting period [1]	60%	60%	38%	(37)
b. Average cost per detainee per day for all detainees [a]	$354	$354	$359	1
c. Average cost per day for community based offenders [2]	$39	$39	$44	13
Total Cost ($'000) [3]	92,831	49,928	45,164	(10)
Controlled Recurrent Payments ($'000)	84,377	44,312	44,312	-

The above Accountability Indicators should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators:

a. The 2020-21 target for this indicator was revised up from $310 to $354. The increase to this target reflects the projected population for 2020-21; the actual results for the first two quarters and the projected result for the last two quarters of 2020-21.

Note(s):

1. Reduced successful completion of Community Services Work orders (reparation orders) during this period reflects an increase of offenders who have not completed their community service hours within the court ordered period.
2. The average daily cost per offender has increased due to a decrease in offender numbers in the same period from 1278 in 2019-20 to 1073 in 2020-21.
3. There have been delays in the full implementation of the Justice Housing Program and general repairs and maintenance orders.

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TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-051	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-018

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: WELLBEING AND SUPPORT FOR FRONTLINE EMERGENCY RESPONDERS

Talking points:

- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. It is important that they are aware of available support services, and that they know we fully support them in minimising exposure to stressors, and in recovering from any ill effects experienced in their line of work.

ACT Emergency Services Agency

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its volunteers and staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community.
- The ESA has a Director – Welfare Programs, which is a full-time senior manager position. Their role and responsibility is to work across the ESA to develop welfare and wellbeing initiatives.
- In addition to delivering initiatives internally, the Director – Welfare Programs is also a member of the Council of Ambulances Australia (CAA) Mental Health and Wellbeing Working Group, and the Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council (AFAC) Mental Health and Wellbeing Network. This allows the ESA to work collaboratively in sharing resources and developing partnerships with our interstate colleagues.
- Mental health training packages are available for all ESA volunteers and staff, to ensure that we are providing education that will increase the resilience of our workforce. The ESA is currently delivering an advanced program for the ACT Ambulance Service which provides personnel with a psychological first aid framework to support staff when they have been exposed to a potentially traumatic event.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	15/03/2021	
Cleared for public release by:	Commissioner	Ext:
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-018	

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- This program is modelled on the Victorian Ambulance MANERS Psychological First Aid training. The ESA also arranges Mental Health First Aid courses, which provides education and information on the mental health conditions and disorders that people face in their community and workplace.
- The ESA has made a concerted effort to increase the number of Peer Support Officers that are trained and available across the ESA. Peer Support Officers are volunteers or staff in their respective service who offer early intervention and peer support to personnel. Assistance can be requested by the individual or through a notification process by their manager or service. All four services now have a Peer Support Program, which is a first in the ESA.
- The ESA has three volunteer Chaplains to provide support across the whole of the ESA.
- In addition, the ESA maintains relationships with not-for-profit organisations such as Beyondblue and Soldier On. These organisations provide opportunities for collaboration and wellbeing service provision, such as yoga, counselling, and social activities where staff can engage.
- The ESA has also committed to providing its personnel with access to the Road to Mental Readiness Courses through Lifeline. In addition, the Australian Defence Force has offered the ESA two places on the Arts for Recovery, Resilience, Teamwork and Skills (ARRTS) Program each year. The program assists personnel to address wellbeing issues, individual recovery, and improve confidence and resilience through the medium of arts.
- The ESA also works closely with Fortem Australia. Fortem is an evidence-based community support organisation that offers Australia's national security officials and first responders (working as employees or volunteers) with comprehensive and integrated wellbeing support. The ESA Commissioner, Ms Georgeina Whelan, is a board member of Fortem.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

ACT Policing

- ACT Policing recognises the stress factors of community policing, and is dedicated to early intervention and support strategies for all ACT Policing members.
- ACT Policing members are routinely exposed to traumatic events in the course of their duties such as attending suicides, fatal motor vehicle accidents, family violence incidents and serious assaults.
- Research has indicated cumulative exposure to traumatic incidents has the potential to increase the risk factors for psychological injury.
- The operational requirement to work a rotating roster of day and night shifts also has an impact on the mental wellbeing of members.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing Welfare Officer roles. These Welfare Officers provide support to members for a range of matters including critical incidents, work-place matters, personal matters, and as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7.
- Through the ACT Government's funding for ACT Policing's transition to a new model of police service, ACT Policing now has two dedicated psychologists who provide a proactive and response support service to ACT Policing members.
- All AFP members also have 24/7 access to a clinician from the AFP Psychological Services team, as well as the AFP Chaplaincy Network.
- ACT Policing is listening and acting on health advice, and strengthening measures to help protect ACT Policing members as well as the community from COVID-19.
- As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, the AFP is providing additional welfare support to members who are self-isolating due to COVID-19.
- In 2017, Australian Federal Police (AFP) Organisational Health commenced a project aimed at reducing the psychological impact of traumatic exposure within the AFP.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- An AFP project team conducted a review of the 'early intervention wellbeing support system' implemented by Victoria Police and developed an equivalent AFP wellbeing program which is currently under evaluation.
- In August 2018, AFP Organisational Health commenced this pilot wellbeing program with a number of ACT Policing teams. The program encourages members to seek early assistance with support from supervisors.
- This program is anticipated to assist in facilitating early intervention and support for ACT Policing members where required. The pilot is currently under evaluation and these results will determine appropriate future action.
- Additional resources available to ACT Policing members include a Fitness app and the 'equipt' wellbeing app.
- In 2019, the AFP committed to providing access to the Road2 Mental Readiness courses through Lifeline. These courses were launched in February 2019 and though currently on hold due to Covid restrictions, will be open to ACT Policing members for at least the next two years.
- This is an Australian-first partnership and the program will equip officers with coping strategies and tools to encourage them to address mental health concerns earlier. The program originated with Canadian armed forces before being expanded to first responders with great success ofer 10 years of operation.
- As at 31 December 2019, a total of 238 ACT Policing employees have completed the Road 2 Mental Readiness training since it was launched.
- First responders that have participated in the program have shown an increase in resiliency skills, a decrease in stigmatising attitudes and an increase in mental health wellbeing.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-019

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ASSAULTS ON POLICE AND FRONTLINE COMMUNITY SERVICE PROVIDERS

Talking points:

- Police and frontline community service providers are regularly exposed to a risk of assault and injury as an unfortunate reality of their jobs.
- Assaults on police and emergency services personnel warrant a strong response from Government.
- The *Crimes (Protection of Frontline Community Service Providers) Amendment Act 2020* commenced on 10 June 2020. The Act creates a new offence specifically for assaults against frontline workers including:
    - Police officers;
    - Protective service officers and special protective service officers;
    - Corrections workers;
    - Paramedics;
    - Firefighters and volunteer firefighters; and
    - Emergency services employees and volunteers.
- This new standalone offence sends a clear message that violence against workers providing critical frontline services will not be tolerated.
- Previously, offenders have been charged with common assault when an assault has been committed against a frontline worker. The new standalone offence will improve accountability by ensuring that the true nature and seriousness of the crime is described on a criminal record.
- The Amendment Act also creates new offences for driving at police and ramming police vehicles to send a clear signal that those who engage in this dangerous behaviour will be held to account.
- Emergency first responders are required to step forward to face risks that others are expected to step away from, and it is appropriate for the law to specifically reflect this and support them.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/03/2021	
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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
TRIM Ref:	JACS2021/47-001-019	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The Government is also committed to ensuring a safe and healthy work environment through policies, procedures, and strategies to mitigate the risk of assault and injury. This includes training all of our emergency services personnel, to assist in identifying and managing potentially high risk situations.

Key Information

Background information

Prior to the passage of the the *Crimes (Protection of Frontline Community Service Providers) Amendment Bill 2020*, there were no specific ACT offences for assaulting police or emergency service workers while executing their duties.

All other jurisdictions in Australia have introduced specific offence provisions for assaulting police.

Between 30 June 2011 and 16 March 2020, ACT Policing recorded 374 instances of assaults upon police.

The Queensland Sentencing Advisory Council recently conducted a review of penalties for assaults on police and other emergency service workers, corrective services officers and other public officers. Terms of Reference were issued by the Queensland Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, the Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP in early December 2019. The Council publicly released the Final Report on 1 October 2020 (https://www.sentencingcouncil.qld.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0004/657742/final-report-assault-public-officers.pdf).

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-020

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SERIOUS AND ORGANISED CRIME RESPONSE

Criminal gangs are involved in illegal activities across Australia, including serious drug offences, fraud and property crime, vehicle rebirthing, firearms offences, money laundering, extortion and serious assaults.

TALKING POINTS

- Countering serious and organised crime and maintaining public safety is a primary focus for the ACT Government.
- Outlaw motorcycle gangs (OMCGs) have been identified as having high involvement in serious criminal activities. A February 2020 report by the Australian Institute of Criminology found that violent and profit-motivated offending is common among members of OMCGs, and that there is evidence that joining an OMCG increases a person's propensity to commit crime.
- As at 13 January 2021, there are four known OMCGs operating in the ACT, two of which have increasingly limited influence. The total number of members associated with the ACT chapters of these gangs is approximately 30-40 people. This is a decrease from previously reported numbers of approximately 70 members in 2018-2019 and is a result of members being deported, imprisoned or fleeing interstate.
- In 2020, in the ACT, 29 OMCG members were charged with a total of 47 offences. In this period, 9 firearms were seized.

Key Taskforce Nemesis figures (Criminal Motorcycle Gang related figures)	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Criminal gang members charged*	27	37	29
Offences charged	78	85	47
Firearms seized	20	12	9

*A person may be charged more than once in a year

Cleared as complete and accurate:	17/03/2021	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- The ACT Government is strongly committed to targeting, disrupting, and prosecuting organised criminal gang members and ensuring the safety of all Canberrans.
- ACT Policing's Taskforce Nemesis continues to focus on operational and investigative responses to criminal gang activity. Through the Taskforce, ACT Policing continues to proactively disrupt criminal gang members to deter and detect criminal activity. The Government has provided continued investment to ensure that ACT Policing has the resources it needs to combat criminal gangs in the ACT.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, $1.6 million over four years was provided to Taskforce Nemesis. These resources fund two specialist officers – a forensic accountant and surveillance team member – to bolster the ability of the taskforce to combat organised crime, strip criminal wealth and improve surveillance capability to monitor the activity of criminal gangs.
- The 2019-20 Budget delivered a further $2.8 million over four years to the ACT Director of Public Prosecutions to assist with efforts to combat serious and organised crime including to strip criminals of their criminal profits.
- During the 2019-20 financial year, almost $1.5 million was forfeited to the Territory under the *Confiscation of Criminal Assets Act 2003*. These funds came from the seizure of cash, 16 motor vehicles and 6 real estate properties and mostly involved offenders convicted of serious drug offences. The funds will be used by the ACT Government to fund projects related to criminal justice activities, crime prevention and assistance to victims of crime.

<u>Recent legislative reform</u>

- The *Confiscation of Criminal Assets (Unexplained Wealth) Amendment Act 2020* commenced on 29 August 2020. The Act introduces an ACT-specific unexplained wealth scheme to more effectively prevent and investigate organised crime and target the criminal profits of organised crime groups.

- The new scheme complements existing confiscation of criminal assets laws in the ACT. The new unexplained wealth scheme allows the police and Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) to intervene when there is a suspicion that part of a person's wealth was not lawfully acquired. The court must make an unexplained wealth order if it is satisfied that there are reasonable grounds to suspect that a person's total wealth exceeds the value of the person's wealth that was lawfully acquired and that the whole or any part of the person's wealth was derived from serious criminal activity.
- The unexplained wealth scheme allows ACT Policing and the DPP to more effectively target those involved in drug trafficking or other serious organised criminal activity and those masterminding or directing criminal activity at arms-length.
- The Commonwealth *Unexplained Wealth Legislation Amendment Act 2018* passed Parliament on 19 September 2018. The Act extends Commonwealth unexplained wealth orders to certain ACT offences.
- The *Crimes (Disrupting Criminal Gangs) Legislation Amendment Act 2019*, which was passed in November 2019, introduced a range of measures to improve public order and safety in the Territory including:
    - New tiered offences of serious affray;
    - Increased penalties for offences of fighting (section 391 of the *Crimes Act 1900*) and offensive behaviour (section 392 of the *Crimes Act 1900*);
    - Increased maximum penalties for specified offences committed in connection with a criminal group or by a person associated with a criminal group;
    - A civil exclusion order scheme under the *Liquor Act 2010* that allows the Chief Police Officer to apply to the court for an order to prohibit a certain person from entering or remaining on licensed premises for a stated period; and
    - A licence cancellation scheme under the *Liquor Act 2010* and the *Construction Occupations (Licensing) Act 2004* that allows the Chief Police Officer to make an application for the cancellation of a person's licence on the basis of their criminal activity.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- These measures address serious public safety concerns about the risk to community safety posed by organised crime.
- The *Crimes (Fortification Removal) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 1 September 2018. The Act introduced provisions that allow the Chief Police Officer to apply to the Magistrates Court for an order that an occupier remove fortifications from their premises. The Act also introduces provisions which prohibit the establishment of fortifications on certain premises.
- These laws work to make the ACT a hostile environment for criminal gangs by preventing the establishment of fortified premises such as criminal gang club houses.
- The *Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Act 2017* commenced on 8 December 2017. The Act introduced statutory crime scene powers to allow police officers to preserve evidence in a timely manner at crime scenes in both public and private places while taking the least restrictive approach to limiting a person's right to privacy.
- The Act also creates a new offence of 'drive by shooting' which deals with people shooting at a building, including a home, whether from a car or otherwise. The offence is punishable by a maximum of 10 years imprisonment.

Background

A review of the effectiveness of ACT policing powers to target, disrupt, investigate and prosecute criminal gang members in conjunction with a statutory review of the ACT crime scene powers was undertaken by Dr Terry Goldsworthy of Bond University in late 2019. The Report on this review was tabled in the Assembly on 20 February 2020. The Report highlights that the ACT Government has successfully implemented legislative responses to combat serious and organised crime to date, and that these legislative tools are effective and proportionate. The Report does not indicate a need for further significant legislative reform, other than an ACT-specific unexplained wealth scheme which has now been introduced.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-021

Portfolio: Minister for Police & Emergency Services

Attorney-General

ISSUE: CRIMINAL OUTLAW MOTORCYCLE GANG

TALKING POINTS:

- The ACT Government and ACT Policing are committed to countering serious and organised crime by criminal gangs, and maintaining public safety.
- Taskforce Nemesis is focussed on combating criminal motorcycle gang behaviour in the ACT. The taskforce often collaborates across whole-of-government to create innovative strategies to disrupt criminal gang behaviour.
- In 2016, the ACT Government provided $6.4 million over four years for the expansion of Taskforce Nemesis to target organised crime syndicates including Criminal Motorcycle Gangs. This funding included eight staff: four investigators, two intelligence officers, one Forensic Accountant and an Investigative Assistant.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, ACT Government committed a further $1.594 million over four years to bolster the capability of Taskforce Nemesis in providing funding for one Forensic Accountant, one Surveillance Team Member and associated equipment and training.
- ACT Policing will continue to ensure an appropriate police response to target and disrupt those seeking to cause harm in our community.
    - ACT Policing is also in a unique position as it can call on specialist and surge capabilities from the broader AFP to meet changing operational environments.
- In 2017, the Federal Government provided funding to combat organised crime through the National Anti-Gangs Squad (NAGS). Taskforce Nemesis has an embedded NAGS member, enabling interoperability and liaising on matters of operational and strategic importance. NAGS bring together the resources and expertise of Federal and state/territory agencies to cooperate and share information to identify, target, disrupt and deter gang-related crime.

Cleared as complete and accurate:	30/11/2020	
Cleared for public release by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- ACT Policing has established a whole-of-government interagency working group, with representatives from a number of local and Commonwealth government agencies to consider all aspects of criminal gang behaviour in the ACT. The group is based on the Commonwealth NAGS model that brings a whole-of-government approach to addressing this issue.
- The confiscation of criminal assets is an effective tool to assist in the prevention and disruption of serious and organised crime and prevents the reinvestment of illegally obtained wealth into criminal activity.
- It is anticipated additional agencies will be invited to future working groups to further drive Taskforce Nemesis' ambitions to disrupt Criminal Motorcycle Gang activities.

Operational successes

Taskforce Nemesis Criminal Motorcycle Gang related figures (at 13 Jan 21)	**2018**	**2019**	**2020**
Criminal gang members charged *(person may be charged on numerous occasions)*	27	37	29
Offences charged	78	85	47
Firearms seized	20	12	9

OMCGs in Canberra

- As at January 2021:
  - There are four known Criminal Motorcycle Gangs, two of which have increasingly limited influence, operating in the ACT.
  - The total number of members associated with ACT chapters of these Criminal Motorcycle Gangs is estimated at approximately 30-40 people.
  - This is a decrease from the previously reported numbers of approximately 70 members in 2018-19 and is as a result of members being deported, imprisoned or fleeing interstate.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Criminal Motorcycle Gang membership has traditionally been relatively stable, however, changes to criminal gang membership in recent years highlight a shift towards more fluid concepts of membership.
- Serious and organised crime is not limited to openly-identifiable criminal gangs and ACT Policing will continue to proactively target, prosecute and disrupt those involved in serious and organised crime in the ACT - regardless of their individual affiliations.

Background information

- While 'patch-overs' have been known to occur from time to time, large numbers of patch overs have occurred in recent years. These changes to club numbers can affect the structure and strength of a Criminal Motorcylce Gang, and has had a significant impact upon the strength and rivalry between Criminal Motorcycle Gangs in the ACT.
- Appropriate legislative frameworks are an essential component to enable police to effectively disrupt and dismantle criminal organisations. 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 Policing has had additional powers available since 2017 that have enhanced its ability to respond to and prosecute criminal gang-related acts of violence after the fact.
- Recent legislative amendments to help equip ACT Policing in combating Criminal Motorcycle Gang activity has included:
    - Laws providing powers to remove fortification from dwellings;
    - Laws enabling police to establish crime scenes;
    - A tiered regime of affray offences;
    - Laws allowing police to apply to exclude individuals from working in certain industries or attending licensed premises.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-022

Portfolios: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: SAFETY OF WOMEN IN OUR COMMUNITY

Talking points:

- Canberra remains one of Australia's safest cities.
- ACT Policing is committed to the safety of members of our community and are continuing to support people during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- ACT Policing will continue to work with Government agencies and non-government partners to ensure a collaborative approach in providing support to victims of family violence.
- There were 3198 family violence related incidents in 2019-20 compared to 2984 for previous financial year, an increase of 7.2 per cent.
- Family violence related assault offences increased by 1.6 per cent (or 19 offences), when compared to the previous financial year. From 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020, there has been 1177 family violence related assault offences reported to ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing treat all reports of assaults seriously and invest every available effort in providing a safe community for ACT residents.
- In 2019-20, the ACT recorded a result of 92.3 per cent for residents who feel safe at home during the night. This is 4.2 per cent above the national average (88.1 per cent).
    - 41.3 per cent of ACT residents surveyed felt safe on public transport in the ACT at night. This is well above the national average of 33.5 per cent.
    - These strong results reflect the efforts of the ACT Government and ACT Policing working with partner agencies and the community to maintain and improve community safety in Canberra's public spaces.

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Public Transport Safety

- All public transport vehicles in the ACT are fitted with CCTV security cameras, which are used in accordance with ACT Government guidelines, relevant regulations and legislation.
- Safety for all of those who live in our community is important to this Government and ACT Policing.
- ACT Policing undertakes education and prevention strategies and works with community organisations to educate members of the community on personal safety, which include measures that can be put in place to mitigate the risk of becoming a victim of crime.

YWCA Canberra survey

- YWCA Canberra is a feminist not-for-profit organisation that has provided community services and represented women's issues in Canberra since 1929.
- A survey conducted by the YWCA indicated more than half of women surveyed still experienced sexism or feeling unsafe at night:
    - The survey was a one-off survey by YWCA as part of their 90th year anniversary. The survey consisted of 1090 Canberra women aged 18 and older across every post code, education level and income bracket in the city.
    - 24 per cent of 18-24 year old women stated that they had experienced emotional, physical, verbal or financial abuse in a domestic or interpersonal relationship over the last twelve months.
- ACT Policing treat all reports of assaults seriously and invest every available effort in providing a safe community for ACT residents.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-023

Portfolios: Attorney-General

Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: PROPERTY CRIME (Strategy, Outsmart the Offender Campaign and rates)

Talking points:

- The final progress report on the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020* was tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 3 December 2020.
- The *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20* saw good results, with overall property crime rates reducing over the life of the strategy.
- The report shows that the ACT continues to be one of the safest places to live in Australia.
- The number of property offences in the ACT decreased over the four years of the Strategy. In 2019-20 there were 17,737 recorded property offences, which is 3,933 less than four years ago in 2015-16.
- However, to keep property crime rates down we must not become complacent, there is still work to be done.
- While consideration regarding a new statergy is underway, a number of important activities are continuing to ensure a whole of government focus on property crime is maintained. For example:
    - The *Outsmart the Offender* campaign will continue to raise awareness about how the community can take steps to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim of crime – including campaigns focusing on protecting your home, vehicle, bike and other property.
    - The *SafeHome* program will continue to improve home security for households in the ACT that are vulnerable to property crime.
    - The *Strong Connected Neighbourhoods* program will continue to run along Ainslie Ave and expand into Illawarra Court to prevent or reduce opportunities for crime, and promote community safety

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
ACT Policing cleared by:	Sch 2, s2.2(a)(ii)	
Cleared for release	Yes	
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and security, to develop pro-social and law abiding community engagement.

ACT Policing focus on property crime

- ACT Policing continues to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders, including the establishment of the Community Policing Proactive Intervention and Disruption Team in October 2020.
- This team will continue the focus on reducing recidivism and calls for service, and will be aligned to the Reducing Recidivism by 25 per cent by 2025 Plan (RR25BY25) and use a whole-of-Government approach.
- ACT Policing's Community Intelligence Team analyses a variety of information sources (incidents, information reports, human source management team etc.) to identify patterns, convergences and prioritisation to maximise crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety.
- ACT Policing has also continued to target persons involved in recidivist criminal activity through intelligence-led policing. This has enabled core groups to be identified as being directly involved in the theft of motor vehicles and has provided police with opportunities to detect, disrupt and prosecute persons involved in the commission of such offences.

Outsmart the Offender campaign

- The *Outsmart the Offender* campaign is a joint ACT Government and ACT Policing initiative, in partnership with Neighbourhood Watch and Crimestoppers, aimed at raising awareness about what individuals can do to reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to property crime.
- The campaign has been developed with longevity in mind, and will continue to be rolled out in 2021, with the final installation targeting tradie tool theft to be launched in the coming months.
- The key messages of the campaign are based on what ACT Policing have told us about the tactics offenders are using to steal cars and our valuables, and break into our homes and businesses.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Ideally people wouldn't need to worry about becoming a victim of property crime, and our police officers do a great job at keeping Canberra safe, tracking down and arresting offenders.
- However, we all have a role to play and can take steps to safeguard our homes, businesses, cars and personal property.
- The campaign targets important areas of prevention, including:
    - *Lock and hide to protect your ride* – targeting motor vehicle theft and theft from vehicles
    - *Keep out a break-in* – targeting home burglary
    - *Lock up, cover up* – targeting theft from apartments
    - *Lock it or lose it* – targeting bicycle theft
    - *Keep burglars out of your business* – targeting theft from small businesses.
- Since the launch of the campaign in late 2019, ACT Policing have seen some great results in social media engagement on the *Outsmart the Offender* campaign topics, which have been traditionally difficult to engage people on:
    - *Lock and hide to protect your ride* - has reached over 105,000 on Facebook with total engagement sitting around 3,500
    - *Keep out a break-in* – has reached over 120,000 people on Facebook and over 21,000 on Twitter, with engagement across the two platforms sitting around 7,800
    - Engagement across the other areas for key messages is also high, sitting at a reach between 70,000 and 100,000 people on each campaign topic.

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Background Information

Property Crime Rates

Offence Type	2018-19 FY	2019-20 FY	Financial YTD 01/07/2020 – 31/12/2020
Total Robbery	209	223	67
Armed Robbery	*104*	*103*	*22*
Unarmed Robbery	*105*	*120*	*45*
Total Burglary	2627	2292	989
Burglary dwellings	*1659*	*1363*	*615*
Burglary shops	*419*	*370*	*147*
Burglary other	*549*	*559*	*227*
Motor Vehicle Theft	1234	1262	658
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	8732	8109	3381
Property damage	4954	4175	1894
Other offences against property*	2198	1464	827
TOTAL	**19954**	**17525**	**7816**

*Other offences against property include fraud, traffic, drug and weapon offences and other offences not classified elsewhere

Source: PROMIS as of January 27, 2021

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Further Background Information

ACT Policing reported the following property crime offences in its 2019-20 Annual Report:

TABLE 4.2: OFFENCES AGAINST PROPERTY BY OFFENCE TYPE — FINANCIAL YEAR COMPARISON

Offence type	2018–19	2019–20	Change (%)
Robbery	209	223	6.7%
Armed robbery	104	103	-1.0%
Unarmed robbery	105	120	14.3%
Burglary	2627	2292	-12.8%
Burglary dwellings	1659	1363	-17.8%
Burglary shops	419	370	-11.7%
Burglary other	549	559	1.8%
Motor Vehicle Theft	1234	1262	2.3%
Theft (excl motor vehicle theft)	8732	8109	-7.1%
Property damage	4954	4175	-15.7%
Other offences against property*	2198	1464	-33.4%
Total	**19,954**	**17,525**	**-12.2%**

Source: PROMIS as at 2 July 2020

*Other offences against property include fraud, traffic, drug and weapon offences and other offences not elsewhere classified

Under the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20, four of the five targets were achieved:

- The ACT was below the national rate of 683 victims of unlawful entry with intent per 100,000 population, with an ACT rate of 613 in 2019.
- The year on year increase in the 'other' theft rate has been stopped. The ACT recorded 139 per 100,000 population in 2019-20, 82 less than in 2015-16.
- There were small increases in property damage in 2016-17 and 2018-19, however in 2019-20 the rate of property damage was 94 per 100,000 population, 31 less than 2015-16.
- The bicycle theft rate has remained steady at 17 thefts per 100,000 population.
- The main challenge for the ACT in relation to property crime continues to be motor vehicle theft. The target to date has not been achieved, with the ACT remaining above the national rate and seeing a 2.3% increase from 2018-19 to 2019-20.

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JACS2021/47-001-048

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services

ISSUE: Cannabis reforms

Talking points:

- The Government takes a harm minimisation approach to drug use in our community.
- We do not endorse personal use of cannabis and we know there are health risks for individuals that do use it. However, we also acknowledge the simple reality of cannabis use in Canberra.
- Changes to the law that came into effect on 31 January 2020 mean that it is no longer an offence for an adult to possess or cultivate cannabis in small quantities.
- The changes are intended to reduce drug harm in our community by shifting our response to cannabis use from one that focuses on the justice system (discouraging people from seeking help when they need it) to one that focuses on health.
- Importantly, Canberrans need to be aware that there are still restrictions on when and where cannabis can be used or grown. It remains illegal to:
  - sell or share cannabis.
  - use cannabis in public places or around children.
  - grow more than two plants per person or four plants per household.
  - grow plants hydroponically or in places accessible to the public.
  - drive with cannabis in your system.

On 17 March 2021, ACT Policing issued a reminder to Canberrans not to exceed the two per person limit for cultivating cannabis plants following the confiscation of four plants from one man. Under ACT law, one person cannot cultivate more than two plants, regardless of how many people live at the address.

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Key Information

How was ACT Policing engaged regarding the development of the Bill?

- The Government worked closely with ACT Policing throughout the process of considering and amending the Private Members Bill beginning in December 2018.
- ACT Policing contributed ongoing advice regarding operational and technical aspects of the Private Members Bill and development of the Government's amendments.
- ACT Policing's concerns about how these changes would be operationalised have been known to government and on the public record for some time, including through a public submission to a Legislative Assembly Committee's inquiry into the legislation in March 2019 and their appearance at Committee's hearings in May 2019.

How has the Government responded to ACT Policing's position on the cannabis reforms?

- ACT Policing's perspectives on how the proposed changes could be implemented were used by the Government to craft a range of amendments that were ultimately put forward by the Government and passed by the Legislative Assembly.
- This is the first time an Australian government has attempted to progress this type of reform. As with other significant harm minimisation reforms over the decades, there are elements of the legislation that are new and unfamiliar.
- The Government has taken on board the views and comments of ACT Policing and other stakeholders to provide as much clarity and certainty as possible for everyone, in what is previously unbroken ground in this country.

Why doesn't the Act remove the exception for possession/cultivation of cannabis if other offences are also committed?

- Applying the offences or exceptions in that way is likely to have a discriminatory effect on disadvantaged groups who have historically had more contact with the criminal justice system for non-possession offences.
- This would run counter to the intent of the changes, which is to recognise and respond to personal use of cannabis as a health issue rather than a criminal justice issue.

How will the status (dried/fresh/harvested) cannabis be determined by the authorities?

- While there is no strict scientific measure of whether cannabis is fresh or dry embedded in the legislation, we are confident that it will be generally apparent whether cannabis is dried and ready for use, or is recently harvested and in the process of being dried.
- As with all legislation, there will be certain matters that are subject to a degree of discretion and deliberation by police and courts.

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- It is also important to remember that these changes only relate to possession of small amounts of cannabis for personal use and cultivation at a home and there are no changes to people who possess larger amounts of cannabis or numbers of plants.

Why do offences still apply to people under 18 years of age?

- Consideration of human rights was given to the differences in how the legislation treats adults and people under 18 years old (who are not exempted from the possession offence).
- It is necessary to differentiate between adults and people under 18 years of age as scientific evidence points to the higher likelihood of detrimental impact to the developing brains for minors who use cannabis relative to adults.
- This is consistent with other protections introduced by the Government that make it an offence to expose children and young people to cannabis.
- People under 18 years old remain eligible for the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice Scheme, meaning offences do not automatically attract a criminal record.
- This approach is consistent with the access to other harmful substances such as alcohol and tobacco, which are legal for adults but restricted for children and young people.

What has/hasn't changed

- The Minister for Health has released guidance on health and legal risks in the form of a Notifiable Instrument, which has been accompanied by a public information and communication campaign.
- Individuals need to understand that cannabis has not been entirely legalised and there will be a number of restrictions and offences that remain in place:
    - The removal of penalties only applies to persons over 18 who are in the ACT.
    - The permitted amount of cannabis an individual can possess remains 50 grams in line with the Simple Cannabis Offence Notice scheme. A higher limit of 150 grams applies to cannabis that has been harvested but is not yet dried.
    - It will remain illegal to sell, gift or share cannabis with others. This includes sharing plants or seeds even if no money changes hands.
    - There will be a limit of two plants per person. These plants can only be grown at an individual's home and only in a place not accessible to the public. Hydroponic or other methods of artificial cultivation are not permitted.
    - No more than four plants can be grown at one home and there is a strict liability offence for having more than four plants at one residence.
    - It will be an offence to use cannabis in a public place or in a way that a child is exposed to smoke or vapour.
    - Similarly, cannabis must be stored away from children or young people.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Like all other Australian jurisdictions, the ACT has a zero-tolerance approach to drug driving and the Government is not proposing amendments in relation to drug driving at this time.
- The changes do not extend to persons under 18 years of age. Simple Cannabis Offence Notices will remain available for police to use in relation to children and young people.

Who did the ACT Government engage when developing it's amendments?

- In preparing its amendments, the ACT Government considered a range of views and perspectives, including those gathered through the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Service's inquiry into the Bill.
- ACT Government directorates worked closely with ACT Policing to understand their concerns and, as best as possible, make sure the Act was practical to implement.
- The ACT proactively wrote to the Commonwealth Attorney-General's Department and Director of Public Prosecutions on these amendments. Their current position is to decline to express a definitive view on the implications of the laws for Commonwealth offences.

Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure

About the reforms

- We are the first jurisdiction in Australia to have attempted these reforms and there is still some uncertainty about how these changes will unfold given the complex legal environment.
- Whilst no other Australian jurisdiction has legalised the personal use of cannabis, national and ACT surveys show community support for the decriminalisation and/or legalisation of cannabis for personal use.
- There are differing interpretations of Commonwealth legislation in this area – particularly the Commonwealth Criminal Code – which in turn leads to different views about the extent to which states and territories are able to legislate regarding cannabis use.
- We are aware of the views of some Ministers in the Australian Government. The ACT Government wrote to the Australian Attorney-General and Minister for Health outlining our reasoning for the changes. The ACT Government has also responded to the concerns raised by the United Nations International Narcotics Control Board in writing. Possession of cannabis remains as an offence under Commonwealth law, however, the ACT is of the view that the changes authorising the possession of personal amounts of cannabis are consistent with Commonwealth law.

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Prior to amendments passed in September 2019 and development of amendments

- Under the former ACT legislation it was an offence to possess cannabis or to cultivate cannabis plants, including in small quantities for personal use.
- The Drugs of Dependence Act 1989 allowed for the use of a Simple Cannabis Offence Notice (SCON) as an alternative to an arrest for the possession of cannabis, if the offence is possession of cannabis weighing no more than 50 grams or possession of no more than two cannabis plants. A SCON is effectively a $100 fine which, if paid within 60 days, avoids a criminal conviction being recorded for the offender.
- On 28 November 2018, Michael Pettersson MLA introduced the *Drugs of Dependence (Personal Cannabis Use) Amendment Bill 2018* (the Bill) into the ACT Legislative Assembly.
- The Private Members Bill proposed to legalise the personal cultivation, possession and use of small amounts of cannabis for persons aged 18 or older; possession and use of up to 50 grams of cannabis and cultivation of up to four cannabis plants.
- The Private Member's Bill was referred to a Standing Committee inquiry. The Government made submissions outlining amendments it intended to make to the Private Member's Bill. The inquiry reported on 6 June 2019.
- The Government tabled its response to the inquiry in September 2019.
- The Government provided its full Government Amendment Bill and Supplementary Explanatory Statement to the Scrutiny Committee. The Scrutiny Committee made no comments on the Government's amendments.
- The ACT Greens moved a number of amendments to the Private Members Bill. The Government supported amendments to release information on health and legal risks of using cannabis prior to commencement and review the amendments after three years. The Government did not support amendments to allow artificial cultivation, establish a new advisory council, conflate drugs of dependence with medicinal cannabis or introduce new Objects to the Act.

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JACS2021/47-001-054

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

Body Worn Cameras

Talking points:

- Body worn cameras have been in use by ACT Policing since March 2019, including by automatic activation whenever a firearm or taser is drawn.
- Police can only access and use the footage from body worn cameras for authorised purposes.
- The ACT Government is considering a legislative change that would extend the situations in which police can use body worn cameras to include private situations. The use of the camera would have to be overt and in the course of the officer's duties.
- Potentially, this change could improve both transparency and evidence gathering.
- A YourSay Community Panel process was recently conducted to seek community views on police use of body worn cameras. The results of this process are still being finalised.

Key Information

- The ACT Government is considering legislative change modelled on section 50A of the *Surveillence Devices Act 2007* (NSW) which would allow police to use their body worn cameras in private contexts without asking for consent.
- In operational settings, particularly where violent behaviour is escalating, it is not always be practical to seek consent.
- A YourSay Community Panel process was recently conducted to seek community views on police use of body worn cameras. The results of this process are still being finalised.

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Background Information

- ACT Policing have sought legislative amendments to the *Crimes (Surveillance Devices) Act 2010* and the *Listening Devices Act 1992* to expressly provide a clear statutory basis for police to use a body worn camera (BWC) in private premises, without the requirement for a warrant or the permission of an occupant.
- In ACT Policing's view, these amendments will enable police to use their BWCs at all times and improve the protection of police, whilst at the same time improving police accountability. It will also see improved efficiencies for police and courts, as officers will be able to refer to their BWC footage when an incident occurs to ensure that an accurate account of events is recorded and best evidence is readily available.
- The Justice and Community Safety Directorate and ACT Policing are working together to prepare reforms to support the use of BWCs. This includes a proposal to include BWC legislative amendments in the Crimes Legislation Amendment Bill 2021.
- The final report on the YourSay Community Panel survey on BWCs is awaiting clearance by the Chief Minister's Office before finalisation.

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JACS2021/47-001-024

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING KEY DATA

ACT Policing

Staffing

	2018-19[3]	**2019-20**	**2020-21 YTD Jul - 6 Jan 2021**
FTE[1]	977.94	967.17	992.45*
Headcount	927	923	960**
Sworn	710	697	716
Professional	217	225	231
PSO	n/a	1	13 ***

[1] This figure represents ACT Government funded positions, which includes capability provided by the AFP of 107 FTE
*YTD FTE was taken from 6 January 2021
**YTD Headcount was at 11 January 2021 as per the information provided in the Annual Report Hearing Brief.
*** PSO increase is due to staffing in ACT Watch House.

ACT Policing Budget

Original 2017-18 Appropriation	Revised 2017-18 Appropriation	Original 2018-19 Appropriation	Revised 2018-19 Appropriation	Original 2019-20 Appropriation	Revised 2019-20 Appropriation
$161,331,000**	$158,895,000	$166,919,000	$166,279,000	$169,451,000	$170,195,350

**As published in 2017-21 Purchase Agreement.

2019-20 Budget Adjustments

The following adjustments occurred:

- $715,000 for Support for increasing financial pressures for core policing functions – Forensic Medical Contract.
- $29,000 for the Disability Justice Strategy.

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Cleared for public release by:	Deputy Director-General	Ext:
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Call Outs –Financial Year comparison

Category	2018-19 FY # of call outs	2018-19 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS	2019-20 FY # of call outs	2019-20 FY Average Response time H:MM:SS
Priority 1	265 19.2% decrease from 2017-18 (328)	0:08:04 0:01:04 increase from 2017-18	180 32.1% decrease from 2018-19	0:06:03 0:02:01 decrease from 2018-19
Priority 2	14,189 5.6% decrease from 2017-18 (13,432)	0:53.58 0:19:48 increase from 2017-18	15,365 8.3% increase from 2018-19	0:58:04 0:04:46 increase from 2018-19
Priority 3	27,455 12.5% decrease from 2017-18 (24,408)	5:03:00 1:04:00 increase from 2017-18	24,014 12.5% decrease from 2018-19	9:10:08 4:06:08 increase from 2018-19

Summary of Key Strategies

As part of the *Purchase Agreement 2017-21,* ACT Policing supports a whole–of-government approach in achieving the objectives of ACT Government Strategies, particularly those addressing crime. These Strategies include, but are not limited to:

- *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-20*.
- *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22*.
- *Supporting the National Plan to Reduce Violence against Women and their Children 2010-2022*
- *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-28*.
- *ACT Road Safety Strategy 2020-25*.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-025

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING CRIME STATISTICS

Talking points:

General crime trends

- I am pleased to see that the number of overall offences reported in the 2019-20 financial year shows **a decrease of 5.0 per cent** (or 1900 reported offences) when compared to the previous financial year.
- There has been an 11 per cent decrease in the number of offences reported to police in the last ten years.
- ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity and I thank the Chief Police Officer and all police officers for their efforts to reduce crime and keep Canberra safe.
- While a number of incidents ACT Policing attend do not necessarily result in a criminal offence being identified, it is taking police longer to resolve incidents due to the increasingly complex underpinning social issues present.

Offences against the person

- The total number of offences recorded against the person in the 2019-20 financial year was 3649, **a decrease of 252 offences** when compared to the 2018-19 financial year.
- There were six homicide related offences in 2019-20, **a decrease of two** when compared to the previous financial year.

Family violence

- There were 1209 family violence related assault offences reported to ACT Policing in the 2019-20 financial year. This has increased from 1162 offences reported in 2018-19.
- The ACT Government and ACT Policing are proactively responding to family violence issues in our community in an effort to keep victims safe and reduce the likelihood of these incidents occurring.

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- ACT Policing operates a perpetrator-focused model that shifts the focus onto early intervention of low-level family violence perpetrators and identifying at-risk behaviour, which alleviates the burden on victims to take action, seek solutions and support for themselves and/or families.

Offences against property

- For the 2019-20 financial year, the number of property damage offences decreased by more than **14 per cent (or 727 offences)** when compared to the previous financial year.
- Theft (excluding motor vehicles) has **decreased by almost three per cent** (from 8471 to 8226) in the 2019-20 financial year, when compared to the 2018-19 financial year.
- Motor vehicle theft has unfortunately increased **by more than three per cent** (1242 offences to 1284) in 2019-20 when compared to 2018-19.
- Although the ACT has some of the lowest property crime rates in Australia, we need to remain vigilant because property crime can affect anyone. It is often opportunistic in nature.
- Under the *Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020*, ACT Policing worked in collaboration with the Government to develop the Outsmart the Offender community campaign.
- The campaign worked to provide key messages about how people can reduce the likelihood of becoming a victim to motor vehicle and bicycle theft, home and apartment burglary, and theft from their business or tradies' tools. ACT Policing also continues to develop and implement strategies to target recidivist property crime offenders.
- ACT Policing's Community Intelligence Team analyses a variety of information sources (incidents, information reports, human source management team etc.) to identify patterns, convergences and prioritisation to maximise crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background Information

One of the main sources of data for these publications is the live database from ACT Policing's case management system, the Police Real-time Online Management Information System (PROMIS). As PROMIS is live, crime data is continually revised as people report crime and investigations progress. This means there can be variances in the statistics data set if drawn from the live database on a different date.

Due to different counting methodologies, data included in ABS publications will differ to other publications such as as the ACT Policing Website crime statistics and the ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile. This is because they are based on specific counting rules in order to allow national comparison across jurisdictions

Publications can count the number of offences reported to police, the number of charges, offenders or victims. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime.

When considering data relating to victims of crime, the most widely used source of data is the number of victims recorded in PROMIS. It is important to note however, not all crime is reported to police.

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ACT Government

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Offence Group	2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	12m Change	Long Term Change	2020-21*
Homicide	4	6	7	4	7	8	2	11	8	6	-25%	50%	7
Assault - FV	857	746	694	685	742	1141	1364	1180	1162	1209	4%	41%	508
Assault Non-FV	1672	1610	1549	1385	1273	1417	1700	1662	1783	1587	-11%	-5%	727
Sexual Assault	342	437	460	443	453	485	569	511	638	518	-19%	51%	238
Other offences against person	138	87	83	104	110	253	358	226	310	329	6%	138%	165
Robbery - armed	149	143	102	89	111	78	136	124	104	106	2%	-29%	22
Robbery - other	116	111	83	62	64	78	113	106	105	125	19%	8%	45
Burglary dwellings	2519	1830	1550	1436	1552	1476	1649	1679	1660	1379	-17%	-45%	617
Burglary shops	350	336	259	253	267	432	335	287	419	375	-11%	7%	147
Burglary other	620	450	463	424	579	724	581	590	550	568	3%	-8%	227
Motor vehicle theft	1317	1184	867	755	1045	1034	1325	1494	1242	1284	3%	-3%	660
Theft (excl MV)	11164	9470	10169	9378	10084	10975	9633	9794	8741	8226	-6%	-26%	3387
Property damage	7366	5950	5506	4322	4726	5122	5373	4645	4962	4235	-15%	-43%	1895
Other offences	10157	9695	9359	10792	10679	10366	12069	12829	12912	12749	-1%	26%	5622
Total	36771	32055	31151	30132	31692	33589	35207	35138	34596	32696	-5%	-11%	14267

* As at 31 December 2020

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-026

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT POLICING WORKFORCE

Talking points:

ACT Policing Workforce Composition:

	2018-19[3]	**2019-20**	**2020-21 YTD (JUL-JAN)**
FTE[1]	977.94	967.17	992.45 (as at 6 Jan)
Headcount[2]	927	923	960 (as at 11 Jan)
Sworn	710	697	716
Professional	217	225	231
PSO		1	13

[1] This figure represents ACT Government funded positions, which includes capability provided by the AFP of 107 FTE

[2] Headcount is as at 30 June of the respective financial year

[3] These figures are as per the 2019-20 ACT Polcing Annual Report

- ACT Policing has **716** sworn police officers (as at 11 January 2021), this has increased by 19 since the end of last financial year.
- In the 2019-20 financial year, 73 new recruits graduated and joined ACT Policing as follows via three recruit courses:
    - 14 new recruits commenced with ACT Policing on 2 December 2019;
    - 29 new recruits commenced on 21 March 2020; and
    - 30 new recruits commenced on 9 May 2020;
- In 2019-20, 53 ACT Policing members separated from the organisation. Of these members, 37 were sworn and 16 were professional.
- In the first half of the 2020-21 financial year (1 July to 31 December 2020), 15 ACT Policing members separated from the organisation.

Police Service Reforms

- In March 2017, ACT Policing commenced a Policing Futures reform program to ensure the organisation is best positioned to serve the Canberra community now and into the future.

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- The Futures program will ensure that our police officers are provided with the tools, technology, governance, policies and resources to do their work efficiently, effectively and to the best of their ability.
- On 30 May 2019, the ACT Government announced $33.9 million in funding to transition ACT Policing to a community focused policing model. This funding includes recruitment for more than 60 positions over four years.
- This marks the first step towards a new community focused model of policing, which will focus on operationalising intelligence, building proactive policing capacity and growing community engagement capabilities.

If asked about a freeze on AFP/ACT Policing transfers

- There is no freeze on regional transfers.
- Ensuring there is regular mobility both into and out of ACT Policing is a priority for the AFP as it generates benefits for both staff and the organisation as a whole.
- In determining mobility releases out of ACT Policing, ACT Policing's primary consideration is to ensure that resourcing meets the requirements set out by the ACT Government, and the expectations of the ACT community.
- Transfers 'at current level' are considered on a case by case basis using an open and transparent decision making framework. Where ACT Policing members are found suitable for promotions or higher duties positions for longer than six months in duration outside of ACT Policing, these transfers are automatically approved in accordance with the AFP's governance framework.
- Mandatory releases to national AFP ensure that ACT Policing members have regular opportunities for significant professional development across the organisation.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

If asked about police overtime:

- ACT Policing continuously monitors workloads to minimise, where possible, the requirement for members to undertake overtime. However, like all emergency services and other police forces, overtime continues to be used to support operational priorities where required.
- The need for overtime is influenced by a range of factors including (but not limited to):
    - The ongoing response to COVID-19
    - Significant investigations or response to critical incidents
    - Responses to family violence and mental health incidents which require lengthy engagement to provide appropriate support for victims and clients
    - Responses to incidents near the end of a rostered shift
    - Unplanned absences (sick leave, workplace injuries)
    - Attendance at court
    - Major events such as football games, sporting events and other entertainment events, staffed by ACT Policing on overtime on a cost recovery basis
- ACT Policing recognises the need to limit the amount of overtime required to be worked by its members. But as an emergency response agency, some level of overtime should be expected to ensure community safety.
- All factors that influence overtime requirements are regularly reviewed in an effort to minimise their occurrence.
- ACT Policing reports overtime expenditure in the ACT Policing Annual Report (Financial Statements).

Financial Year	Overtime, Penalties and Allowances
2013-14	$6.711m
2014-15	$6.974m
2015-16	$6.657m
2016-17	$7.110m
2017-18	$9.068m
2018-19	$8.842m
2019-20	**$8.661m**
YTD JUL- 1 JAN 2021	$3.186m

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-027

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: AFP INITIATIVE: MENTAL HEALTH

Talking points:

- The AFP continues to demonstrate that the physical and mental health of its people is a high priority by engaging professional expertise and support from both inside and outside Australia.
- The AFP will continue to explore new ways of providing support and easing the pressures on a workforce that is under constant pressure to get the job done.
- ACT Policing has three dedicated police officers performing the role of Welfare Officers providing peer support to members, families and former members and act as an initial support contact for the provision of further assistance. These members are available 24/7.
- Through the ACT Government's funding for ACT Policing's transition to a new model of police service, ACT Policing now has two dedicated psychologists who provide a proactive and response support service to ACT Policing members.
- All AFP members also have 24/7 access to a clinician from the AFP Psychological Services team, as well as the AFP Chaplaincy Network.
- As the situation surrounding COVID-19 continues to evolve, the AFP is providing additional extra welfare support to members who are self-isolating due to COVID-19.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key initiatives

- As AFP members, ACT Policing have access to a range of support methods, including:
    - Assistance through the ACT Policing Welfare Team, the ACT Policing Psychologists and ACT Policing Injury Prevention and Management. Health support services can also be access through an AFP centralised triage team comprised of clinical staff and subject matter experts that can provide members with immediate referral, advice or action.
    - The AFP has a contracted external Employee Assistance Program, provided by Benestar, which is a confidential counselling service available to all personnel, former members and their families, 24/7.
    - The AFP Early Access Program provides early, coordinated and effective responses to work related injury/illness including medical, psychological and vocational rehabilitation.
        - Over the past two financial years the update of Early Access in ACT Policing has increased by 18 per cent in 2018-19 and 25 per cent in 2019-20. This increase is likely due to an increase in awareness and stigma reduction.
    - The Welfare Officer Network provides peer support to members, families and former members for a range of matters including critical incidents, work place matters an personal matters. There are three police officers performing the role as a Welfare Officer in ACT Policing and are available to members 24/7.
    - The AFP employs an exercise psychologist who provides in-house rehabilitation capability in partnership with case managers and clinicians as part of a holistic stepped care approach to rehabilitation.
- SHIELD
    - The 2019-20 federal budget committed $65 million to the AFP over four years to implement a new health model known as SHIELD.
    - SHIELD will include dedicated teams of clinical resources focused on building trust with staff, early intervention, preventing injuries and improving operational performance.
    - Health and wellbeing services will be embedded into each regional command across Australia to help provide a suite of health and

wellbeing services tailored to support individuals and their teams to operate at their best.

- As emoloyees of the AFP, ACT Policing members will have access to these services.

- Comcare Fast Track
  - Introduction of a streamlined process to expedite the processing of claims where the employer statement concurs with the employee statement.
  - The AFP Injury Mangement team is also working closely with Comcare to develop a Service Level Agreement to expedite psychological claims meeting a particular set of criteria to ensure early support and treatment is accessible.
  - A dedicated AFP Comcare team has also been introduced to manage the AFP's compensation claims.

- Assaults on Police
  - The *Crimes (Protection of Police, Firefighters and Paramedics) Amendment Bill 2019* created three new offences in the *Crimes Act 1900* (ACT) relating to assaults on police and other frontline workers:
    - An offence for assaults against police officers, and certain frontline workers, with a maximum penalty of two years imprisonment.
    - An offence for intentionally or recklessly driving at a police officer to risk their safety, with a maximum penalty of 15 years imprisonment, and
    - An offence for driving at and causing damage to a police vehicle, with a maximum penalty of five years imprisonment.
  - These new laws recognise that police and other frontline workers have duties and responsibilities which mean they are routinely called on to render assistance in volatile and dangerous situations. Having this recognised was particularly important in 2020 during the pandemic where people would spit on officers while claiming to have COVID-19.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-028

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: COMPLAINTS REGARDING ACT POLICING MEMBERS

Talking points:

- ACT Policing takes all allegations of member misconduct seriously and all complaints are thoroughly investigated.
    - Complaints relating to serious misconduct are investigated by the AFP Professional Standards area and are also reported to the Commonwealth Ombudsman for additional oversight.
    - Complaints relating to customer service matters and minor misconduct are investigated by ACT Policing's Complaint Management Team.
- Long term trends show alleged conduct breaches have continued to decrease over the last five financial years with 168 alleged conduct breaches being recorded in 2019-20 compared to 296 in 2015-16.
- Thirty nine per cent of alleged conduct breaches were reported by an AFP member, including conduct that was self-reported. This high percentage of internally-generated complainants indicates the strength and integrity of the AFP complaint management framework.
- From 1 July 2020 to 31 December 2020, Professional Standards received 37 complaints relating to ACT Policing resulting in 80 alleged conduct breaches.

<u>Use of Force</u>

- All AFP members, including ACT Policing members, must act in accordance with Commissioner's Order 3 (CO3), which provides governance around the use of force by members.
- Under CO3, all ACT Policing sworn members are required to successfully complete use of force training and assessments annually.
- The training focuses on communication and conflict de-escalation as alternatives to physical force, in addition to the practical interpretation and knowledge in applying the appropriate of use of force.

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- ACT Policing reviews every use of force incident to ensure it complies with AFP standards and policies.
- Positively, the introduction of Body Worn Cameras has vastly decreased the time taken to investigate use of force complaints and serves by providing independent and accurate evidence of the member's conduct.

Commonwealth Ombudsman Review

- ACT Policing is committed to an effective, efficient and transparent complaints management process.
- ACT Policing works closely with AFP Professional Standards, the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity and the Commonwealth Ombudsman to ensure that ACT Policing employ a best practice approach to the management of complaints.
- While the AFP has a robust complaint management framework, we continue to work with our integrity stakeholders to improve systems wherever possible.
- In early 2019, the Commonwealth Ombudsman initiated the "*Complaint Assurance Project*" (CAP) – an own-motion initiative to assess the effectiveness of complaint management frameworks and promote critical self-reflection upon complaint management practices.
    - ACT Policing is one of a number of agencies which undertook the CAP.
    - ACT Policing welcomes any opportunity to identify room for improvement. ACT Policing are committed to delivering a professional policing service to the ACT.
- In December 2019, the Ombudsman provided conclusion to this project. ACT Policing is continuing to progress implementation of the recommendations.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-029

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: FUTURES PROGRAM - PROGRESS AND TRANSITION

Talking points:

- In May 2019, the ACT Government announced the investment of $33.9 million over four years to enable ACT Policing to transition from a response-focused police services model towards a more community-focused and crime preventative model of police service.
- This investment will see the recruitment of more than 60 new ACT Policing personnel, and marks the first step towards the delivery of a more visible, proactive and connected police service.
- It allows ACT Policing to focus more efforts on education, disruption, prevention, diversion, community engagement and problem-solving activities to support key Government priorities and targets.
- As part of this investment in ACT Policing, the ACT Government is funding new tools and technology for police officers such as:
    - Additional Body Worn Cameras (BWC) and firearm sensors: ACT Policing continues to roll-out BWCs across its police force, with great success to date.
    - Online reporting: Development of this capability has commenced. Online reporting is a multi-year project, an initial tool will be launched on the ACT Policing website in the 2020-21 financial year.
- The Futures Program will be an ongoing initiative to ensure successful implementation of the Police Services Model so ACT policing can continue to evolve with the community.

<u>ACT Policing PSM recruitment:</u>

- The Operationalised Intelligence Team has transitioned to a business-as-usual function. This team will continue to improve real time situational awareness and support better decision making for ACT operational members. The team has already positively impacted ACT Policing response to critical incidents such as missing persons investigations and dangerous offenders.

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- Additional support members have been recruited, including a psychologist and occupational therapist, to provide mental health and wellbeing support for ACT Policing members.
- The first Proactive Policing team of 10 members has been recruited, and are operating in the Canberra community. A full assessment and transition to business as usual is planned for early 2021. Two additional teams will be recruited over the four year lifespan of the Police Services Model funding.
- The initial research and development for a new Evidence Based Policing Team based on global best practice is now underway. The team is expected to provide strategic advice on crime prevention methods when it commences later in 2021.

Key improvements

- Recent staff polls undertaken within ACT Policing have shown:
    - The number of members that strongly agree they now receive better real time situational awareness has increased by 221 per cent since September 2020.
    - The number of members that agree processes enable them do their job in the most effective way has increased by 69 per cent since the Futures Program.
- As part of the PSM, a number of improvement projects are being undertaken to improve efficiency, sustainability and service to the community, including:
    - A review of court processes to save time for the public and ACT Policing members
    - A review of mandatory training and a revised training model
    - Establishing a new family violence and vulnerable people hub proof of concept
    - A new model for addressing missing persons cases
    - A review of how ACT Policing addresses non-suspicious deaths

Cleared as complete and accurate:	26/11/2020	
Cleared by:	ACT Policing	Ext:
Contact Officer name:	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)	Ext:
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
Cleared for release	Yes	
Information Officer name:	Sch 2, s2.2 (a)(ii)	
TRIM Ref:	MIN:2020/000092-024	

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- Improved DNA collection process and overall forensic collection culture
- DNA back-capture process review
- Understanding community expectations of police
- A new online crime reporting capability
- Reviewing firearms licencing and registration process
- Establishing an evidence-based policing cell
- Ongoing review of technology and tools needed by members.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-052

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

Business and Better Regulation

Chief Minister

ISSUE: BUSHFIRE RECOVERY

Talking points:

HOT TOPICS

ACT Government Response to Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements - Recovery

- The ACT is supportive of all recommendations from the Royal Commission that seek to strengthen national recovery arrangements.
- Recovery is a key part of helping communities get back on their feet following a natural disaster.
- The ACT is working with the Australian and all state and territory governments to progress reforms to the Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements, including the establishment of nationally consistent disaster recovery programs.

GENERAL

Whole of Government Recovery Arrangements (Chief Minister)

- Supporting the ACT community to recover from the recent natural disasters and the COVID-19 pandemic remains a key focus for this government.
- Natural disasters impact on the social, economic, built, and environmental values of communities. Recovering from disaster continues long after the emergency has finished.
- The Black Summer bushfires, 2020 hailstorm and the COVID-19 pandemic are all examples of significant natural disasters in the ACT that required the ACT Government to progress recovery initiatives.
- The ACT is a strong, resilient, and cohesive community where the government, businesses, communities, families, and individuals all work collaboratively to address identified recovery needs.

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Contact Officer name:	Aleysha Cullen	Ext: 72635
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- This government has delivered wide ranging recovery support to ACT businesses, families, and individuals in response to the 2020 disasters. These include grants and loans, fee and charge waivers and deferrals, tax waivers, rent relief and rebates.
- The ACT Government remains closely engaged with the Australian Government to deliver recovery support to impacted ACT individuals, businesses and communities in response to the bushfires and the COVID-19 pandemic.
- I encourage any Canberran that requires ongoing support to recovery from recent natural disasters to contact their insurer and Access Canberra on 13 22 81 as soon as possible to discuss options.

Support to Farmers and Rural Lessees (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- The ACT's farming community and rural lessees in the south of Canberra incurred losses through the damage caused by the fires. This includes damage to fences, pastures, and farm equipment.
- The government has provided emergency fodder in the immediate aftermath of the fire. Repairs to significant distances of fencing has also been completed.
- Bushfire relief measures jointly activated by the ACT and Australian Governments, including grants and loans, were made available to rural lessees for consideration in the aftermath of the fire.
- I have met with representatives of the rural landowners to discuss unmet needs and options for the government to assist with these unmet needs. This has included supporting rural lessees to apply for a $10,000 small business grant to help address unmet needs. I am aware that several bushfire recovery grant applications have been received and that these are are currently under assessment.
- The ACT continues to liaise with the Australian Government about opportunities for further bushfire recovery support.
- I encourage any rural landowner that requires ongoing bushfire recovery support to contact their insurer, and Access Canberra on 13 22 81 as soon as possible to discuss options.

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Key Information

<u>If asked specifically about whether ACT businesses are excluded from the agency's $50,000 recovery grants program.</u>

- No ACT business was specifically excluded from applying for the $50,000 grant program. However, loss of profit was not eligible for payment.
- Businesses that incurred a loss of profit were eligible to apply for support for a concessional loan.

<u>If asked how many smoke-impacted ACT businesses received grants and loans.</u>

- For businesses that suffered a loss of income due to indirect impact of the bushfires, including through smoke impact, the ACT Government activated the concessional loans and wine grape smoke taint grants.
- Three smoke-impacted ACT businesses successfully applied for concessional loans.
- Five wine grape smoke taint grants are being processed for wine grape producers who operate in the ACT.
- Several recovery grants from rural lessees are under assessment.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-055

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

Bushfire Royal Commission response

Talking points:

- The ACT Government is pleased to release its response to the final report of the *Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements* that was handed down in October last year.
- The ACT acknowledges the significant work of the Royal Commission to present recommendations that will help to address more complex and severe natural disasters that are and will occur into the future. These recommendations have been considered against the other ACT reviews into the Black Summer bushfires.
- The consequence of the Black Summer bushfires on the ACT were significant. These consequences include risks to public health and safety, reduced business and tourism, damage to the ACT's environment, cultural and heritage values and rural properties. As a government and community we must do everything we can to reduce the impact of natural disaster on the ACT into the future.
- The ACT continues to offer help to those recovering from the bushfires. This incudes grant and loan opportunities and seeking Commonwealth support to the unmet needs of rural lessees.
- The ACT is supportive of all recommendations of the Royal Commission. No time has been wasted in progressing the recommendations, many of which overlap work already underway in the ACT. These include progressing climate change initiatives, strengthening bushfire fuel load management information, strengthening recovery policy in-line with national policy and sharing information about critical infrastructure.
- The ACT is also working closely with the Commonwealth and all states and territories to progress six priority and National Federation Reform Council recommendations ahead of the next summer season.
- It is timely to remind all Canberrans of the need to be prepared for and resilient to all forms of natural disasters that occur in the ACT. Bushfires and severe storms are the most comment types of natural disasters in the ACT. Information about how to be ready for these natural disasters is available from the Emergency Services Agency website (esa.act.gov.au).
- Finally, the it is important to note that the Black Summer bushfires may bring back painful memories for those Canberrans who were involved in the devastating 2003 bushfires. Anyone needing help is encouraged to call Lifeline or Beyond Blue for further assistance.

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Contact Officer name:	Aleysha Cullen	Ext:72635
Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Key Information

- The recommendations are wide ranging and address a diverse range of areas, including, among other things: national emergency coordination arrangements, data and decision making, declaration of national emergency arrangements, enhancements to national emergency response capability, emergency planning and evacuation, emergency information and warnings, land management and indigenous land and fire management, coordinating relief and recovery and delivery of recovery services and financial assistance measures.
- All Emergency Management Ministers agreed that ahead of the 2021-22 high-risk weather season, the states and territories and Commonwealth governments will focus on progressing priority actions against several recommendations relating to:
    - the Australian Warning System
    - the Australian Fire Danger Rating System
    - nationally consistent pre-agreed Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements
    - a review of the path to expeditiously deliver the Public Safety Mobile Broadband capability
    - making substantial progress to reform fundraising laws, and
    - making substantial progress to improve natural disaster risk information to support decision-making such as land-use planning for new development, and the construction code.

Background Information

- The Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established in response to the Black Summer bushfires of 2019-2020 which resulted in devastating loss of life, property and wildlife, and environmental destruction across the nation. Commission Chair, Air Chief Marshal Mark Binskin AC (Retd) presented the Royal Commission's report to the Governor-General on Wednesday, 28 October 2020. The report was tabled in the Federal Parliament on 30 October, 2020.
- In December 2020 and March 2021, Tasmania and Victoria respectively released their formal responses to the Royal Commission recommendations. It is expected that most other jurisdictions will release their reponses in the coming months.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-030

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: CLOSED CIRCUIT TELEVISION (CCTV)

Talking points:

HOT TOPICS

Public Safety CCTV Network (the Network) Expansion into Glebe Park

- Glebe Park is a wonderful public amenity in Civic that remains popular with individuals, families and public events.
- The government has invested $190,000 to increase the safety of the park by expanding the ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network.
- Eight cameras will be installed throughout the park that will provide live and recorded footage to ACT Policing and the government to support public safety and crime investigation.
- The works are anticipated to be completed in the first half of 2021.

General

- The government remains focused on creating safer public spaces, venues and events for all Canberrans to enjoy.
- The ACT's Public Safety CCTV Network enhances the safety of Canberra's public venues and open spaces, providing a level of reassurance to the Canberra community. The Public Safety CCTV Network is a key tool in protecting the safety and security of all Canberrans.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network provides live and recorded CCTV footage to the government and the ACTP to support, public safety monitoring, event management, criminal investigations and prosecutions in court.
- A key priority for the use of the CCTV Network is to ensure that the privacy of individuals is protected and that it is operated within the ACT's Human Rights Frameworks. The CCTV Network is a closed network and not connected to any other database or system that can be used to identify people.

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Expansion of the Public Safety CCTV Network via TPG Wi-Fi network

- The government installed a Public Safety CCTV Network camera in Lonsdale Street Braddon in December.
- The camera, which is connected via the TPG network is the third in the rollout of this concept and is proving valuable as part of the Public Safety CCTV Network.
- The camera routes information over the CBRfree network and was therefore cost efficient to install.
- Another two camera units are scheduled to be installed by the end of April.
- The installation of the camera is part of the government's ongoing focus on safer public places, venues, and events.

New Camera Technology and Privacy

- Manufacturers of CCTV systems continue to enhance the technology and capability of their products at a significant rate. These enhancements have dramatically improved the quality and resolution of live and recorded footage that is available to ACT Policing and the government to monitor public safety and investigate crime.
- Manufacturers are also including in their CCTV software search capabilities that allow for a faster and more accurate review of recorded footage to support the investigation of crime or missing people.
- All government CCTV systems are stand alone, do not use facial biometrics and do not connect to any other database that can be used to identify individuals. Footage is deleted after 30 days if not used to support the investigation of crime.
- Canberrans can rest assured that all government CCTV systems are operated within the ACT's strong human rights and privacy frameworks and that their privacy is protected.

Portable Solar Powered CCTV units

- There are 22 solar powered CCTV cameras operating in the ACT that help to keep Canberrans and their property safe.
- Solar powered CCTV units require no fixed infrastructure to operate and will transmit data over the mobile phone network.

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- Solar powered CCTV units continue to be used at crowded place events to enhance public safety. Four units are located on rural roads to help deter rural crime and help investigate bushfires caused by stolen and burnt cars.
- Solar powered CCTV is also used to help deter and investigate illegal dumping and other crimes across Canberra.
- The outcomes of the trial will further benefit the Government's understanding of how this technology can be used to support public and asset safety and security.

Key Information

If asked about facial-biometric capability of the Public Safety CCTV Network

- The Public Safety CCTV Network does not utilise facial-biometric capability.
- The Public Safety CCTV Network complies with ACT privacy and human rights laws.

If asked about CCTV on the Light Rail network

- Live and recorded CCTV footage from light rail stops is available to ACT Policing.

If asked about CCTV Network Security

- The Public Safety CCTV Network operates within the secure ACT Government ICT network. Access to the Network is by officers with authorised access and restricted to specially programmed computers.
- The stand-alone solar powered CCTV units transmit encrypted data to secure servers which are only accessible by officials with authorised access.

If asked about current Network capabilities

- The Public Safety CCTV Network is located at Canberra City, Braddon, Henry Rolland Park, GIO Stadium, Manuka Oval, EPIC, Manuka shopping precinct, Kingston shopping precinct, Jolimont Bus Station, Tuggeranong CBD, and Haig Park.
- CCTV footage is recorded by these systems 24 hours a day. Footage is retained for 30 days as required by the *Territory Records Act 2002,* after which it is automatically deleted unless required for investigative purposes.
- ACT Policing has dedicated staff that actively monitor the Public Safety CCTV Network. The purpose of the monitoring is to enhance public safety by identifying anti-social or criminal activity early and dispatching Police resources in a timely manner. ACT Policing may also use the Network at any other time to assist with incident management, investigations, and response.

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JACS2021/47-001-031

Portfolio/s: Chief Minister

Police and Emergency Services

Special Minister of State

ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY

TALKING POINTS

Australian Government Critical Infrastructure Reforms (Chief Minister)

- Critical infrastructure is essential to the function of our daily lives in the ACT.
- The ACT's establishment of a second power supply is one example of how the ACT is strengthening the resilience of our critical infrastructure.
- The ACT remains supportive of the focus by the Australian Government to strengthen the security of Australia's critical infrastructure by reforming the *Security of Critical Infrastructure Act 2018*. The ACT remains engaged with the Commonwealth and the state and territory governments to support the development of the reforms.
- The ACT maintains its own critical infrastructure arrangements and relationships between government and non-government owners and operators.
- This relationship was used to great effect during the 2019-20 bushfire season to share information about critical infrastructure.

Cyber Security and Online Safety (Special Minister of State)

- The ACT remains an attractive target for cyber criminals.
- The cyber threat is persistent. State actors, criminal syndicates, issue motivated groups and self-motivated individuals continue to target children, families, businesses, online critical infrastructure and steal Government intellectual property.
- Cyber security remains a top priority for the ACT Government.

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- Our specialist teams work to protect information managed by the ACT Government and regularly meet withthe National Cyber Security Committee to monitor the cyber threat environment.
- In response to recommendations from the Auditor-General's audit on data security, the ACT has engaged a provider to undertake a thorough risk and threat assessment of the ACT's environment. This is in addition to a wide range of other activities to strengthen the ACT's cyber security resilience.
- The ACT supported the development of *Australia's Cyber Security Strategy 2020*, launched August 2020. The strategy responds to continuing malicious cyber threats and activities faced by Australians.
- With more Canberrans working and studying online due to COVID-19, the potential for online harm is increased. Visit the eSafety Commissioner's website for ways to keep you and your family safe online.
- I encourage all Canberrans to follow the IT security advice of the Australian Cyber Security Centre available at cyber.gov.au.

Foreign Interference (Chief Minister)

- The ACT values its open and transparent international engagement with other governments to progress matters of mutual benefit.
- Unfortunately, some foreign actors are pursuing opportunities to interfere in a range of areas such as decision makers, intellectual property, and IT systems in Australia. The ACT is not immune from this interference.
- Foreign interference activities go beyond routine diplomatic influence practiced by governments. Interference may be coercive, covert, deceptive and clandestine in nature and can cause harm to the ACT's interests.
- The ACT partners with the Australian Government and other states and territories on efforts to protect our systems of government, democracy, critical infrastructure, education and media.
- Concerns about foreign interference should be reported to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.

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Public Spaces and Venue Safety (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- Canberra's public places and events remain a safe and attractive place for communities and families.
- While the national terrorism public alert level remains at PROBABLE, there is no specific or credible threat to the ACT at this time.
- The ACT Government and ACT Policing continually monitor the security threat environment. We must all remain vigilant to the threat of terrorism.
- The government remains ready as COVID restrictions ease to host safe and enjoyable public events.
- We have expanded our CCTV Network (the Network), into areas such as Glebe Park,and make use of portable CCTV capability, vehicle protection barriers and other measures as appropriate to protect Canberrans.

Countering Violent Extremism (Chief Minister)

- Our best defence against violent extremism is maintaining a welcoming and inclusive city, where diversity is respected and celebrated.
- Unfortunately during COVID-19 we have seen an increase in racial abuse and hate speech directed towards some members of our community – this is unacceptable and goes against what the ACT stands for.
- The ACT Government recognises communities play an important role in preventing and countering violent extremism, alongside government agencies. This is a shared challenge and requires a whole-of-society approach.
- The ACT's approach is focussed on education, effective community dialogue and safeguarding those most vulnerable to the messages of violent extremists.
- The ACT Government and ACT Policing continue to work to keep Canberrans safe from all forms of violent extremism in partnership with our Commonwealth, State and Territory colleagues.
- I encourage families, friends and communities to contact authorities for help and advice if you are concerned someone may be radicalising or vulnerable to violent extremism.

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- Concerns can and should be reported to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Please visit the Living Safe Together website for more information.

Fixated Threat Capability (Minister for Police and Emergency Services)

- In the ACT Budget 2019-20, the Government announced $1.08 million over three years to establish and trial a fixated threat capability for the ACT. This capacity has been established.The ACT now has specially trained officers from ACT Policing, and mental health professionals from Canberra Health Services co-located and working closely together to assess and manage fixated individuals in the ACT. The ACT Government is also undertaking a two year review of the capability to ensure it is best practice and meets the requirements of the ACT.
- A fixated individual is a person with an unhealthy obsession or perceived grievance with another person. In many cases, a fixated individual may have undiagnosed or untreated mental health issues.
- A focus for the ACT's fixated threat capability is to reduce harm to the community by engaging (or sometimes re-engaging) fixated individuals with appropriate mental health or other community support services.
- The establishment of this capability completes the ACT's implementation of the October 2017 agreement of the Council of Australian Governments to adopt a national approach to assessing and managing fixated individuals.

Counter Terrorism (Chief Minister)

- The ACT is a successful and harmonious multicultural society. This is one of our greatest strengths against acts of terrorism and violent extremism occurring in Canberra.
- Our identity is defined by an overriding commitment to our nation, its democratic values and the rule of law, not by race, religion or ethnic background.
- The ACT supports community leaders and activities to promote our vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.
- We as a government reject those who seek to impose their world view on others through intimidation and violence.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

- Anyone who singles out any particular group as a target for hatred plays into the hands of terrorists.
- My government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community. We work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism and violent extremism.
- We cannot eliminate the risk of terrorism any more than any other serious crime. But we will do all we can to keep our community safe from those who seek to do us harm.
- Terrorism is a national issue, and we work closely with our interstate and Commonwealth partners on the national security challenges we face. We need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these evolving issues.
- The Australian National Security website contains information about Australia's security threat environment and terrorism in Australia.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening, call Triple-Zero (000).

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-043

Portfolio/s: Police and Emergency Services

ACT BUSHFIRE COUNCIL – RELATIONSHIP WITH ESA

Talking points:

- I (Minister Gentleman) and the ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) have always, and continue to, value a strong, constructive working relationship with the ACT Bushfire Council.
- The ESA continues to meet with the Bushfire Council on a regular, scheduled basis, and works constructively with the Council and its members.
- As part of this strong, constructive working relationship, it is normal process for the Bushfire Council Chair and the ESA Commissioner to discuss issues that may impact the ESA and the Council working together effectively.
- The ESA has always ensured the Bushfire Council is well briefed on its operations. This has included thorough briefings, bringing Council members into Incident Management Rooms, and facilitating tours of firegrounds for Council members.
- The ESA stands by the work of the ESA Operational Review and the 38 After-Action Review sessions. The review process has been the most open and transparent review in the ESA's history. This review sought the views of hundreds of volunteers and staff.
- The ESA provides secretariat services to the Bushfire Council as per its responsibilities under the *Emergencies Act 2004*. The secretariat undertakes tasks for the Council with direction provided from the Chair.

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Background:

- Under the *Emergencies Act 2004* the Bushfire Council has the function of advising the Minister for Police and Emergency Services about matters relating to bushfires.
- On 26 November 2020, Canberra Times journalist Dan Jarvis-Bardy (The applicant) submitted an FOI application for '*Copies of all correspondence from the ACT Emergency Services Agency Commissioner to the ACT Bushfire Council on September 22, 2020, and, copies of all correspondence from the council to the commissioner between September 22, 2020, and November 26, 2020.'*
- The ESA identified the documents within scope, which were provided to the applicant on 21 January 2021.
- These documents have been used to publish several articles in the Canberra Times since 25 January 2021, claiming that the ESA had lost confidence in the Council and the advice it provides.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-032

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2019-20 BUSHFIRE SEASON

Talking points:

Conditions

- As everyone in our community is aware, the 2019-20 Bushfire Season was a very challenging season right across Australia.
- The lead up to the 2019-20 bushfire season saw some of the driest conditions on record. During the season, we saw some of the most unprecedented weather conditions in Australia's history. Large parts of Australia were impacted by significant fires with unpredictable and dangerous fire behaviour fuelled by hot, dry and windy conditions. These conditions meant fires developed easily and were hard to stop.

Thank you

- Much is owed to the expertise and professionalism of the ACT Rural Fire Service, ACT Fire & Rescue, ACT Ambulance Service, ACT State Emergency Service, ACT Parks and Conservation Service, Aviation Fire & Rescue Service, NSW Rural Fire Service, Fire & Rescue NSW, ACT Policing and the Australian Defence Force. The ACT would also like to thank the National Resource Sharing Centre and Fire and Emergency Services in other jurisdictions who boosted our capability.
- I would like to thank staff across all ACT Government Directorates for their support to the Emergency Coordination Centre in managing the government response to these fires and keeping our community safe.
- The ferocity of the season has been felt by many of our volunteers who gave their time responding to bushfires here in the ACT, engaging with the community and deploying interstate.
- I commend all emergency service volunteers who answered the call to protect our community. I would also like to thank the family, friends, partners and workplaces of those volunteers, whose support enabled them to contribute to the continued protection of our community.
- I also thank volunteers for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as volunteers.

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- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement. A number of reviews were undertaken into the 2019-20 bushfire season including the ESA Operational Review, the Review on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response, the ACT Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into 2019-20 Bushfire Season and the Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements.

ESA Operational Review

- An external consultant was engaged to conduct an operational review to analyse the effectiveness of the ESA's preparation, planning, response and recovery to the 2019-20 Bushfire and storm season.
- To assist the review, approximately 38 After-Action Review (AAR) workshops were conducted with volunteers and staff. The external consultant analysed the feedback as part of the evaluation process and used this information to compile a final report,providing recommendations on areas of improvement.
- The report has identified a requirement to improve the ACT's capacity to establish and sustain operations across multiple incidents over a protracted season and an additional focus on planning skills and procedures.
- There are 31 recommendations themed into the following categories:

  o Capability;

  o Collective Training and Exercise;

  o Preparedness;

  o Personnel;

  o Planning; and

  o Incident Management.
- While some recommendations have already been addressed, others require long-term planning and consultation with stakeholders or may be impacted by the outcomes of other reviews, including the Royal Commission into National Natural DisasterArrangements.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Review on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response

- The ESA Deputy Commissioner, Mr Ray Johnson, was tasked with leading the review of the whole of government response to the 2019-20 bushfire season. The review considered the ACT's coordination, response and recovery.
- The Report to the *Minister for Police and Emergency Services on Whole of ACT Government Coordination and Response during the 2019-20 Bushfire Season* concludes that the overall view of stakeholders was that the legislative framework was sound, and that the *Emergencies Act 2004* (the Act) fulfilled its functions during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The Final Report did, however, recommend amendments to the Act to clarify roles, and provide greater support to the Emergency Controller. These amendments were passed in the ACT Legislative Assembly during the August 2020 sitting period.
- Further legislative amendments to the Act may be progressed at a later date, pending further consultation and consideration.

ACT Legislative Assembly Committee Inquiry into 2019-20 Bushfire Season

- At the conclusion of the 2019-20 bushfire season, the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety undertook a review of ACT emergency services responses to the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The final report titled *Review of ACT Emergency Services Responses to the 2019-20 Bushfire Season* was completed on 29 September 2020.
- The report identifies 26 recommendations for Government to consider implementing in order to enhance ACT Government's preparation and response to bushfires.
- The ACT Government has finalised its response which is publicly available.

Royal Commission into National Natural Disaster Arrangements

- The Royal Commission (Commission) into National Natural Disaster Arrangements was established on 20 February 2020 in response to the extreme bushfire season of 2019-20.

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- The Commission examined the coordination, preparedness for, response to and recovery from disasters as well as improving resilience and adapting to changing climatic conditions and mitigating the impact of natural disasters. The inquiry will also consider the legal framework for Commonwealth involvement in responding to national emergencies.
- The Commission received approximately 1,600 written submissions and served ACT Government Directorates and Agencies with several Notices to Give Information and Notices to Produce.
- The ESA and EPSDD also facilitated a tour of the Orroral Valley Fire Ground for the Commission. This occurred on 23 April.
- The Royal Commission released its report on 28 October 2020 and it is currently being considered by all jurisdictions, including the ACT. The recently established National Emergency Management Minister's Meeting (NEMMM) will initially be responsible for driving and coordinating the implementation of the Royal Commission recommendations.

Public Messaging During Bushfire Threat

- One of the clear lessons from the 2003 Canberra bushfires was that people wanted to know early about approaching bushfire and with as much advance warning as possible.
- I am proud of the efforts of all ACT Government Directorates in keeping Canberrans informed and safe during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- A survey of 823 community members was recently conducted to determine the effectiveness of the communication and engagement during the 2019-20 bushfire season. Key findings of the survey included:
    - 98 percent of respondents knew the ACT was in a State of Alert / State of Emergency;
    - 93 percent of respondents agreed that they felt well informed about the recent ACT;
    - 89 percent of respondents said they knew what to do if a bushfire threatened them; and
    - 50 percent of respondents created a bushfire survival plan.

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Australian Defence Force (ADF) Helicopter

- The ESA is satisfied that the ADF followed their safety protocols in relation to reporting the incident and the information flow was consistent and appropriate between ESA and ADF. The Department of Defence has publicly stated that the crew of the helicopter were dealing with an inflight emergency. This meant that the radio traffic was focussed on the safety of the crew.
- ESA first became aware of the fire following reports from the Mt Tennant fire tower and initiated a response of fire units and heavy plant at 1:49pm. This was within 20 minutes of the initial ignition at 1:30pm. At 1:52pm, two aviation resources were also tasked to respond to the incident.
- While the ESA did all that they could to reduce the initial spread of the Orroral Valley fire, it was difficult to access due to the topography. The fire was also driven by other factors making suppression challenging, including the weather and the dry environmental conditions.

Use of Australian Defence Force (ADF)

- On 4 January 2020, the Prime Minister announced ADF assistance for the bushfires burning across Australia. This included boots on the ground, planes in the sky and ships out at sea all supporting the bushfire fighting effort and recovery.
- In the ACT, arrangements have long been in place for the ADF to be accommodated as part of our Emergency Coordination Centre. Therefore, the personnel deployed to the ACT were able to have an almost immediate impact in assisting our community.
- Some of the tasks the ADF assisted in included, but was not limited to:
    - Fireground surveillance
    - Door knocking
    - Personnel transport; bus and helicopter
    - Provision of accommodation for interstate crews including catering at ADFA
    - Provision of heavy plant and other equipment along with trained operators

- Incident Management Team, Emergency Coordination Centre and planning support
- Hand crews for development of helipads and indirect fire attack.

- The excellent work of all services, including the ADF, minimised the impact of these fires and ensured there was no loss of life as a result of the bushfires that surrounded the ACT.

Respiratory Protection

- The best respiratory protection for volunteers for the effects of smoke is a matter of great concern to the ESA.
- The Australasian Fire and Emergency Service Authorities Council note in their Managing Bushfire Smoke Exposure guidelines that the P2 masks currently available to our members are the current minimum bushfire standard.
- As part of its commitment to innovation and improvement, the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) has trialled, through the Brigades, a number of different types of P2and P3 masks during the 2019-20 bushfire season.
- The ACTRFS has also been in close consultation with their NSW counterparts as they are also considering options.
- Due to varying types of masks – full face and half face – the ACTRFS needs to be confident in the decision that they procure a product that is best fit for the Service.
- This process cannot be rushed. Any changes may not be implemented prior to next bushfire season, but it will be well-considered with the safety and wellbeing of its personnel being the main priority.

Volunteer Firefighter Payment Scheme

- When the Federal Government first announced the Volunteer Firefighter Payment scheme, it was only available to NSW Rural Fire Service members. The hard work of the ESA ensured this payment was also made available to ACT members.
- The ESA also took all reasonable steps to ensure eligible volunteer members who submitted an application, received payment as quickly as possible.

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- The ESA also assisted volunteers with completing the application forms when help was requested, and engaged in regular updates with volunteers to keep them informed.
- I am advised by the ESA that they have only received positive feedback from volunteer members on their handling of the Volunteer Firefighters' Financial Support Program.

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JACS2021/47-001-033

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: 2020-21 BUSHFIRE SEASON

Talking points:

- The ACT's 2020-21 Bushfire Season officially commenced on 1 November 2020, the season was delayed by one month due to significant rainfall during spring.
- The Australian Government Bureau of Meteorology declared a 'La Niña Alert' for the 2020-21 summer period. A 'La Niña Alert' indicated an increased likelihood of higher than average rainfall. The risks from heatwave and bushfire to the ACT from this were deemed 'average' in comparison to historic records, while increased rainfall totals increased the likelihood of riverine flooding in Australia's south-east.
- Whilst rainfall events reduced the risk of forest fire ignitions over the summer months it resulted in sped up growth in grasslands and increased the available fuel for grassfire ignitions within or adjacent to the Canberra urban area.
- Throughout the 2020-21 fire season the ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) and supporting services responded to 41 bush and grass fires within the Territory, majority of these fires were located within urban greenbelt areas and surrounding grasslands.
- As a result of the great work done by rural land holders, land managers, and ACT Parks and Conservation Service (PCS), through slashing, physical removal and grazing, the risks of grass fires was substantially reduced.
- While the Canberra community enjoys the benefits of living in the bush capital, it comes with bush and grass fire risk that requires preparedness, sound plans, and shared responsibility.
- The ESA engaged in extensive preparedness and readiness activity in preparation for the 2020-21 Bushfire and Storm Season. The ESA has worked hard to increase community awareness through the 'Are You Emergency Ready?' initiative and conducted eleven community information sessions held at shopping centres in bushfire and flood prone areas across the ACT through November and December 2020.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-034

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ESA KEY DATA (as at 1 July 2020)

ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
297.19	45.3%	54.7%	1..3%	1.3%	1.9%

Vehicles

Emergency Ambulance Vehicles	Patient transports	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
29	5	10	2	46

Call Outs

ACT Ambulance Service – Operational Activity	2018-19		2019-20	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Medical (includes aeromedical)	56,877	51,359	61,043	61,379
Dual Response (Fire, Storm, etc.)	2,352	2,388	762	770
Total Incidents	**59,229**	**53,747**	**61,805**	**62,149**

Stations

There are a total of eight ACTAS stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Dickson
- Fyshwick
- Woden
- Greenway
- Calwell

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	
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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
350.06	5.6%	94.4%	3.1%	0.6%	1.1%

Community Fire Unit Volunteers
834

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	CFU Trailers	Total
32	9	6	62	109

Call Outs

ACT Fire & Rescue – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Fires				
Structure Fires	256	1,411	223	1,189
Mobile Property Fires	259	455	242	439
Landscape fires, bush and grass	173	397	198	542
Other fires	251	437	241	611
Total Fires	**939**	**2,700**	**904**	**2,781**
Hazardous conditions	376	849	350	775
Severe Weather & Natural Disasters	353	392	431	485
System initiated FALSE alarms	5,355	11,545	5,825	11,709
Other	1,582	2,378	1,642	2,528
Total other emergencies and incidents	**7,666**	**15,164**	**8,248**	**15,497**
Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)				
Road Accident Rescue Operations	1,171	2,845	1,000	2,516
Medical Assists	420	586	412	585
Other Rescue (includes animal rescue)	187	263	209	264
Total Non-fire rescue calls (including road rescue)	**1,778**	**3,694**	**1,621**	**3,365**
Total ACTF&R Operational Activity	**10,383**	**21,558**	**10,773**	**21,643**

Stations

There are a total of nine stations:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Belconnen, Aranda
- West Belconnen, Charnwood
- Ainslie
- Fyshwick

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- Phillip
- Kambah
- Chisholm
- South Tuggeranong, Calwell

As part of the 2019-20 ACT Budget, work commenced on the due diligence and preliminary design for two new combined ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire & Rescue stations, to be located in Acton and the Molonglo Valley.

ACT Rural Fire Service (ACT RFS)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
15	62.5%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%	12.5%

ACTRFS Volunteers
457

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
62 + 15 trailers	7	0	84

Call Outs

ACT Rural Fire Service – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Grass and bushfires	77	354	88	658
Smoke investigations	2	4	8	17
Vehicle fire	33	26	26	34
Motor vehicle accident	4	5	2	2
Storm/flood (assisting ACTSES)	65	71	28	8
Structure Fires	1	2	5	20
Hazard Reductions	46	410	27	123
Other Fires/Incidents	0	0	126	675
Total Incidents	**56**	**181**	**310**	**1,537**

Stations

There are a total of eight sheds:

- Gungahlin, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Hall
- Molonglo, Holt
- Rivers, Cotter Road Stromlo
- Jerrabomberra, Symonston
- Guises Creek, Royalla
- Southern, Tharwa

- Tidbinbilla

Fire Towers

There are four fire towers

- Mount Tennent
- Kowen
- Coree
- One Tree Hill

ACT State Emergency Service (ACT SES)

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
10	40.0%	60.0%	0.0%	20.0%	10.0%

ACTSES Volunteers
400

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
20 + 23 trailers	8	0	51

Call Outs

ACT State Emergency Service – Operational Activity	**2018-19**		**2019-20**	
Incident Type	**Incidents**	**Responses**	**Incidents**	**Responses**
Storm and flood	502	613	1,723	2,061
Search and rescue	11	94	16	130
"Operational assistance to other services (provision of flood boat service, lighting towers, catering)"	29	182	65	332
Total Incidents	**542**	**889**	**1,804**	**2,523**

Stations

There are a total of seven units and one support group:

- Gungahlin Unit, Joint Emergency Services Complex
- Tuggeranong Unit, Calwell
- Majura Unit, Hackett
- Belconnen Unit, Belconnen
- Woden Unit, Phillip
- Pialligo Unit, ESA Fairbairn precinct
- Rivers Unit, Cotter Road, Stromlo
- ESA Headquarters Support

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Emergency Services Agency (ESA) General

Staffing

Total FTE	% Female	% Male	% Indigenous	% Disability	% Multicultural
110.91	43%	57%	2.6%	1.8%	9.6%

MAPS Volunteers
49

Vehicles

Operational	Operational support	Support Vehicles	Total
0	8	3	11

Facilities

- ESA Headquarters, Fairbairn
- ESA Workshops, Fairbairn
- ESA Resource Centre, Fairbairn
- ESA Training Centre, Hume

Volunteer Firefighters' Support Fund

Key Information

- The ACT will have access to this funding including fighting fires in NSW.
- The Rural Fire Service (RFS) currently have 422 volunteers. Currently estimates are that there may be upwards of 80 eligible RFS applicants.
- The State Emergency Service (SES) currently have 356 volunteers. Currently estimates are that there may be upwards of 10 eligible applicants.
- It is estimated that 200 or so ACT volunteer firefighters may be eligible in total.
- It is not currently known how much funding this will equate to for the ACT.
- The ACT Government (ESA) will administer the payments, develop detailed implementation guidelines and bear any associated administration costs. This is consistent with the agreement between the Commonwealth and New South Wales.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-035

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) RESOURCING

Talking points:

- The Canberra community can have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance service.
- Demand on our ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) is at the highest levels ever. Despite this growing demand, the ACT has continued to record some of the best response times in the country, as well as high levels of patient satisfaction.
- The dedication and professionalism of our paramedics should be highly commended as they continue to provide life-saving services to members of the community who are experiencing their worst day.
- The ESA continues to provide support for our ambulance workforce and remains focussed on their health and welfare as they continue to meet community expectations.
- Recent funding packages have delivered:
    - 53 additional paramedics
    - seven additional ambulances
    - powered stretchers in all 30 emergency ambulance vehicles, which will reduce physical demands on paramedics and improve patient safety.
- This recognises the support required to maintain a nation leading ambulance service.

Key Information

- Data published in the Report on Government Services shows that ACT Ambulance Service continues to deliver the country's fastest response rates and leading performance in answering Emergency 000 calls for assistance. This impressive result has once again been achieved despite an increasing demand for services.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-036

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT FIRE & RESCUE RESOURCING

Talking points:

Recruitment

- ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) is currently addressing challenges to staffing levels caused by the large number of ACTF&R staff who are approaching 55 years of age and the increase in age-related retirements
- Whilst it is difficult to determine the exact number of firefighters who will retire over the next 24 months, ACTF&R stragtegic workforce planning has identified that the worst case scenario is that up to 30 ACTF&R staff will retire in the next 24 months.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) intends to recruit 180 firefighters (99 additional; 81 replacement) over the next five years. This includes staff required for the new Acton (city) and Molonglo stations, crewing of the new aerial pumper, and an increase to the relief ratio.

Overtime

- In order to support the provision of a 24 hour service to the ACT community, it is necessary at times for the ESA staff, including ACTF&R staff, to work overtime. No one in the ESA is “forced” to undertake overtime. Firefighters are offered opportunities to work overtime through an internal, on-line recall roster.
- The ESA monitors ACTF&R overtime and takes matters of staff welfare seriously and has delivered a number of initiatives that enable its staff to better manage ever-present stressors that are experienced by emergency service personnel as they seek to protect our community, including training additional ACTF&R peer support officers.
- The health and wellbeing of emergency services personnel is a key priority for this Government. Any firefighters that feel the amount of overtime they are chosing to work is affecting their health and wellbeing are encouraged to access the welfare initiatives available.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-037

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY (ESA) GOVERNMENT COMMITMENTS AND PRIORITIES

Talking points:

1) 10th Legislative Assembly Parliamentary and Governing Agreement Commitments

Recruit an additional 99 new firefighters and add new fire trucks and equipment

- Under the enterprise agreement reached between the government and the United Firefighters Union in June 2020, the ACT Fire & Rescue Service will recruit an additional 99 new firefighters over the life of the agreement through a series of recruit colleges.
- The ESA intends to recruit a total of 180 firefighters (to fill 99 new roles and to fill 81 expected vacancies in current positions) over the next five years. This includes the additional staff required for the new Acton (city) and Molonglo stations, crewing of the new aerial pumper, and an increase to the relief ratio.
- Recruit College 44 commenced in February 2021 with 20 recruits. This will be followed in July 2021 by Recruit College 45. Further recruit colleges will be conducted in subsequent years.
- ACT Fire & Rescue has also commenced implementing other aspects of the enterprise agreement, including health and wellbeing initiatives and skills and training incentives, in consultation with the United Firefighters Union and ACT Fire and Rescue staff.

Build new fire and ambulance stations in the City and Molonglo

- The construction of new joint stations in the City (Acton) and Molonglo was a commitment of the ACT Labor Party during the 2020 election.
- The Government announced $939,000 funding in the 2019-20 budget to progress due diligence and forward design for future joint stations in the City and the Molonglo Valley.

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- In August 2020, the Government announced funding of over $45 million for the design and construction of a joint fire and ambulance station at Acton.
- Forward design for the new Acton Station is currently underway with key stakeholders, before the government goes to market for the construction phase later in 2020-21.
- Feasibility studies for the Molonglo station are also underway, which will help inform the planning, budget and location for a new Molonglo Station.

Continued funding for PACER operations

- The PACER (Police, Ambulance and Clinician Early Response) Program was successfully trialed in 2019-20, with funding provided in the 2019-20 Budget.
- ACT Health is the lead agency for this initiative, with support from ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Policing.
- The Government recently announced $14.7 million to continue funding for PACER's operation for the next four years.
- The program began as a trial service operating four days a week in December 2019. The ACT Government provided an additional $720,000 as part of a Mental Health Support Package (MHSP) announced in May 2020 to expand the service's operation from four to seven days a week. This $14.7 million commitment will see the seven day a week model continue for the next four years.
- The PACER team now features 29 highly trained first responders across the three agencies to call on for its daily 2:00pm to midnight shifts.

2) Continuing Budget and/or 9th Legislative Assembly Commitments

A new hybrid electric fire pumper

- In 2019, the Government announced a partnership with Rosenbauer Australia for the development and delivery of a hybrid electric fire truck, to help the ESA meet the challenges under the ACT Climate Change Strategy 2019-25.
- A single select procurement exemption was granted for this partnership by the Director General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate.

- Subsequently, the ESA conducted a full open tender process for the purchase of all ACTF&R frontline fire trucks, and Rosenbauer were the successful tenderer, allowing for the purchase of the new hybrid electric fire pumper.
- Extensive consultation has occurred with ACT Fire & Rescue staff, the United Firefighters Union, and ACT Government Directorates. This consultation has included feasibility options.
- The ESA applied for Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) funding for the new hybrid electric fire pumper. $524k in ZEG funding has been approved for the project.
- The ESA will use the allocated vehicle money from Acton station to supplement the funding provided under the ZEG fund, with the vehicle to be based at the new Acton station when it is completed.
- The scheduled delivery date of the vehicle is mid July 2022.

<u>Strengthen bushfire preparedness and responses, with continued investments in volunteer firefighters</u>

- The ESA received funding in the 2019-20 Budget Review for a range of initiatives to strengthen the ACT's bushfire preparedness, including funding to continue the ACT's contribution to the National Emergency Alert system, an additional seven Electronic Fire Danger Rating Signs to upgrade the remaining manual signs, and a six-month trial to install fire detecting cameras in key locations around the ACT.
- Additional staff have been recruited in ACTRFS HQ. Members with specialist skillsets in Fire Behaviour, Aviation, Weather Analyst and Strategic Planning joined the ESA in the off season bolstering the capabilities of the ACTRFS in fire planning, analysis, and response.
- ACTRFS Brigades are using a new App based 'turn out' system. Early notification of an incident allows for a timely and effective response by ACTRFS.
- Work on the fire detecting camera trial was initially delayed due to the severity of the 2019-20 bushfire season followed by the COVID-19 pandemic, but is now underway.
- The manual fire danger rating signs have now been replaced with electronic signs.

- The ESA previously received funding in the 2019-20 Budget to contract a second medium helicopter to combat bushfires, and capital funding in that budget to upgrade the ACT Rural Fire Service facilities at the Hume Helibase:
    - the second helicopter formed part of the ACT's aviation bushfire response during the 2019-20 bushfire season
    - the works at the Hume Helibase were completed in 2020.

<u>Upgrade ACTSES facilities, including Majura SES in Hackett</u>

- The ESA received funding over two years in the 2019-20 Budget for a major upgrade to the ACT State Emergency Services Majura Unit in Hackett to accommodate growth in membership. Some funding is required to be rolled over to 2021-22.
- Forward design work was completed in the first half of 2020 with a preferred contractor being identified. ACTSES and ESA Finance are currently considering the forward design work to determine the best way to proceed.

Key Information

- ESA is currently working with the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, the Chief Minister, Treasury, and Economic Development Directorate, and other ACT Government Directorates and Agencies on the implementation of all Government commitments.

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

Background Information

Status of Government Commitments

- The table below shows the current status of each ESA related Government Commitment:

Title	Included in Budget (which year)	Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)
ACT Fire and Rescue Staffing and Development (includes firefighter recruitment).	2020 Budget annoucement	In Progress
Construction of joint station in Acton	2020 Budget announcement	In Progress
Construction of joint station in Molonglo	Not yet funded	Not yet
Continuation of PACER program	2020-21 Budget	In Progress
A new hybrid electric fire pumper	Included in funding for construction of joint station in Acton, and the successful application for Zero Emissions Government (ZEG) funding	In Progress
Strengthen bushfire preparedness and responses, with continued investments in volunteer firefighters.	2019-20 Budget 2019-20 Budget Review	In Progress
Upgrade ACT State Emergency Service facilities, including Majura SES in Hackett.	2019-20	In Progress

QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-038

Portfolio: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ESA COMMUNICATION CENTRE (COMCEN) REFORM

Talking points:

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) is working with staff and the unions on the proposed changes. Ongoing consultation is occurring through an ACT Fire & Rescue specific Workplace Consultative Committee, where issues specific to the future ComCen model are being discussed with United Firefighters Union representatives.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project is to expand the current call-taking, dispatch and incident support services across the ESA ComCen to provide a single one agency approach. The new ESA positions will be known as Communication Officers.
- Recruitment for Communications Officers has commenced via a community based recruitment. Successful applicants will be provided with training to manage Emergency Triple Zero (E000) calls directed to the ComCen. The current agreed in principle position will free up 12 qualified firefighters to return to front line operations. Recruitment for ACTAS call takers has commenced prior to Enterprise Agreement negotiations.
- The ESA will also use the changes in service delivery models to explore options in terms of better use of technology. This includes integrating systems to facilitate the provision of timely information between services, external agencies, and with the public. This technology also includes the concepts of CCTV, drone capability and aerial camers.
- This reform will also allow ESA to provide a dynamic and diverse workforce. The reform process will also allow ESA to adapt to evolving response with an all hazards apporoach.

Key Information

- During EA discussions, agreements were reached with the United Firefighters Union as to the final disposition of the ESA Communications Centre, which provides a clear pathway forward for the reform.
- The ESA is working with staff and unions to progress the reforms, and will communicate with all staff and volunteers.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-039

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: ACT AMBULANCE SERVICE (ACTAS) BLUEPRINT FOR CHANGE

Talking points:

- All eight of the original Blueprint For Change recommendations are substantially addressed or have been completed.
- Following an independent review of the Blueprint for Change program, a recommendation was made to transition the program to business as usual within ACTAS.
- The recommendation was supported by the ACTAS Chief Officer, the ESA Commissioner and the ACTAS Governance and Compliance Committee. The transition took effect on 1 July 2020.
- The Blueprint program saw the delivery of significant initiatives within ACTAS such as the Peer Support program, MANERS training, Leadership Framework and safe workplace and respectful conversations training.
- It is important ACTAS does not lose traction on the good work undertaken as part of the Blueprint program.
- Moving forward, a project resource was transferred from the People and Culture team to ACTAS to lead the new team. It will be resourced to focus on the delivery of ACTAS strategic priorities, including the delivery of a comtemporary service delivery model, a modernised structure, leadership development, and staff health and wellbeing.
- Concurrently, it will review those outcomes already delivered through Blueprint to ensure they are fit for purpose.
- This important work continues in collaboration with the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.

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JACS2021/47-001-040

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: CLADDING

- ACT Fire & Rescue is a contributing member of the Cladding Review Working Group led by Environment Planning Sustainable Development Directorate. This is a multi-agency working group and information is shared by all parties.
- ACT Fire & Rescue has developed a training package for all firefighters explaining what combustible cladding is, the potential risks to firefighters and what precautions firefighters should take when responding to a building that may contain combustible cladding, including firefighting strategy.
- As a response agency, ACT Fire & Rescue draws no distinction between public and private buildings and will work with all members of the community to preserve life, property and the environment.

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QUESTION TIME BRIEF

JACS2021/47-001-041

Portfolio/s: Police & Emergency Services

ISSUE: INDEPENDENT INTEGRITY COMMISSION

Independent Integrity Commission

ACT Policing Update:

- The AFP supports the establishment of an independent integrity body in the ACT.
- The AFP has existing robust internal and external integrity mechanisms, including the AFP's Professional Standards Framework, independent oversight from ACLEI and the Commonwealth Ombudsman, enshrined in Commonwealth legislation (the AFP Act and the LEIC Act).
- ACT Policing also has extensive reporting obligations to the ACT Government.
- Additional oversight over ACT Policing members will duplicate existing arrangements and add complexity in its administration owing to external oversight frameworks already in existence.
- Cleared by: ACTP-C-MPP
- Date: 27 July 2018

Integrity Commission background

- The ACT Legislative Assembly passed the *Integrity Commission Act 2018* on 29 November 2018. The Act commenced in part on 1 July 2019, and was effective on 1 December 2019.
- Establishing the Commission was an item in the Parliamentary Agreement for the 9th Legislative Assembly for the ACT.
- The Act was the product of two Select Committee inquiries, sustained public consultation and extensive negotiations between the Government, the Opposition and Greens MLAs.
- The Act creates an ACT Integrity Commission tasked with investigating corrupt conduct relating to the public sector, referring complaints to appropriate entities and conducting education and training.

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- The Integrity Commission has jurisdiction to investigate corrupt conduct committed by a range of public officials, including ACT public servants, MLAs and their staff, statutory office holders including boards and committees and third party contractors.
- The Commission must prioritise the investigation of serious or systemic corrupt conduct.
- The ACT Integrity Commission is tasked with investigating prospective and current matters, with some limited ability to conduct retrospective reviews.
- In the 2018-19 Budget, the Government committed funding of $8.4m over four years towards the establishment of the Integrity Commission.
- From 1 December 2019, the Integrity Commission was able to receive complaints about alleged corrupt conduct across the ACT public sector. It will prioritise the investigation of serious corrupt conduct and systemic corrupt conduct but that does not mean that less serious or singular instances of corruption will be overlooked.

Integrity Commissioner Appointment and Acting Appointments

- On 14 May 2019, the Speaker of the Legislative Assembly announced the appointment of Mr Dennis Cowdroy OAM QC as the inaugural Integrity Commissioner, with the endorsement of all three parties in the Assembly. Mr Cowdroy's appointment commenced on 1 August 2019.
- On 25 November 2020, the ACT Legislative Assembly speaker announced that Mr Cowdroy would be resigning from his role as Commissioner in 2021.
- The speaker has appointed the Hon. Acting Judge Michael Adams QC as the acting Integrity Commissioner, who commenced in the role on 12 January 2021, for a term of up to six months. Emeritus Professor John McMillan AO has been appointed as alternate acting Commissioner for a term of up to six months, to take effect as needed.

CEO Appointment

- Mr John Hoitink was appointed as the chief executive officer of the Integrity Commission on 28 October 2019.
- Mr Hoitink was formerly the acting CEO of the NSW Independent Commission Against Corruption (ICAC) and executive director of ICAC's

investigation Division. He worked for ICAC for fifteen years prior to the appointment.

Media reporting

- On 14 November 2019, *The Canberra Times* reported that the ACT Integrity Commission will operate on a Budget of $2.5 million over three years. On the issue of funding, it further reported that the chief executive, Mr John Hoitink, warned the ACT Government that the Commission has to "be an organisation which has a critical mass, which has genuine teeth and can actually go and do the job we are supposed to be doing."
- On 1 March 2020, the *Canberra Times* reported that the Integrity Commission has received more than 40 referrals, two of which relate to legacy issues. It noted that a percentage of the referrals will go to preliminary investigation.
- *The Canberra Times* further reported that the CEO of the Commission, Mr Hoitink, has cautioned against the organisation being used as a political weapon and noted that the Commission's temporary office space is "not fit for purpose" as it does not have a hearing room, evidence storage or interview rooms.

Coverage of ACT Policing

- Corrupt conduct committed by members of ACT Policing is currently investigated by Commonwealth bodies including the Australian Federal Police's Professional Standards Unit and the Australian Commission for Law Enforcement Integrity.
- The ACT Government believes the ACT should have oversight of corrupt conduct committed by its police force.
- The Legislative Assembly currently lacks legislative power to pass laws with respect to ACT Policing.
- The Commonweath Government would need to amend a range of Commonwealth laws to remove the impediments that block the Legislative Assembly from legislating about ACT Policing, including parts of the *Australian Capital Territory (Self-Government) Act 1988*.

- The Government tabled the *Integrity Commission (ACT Policing) Amendment Bill 2018 (Exposure Draft*) in the Legislative Assembly on 27 November 2018.
- The purpose of the exposure draft was to signal to the Assembly, ACT Policing and the Australian Government that the ACT is committed to the Integrity Commission acquiring oversight of corrupt conduct committed by ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has formally advised the ACT Government that it does not support the ACT Integrity Commission acquiring jurisdiction over ACT Policing.
- The Commonwealth Government has advised they are open to strengthening information sharing with the ACT Integrity Commission to enhance the level of insight into ACT Policing integrity matters.
- On 20 August 2019, *The Canberra Times* reported that the ACT Chief Minister had 'appealled to (Commonwealth) Attorney-General Christian Porter to relinquish oversight of ACT Policing to the territory's new integrity body'. To my knowledge, the Commonwealth has not responded to this request.

Oversight of the Integrity Commission

- The Commission is subject to oversight by the Inspector of the Integrity Commission (Inspector) which is, at present, the ACT Ombudsman.
- The Inspector has authority to assess and report on the Commission's compliance with the *Integrity Commission Act*; investigate complaints about the Commission and its staff; and make recommendations about the performance of the Commission's functions under the *Integrity Commission Act.*
- The Standing Committee on the Integrity Commission also provides accountability and oversight functions in relation to the Integrity Commission. It may examine matters related to corruption and integrity in public administration; inquire into matters referred to it or matters considered to be a concern to the community; and monitor, review and report on the performance of the powers and functions of the Integrity Commission and the Inspector of the Integrity Commission.