



**ACT**  
Government

Justice and Community Safety

## OPEN ACCESS Q1 2018 SCHEDULE

### PORTFOLIO: MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES

No	Folio	Brief	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
<b>Sitting Week 12 February 2018</b>				
1	1	Sitting Week 12 February 2018 Index	Full release	
2	2	Aggravated robberies	Full release	
3	3	Smart phone app allowing upload of information tender	Full release	
4	4	Back to School	Full release	
5	5	ACTP December quarter criminal statistics	Full release	
6	6	Infringement Notices via email	Full release	
7	7	Report on Government Services	Full release	
8	8	Independent Integrity Commission	Full release	
9	9	Tasers	Full release	
10	10	Criminal Gangs	Full release	
11	11	Firearms	Full release	
12	12	Safe Schools Protest	Full release	
13	13	ACT Policing FTE and funding	Full release	
14	14	Police Pursuits	Full release	
15	15	Liquor Reform Package - Policing	Full release	
16	16	Terrorism	Full release	
17	17	Bail Laws	Full release	
18	18	First Road Fatality for 2018	Full release	
19	19	ACTAS Resourcing	Full release	
20	20	Report on Government Services	Full release	
21	21	2003 Bushfires	Full release	
22	22	Bushfire Season Preparation	Full release	
23	23	ACTF&R Recruitment	Full release	
24	24	ACTF&R Staffing	Full release	
25	25	ESA/RFS vehicle servicing	Full release	

No	Folio	Brief	Status	Reason for non-release or deferral
26	26	ACTF&R Involvement regarding Bentley Apartments	Full release	
27	27	Bushfire risk and planning at Ginninderry	Full release	
28	28	Bushfire Abatement Zone	Full release	
29	29	Strategic Reform Agenda	Full release	
30	30	ComCen	Full release	
31	31	ACTAS Blueprint for Change	Full release	
32	32	Volunteer Concerns	Full release	
		<b>Sitting Week 20-22 March 2018</b>		
33	33-34	Sitting Week 20-22 March 2018 Index		
34	35-44	ACT Policing Crime Statistics	Full release	
35	45-48	National Security Issues - including Biometrics (Requested by Chief Minister)	Full release	
36	49-50	Rave type events	Full release	
37	51-54	Psyfari Jamboree	Full release	
38	55-58	ESA ROGS	Full release	
39	59-62	ACTAS Resourcing	Full release	
40	63-68	Election Commitments	Full release	
41	69-72	ACT assistance to NSW	Full release	
42	73-74	First responders to the Bonner Incident	Full release	
43	75-80	Whole of Government response to Family Safety	Full release	
44	81	Firearms Amnesty	Full release	
45	82	Crowded Places Strategy Implementation	Full release	
46	83	CVE Program	Full release	
47	84	Aggravated Robberies	Full release	
48	85	Smart Phone App allowing upload of information Tender	Full release	
49	86	Back to School	Full release	
50	87	ACTP December quarter – Criminal Statistics	Full release	
51	88	Infringement Notices via email	Full release	
52	89	Report on Government Services	Full release	
53	90	Independent Integrity Commission	Full release	
54	91	Tasers	Full release	

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60	97	Terrorism	Full release	
61	98	Bail Laws	Full release	
62	99	Bonner Incident	Full release	
63	100	UFU comments Ainslie and Dickson Ambulance Station	Full release	
64	101	ATAS Resourcing	Full release	
65	102	Report on Government Services	Full release	
66	103	2003 Bushfire & Bushfire Season Preparation	Full release	
67	104	ACTF&R Recruitment & ACTF&R Staffing	Full release	
68	105	ESA Vehicle Servicing	Full release	
69	106	ACTF&R involvement – Bentley Apartments	Full release	
70	107	Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry	Full release	
71	108	Bushfire Abatement Zone	Full release	
72	109	Strategic Reform Agenda	Full release	
73	110	Comcen	Full release	
74	111	Blueprint for Change	Full release	
75	112	Volunteer Concerns	Full release	

**MINISTER FOR POLICE**  
**SITTING WEEK, 12 February 2018**  
*(new entries italicised)*

**Policing Hot Issues**

7. *Aggravated Robberies*
8. *Smart phone App allowing upload of information Tender*
9. *Back to School*
10. *ACTP December quarter-Criminal Statistics*
11. *Infringement Notices via email*
12. *Report on Government Services*
13. *Independent Integrity Commission*
14. *Tasers*
15. *Criminal Gangs*
16. *Firearms*
17. *Safe Schools Protest*

**Ongoing Issues**

18. *ACT Policing FTE and funding*
19. *Police Pursuits*
20. *Liquor Reform Package – Policing*
21. *Terrorism*
22. *Bail Laws*
23. *First road fatality for 2018*

**ESA Hot Issues**

24. *ACTAS Resourcing*
25. *Report on Government Services*
26. *2003 Bushfires*
27. *Bushfire Season Preparation*
28. *ACTF&R Recruitment*
29. *ACTF&R Staffing*
30. *ESA/RFS vehicle servicing*

**Ongoing Issues**

31. *ACTF&R Involvement regarding Bentley Apartments*
32. *Bushfire risk and planning at Ginninderry*
33. *Bushfire Abatement Zone*
34. *Strategic Reform Agenda*
35. *ComCen*
36. *Blueprint for Change*
37. *Volunteer Concerns*

HOT ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p data-bbox="89 253 271 322"><u>7. Aggravated Robberies</u></p> <p data-bbox="89 367 325 436">Cleared by A/CPO 08.02.18</p>	<ul data-bbox="403 253 1533 1944" style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My thoughts are with the workers affected by recent burglaries.</li> <li>• The community can be assured that significant resources have been invested in tackling this type of crime.</li> <li>• I commend ACT Policing on the work they have been doing with clubs and other businesses to reduce the likelihood of becoming a target and the tireless effort our police officers put into bringing those responsible to justice.</li> <li>• This is a serious crime and the Government is committed to continuing to work with ACT Policing and Clubs ACT to address this issue.</li> </ul> <div data-bbox="354 622 1544 1962" style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.</li> <li>• The reasons for changes in the number of crimes being committed are complex and varied. The ACT is no different to other cities - crime is cyclical and currently we are seeing an increase in burglary and robbery offences.</li> <li>• Some of the factors contributing to these cycles include recidivism, opportunism, and drug and alcohol abuse. Similarly the investigations into these crimes are increasingly complex and can vary from a couple of days through to weeks and months.</li> <li>• A key aspect for many crimes including robbery and burglary is prevention. ACT Police continue to work closely with the community, business and industry groups to ensure that all steps are taken to reduce the chance of businesses and individuals becoming victims of crime.</li> <li>• Canberra remains a safe place to live and the recent report on government services reported members of the community feeling a high level of personal safety within their homes and out in the community.</li> <li>• We recognise that any crime against a person is traumatic. The safety and wellbeing of people in our community is our number one priority. ACT Policing continue to work with a diverse range of community groups and businesses in relation to crime prevention strategies in an effort to reduce crime in our community.</li> <li>• If people are seeking more information on personal and business safety the ACT Policing website has a number of resources: <a href="https://www.police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security">https://www.police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security</a></li> <li>• Importantly, the public has a role to play as ACT Policing's eyes and ears in the community.</li> <li>• No matter how small you may think this information is it can often be the missing piece of the puzzle that police need to apprehend and charge these criminals.</li> <li>• Anyone with any information is urged to contact police on 131 444 or via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website.</li> </ul> </div>

<p>8. <u>Smart phone App allowing upload of information</u> <u>Tender</u> <i>Cleared By AFP National Media 22.01.18</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The AFP adheres to both state and federal legislation regarding personal information and human rights.</li><li>• Under Commonwealth Financial Management and Accountability Act – an open tender process has been selected as the most appropriate to determine the current technologies available to meet this requirement.</li></ul>
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**9. Back to School**

*Cleared By  
Coordinator  
MPE/DCPO Office  
22.01.18*

- With school returning for 2018, ACT school zones are back with 40km/h limits from 8am to 4pm on weekdays, not just during drop off times as in NSW.
- There is no excuse for speeding in a school zone, especially when you are driving close to some of our most vulnerable road users, children.
- The ACT Government adopts a Vision Zero approach to road safety which is based on the highly successful Swedish approach to road safety. It can be summarised in one sentence—no loss of life on our roads is acceptable.

<p>10. <a href="#">ACTP December Quarter - Criminal Statistics</a></p> <p>Cleared by ACT Policing Executive and Tamsyn Harvey 01.02.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Although Canberra is one of the safest places to live we are not immune to increases in crime and we need ensure we do not become complacent.</i></li> <li>• <i>The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.</i></li> <li>• <i>The main challenge the ACT is currently facing in relation to property crime is the increase in motor vehicle thefts. We are not alone in this, motor vehicle theft remains a challenge across Australia with NSW, NT, QLD and TAS also seeing increases in 2017.<sup>1</sup></i></li> <li>• <i>The Government has worked with ACT Policing to identify when and how cars are being stolen and this will form the basis for community education campaigns being developed in 2018.</i></li> <li>• <i>ACT Policing's targeted focus on recidivist and property crime offenders in 2016-2017 saw, 40 individuals arrested and 268 charges laid. ACT Policing also recovered over \$1.4 million worth of stolen vehicles and property, the majority of which has been returned to owners.</i></li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> <https://carsafe.com.au/dashboard#tab1>



**11. Infringement Notices Via Email**  
Cleared By  
DCPOR  
22.01.18

- ACT Policing will begin sending Traffic, Criminal and Parking Infringement Notices via email following the introduction of new capabilities for officers.
- When someone is issued with an infringement notice, they will be asked if they would like it to be provided via email or hard copy. If they choose the email option, they will be asked to provide their email address.
- If an email address is incorrect or false, a hard copy of the infringement will be sent to the address listed on their driver's licence.
- A printed card will also be provided to the person issued the infringement, which will outline the offence, date, time and location.

12. [Report on Government Services](#)

Cleared By ACT Policing Executive  
22.01.18

- ACT Policing's continued high performance on critical measures including community perceptions, complaints from the public, road safety and crime victimisation demonstrate that we have a highly effective police force.
- The arrangement the ACT has with the Australian Federal Police to support ACT Policing, helps to provide value for money taking into account, economies of scale and shared or enabling services. Other factors that influence the amount of resourcing ACT Policing need to operate efficiently include the ACT's small geographic footprint compared to other jurisdictions and our relatively low victimisation rates.
- The ACT community continues to grow and the Government and community's expectations of ACT Policing continue to evolve and change.
- In 2017-18, the ACT Government increased funding to \$161.8million for ACT Policing, including \$8.8 million for a range of new initiatives.
- This includes a \$2.1million investment in the future of ACTP to review current operating models and infrastructure in light of the growing ACT population and infrastructure.
- This review will assist the Government and ACT Policing to make informed evidence based decisions on police resourcing and service delivery requirements in the ACT over the coming years.
- The community can be assured that this Government is committed to providing ACT Policing with the funding and resources it needs, now and into the future, to ensure Canberra remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit.

<p>13. <a href="#">Independent Integrity Commission</a> Cleared By Tamsyn Harvey and ACT Policing 22.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I note the Committee’s recommendation that ‘an ACT Anti-Corruption and Integrity Commission should have oversight of policing officers funded to deliver services by and to the ACT taxpayer and community’.</li><li>• I am also aware of ACT Policing’s position and representations to the Committee, and acknowledge the current oversight mechanisms in place for the AFP and ACT Policing.</li><li>• I can assure the community that the Chief Police Officer and I share a commitment to ensure the high level of professional standards and integrity within ACT Policing remains visible and accountable.</li><li>• The Government will consider the recommendations from the Committee along with ACT Policing’s advice in our response to the report.</li></ul>
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<p>14. <a href="#">Tasers</a> Cleared By ACT Policing and Tamsyn Harvey 15.01.18</p>	<p><b><u>Death in Waramanga</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• My condolences go out to all of those affected by the recent tragic death involving a male in Waramanga.</li> <li>• It is not appropriate for me to comment further as this death is now a matter for the Coroner.</li> </ul> <p><b><u>Funding and rollout</u></b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The \$2.7million provided by Government will make a significant impact for ACT Policing workforce through a four-fold increase of the current operational capacity from 90 TASERs to 371.</li> <li>• How the new tasers are rolled out is a matter for ACT Policing, however I understand decisions around deployment will be based on risk and threat and will be reviewed based on operational requirements to ensure the greatest possible benefits and safety for the ACT community.</li> <li>• The funding is for tasers fitted with video cameras that record image and sound and for the existing governance and specialist training will continue to ensure there is accountability around their use.</li> <li>• ACT Policing has governance and oversight arrangements in place to assure the community that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.</li> <li>• I am advised that all ACT Policing officers are trained in communication and negotiation techniques as the primary way to de-escalate a situation with vulnerable people, including those with mental health conditions or affected by alcohol or other drugs and that ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques, prior to using physical force.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ACT Policing is currently progressing the procurement of 281 tasers in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Procurement Guidelines.</li> <li>• Officers renew their Use of Force qualifications annually over a two day period. It takes approximately one hour for an officer to renew the CEW component.</li> <li>• As at 28 November 2017 approximately 250 ACT Policing members had been trained in the use of CEWs.</li> </ul> </div>
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15. Criminal Gangs  
Cleared By ACT Policing and Tamsyn Harvey  
15.01.18

- Canberra remains a very safe city to live in, however, we are not immune to the presence and activities of OMCGs, including those who travel from interstate.
  - The Government passed the Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Bill 2017 in November to assist police to target serious and organised crime. The Bill includes:
    - a new offence directly addressing drive-by shootings to ensure this behaviour is subject to an appropriate penalty; and
    - new crime scene powers.
  - The Government also introduced fortification removal laws in November 2017.
  - In August 2016, the ACT Government committed an additional \$6.4 million in Taskforce Nemesis funding over four years, employing eight additional staff.
  - The ACT Government approach to OMCG activity has to date focused on strengthening traditional law enforcement responses to any threat posed to the community by OMCGs.
  - The ACT Government continues to work with ACT Policing to ensure our police have the necessary tools to effectively deal with serious and organised crime entities and, wherever possible, to confiscate their criminal assets and put offenders before the courts.
- Between 2014 and 25 January 2018, ACT Policing had:
    - charged 102 OMCG members with 84 offences (persons may have been charged multiple times)
    - executed 88 search warrants
    - attended to 20 shooting incidents – with 2 people shot and receiving non-life-threatening injuries
    - attended 19 arson incidents – some of which also involved shootings
    - prepared for and monitored 17 OMCG runs.

<p>16. <a href="#">Firearms</a> Cleared By ACT Policing and Tamsyn Harvey 22.01.18</p>	<p><u>Firearms Amnesty</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A three month national firearms amnesty was in place from 1 July to 30 September 2017.</li> <li>• The amnesty provided the community with an opportunity to hand in unregistered and unwanted firearms at the ACT Firearms Registry in Mitchell, without fear of penalty.</li> <li>• There was no cost involved with handing in firearms and no personal details were required.</li> <li>• While the amnesty was declared for firearms only, the ACT Firearms Registry accepted other prohibited items that were presented.</li> </ul> <p><u>If asked: Will the Government considering extending the amnesty?</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consideration is being given to additional amnesties in the future to build on the success of this campaign.</li> <li>• The ACT Government is open to considering future amnesties and would take advice from ACT Policing on this.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #e6f2ff; padding: 10px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p><b>Recent firearms seizure</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Thursday 18 January 2018 Detectives from ACT Policing Criminal Investigations Team executed a search warrant at a residence in Kambah following an investigation into aggravated robberies across Canberra.</li> <li>• Police located and seized 14 firearms of various types including improvised firearms, modified rifles and pistols. Numerous other firearm parts and ammunition was also located and seized.</li> <li>• A 23-year-old man was arrested and will face the ACT Magistrates Court charged with unauthorised possession of firearms, unauthorised manufacture of firearms and possess ammunition.</li> <li>• As the matter is before the Courts, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.</li> </ul> </div>
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<p>17. <u>Safe Schools Protest</u> Cleared By ACT Policing - CPO 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Chief Police Officer (CPO) advises is finalising the investigation of five complaints received regarding ACT Policing's handling of the Safe Schools rally on Saturday 12 August 2017.</li><li>• Organisers are encouraged to notify the ACT Government and ACT Policing of their demonstration for safety purposes.</li><li>• The rally organisers attempted to provide early advice to the police prior to the conduct of the rally. Unfortunately due to a communication error (incorrect email address) this early advice was not received.</li><li>• City Police Station was unaware of this event until about 9.30am on the morning the event was held. Due to limited resources, the City Sergeant on duty made the decision to monitor the event via CCTV.</li></ul>
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ONGOING ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>18. <a href="#">ACT Policing FTE and Funding Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the 2017-18 Budget, the ACT Government has invested \$161.8 million in ACT Policing, including \$8.8 million for a range of new initiatives, to ensure Canberrans continue to feel safe in their community.</li> <li>• No general savings measures have been applied to ACT Policing in the 2017-18 Budget, however, ACT Policing provided \$1.3 million in offsets over two years towards new Budget initiatives.</li> <li>• The focus of the new four year Purchase Agreement is on the quality and performance of our policing service.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As at 27 December 2017, there was a total of 867 ACT Policing staff. Of the 867 ACT Policing staff 675 (78 per cent) are sworn members.</li> <li>• In the last 6 months a recruit course commenced at the Barton College that will supply ACT Policing with 13 female recruits and 10 male recruits to start in May 2018.</li> </ul> <p>ACT Policing resources fluctuate throughout the year due to mobility between ACT Policing and AFP and the timing of commencement of new recruits.</p> </div>



<p>19. <a href="#">Police Pursuits</a> Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ACT Government is committed to Vision Zero and deterring drivers from fleeing from police because of the risk this introduces on our roads.</li><li>• That is why the Government introduced new laws in March 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.</li><li>• These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.</li><li>• The number of pursuits has reduced and there have been no deaths or serious injuries on Canberra roads relating to pursuits since the limited pursuit policy and laws were introduced.</li><li>• ACT Policing will continue to update me on the impact of the reforms.</li></ul>
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<p>20. <a href="#">Liquor Reform Package - Policing</a> Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Government is committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports Canberra businesses, helps develop this community's vibrant night life and does so while ensuring public safety.</li> <li>• The Government's investment of \$4.866million for additional police resources will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focussing upon regional centres and entertainment precincts;</li> <li>○ increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs (including enforcement of new offences contained in the Amendment Act and increased enforcement of existing offences under the <i>Liquor Act 2010</i>);</li> <li>○ increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams;</li> <li>○ develop targeted campaigns with key ACT Government stakeholders; and</li> <li>○ support Regional Targeting Team officers being deployed to major ACT events in the capacity of subject matter experts in liquor legislation enforcement.</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Police will continue to work closely with licensees to make sure the ACT's nightlife precincts are safe for the whole community.</li> </ul>
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21. **Terrorism**  
 Cleared By  
 Bren Burkevics  
 15.01.2018

- While the national terrorism threat level remains at PROBABLE, there is no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.
- People should continue to go about business as usual but be alert to any suspicious activity and, most importantly, to report suspicions and concerns to the appropriate authorities.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places

- The Government and ACT Policing use the strategy when planning and delivery managing major events in the ACT. These events include the National Multicultural Festival, New Year's Eve and Floriade.
- In conjunction with event organisers, the Government and ACT Policing use the strategy to inform the development of risk assessments and security measures. These security measures include the enhanced use of the Public Safety CCTV system, installation of temporary traffic management arrangements, the sharing of crowded place information with event organisers, the engagement of security personnel and the training and exercising of event staff.
- ACT Policing delivered the first crowded place forum in the ACT on 30 November 2017.
- The Government is also finalising a plan to ensure a consistent and agreed approach to the implementation of the Strategy in the ACT.

22. [Bail laws](#)  
Cleared By  
Tamsyn Harvey  
15.01.18

- The Bail Act 1992 provides protection to victims as well as uphold the presumption of innocence for people charged with offences.
- The presumption is in favour of bail, unless a person is accused of committing a serious offence (such as manslaughter, sexual assault, threatening to kill, stalking).
- The presumption means that bail should be granted unless there are sufficient reasons for it being refused.
- The presumption in favour of bail being granted is subject to the court's consideration of a number of factors, including the nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, the person's risk of reoffending, the likelihood of the defendant being found guilty, the defendant's character, health, and whether they have any family members that are dependent on them.
- The ACT over recent years has undertaken a number of reviews of our bail laws. In light of a number of high-profile incidents in recent years, bail issues have been reflected on and reconsidered.
- All bail decisions in the ACT must be made by a police officer, magistrate or judge.

<p>23. <a href="#">First road fatality for 2018</a> Cleared By ACT Policing OIC Traffic 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ACT Policing is investigating a single vehicle road fatality which occurred on Yarra Glen about 6.00pm on Tuesday 2 January 2018.</li><li>• Police responded to reports that a vehicle travelling north had rolled and tragically a person died at the scene.</li><li>• Two people have been charged by police as a result of this accident.</li><li>• ACT Policing’s Collision Investigation and Reconstruction Team are examining the circumstances surrounding the incident and a report will be prepared for the Coroner.</li><li>• This the first fatality on ACT roads for 2018.</li></ul>
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**MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**SITTING WEEK, 12 February 2018**  
*(new entries italicised)*

HOT ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>24. <a href="#"><u>ACTAS Resourcing</u></a>  Cleared By  Dominic Lane  6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>I acknowledge that the demand on our ACT Ambulance Service is at the highest levels ever. I would like to thank everyone across all levels and areas within ACTAS who continue to work so effectively during these busy times.</i></li> <li>• <i>In December 2017 I announced a funding package to allow for the recruitment of 24 additional staff (23 paramedics and one mechanic), as well as two new ambulances.</i></li> <li>• <i>This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway to replace recent retirements and transfers.</i></li> <li>• <i>These new staff will help ACTAS meet its operational target of having 10 ambulance crews at the ready at any one time, and a further two ambulances available during peak periods.</i></li> <li>• <i>This is a significant funding enhancement which will assist our ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation.</i></li> </ul>

25. [Report on Government Services](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- For the sixth year in a row ACT Ambulance Service response times are the best in the country. Averaging 8.7 minutes.
- The report showed increased demand for ambulance services meant response times were seconds slower than last financial year, however, additional frontline resources hitting the road in early 2018 will ensure response times remain the fastest.
- The ACT Government is committed to additional frontline resources that will aim to meet continued increases in demand.
- The community should have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance and fire services.
- The strong results are a credit to the professionalism of the women and men of both services, and the wider ACT Emergency Services Agency.
- Results also show the ACT State Emergency Service had a boost in volunteer numbers, increasing resources that respond to flood and storms.

<p>26. <a href="#">2003 Bushfires</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The 18th of January 2018 marked 15 years since the 2003 Canberra Bushfires.</li><li>• As generations begin to forget the impact of that event, we must reflect on the lessons learned, and make sure that the ACT community understands that it is inevitable that this type of bushfire event could happen again.</li><li>• The ACT Government, including the ESA, are better prepared for a bushfire emergency than ever before.</li><li>• Our policies, warnings systems, and governance arrangements lead emergency management practice on a national level. The ACT community can be certain that they live in one of the safest cities in the world, with well-funded, well-resourced and well-governed emergency services.</li></ul>
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<p>27. <a href="#">Bushfire Season Preparations</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Canberrans can be reassured that our Emergency Plans and bushfire preparedness are well developed. The ACT Emergency Services Agency has prepared a Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework that identifies our bushfire response capability in the ACT.</li><li>• The ESA Commissioner has briefed me on how our bushfire response resources and each of our emergency services are ready for the bushfire season.</li><li>• Being ready for bushfires also requires the ACT community to be ready too. On 20 December 2017 I launched this season's 'Canberra Bushfire Ready' awareness campaign, where residents were encouraged to know their level of risk to bushfire and what they should be doing to prepare, including completing and practicing their Bushfire Survival Plan.</li></ul>
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28. [ACTF&R Recruitment](#)  
Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- General recruitment began on 1 September 2017 and applications closed on 18 September. Successful candidates from this process progressed to a Recruit College that commenced on 29 January 2018.
- The Government has funded 18 places in ACTF&R College 39 and this will see the additional firefighters in operation by May 2018. This College includes two places as part of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES), and four female firefighters.
- This recruit training will meet the ACT Government's commitment to recruit additional firefighters to address current shortages and replace staff likely to leave the service. The ACT Government also remains committed to the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and supports half of the 16 places available being filled by women who demonstrate their ability to meet the necessary standards to become a firefighter.

Lateral Recruitment Process

- The recent Lateral Recruitment campaign run by ACTF&R was highly successful, resulting in nine suitable candidates from around Australia graduating on 3 November 2017.
- The lateral recruitment of experienced firefighters will provide short term relief to staffing levels prior to the ACTF&R general recruitment campaign.
- I am also advised there is no issue conducting training over the bushfire season. ACTF&R staff at the ACT Emergency Services Agency Training Centre are developing a draft program which includes flexible arrangements and training activities, should some resources not be available for any reason.

<p>29. <a href="#">ACTF&amp;R Staffing</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I am advised by the Chief Officer that ACTF&amp;R's staffing arrangements over the next 12 months will not impact on the ability of ACTF&amp;R to fully staff appliances, including during the 2017-18 bushfire season.</li><li>• ACTF&amp;R is aware that a reduction in staff numbers may occur over the next 12 months, although exact numbers are difficult to forecast accurately depending on the retirement decisions of staff.</li></ul>
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<p>30. <a href="#">ESA vehicle servicing</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ESA commissioned a review of production planning and workshop practices in the ESA Workshop.</li><li>• The review was conducted by the Noetic Group, and was received by the ESA in late 2017. It made a number of recommendations, including the provision of additional resources.</li><li>• As part of the recent announcement in relation to additional ambulance resources, the Government also committed funds for an additional mechanic to support the ESA Workshop, and to enhance the ESA’s capability as we continue to increase the size of the fleet.</li><li>• The ESA Executive is currently working with ESA Workshop staff and the Transport Workers Union, to discuss the best way to address the recommendations of the review.</li></ul>
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ONGOING ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>31. <a href="#"><u>ACTF&amp;R Involvement regarding Bentley Apartments</u></a>  <i>Cleared By Dominic Lane</i>  6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Safety section within ESA’s Risk &amp; Planning branch has an advisory role in relation to building construction in the ACT.</li> <li>• Prior to the construction of the Bentley Apartments, Community Safety officers were asked to provide comment in relation to whether the proposed car park could be considered an “open deck” car park, based on a fire engineering analysis of the ventilation openings. If supported, this would mean that sprinklers would not be required to be installed in the car park.</li> <li>• Community Safety supported this and provided such advice to the building certifier.</li> <li>• It appears that the beams and columns in the car park may have then been constructed with insufficient fire resistance rating.</li> </ul>

32. [Bushfire risk and planning at Ginninderry](#)  
Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will closely oversee the Ginninderry development in West Belconnen to ensure it meets current Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area and as well as any other specific directions deemed necessary by the ESA Commissioner.
- In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.
- In addition to the Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area, the *Emergencies Act 2004* also allows the ESA Commissioner to set additional standards in a situation where a development proposal is received that would concentrate vulnerable members of our community in a bushfire prone area.
- This decision would usually be made following advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service.

33. Bushfire  
Abatement  
Zone

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- The current model for the provision of emergency services in the ACT is serving the community very well. It ensures a seamless response across agencies, and across services, to any emergency incidents faced by the people of the ACT.
- The BAZ incorporates rural areas immediately surrounding the built-up area where specific measures may be required to reduce risk to life and property in the built-up area of Canberra from fires occurring in that zone.
- It is important to highlight that the existing response arrangements remain, whereby the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- As has been demonstrated, including in the most recent 2016-17 fire season, our fire services have an excellent record of working together collaboratively and cohesively in responding to fires in the BAZ to protect the ACT community.

<p>34. <a href="#">ESA Strategic Reform Agenda</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Strategic Reform Agenda (SRA) comprises six projects: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System/Territory Radio Network (TRN) upgrade and website hosting, Communications Centre Reform, Blueprint for Change, Station Upgrade and Relocation Project, Women in Emergency Services, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.</li><li>• Significant progress has been made to help the ESA improve its services for the wider community, support its people and mature as an agency.</li><li>• A Joint Consultative Committee was established on 11 February 2016 to provide a formal mechanism for consultation between employee representatives and the Directorate on the reasons for proposed changes and their likely impact, and to enable employees and their representatives to contribute to the decision making process.</li></ul>
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35. [ComCen](#)  
Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- The Government announcement in June 2016 about ComCen reforms was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received.
- The announcement proposes to realign the roles of the ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) officers who currently work in the ComCen. It will also put additional firefighters on the road to assist in preventative and community work, improve response times, give firefighters the opportunity to provide shift relief (for each other), assist colleagues on special leave, and help to reduce overtime rates.
- A long-term outcome of the ComCen project will be to develop a staffing model that allows call takers and dispatchers to deal with any type of emergency incident currently received in the ComCen. This will improve the operability of the ComCen and allow for a unified response to any emergency event.

<p>36. <a href="#">ACTAS Blueprint for Change</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Blueprint for Change Implementation project commenced in 2017. It continues to be a high priority for the ACT Ambulance Service and aligns with the broader ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.</li> <li>• The Oversight Committee is headed up by an Independent Chair, Mr David Place, an experienced senior operational manager from the South Australian Ambulance Service. I receive regular updates, the last on 28 September.</li> <li>• In his most recent update, Mr Place noted that positive change is occurring such as the commencement of implementation of the new ACTAS Leadership Framework, considerable progress towards the introduction of a Peer Support program, Flexible Work Arrangements, Wi-Fi on all ambulance stations as well as a successful trial of powered stretchers.</li> <li>• I am pleased with the progress being made and strong support from all involved including the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.</li> <li>• On 21 December 2017, I announced the Government’s commitment to provide additional ambulance resources, including the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances. This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway.</li> <li>• This will ensure that Canberrans continue to receive the fastest ambulance response times in the country.</li> </ul>
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<p>37. <u>Volunteer concerns</u> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I thank the volunteer for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as an ACTRFS volunteer.</li><li>• I note that the matters raised by the volunteer are also the subject of a number of written Questions on Notice from Mrs Jones during the Annual Report Hearings in March 2017 and the Estimates Hearings in June 2017.</li><li>• All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement.</li></ul>
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**MINISTER FOR POLICE AND EMERGENCY SERVICES**  
**QUESTION TIME and OVERSIGHT BRIEF INDEX**  
**20-22 March 2018**

<b><i>ACT Policing QTBs (updated for each Assembly Sitting Period)</i></b>	
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2.	National Security Issues - including Biometrics (Requested by Chief Minister)
3.	Rave type events
4.	Psyfari Jamboree
<b><i>ESA QTBs (updated for each Assembly Sitting Period)</i></b>	
5.	ESA ROGS
6.	ACTAS Resourcing
7.	Election Commitments
8.	ACT assistance to NSW
9.	First responders to the Bonner Incident
10.	Whole of Government response to Family Safety

**Oversight Brief (updated weekly)****ACT Policing Hot Issues**

11. Firearms Amnesty
12. Crowded Places Strategy Implementation
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14. Aggravated Robberies
15. Smart phone App allowing upload of information Tender
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18. Infringement Notices via email
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**ACT Policing Ongoing Issues**

24. ACT Policing FTE and funding
25. Police Pursuits
26. Liquor Reform Package - Policing
27. Terrorism
28. Bail Laws

**ESA Hot Issues**

29. Bonner Incident
30. UFU comments Ainslie and Dickson Ambulance Station
31. ACTAS Resourcing
32. Report on Government Services
33. 2003 Bushfires & Bushfire Season Preparation
34. ACTF&R Recruitment & ACTF&R Staffing
35. ESA/RFS Vehicle Servicing

**ESA Ongoing Issues**

36. ACTF&R involvement – Bentley Apartments
37. Bushfire Risk and Planning at Ginninderry
38. Bushfire Abatement Zone
39. Strategic Reform Agenda
40. ComCen
41. Blueprint for Change
42. Volunteer Concerns

**ISSUE: CRIME STATISTICS (criminal justice data sources, changes in offending rates—and government response)**

**Talking points:**

***Introductory comments***

- Statistics gathered by criminal justice agencies has great potential to assist in improving the safety of citizens and the administration of criminal justice.
- However the complexity of this data is great. There are many different measures with different release dates, all of which need to be carefully analysed to make the information meaningful.

***ABS Recorded Crime – Offenders 2016-17 data released 8 February***

- The ACT Government welcomes the release of the ABS 2016-17 Recorded Crime – Offenders publication.
- Pleasingly, the report shows that the ACT has the lowest offender and reoffender rates in Australia and results were below the national offender rate for all offence types.

***Positive results for young people***

- The Government and ACT Policing’s commitment to reducing young offending has yielded results with the ACT recording the lowest youth offender rate nationally and a 22.6 per cent decrease in young offending when compared to the 2015-16.
- The Government’s Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22, which includes ACT Policing’s youth engagement initiative to better understand young people’s perceptions of police and strengthen this relationship, is a demonstration of our continued commitment to improving youth justice outcomes.

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## *Mixed results for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people*

- *Recorded Crime Offenders 2016-17* shows that the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders in the ACT proceeded against by police increased by 11.4 per cent, from 273 offenders in 2015-16 to 304 offenders in 2016-17.
- However, of the states and territories that provided Indigenous offender data to the ABS, the ACT had the lowest proportion of repeat offenders for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders.
- The over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system remains a concern and we are committed to addressing this.
- The Government's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-2018 outlines this commitment and in my 2017-18 Ministerial Direction I have asked ACT Policing to focus on early intervention and diversion strategies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The Government has ensured ACT Policing's policy is to refer all eligible offenders and all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders to restorative justice.
- ACT Policing continues to work with Government and non-government partners to identify options for increased diversion and community based referrals.
- The Government will continue to work with ACT Policing to monitor emerging trends in criminal behaviour and continue to invest in programs and partnering with community-based organisations to keep Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people out of the criminal justice system.

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***ABS Crime Victimization 2016-17 released on 16 February 2018***

- Not all crime is reported to the police, particularly some offences such as domestic and family violence and property damage.
- This publication aims to provide a measure of crime in the community based on a confidential survey of members of the public rather than on police records of reported crime.
- While reporting of homicide and motor vehicle theft is very high, reporting of property damage or domestic and family violence can be quite low.
- The ACT sample size for this publication is low. As a result, many of the results have low statistical significance and should be treated with caution.
- In the ACT, victimisation and reporting rates for all personal and household crimes remained relatively stable between 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Overall the survey indicated that reporting rates to police in the ACT for 2016-17 were higher than the national rate for the majority of offence types.

***What is ACT Government doing to address increases in property crime/motor vehicle theft?***

- Canberra is one of the safest places to live. Unfortunately, however we are not immune to increases in crime and we need to ensure we do not become complacent.
- The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.
- The Strategy includes targets for the ACT to be below the national rate for burglary and motor vehicle theft and to stop increases in the rate of property damage.

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- The recent progress report against the Strategy, which was tabled in the Legislative Assembly at the end of last year highlighted work on 13 of the 17 actions in the first 10 months of implementation, and work is continuing across Government to prevent property crime.
- Some challenges the ACT is currently facing around property crime are an increase in aggravated robberies on clubs, and an increase in motor vehicle thefts.
- ACT Policing works with a diverse range of community groups and businesses in relation to crime prevention strategies in an effort to reduce crime in our community.
- Motor vehicle theft remains a challenge across Australia, with other jurisdictions also seeing increases in 2017.
- The Government is working with ACT Policing to identify when and how vehicles are being stolen and this will form the basis for community education campaigns being developed in 2018 to help address this issue.
- ACT Policing has a Community Intelligence Team (CIT) and a Crime Disruption Team (CDT).
- The CIT analyses a variety of information sources to identify patterns and prioritization to maximize crime reduction opportunities and increase community safety.
- The CDT's primary focus is disrupting aggravated robbery offences at licensed premises.

## ***What is the ACT Government doing to address personal safety?***

- The 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 incidences occurring.
- \$1.180 million has been allocated to ACT Policing over four years to employ two dedicated Order Liaison Officers (OLOs) to assist applicants

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# Question Time Brief

in applying for Family Violence Orders (FVO), previously known as Domestic Violence Orders (DVO).

- A highly visible police presence is targeting nightlife entertainment in and around the ACT, with a team that conducts proactive patrolling and licence checks across patrol zones.
- The Government also supports the CBR NightCrew program, managed by St John Ambulance, to help young people to have a safer night out in Canberra, by providing a safe space to help those who come in harm's way or need assistance in avoiding harm.
- The CBR NightCrew 'Safe Space' marquee is located currently in the City Bus Interchange on Friday and Saturday nights and will run to April 2018.

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**ACT Policing Update*****What is ACT Policing doing to address crime?***

- Positive clearance rates achieved by ACT Policing despite general crime rate increases, demonstrates ACT Policing remains effective in addressing criminal activity.
- ACT Policing has established a Crime Disruption Team (CDT), whose primary focus has been on recidivist offending, disrupting aggravated robbery offences and ram raids across the ACT, utilising sophisticated targeting models.
- ACT Policing's targeted focus on recidivist and property crime offenders in 2016-2017 saw, 40 individuals arrested and 268 charges laid. ACT Policing also recovered over \$1.4 million worth of stolen vehicles and property, the majority of which has been returned to owners.
- ACT Policing have attended 48 armed robberies since 1 July 2017. Fifteen of these have resulted in multiple offenders, some of whom are recidivist offenders, being arrested and charged. A significant number of those remaining are still under investigation, many with identified suspects.

**Key Information**

Increases in crime should be considered in the context of the longer term trends and how the ACT compares to other jurisdictions.

The ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile (released every 6 months), ABS Crime Victimization data (released annually in February), Recorded Crime Offender data (Released annually in February) and Recorded Crime Victims data (released annually in July) provide detail on trends and comparisons to other jurisdictions.

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## ACT Policing Key Information

- The latest crime statistics for 2017 based on the ACT Policing Website Statistics indicate that reports of crime across Canberra have increased 8.1 per cent when comparing 2017 to the previous year. Long term trends indicate that overall offences have decreased by 14.7 per cent when comparing 2017 to 2008 calendar years.

Offence	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	Percentage Change 2016 and 2017	Percentage Change 2008 and 2017
Homicide	8	5	9	4	8	4	4	7	4	2	-50.0%	-75.0%
Assault - FV	720	764	857	834	727	637	736	876	1299	1280	-1.5%	77.8%
Assault - Non-FV	1789	1655	1673	1671	1559	1504	1225	1371	1546	1625	5.1%	-9.2%
Sexual Assault	409	355	314	387	440	496	375	480	469	500	6.6%	22.2%
Other offences against a person	108	115	132	111	98	85	104	138	322	257	-20.2%	138.0%
Robbery - armed	83	114	171	128	120	92	94	92	103	123	19.4%	48.2%
Robbery - other	127	210	135	114	95	71	72	74	88	109	23.9%	-14.2%
Burglary dwellings	2686	3641	3190	1968	1704	1497	1527	1548	1415	1813	28.1%	-32.5%
Burglary shops	437	447	457	335	279	229	259	397	341	304	-10.9%	-30.4%
Burglary other	766	809	690	503	473	402	503	670	636	580	-8.8%	-24.3%
Motor vehicle theft	1931	2202	1650	1008	1137	752	835	1086	1078	1570	45.6%	-18.7%
Property damage	8710	9450	8037	6603	5465	4929	4147	5300	4757	5353	12.5%	-38.5%
Other offences	10823	10236	10352	9519	9484	9941	10617	10019	11044	12153	10.0%	12.3%
TINs Speeding	6472	5379	5169	6470	5526	5247	3457	2639	2780	3220	15.8%	-50.2%
TINs Mobile Use	2040	1874	2384	2256	1710	1339	1092	831	1094	1048	-4.2%	-48.6%
TINs Seatbelts	722	614	486	615	684	421	300	197	215	221	2.8%	-69.4%
TINs Other	12528	10436	12236	14154	12403	10828	10244	8028	8144	8152	0.1%	-34.9%
Theft (excluding Motor Vehicles)	12989	13164	12659	9862	9836	9551	9393	11182	9708	9796	0.9%	-24.6%
Road Fatality	14	10	18	4	11	6	9	15	8	5	-37.5%	-64.3%
Road Collision with injury	533	577	569	599	629	602	639	577	547	474	-13.3%	-11.1%
Total	63895	62057	61188	57145	52388	48633	45632	45527	45598	48585	6.6%	-24.0%
Total (Offences only)	41586	43167	40326	33047	31425	30190	29891	33240	32810	35465	8.1%	-14.7%

- Comparing 2017 to 2016 calendar years, Reports of homicide, road fatalities, road collision with injury and other offences against a person have decreased while motor vehicle theft, robbery, burglary and property damage have increased.
- The calendar year increase was seen across most Patrol Zones, with the exception of the Inner South and Weston Creek. The increase was seen across most crime types, with the exception of sexual assault and robbery and other offences.

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## Background Information

As there are many different criminal justice data sources with different release dates and indicators, there is a need for carefully analysis and triangulation to allow meaningful conclusions and input on policy issues.

### ***National Criminal Justice Data Publications***

The most prominent national data collection is that of the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS). In a calendar year, ABS will release at least the following (in chronological order):

- *Recorded Crime - Offenders* (annual release in early February)
- *Crime Victimisation Australia* (annual release in mid February)
- *Criminal Courts Australia* (annual release at the end of February)
- *Corrective Services Australia* (released quarterly in March, June, September and December)
- *Federal Defendants Australia* (annual release in May)
- *Recorded Crime - Victims Australia* (annual release in July)
- *Prisoners in Australia* (annual release in December).

Another major national publication is the *Report on Government Services* (ROGS) produced by the Productivity Commission in February each year.

Both these national data collections use only comparable data that meet strict counting rules sourced from the police, the courts and the adult and young person corrections system. Other agencies involved in the criminal justice system are included only if sufficient comparable data is available for collection.

### ***ACT Criminal Justice data sources***

From ACT Government, the most prominent sources of criminal justice data are the *ACT Criminal Justice Statistical Profile* (the Profile) and the ACT Policing *Crime Statistics* website.

The Profile collates data from 13 different local sources. It contains data not just from ACT Policing, ACT Courts and ACT Corrective Services, but also from young person justice agencies and health and welfare agencies that may collect criminal justice related data. Some of these sources are unique to the ACT (for example the Restorative Justice data). The Profile does not currently include data from some prominent justice agencies, for example, the Director of Public Prosecutions and Legal Aid.

The ACT Policing *Crime Statistics* website relies on data sourced from ACT Policing's Police On-line Realtime Management Information System (PROMIS). This contains data on criminal incidents, offences, apprehensions, charges and victims. ACT Policing's database is 'live', meaning it is subject to continual backwards revision as people report crime and investigations progress. While PROMIS is the best source of actual variation in reported criminal incidents over time, there can be variances in the same statistics if drawn from the live database on a different date.

### ***Source of apparent variance in crime statistics***

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Backwards revisions in PROMIS is not the only cause for variances in recorded crime figures. Other sources of variances include:

- as noted above, different release dates or measurement periods (e.g. annual vs quarterly) or different counting rules;
- different crime types and different ‘measures’ of these crimes. For example personal and property crime, motor vehicle theft, assault, burglary etc. are all different types of crime, and each of these have different measures through different numbers of offences reported to police, the number of charges made, apprehensions of offenders made or victims disclosed. All of these will result in different statistics on the same type of crime. When counting offenders, offences or charges, numbers can vary. One offender can be responsible for multiple offences and an offence can be recorded in the system before an offender is identified;
- people’s understandings of and willingness to report certain crimes and the behaviour of police with respect to some crimes. Not all crime is reported to police and domestic and family violence is known to be particularly under-reported. Recently there have been large increases in reporting of domestic and family violence (DFV). This is attributed to ‘the Rosie Battie’ effect i.e. a better understanding of the issue across the community, either through increased publicity or actual training of police or other relevant officers. This raised awareness has resulted in increased reporting of DFV by the public and increased police and justice system activity with regards to incidents of DFV. The ABS’s *Crime Victimization* publication is an attempt to deal with under-reporting of crime to police, by asking people to self-identify if they have been a victim of crime. However, as the sample size for the ACT is usually small (around 1,100) this results in low confidence in the survey results;
- changes in definitions of crime through legislation or regulation. For example, it is likely that the commencement of the Family Violence Act 2016 on 1 May 2017, along with increased funding directed to ACT Policing’s family violence resources, will result in increased family violence orders (previously called domestic violence orders) and breaches of such orders.

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Portfolios Chief Minister

Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: NATIONAL SECURITY ISSUES (INCLUDING BIOMETRICS)**

**Talking points:**

Counter Terrorism

- Australia faces national security challenges that continue to evolve, so we need to keep our legislation and capabilities under constant review to meet these emerging issues.
- I was therefore pleased to participate in the special Counter Terrorism Council of Australian Governments (COAG) meeting in Canberra on 5 October 2017. A nationally consistent approach to preventing and responding to terrorist threats underpins Australia's national security in a complex and evolving threat environment.
- The special Counter Terrorism COAG was an important leaders meeting with the Prime Minister to consider a package of legislative and practical measures to further strengthen a nationally consistent approach to counter the threat of terrorism, and to help keep Australia safe.
- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community, and continues to work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism, and to implement the special Counter Terrorism COAG agreements.
- The ACT continues to support community leaders and activities that help promote the vibrant, inclusive and culturally diverse nature of the ACT community while maintaining the rule of law and protecting human rights.

Facial Biometric Matching Capability

- At the October 2017 Counter Terrorism COAG meeting, I agreed to the terms of a national agreement that will revolutionise the way identity verification is undertaken across the country.

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- As a human rights jurisdiction, the ACT has established a bilateral schedule to the national agreement to ensure ACT participation in a way that is consistent with human rights and privacy laws, while supporting national security needs.
- Limitations placed on how ACT data can be used will not limit the ability of other jurisdictions to participate with one another in the capability.
- The ACT will continue to explore additional participation for ACT in the range of services offered by the capability, pending further privacy and human rights scrutiny.

### Defence support to National Counter-Terrorism arrangements

- In 2016, the Commonwealth Government initiated a review of Defence support to national counter-terrorism arrangements in response to the changing nature of the terrorist threat.
- State and Territory police remain, and will continue to remain, the primary responders to any terrorist attack.
- The immediate actions of these first responders have the greatest impact in terms of saving lives and neutralising any threat.
- While Defence's primary role in counter-terrorism is offshore, Defence possesses specialist capabilities that can be used to support state and territory governments in responding to an attack.
- The Commonwealth Government has committed to offering increased practical counter-terrorism engagement and cooperation between the Australian Defence Force (ADF) and State and Territory police.
- This may encompass:
  - increased liaison between the ADF and police to build awareness of the support the ADF can provide;
  - greater exposure to the ADF's CT approaches and techniques, including through ADF personnel within law enforcement agencies to assist with liaison and engagement; and
  - specialised training to select state and territory law enforcement.
- Additionally, in 2017 the Commonwealth Government announced proposed amendments to Part IIIAAA of the *Defence Act 1903*.

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- Part IIIAAA provides the framework for authorising the ADF to use force to resolve a domestic violence incident, including terrorism, in support of States and Territories.
- The proposed amendments to Part IIIAAA of the Defence Act will seek to simplify the authorisation process for call out to be more responsive to the nature of the contemporary threat, while still ensuring appropriate oversight of ADF activities.
- The proposed amendments will enhance the ability of states and territories to request Commonwealth assistance, through the ADF, in responding to domestic violence incidents including terrorism.

### Key Information

- Australia's National Terrorism Threat level remains at **PROBABLE**.
- Credible intelligence, assessed by national security agencies indicates that individuals or groups have developed both the intent and capability to conduct a terrorist attack in Australia.
- Since the national terrorism threat level was raised on 12 September 2014, there have been six attacks and 14 major CT disruption operations in response to potential attack planning in Australia.
- There are currently no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.

### Background Information

- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is potentially life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).
- The Australian Government has taken nine tranches of legislation through Parliament since August 2014. COAG has agreed to a range of legislative measures including:
  - enhancing the existing Commonwealth pre-charge detention regime under Part 1C of the *Crimes Act 1914*
  - legislation implementing the presumption against bail and parole for people who have demonstrated support for, or have links to terrorist activity, will be underpinned by nationally consistent principles
  - a new Commonwealth offence that will allow law enforcement agencies to intervene when an individual is in possession of instructional terrorist material, with appropriate safeguards

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Cleared by: Executive Director Ext: 50567  
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Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

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- a new Commonwealth terrorism hoax offence. This will ensure that the potentially broad nature of terrorism hoaxes is criminalised in all jurisdictions.

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Portfolio Attorney-General

**ISSUE: RAVE TYPE EVENTS****Talking points:**

- The ACT has a range of criminal offences which deal with the manufacture, trafficking, cultivation, sale or supply and possession of controlled drugs and prohibited substances.
- For example, section 164 of the *Drugs of Dependence Act 1989* makes it an offence in relation to a drug of dependence for a person to sell or supply, participate in the sale or supply or possess for the purpose of the sale or supply of that drug. The maximum penalty is five years imprisonment and/or 500 penalty units.
- The offences apply whether they occur in public or in private places.
- In terms of the use of drugs, the ACT Government's guiding principle is harm minimisation. The Government is always looking to explore ways that the legal system can minimise the harm to society resulting from drug use.
- An example of this approach is the current work to establish a Drug and Alcohol Court in the ACT which will provide a treatment focus for people whose crimes are the result of drug use and addiction.

**Key Information**

- The *Canberra Times* reported on 18 March 2018 that a 'rave' had taken place in Fyshwick where "at least four people were treated for suspected drug overdoses".

**Background Information**

- There is no criminal law which deals specifically with the use of drugs at events such as raves.
- While the testing of pills at festivals has been explored, with the work being led by ACT Health, this approach would not be appropriate for events such as raves which are typically privately arranged via social media without the prior involvement of the authorities.

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Portfolio/s Police & Emergency Services

**ISSUE: PSYFARI JAMBOREE**

**Talking points:**

- The ACT Government is committed to ensuring events run for our community are safe, inclusive and fall within the confines of our laws.
- In the lead up to the Psyfari Jamboree, the ACT Government including: Access Canberra, ACT Policing, ACT Emergency Services Agency, Roads ACT and Health proactively worked with the organisers of Psyfari to ensure legislative requirements were met and to undertake best practice approaches to managing risk and safety at the event.
- Mr Parton wrote to me on 31 January and 28 February this year outlining some concerns raised by members of the community about the festival.
- I have offered a briefing with Directorate officials which I understand was declined. A written response is currently being prepared and will be provided in due course.
- The use of drugs at any venue, whether private or public, constitutes a criminal offence in the ACT and persons found in possession of illicit drugs can be prosecuted.
- Where police respond to suspected drug overdoses, the welfare of the individual takes priority.
- A taskforce has been established to consider and review planning for upcoming events at Caloola, as well as provide any additional feedback for event organisers.
- The Taskforce will have representatives from Access Canberra (work health & safety, electrical, gas, plumbing, construction, environment protection, event coordination), Emergency Services (ACT Police, ACT Ambulance Service and ACT Fire & Rescue), representatives from Transport Canberra and City Services & the ACT Government's Event Coordination and Planning Group.

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### Key Information

- Events at Caloola are not government events and are held on private property.
- There is no single approval from government to hold an event in the ACT, particularly on private land.
- What underpins the work of the ACT Government is the collective focus to support safety in our community.

### Background Information

- A Freedom of Information request that was lodged with ACT Policing requesting documents relating to music festivals planned to be held at Caloola.
- There were a small number of documents released that included meeting notes from ACT Policing relating to Access Canberra, in the lead up to the planned event, *the Shiny Disco Ball*. This event was cancelled following electrical safety concerns identified that were unable to be addressed by the organiser to the satisfaction of WorkSafe ACT.
- It is important to understand that in an operational environment there are times when there will be a difference of opinion between agencies – particularly for issues as complex as large community events.

### *Psyfari festival*

- *Psyfari Jamboree* is a 'community focused event that combines music, art and skills sharing with an aim to create a safe and vibrant space for people to express themselves and share positive experiences with friends, family and strangers.
- It is a three day, all ages, camping event held at Caloola from 23-25 February 2018.
- In August 2017, event organisers met with Access Canberra Event & Business Coordination team to discuss *Psyfari* in detail.
- In October 2017, initial information regarding *Psyfari* was distributed to all relevant areas of government as an early consultation process and an initial opportunity to provide any comments in the planning of the event.
- Feedback was provided back to the organisers, who reviewed and amended their plans. The revised plans were circulated again to relevant areas of government.
- A working group meeting, led by Rural Fire Services, was held on 15 January 2018 with *Psyfari* organisers, Access Canberra, ACT Policing, and the Emergency Services Agency.
- These agencies met twice before *Psyfari* was held at the end of February 2018.
- ACT Policing and Access Canberra have been working closely in the lead up to this event to support safety.

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- There was a strong agreement between ACT Policing and Access Canberra that risks were identified and addressed to support a safe event.
- A proactive event inspection of *Psyfari* is scheduled to coincide with bump-in, to ensure compliance with relevant safety legislation and allow time for rectification of issues before the event commenced. Inspection functions include: food, plumbing, gas, electrical, construction and work health and safety.
- A Temporary Traffic Management Plan was developed for Top Naas road, reducing speeds and facilitating patron and residents access over the weekend.
- ESA has not provided any approvals or permits relating to the event at this time. The ESA is currently working with the event organisers to understand the vendor requirements pertaining to fire, and any subsequent approvals required.
- Event organisers were advised that ACT Rural Fire Service would undertake periodic patrols of the site during the event, but would not have a continuous or overnight presence.
- It was made clear to event organisers that, as the event will be held during the ACT Bushfire Season, fire permits are required for any fires.
- No Fire Permits will be issued for camping, and fire permits may be required for food stalls. Permits are unlikely to be approved for any solid fuel (wood or charcoal) fire.
- A site visit was conducted on 1 February 2018 with representatives from ESA, ACT Parks and Conservation, the lease holder and the event organisers, to consider emergency arrangements including, site access, communication and required onsite emergency equipment.
- A site visit has been scheduled by ESA personnel on 16 February 2018 to determine the best location for an emergency helipad if required.
- An additional site visit is scheduled during the 'bump-in' stage on 23 February 2018 to inspect event access arrangements and the fire safety of food stalls and vendors. ESA will also look into any possible requirements for fire permits during this visit.
- Any occurrence of criminality at this festival should be reported to police for the appropriate response.

#### **Lease issues**

- Caloola (Block 95 Booth) is located in the NUZ5: Mountains and Bushlands Zone of the Territory Plan, which permits the following uses: farm tourism; overnight camping area; tourist facility; agriculture; communications facility; land management facility; major utility installation; nature conservation area; parkland; scientific research establishment; and woodlot.
- The Hurst Meyer Charity Limited undertook the lease for Caloola in November 2016.
- The lease states the purpose of the lease is:  
*“to use the premises only for the purpose of a conference cam farm and cottage industry centre for the benefit of children young people adults suffering from poverty sickness distress misfortune destitution or helplessness and for the guidance comfort and assistance of such persons”*

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- Planning regulations provide for one off events to be held on a variety of leases, including rural leases such as Caloola.
- Caloola has been in discussions with EPSDD Leasing Services about options for variation of the lease and exemption permits since early 2017. Varying the lease would provide certainty around the running of events and would go through a consultation process.
- As at 5 February 2018, there is no record of the Lessee seeking to lodge a development application to vary the Crown lease to permit other uses.
- Regulators routinely receive information from a variety of sources and take that information into account when making decisions as to what regulatory action should be taken in a particular circumstance.
- In the case of Access Canberra, information received is also considered against the risk-based approach as set out in the Access Canberra Accountability Commitment.

**Profit from functions**

- In accordance with being a concessional lease, the Hurst Meyer Charity is not-for-profit and reinvests profits from events they run at Caloola back into restoring the facilities of the property.
- In 2017, Caloola re-invested the funds from the June *Psyland* event to:
  - repair termite damage of the ‘yellow house’ and farmhouse
  - repair the property’s water systems
  - replacing the bore water pump and filtration system
  - upgrade electrical work across the property
  - repair the commercial stove and dishwasher
  - repair the properties metalwork and woodwork facilities
  - repair and replace roofing and gutters across the property.
- Profits from the upcoming *Psyfari* event are being spent to:
  - widen the local road (adjacent to Top Naas road) to accommodate two lanes of traffic in and out of the property – expected to be completed before *Psyfari*.
  - repair termite damage of the ‘white house’ and caretaker cottage.

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Portfolio Police &amp; Emergency Services

**ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES AGENCY (ESA) – ROGS****Talking points:****Fire Service Volunteers**

*The ACT's fire services saw a decrease in the number of volunteers in 2016-2017 (1,364) from 2015-2016 (1,444), a 5.5 per cent decrease. (Table 9A.6).*

- Ongoing recruitment ensures that there are sufficient levels of ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) and Community Fire Unit (CFU) volunteers across ESA at all times.
- Results from the 2018 Report on Government Services show that the CFU program and the ACTRFS experienced a small decrease in volunteer membership.
- This result was partly due to a proactive review ESA undertook of its membership classifications to better identify active volunteers from inactive volunteers.
- The decrease was also due to a significant rise in retirements from CFU members due to the aging demographic of volunteers.
- ACT Fire & Rescue and ACTRFS will continue to promote opportunities for volunteers to stay involved by moving to associate membership roles (i.e. non-operational roles that support the team leader) within volunteer programs, as well as actively recruiting more volunteer members.

**Confinement of Building Fires to Room of Origin**

*The percentage of confinement of building fires to a room of origin for all ignition types has decreased for the ACT Fire & Rescue Service in 2016-2017 (69.6 per cent) from 2015-2016 (78 per cent), a 10.7 per cent decrease. (Table 9A.9).*

- The response times for the ACT continue to be among the best in Australia; however, there has been a decline in the percentage of confinement of building fires to a room of origin for all ignition types.

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- Results for the confinement of fire are being impacted by a number of factors, including:
  - larger home sizes with more open plan rooms
  - increased fuel loads consisting of more combustible furniture and contents
  - new construction materials and techniques.
- These factors are resulting in faster fire propagation and shorter times to flashover, which means firefighters have less available time to extinguish fires before they spread to adjoining rooms, and the walls and ceilings fail resulting in fire spread.
- As part of the ACT Government's election and budget commitments, 2016-17, the Government:
  - remains committed to the Women in Emergency Services Strategy to boost the recruitment of women who satisfy the requirements and meet the standards for the role with a 50:50 aim for recruit courses
  - has commenced the planning for a new City Station
  - has begun the process to acquire a second aerial pumper appliance.

### **State and Territory Emergency Services Incidents**

*The total State and Territory Emergency Service incidents, including floods, storms and other natural disasters, increased by 59 per cent in 2016-2017 (1,167) from 2015-2016 (685). (Table 9A.22).*

- The increase of State and Territory Emergency Service incidents can be attributed to a few factors:
  - during the 2016-2017 financial year, the Territory experienced a small number of discrete but severe weather events resulting in the significant increase in requests for assistance from the community
  - an increase in volunteer numbers enabled ESA to meet and respond to this greater demand
  - ESA has continued to build on training opportunities that have increased the overall skill level of its volunteers and staff.

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### **Patient Experience Survey**

*Satisfaction with ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) has remained constant at 97 per cent for respondents that reported they had an overall satisfaction of their experience with ACTAS, of either very satisfied or satisfied. This was in line with the national average. (Table 11A.6).*

- The Annual Ambulance Patient Satisfaction Survey results show the ACTAS consistently meets community expectation (97 per cent overall satisfaction rate).
- The strong results shown in the 2017 Report on Government Services are a credit to the professionalism of the women and men of the ACTAS, and the wider ESA.

### **Response Times**

*For 2016-2017, the ACTAS Major Cities and State-wide response times at the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2014-2015 (8 minutes) and 2015-2016 (8.5 minutes) to 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes) (Table 11A.3).*

- The report showed increased demand for ambulance services meant response times were slightly slower than last financial year; however, additional frontline resources hitting the road in early 2018 will ensure response times remain the fastest.
- The ACT Government is committed to additional frontline resources that will aim to meet continued increases in demand.
- Emergency responsiveness will be boosted across Canberra with the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances. This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway.
- The delivery of more paramedics demonstrates a government committed to keeping Canberrans safe by ensuring our emergency services are one of the best.
- Despite increasing demand for ambulance services, the ACTAS continues to be one of the fastest responders nationwide.

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### **Key Information**

- The ROGS data was released on 25 January 2018.

### **Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure**

#### **State and Territory Emergency Services Incidents**

- The ROGS reports on emergency incidents that State and Territory Emergency Service crews attend during that financial year, this includes responses to request for assistance during flood and storm events.

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Portfolio Police &amp; 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 the best response times in the country over the past six years, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The Government is concerned, however, for the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet increased demand.
- These concerns include ensuring paramedics having the opportunity for adequate breaks, and an appropriate amount of time to rest and recuperate between shifts.
- For this reason, in December 2017 the Government announced the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics. This will assist ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation, while at the same time ensuring their welfare.

***If asked about overtime***

- Overtime plays a key role in operating any 24/7 emergency service such as ACTAS, and we don't shy away from this fact.
- Paramedics on personal leave, injured, or on return to work programs account for the majority of overtime hours in ACTAS.
- It is not feasible to put medical professionals in front of people requiring medical assistance, when they are not feeling well themselves.
- Other examples of where overtime is offered includes back filling of shifts, late cases (incidents that commence on one shift and carry over to the next), training, meetings, and all the community events where ACTAS presence is requested – the recent Multicultural Festival is an example.

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- It is not uncommon for overtime to be offered in these scenarios. It is how ambulance services around the country operate.
- If the ACTAS was obligated to have permanent positions to cover all of these additional elements, this would be a significant additional cost to the community.

***If asked about minimum crewing levels***

- ACTAS aims for a minimum of 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift and provides for two additional demand crews each 24 hour period.
- Where it is known that there are not enough staff rostered to crew 10 emergency ambulances in the middle of a day, every effort is made to back fill the rostered shifts. This is done by offering overtime to fill shifts.
- Overtime is also offered to fill night shifts, however, this is not taken up as readily. ACTAS has accepted operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews in these periods of known low demand in the knowledge that the high standard of care for the community is maintained.
- As announced during the recent debate on this matter, ACTAS will review minimum crewing levels so that they more accurately reflect the minimum crews required during periods of known demand.

**ROGS:**

- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.

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**Key Information**

- Report on Government Services data for 2016-2017 indicates that the ACT continues to have the fastest response times in the country, however, response times at the 50th percentile are trending upwards having increased from 2014-2015 (8 minutes) and 2015-2016 (8.5 minutes) to 2016-2017 (8.7 minutes).
- Additional frontline resources hitting the road in 2018 should ensure response times remain the fastest in the country.
- There are two shifts per day (day shift / night shift), which equates to approximately 730 shifts per year.
- ACTAS aims for a minimum of 10 emergency ambulance crews during each shift.
- On 303 of the 730 shifts in 2016-17, ACTAS operated with fewer than 10 emergency ambulances. In most cases, this was during periods of known low demand, where ACTAS has accepted operating with fewer than 10 emergency ambulance crews.
- 35,923 hours of overtime was worked by ACTAS staff in 2016-17.
- To continue to meet increased demand, whilst maintaining the welfare of ACTAS staff, the Government announced in December 2017, the recruitment of 23 additional paramedics.

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Portfolio Police &amp; Emergency Services

**ISSUE: ACT EMERGENCY SERVICES (ESA) ELECTION COMMITMENTS****Talking points:****New Aerial Pumper Appliance**

- The ACT Government is committed to providing a new aerial pumper appliance during this term of government; however, this initiative was not included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget.
- ESA is advising the Government on the most appropriate way to progress this important initiative, and will make announcements in due course.

**Recruitment of Additional Firefighters**

- In the 2017-18 Budget, the Government funded 16 places in ACT Fire & Rescue's (ACTF&R) recruitment program. Applications closed on 18 September 2017.
- The recruitment program aimed to maintain operational capability in firefighting and emergency rescue, actively encourage female participation in line with the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and promote opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Canberra to join ACTF&R as firefighters.
- The 2017 recruitment program formed College 39, which included four women and two indigenous firefighters. College 39 commenced on 29 January 2018. The additional firefighters will be on duty by June 2018.
- In September 2017, ACTF&R conducted a lateral recruit college for a further nine firefighters to boost staffing levels ahead of the 2018 recruit college for new firefighters. The lateral recruits commenced duty in November 2017. ESA met the costs of the lateral recruitment from existing resources.

**If asked about funding for the Recruit College**

- A total of \$147,000 was included in the 2017-18 Budget for this initiative. The full cost of the Recruit College was \$455,000, which was partly funded by reprioritising internal ESA resources.

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- The 2017-18 Budget also includes funding for the Modernising Emergency Services Call-taking initiative, which will allow ACTF&R to return firefighters to frontline roles.
- Over the next five years, ESA will transition to a unified ComCen model. Changes are being introduced to better utilise new technology and infrastructure and to modernise working practices and methods. This will include aligning resources with demand and introducing better ways to manage surge events and peak demand.
- The objective of this project is to ensure that all calls for assistance to the ComCen are handled in a consistent manner, using the same technological approaches by professionally qualified staff.

### **Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew**

- The ACT Government is committed to the recruitment of an additional ambulance crew during this term of government, and announced funding for this proposal in December 2017, as part of the mid-year Budget Review.
- Emergency responsiveness will be boosted across Canberra with the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances. This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway.
- Despite demand for ambulance response in Canberra increasing by 25 per cent since 2012-13, the ACT has continued to record the best response times in the country during this time, as well as the highest levels of patient satisfaction.
- The professionalism of the women and men of the ACT Ambulance Service has ensured our response times have remained the fastest.

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**Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances**

- The ACT Government is committed to providing two new intensive care ambulances during this term of government, and funding for the purchase of two additional ambulance vehicles was announced in December 2017. This initiative aligns with the commitment to recruit an additional ambulance crew.
- Two ambulances are required for each crew. This ensures that an ambulance is available for paramedics on an incoming shift, when paramedics on the previous shift are attending to a late case.
- The two new ambulances will be built to ACTAS specifications, and will be delivered in the second half of 2018 to coincide with the commencement of the new ambulance crew.

**Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel**

- The increase in demand puts pressure on the welfare of a committed ambulance workforce as they continue to meet the community's expectations.
- Ensuring that our emergency service employees and volunteers have the right support to do their jobs well and safely remains a top priority for the ACT Government.
- The position of Manager, Welfare Programs in ESA commenced during this term of government. The Manager, Welfare Programs is responsible for the Peer Support Program in ESA.

**If asked about activities or progress to date**

- ESA is currently developing the training package for the Peer Support Program. This will support the currently developed draft Peer Support Policy. This work was informed by the experience gained by the Manager, Welfare Programs co-facilitating a similar Peer Support Program with the Queensland Ambulance Service.
- Applications for Clinical support staff and peer support candidates are being considered, and successful applicants will commence training in the Peer Support Program soon.

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If asked about funding for the position of Manager, Welfare Programs

- The position of Manager, Welfare Programs will be offset through other savings initiatives identified in the 2017-18 ACT Budget.

Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic

- ESA City Station Feasibility Study is included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget. The Government has since identified a suitable site in the city for a future ambulance facility.
- Officials from City Renewal Authority are discussing options with the developer, City West Holdings, for an ambulance facility at the identified site.

No part-time stations

- The Government has given a clear commitment that there will be no part-time stations.

Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships

- The 2017-18 ACT Budget includes a \$100 annual subsidy for ACT Rural Fire Service (ACTRFS) volunteers for fitness programs and gym memberships, which meets an Election Commitment.
- ACTRFS requires all active volunteers to undertake annual standardised fitness tests to ascertain their fitness for duty. This initiative will provide a positive impact on the cost of living for firefighting volunteers by reducing their out of pocket expenses for fitness-related activities.
- ACTRFS Fitness reimbursements are aligned with the fire season year, which runs from 1 October – 30 September. In the 2016-17 fire season year, 54 reimbursements were issued.
- For the 2017-18 fire season year, which commenced 1 October 2017, nine reimbursements had been issued at the end of January 2018.
- I encourage ACTRFS volunteers to take advantage of this subsidy to support their wellbeing and fitness.
- In line with the 2016 Election commitment, this announcement is a tangible means by which the ACT Government can encourage and support volunteers to maintain the required fitness standard.

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**Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams**

- The community can be assured that ESA is well placed to protect and preserve life, property and the environment during the 2017-18 bushfire season.
- The ACT Government is committed to implementing this commitment during this term of government.
- Implementation will also be subject to agreement with the National Aerial Firefighting Centre, and the NSW Rural Fire Service.

**Legislate a 40km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights**

- This initiative has not been included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget.
- Implementation will involve a regulation change, community education program, and signage on all relevant emergency vehicles.
- Planning for this initiative is well underway, and Government will make public announcements in due course.

**Key Information**

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

**ACT on Fire Campaign**

- The United Firefighters Union (UFU) ran the 'ACT on Fire' campaign targeting all candidates standing at the 2016 ACT Election. The six key priorities of their campaign were more firefighters, proper equipment, no part-time stations, a strong organisation, a strong plan and ready for emerging threats. A copy of the Webpage can be viewed at <http://actonfire.com.au/>.
- The previous Minister for Police and Emergency Service was briefed on the UFU Campaign in MIN:2016/00469.

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## Background Information

### Status of Election Commitments

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

Title	Included in Budget (which year)	Status Summary (not yet, in progress, completed)
New Aerial Firefighting Pumper	Not yet included	Business case for 2018-19 Budget prepared
Recruitment of Additional Firefighters	2017-18	In progress. A further business case for another College is being put forward for 2018-19 Budget
Recruitment of Additional Ambulance Crew	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Provide Two New Intensive Care Ambulances	December 2017 mid-year review	In progress
Enhanced Mental Health Services for Emergency Services Personnel	2017-18	In progress
Funding for the position of Manager, Welfare Programs	2017-18	Completed
Feasibility Study for a New Ambulance and Fire & Rescue Station in Civic	2017-18	In progress
Give volunteer firefighters subsidised gym memberships	2017-18	Completed
Partner with NSW to contract another helicopter and remote access fire teams	Not yet included	Business Case for 2018-19 Budget prepared
Legislate a 40km/h speed limit when passing emergency vehicles with flashing lights	Not yet included	In progress

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 Lead Directorate: Justice and Community Safety

Portfolio Police &amp; Emergency Services

**ISSUE: ACT RURAL FIRE SERVICE (ACTRFS) ASSISTANCE TO NSW RURAL FIRE SERVICE (NSWRFS)****Talking points:**

- The ACT has a regional approach to bushfire support and response.
- The ACT is pleased to assist across the border when we can, and these opportunities recognise our well trained and resourced Rural Fire Service (RFS).
- The provision of assistance to interstate agencies is provided after careful consideration of predicted fire weather for the ACT and availability of resources for the requested deployment period.
- Prior to agreeing to any deployments, we ensure that the ACT is adequately resourced should a local emergency incident occur while we are providing assistance in other jurisdictions.
- The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) and NSWRFS have an existing Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) that outlines cross-border assistance.
- Under this MoU, 115 ACTRFS personnel have been deployed to assist NSW to manage three separate fires between 19 January 2018 and 4 February 2018.
- Providing this assistance recognises our great relationship with NSW and provides excellent practical learning and development experience for ACT volunteers and staff.

**Key Information**

- The ACTRFS has begun holding regular weather briefings for all operational and support services during the recent hot weather. Due to the success of these sessions, the ESA is looking to expand capabilities in this area.
- Any further resourcing beyond the current requests will be considered and discussed as they are received. ACTRFS have offered assistance from the ACT in vehicle based task force capacity, Incident Management Team and other support roles (plant, mapping and aviation); however, the majority of the fires are in difficult terrain which require handcrews to build containment lines.

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Vehicle based (task force) request are unlikely with the current incidents, this may change if additional incidents start.

### **Nerriga Road**

- On 20 January 2018, ACTRFS deployed a Strike Team to Nerriga Road, west of Braidwood, NSW. Their objective was to protect properties, attack and contain the main fire and contain spot fires. The strike team worked in a district with a declared Total Fire Ban.
- On Sunday 21 January 2018 the ACTRFS deployed a second Strike Team to Nerriga Road.
- As of 30 January 2018, the fire was under control.

### **Long Gully Road, Bannaby**

- On 23 January 2018, NSWRFs requested two officers (one Level 3 Operations Officer and one Level 3 Planning Officer) to be deployed to the Yass Incident Management Team (managing the Long Gully fire) on a five day deployment which began on 24 January 2018. Mr Rohan Scott went as the Operations Officer, and Mr Brian Levine as the Planning Officer.
- On 26 January 2018, 12 ACTRFS volunteers were deployed.
- On 27 January 2018, five ACTRFS volunteers were deployed.

### **NSWRFS State Strategic Planning Unit**

- NSWRFs assembled the State Strategic Planning Unit on 25 January 2018 to determine statewide sharing of finite resources for the many fires in NSW. Mr Scott, as Manager Operations, attended on behalf of ACT.
- The time spent in NSWRFs HQ has been a valuable learning and networking experience for ACTRFS. NSWRFs are very appreciative of the support ESA has provided.

### **Fourth Deployment – TJ’s Fire, Wollemi National Park, Singleton**

- A 24 person Strike Team departed Canberra on 28 January 2018. The Strike Team were due to return on 1 February 2018.
- The Strike Team was made up of 18 Parkes and Conservation Service Officers (PCS) and six RFS members.
- Mr Scott Seymour, Area Manager, PCS, travelled as the Liaison Officer for this deployment, working out of Singleton NSWRFs Fire Control Centre.
- NSWRFs requested replacement crews to continue the work from the first deployment to Singleton. A team of 12 replacement ESA volunteers departed Canberra on 31 January 2018, due to return on 4 February 2018.

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The 12 PCS members from the first Singleton deployment will be staying on to do an additional five day rotation, with a day's break on Wednesday.

- Mr David Pennock, A/g Learning & Development Coordinator, RFS, will also be travelling with the group to fill the role of ACTRFS liaison officer in the Singleton NSWRF FCC.
- As of 28 January 2018, there have been no further requests for support from NSWRF. This could change if there is an unexpected increase in fire activity.

**Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure**

- The MoU between NSWRF and ESA was finalised in January 2018.
- A lightening storm started multiple fires in the Wollemi National Park, leading to the request for ACT resources.

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Portfolios Police &amp; Emergency Services

Attorney-General

**ISSUE: FIRST RESPONDERS TO THE BONNER INCIDENT****Talking points:**

- While our thoughts and prayers are with the three individuals who lost their lives, and their family and friends, there are some matters that have arisen from this incident, particularly in relation to communications.
- I understand that the ESA Commissioner has clarified these matters in a message published on the ESA website (below).
- In line with incident management protocols, the ACT Emergency Services Agency's standard approach is to not provide any public comment in relation to an incident once it is clear that fatalities are involved.
- Further public comment immediately becomes a matter for Police and the Coroner noting the sensitivities involved.

**Background Information – ESA Commissioner's Message**

- I refer to the tragic house fire event at Bonner on Monday morning, which has attracted significant media coverage over the past few days. Following some feedback I need to clarify ACT Fire & Rescue (ACTF&R) procedures and how the ESA updates messages to the public.

Firefighters are often called upon to respond to a complex variety of hazards and emergencies, and outcomes such as the one at Bonner can have a significant impact. I would like to thank all ACTF&R staff for the work they do, and I am particularly thankful to those who responded to the Bonner house fire. Feedback from ACT Policing also praises the work of our firefighters at the incident.

While our thoughts and prayers are with the three individuals who lost their lives, and their family and friends, there are some matters that have arisen from this incident, particularly in relation to our communications, that need to be clarified.

ESA works hard to ensure we provide accurate and up-to-date information as emergency events unfold, this is to ensure the community is well informed.

The information that is provided on our public website in the Bonner house fire incident is accurate at the time as reported by Senior Fire Officers on-scene. This information is based on what firefighters call a primary search, which they undertake on arrival at a fire. The purpose of a primary search is to rescue to the best of our ability, anyone that could be inside the building.

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A secondary search is then conducted once the fire is contained. Tragically, in this case, firefighters discovered the bodies of three people during this search. ESA also provided information that this search was underway.

In line with incident management protocols, our standard approach is to not provide any public comment in relation to an incident once it is clear that fatalities are involved. This is out of respect for the deceased and their loved ones.

I take this opportunity to once again recognise and thank all of our firefighters, paramedics and emergency service personnel for their professionalism, and their continued efforts to care for and protect the Canberra community.

Dominic Lane  
ESA Commissioner

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Lead Directorate:	Justice and Community Safety	

## Prevention of Domestic &amp; Family Violence

**ISSUE: Whole of Government Response to Family Safety (incl. progress on commitments)****Talking points:*****Graham Dillon court case (death of Bradyn Dillon)***

- The recent court proceedings are a reminder of this tragic event. I know some people have again experienced trauma as a result of the reports and none of us can imagine the pain being felt by Bradyn's family.
- The circumstances of Bradyn's death are incredibly tragic and the ACT Government has worked to do everything possible across government and community services to ensure it cannot happen again.
- While it is not appropriate to comment on the specifics of the case, I will unequivocally say that preventing domestic and family violence, including sexual assault, is, and continues to be, a high priority for the ACT Government.

**Key Information*****ACT Government Response***

- \$23.5m in funding was included in the 2017-18 ACT Budget. This amount built on the 2016-17 Safer Families Budget package to provide a cohesive, whole of government response to family violence.
- A comprehensive report was included in Appendix J of Budget Paper 3 for the 2017-18 financial year and can be accessed online at <https://apps.treasury.act.gov.au/budget/budget-2017-2018/budget-papers>
- The Office of the Coordinator-General is leading the work on key whole of government commitments, including:
  - the co-design of the Family Safety Hub;
  - the development of a consistent approach to frontline worker training;
  - improving information sharing; and
  - building risk assessment capability.

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***Family Safety Hub co-design process***

- The proposal for a Family Safety Hub for the ACT was a signature initiative under the ACT Government Response to Family Violence.
- The co-design principles are:
  - Be directly informed by the experiences of people affected by domestic and family violence and the frontline staff working to support them.
  - Give priority to groups of people who are most vulnerable to domestic and family violence and those who are hardest to reach with existing services.
  - Focus on improving the early intervention, pre crisis and non-justice responses to domestic and family violence.
  - Explore how existing services and government investment can be better integrated to meet the needs of people affected by domestic and family violence.
  - Recognise that those affected by domestic and family violence will seek help through services they trust, and those trusted services need to be central to an integrated response.
- The co-design process will begin with an in depth understanding of the direct user experience for the following vulnerable groups: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families, Culturally and Linguistically Diverse women, women with disability, LGBTIQ people and adult male children with lived experience of family violence.

***Front-line training***

- Family and domestic violence training for frontline workers was identified as a gap in the three ACT family violence reports with \$770,000 allocated to fund the provision of training to frontline workers.
- The Coordinator-General for Family Safety is leading work across directorates to design a common approach for training of frontline workers that is sufficiently flexible to meet the diverse needs across Government.

***Information sharing***

- On 8 September 2016, the then Attorney-General Simon Corbell released an issues paper on Information Sharing to Improve the Response to Family Violence in the ACT. The issues paper outlines the current information sharing arrangements in the ACT, and explores the privacy issues facing the family violence sector.
- The Coordinator-General for Family Safety led an extensive community consultation process until 16 December 2016, including hosting four information sessions.
- A clear message from the consultations is that a change in culture and practice in is at least as important as improving the legislative framework.

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- The outcome from the consultations will inform future work across Directorates.

***Risk assessment capability***

- The Safer Families package funded \$50,000 in 2016-17 to support the development of a common risk assessment capability.
- Work on the development of the risk assessment tool has primarily focused on researching Australian and International best practice. Research indicates that one tool is unlikely to meet the diverse needs of families in the ACT.
- Core risk assessment capability will be developed and incorporated through the co-design of the Family Safety Hub.

***Child and Youth Protection – Reviewable Decisions***

- The Government committed to undertaking a review of what decisions made by Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) should be subject to either internal or external merits review (Government response commitment 5.5).
- A working group has been established with members from the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and the Community Services Directorate. The group first met in December 2016.
- The working group is chaired by the Executive Director of Legislation, Policy and Programs and includes the Coordinator-General for Family Safety in the Justice and Community Safety Directorate.
- The working group is exploring decisions made by CYPS under the *Children and Young People Act 2008* to identify those that could most appropriately be reviewed, while recognising the need for prompt resolution of disputes around care and protection matters to protect the interests of children and young people.
- The working group is also looking at other possible reforms and supports around decisions made by CYPS.

***Commitments generally***

- The Government has made great progress on other key commitments:
  - Rolled out funding to front-line services including the Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, Beryl Women’s Refuge, Doris Women’s Service, The Tara Costigan Foundation, ACT Policing, Director of Public Prosecutions, Legal Aid, and the Courts.
  - Started delivering increased funding to key domestic violence services to enable greater access to translating and interpreting services.
  - The Room4Change program was launched in April this year and is an innovative residential behaviour change program for men who use or are at risk of using violence.
  - The Safer Families grants program was launched in late 2016 which provides

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practical financial assistance to women leaving violence to allow them space to establish a private rental tenancy.

- The ACT Public Service Family Violence Toolkit was launched in August 2016 and is designed to provide awareness-raising and support materials for employees, managers and human resources practitioners to support employees who are experiencing domestic or family violence.

### **Background Information – may not be suitable for public disclosure**

On 7 June 2016 the ACT Government announced the Safer Families package as part of the ACT Budget to provide a cohesive, whole of government response to family violence. The package includes the full time position of Coordinator General for Family Safety, to be supported by a small team.

On 28 June 2016 the Government released a response to the three family violence reports:

- Report of the Inquiry: Review into the system level responses to family violence in the ACT by Mr Laurie Glanfield AM (Glanfield Inquiry);
- Findings and Recommendations from the Review of Domestic and Family Violence Deaths in the ACT by the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (Death Review); and
- The ACT Domestic Violence Service System Final Gap Analysis Report (Gap Analysis).

The reports were publicly released by the ACT Government in May 2016. Since the tabling of the reports in May 2016, the ACT Government released the comprehensive ACT Government Response to the Family Violence Report (Government Response).

The intention from the commitments in the Government Response is that the Office of the Coordinator-General for Family Safety will drive cultural change and lead reform in partnership with government agencies, non-government services and the Canberra community. The Coordinator-General's core functions, supported by an EA and team of two permanent officers, include:

- primary support for the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence including extensive stakeholder engagement;
- coordinating annual whole of government budget bids on family violence matters and developing methodologies for reporting on family violence expenditure;
- providing strategic policy advice to the government on an ongoing basis to continually refine the whole of government response to family violence;
- raising awareness about family violence in ACT communities, particularly the non-physical dimensions of family violence, including through communications campaigns, events, partnerships, sponsorships, research and stakeholder forums;
- managing legislative change, developing an information sharing awareness campaign and driving an information-sharing culture across directorates and service providers;
- working with Directors-General and mainstream service providers to promote cultural change and more effective and collaborative responses to domestic and family violence;
- working with directorates and service providers to shift current contractual arrangements to an outcomes focus and ensure future contracts include outcomes not outputs as performance indicators;
- working with community and government partners, including members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to ensure that services provided are culturally

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- appropriate;
- leading development of a capability framework and training strategy for frontline workers, including managing procurement of a training package and roll-out across ACT Government;
  - working with the private sector and the professions to encourage investment in training for frontline staff;
  - developing an outcomes framework to measure the impact of the reform agenda over time;
  - developing performance measures for Director-General performance agreements;
  - representing the ACT Government at the national level, including cross-jurisdictional forums established under the National Plan to Reduce Violence Against Women and Their Children 2010-2022, Our WaTCh and ANROWS;
  - monitoring implementation of, and reporting on, the 38 Safer Families Package commitments;
  - establishing a data framework, coordinating data collection and sharing across Directorates, and developing new data sources as required to inform future policy and measure performance;
  - drive a shift in approach across Government the community from a crisis-driven response to early intervention and prevention;
  - facilitate a codesign process for access and referral to services for children and young people affected by family violence; and
  - membership of the Child and Youth Protection Quality Assurance and Improvement Committee to provide arms length quality assurance and ensure compliance by statutory services.

**Context**

- The *ACT Government Response to Family Violence* report was released in June 2016. Commitments focus on supporting a whole of Government approach to domestic and family violence. This work is being overseen by the Coordinator-General for Family Safety.

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HOT ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>11. <a href="#">Firearms Amnesty</a></p> <p>Cleared by ACT Policing 01.03.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The aim of the National Firearms Amnesty was to reduce the number of unregistered and unwanted firearms in Australia. All state and territories and their police services participated.</i></li> <li>• <i>Nationally and in the ACT the amnesty has been a great success – with 699 firearms and 60 parts and accessories surrendered in the ACT.</i></li> <li>• <i>More than 57,000 firearms were surrendered nationally.</i></li> <li>• <i>The ACT Government is committed to ensuring that Canberra remains a safe city and this amnesty assisted in removing unregistered and unwanted firearms and firearm-related items from our streets.</i></li> <li>• <i>To see 699 unregistered guns removed from ACT is an outstanding result for our community – these are 699 less guns that could fall into the hands of criminals.</i></li> <li>• <i>I would also like to thank those that surrendered their weapons – you have played your part in keeping the ACT as safe as possible from illegal firearm use.</i></li> <li>• <i>Anyone with information about illegal firearms is urged to contact Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000. Information can be provided anonymously.</i></li> </ul>

12. [Crowded Places Strategy Implementation](#)

Cleared by ACT Policing  
06.03.18

- *Protecting crowded places from terrorism is not just a job for governments, it is a responsibility shared by the private sector and the community.*
- *The success of this Strategy rests on sustainable and strong partnerships across Australia between all governments and owners and operators of crowded places, including businesses and local governments.*
- *All owners and operators of crowded places have the primary responsibility for protecting their sites, including a duty of care to take steps to protect people that work, use or visit their site from a range of foreseeable threats, including the threat of terrorist attack.*

13. [CVE program](#)

Cleared by  
Nick Lhuede  
06.03.18

- *On Friday 23 March 2018 and Saturday 24 March 2018 The Australian published two articles titled Aussie ISIS baby and wife of dead terrorist back home after fleeing Syrian conflict and Jihadis' families in talks on return home.*
- *The first article notes that a women and her child returned to Australia in 2015 and poses questions around the challenges for security services, and challenges on social service providers.*
- *According to ASIO, up to 70 Australian children have been caught up in the conflict, either -because they were taken there by their parents or because they were fathered by Australian fighters.*
- *The ACT Government is committed to ensuring the safety and security of our community and continues to work closely with ACT Policing and other law enforcement and intelligence agencies to combat terrorism.*
- *The ACT also has available frontline services to assist individuals who have been identified as at-risk to violent extremism under the Living Safe Together Countering Violent Extremism Program.*
- *This program takes holistic approach to Countering Violent Extremism by providing individuals at risk the opportunity to engage with a wide range of services including Police, health, education and community services.*
- *The program is critical in building diversity and social participation, by investing in the strength of families, communities and society.*

14. Aggravated Robberies

Cleared by A/CPO  
08.02.18

- My thoughts are with the workers affected by recent burglaries.
  - The community can be assured that significant resources have been invested in tackling this type of crime.
  - I commend ACT Policing on the work they have been doing with clubs and other businesses to reduce the likelihood of becoming a target and the tireless effort our police officers put into bringing those responsible to justice.
  - This is a serious crime and the Government is committed to continuing to work with ACT Policing and Clubs ACT to address this issue.
- The ACT community can be confident ACT Policing is well resourced to deliver a quality service through the flexible and nimble deployment of our capabilities in response to changing demands.
  - The reasons for changes in the number of crimes being committed are complex and varied. The ACT is no different to other cities - crime is cyclical and currently we are seeing an increase in burglary and robbery offences.
  - Some of the factors contributing to these cycles include recidivism, opportunism, and drug and alcohol abuse. Similarly the investigations into these crimes are increasingly complex and can vary from a couple of days through to weeks and months.
  - A key aspect for many crimes including robbery and burglary is prevention. ACT Police continue to work closely with the community, business and industry groups to ensure that all steps are taken to reduce the chance of businesses and individuals becoming victims of crime.
  - Canberra remains a safe place to live and the recent report on government services reported members of the community feeling a high level of personal safety within their homes and out in the community.
  - We recognise that any crime against a person is traumatic. The safety and wellbeing of people in our community is our number one priority. ACT Policing continue to work with a diverse range of community groups and businesses in relation to crime prevention strategies in an effort to reduce crime in our community.
  - If people are seeking more information on personal and business safety the ACT Policing website has a number of resources: <https://www.police.act.gov.au/safety-and-security>
  - Importantly, the public has a role to play as ACT Policing's eyes and ears in the community.
  - No matter how small you may think this information is it can often be the missing piece of the puzzle that police need to apprehend and charge these criminals.
  - Anyone with any information is urged to contact police on 131 444 or via Crime Stoppers on 1800 333 000 or via the website.

15. [Smart phone App allowing upload of information Tender](#)

*Cleared By AFP  
National Media  
22.01.18*

- The AFP adheres to both state and federal legislation regarding personal information and human rights.
- Under Commonwealth Financial Management and Accountability Act – an open tender process has been selected as the most appropriate to determine the current technologies available to meet this requirement.



16. [Back to School](#)

*Cleared By  
Coordinator  
MPE/DCPO Office  
22.01.18*

- With school returning for 2018, ACT school zones are back with 40km/h limits from 8am to 4pm on weekdays, not just during drop off times as in NSW.
- There is no excuse for speeding in a school zone, especially when you are driving close to some of our most vulnerable road users, children.
- The ACT Government adopts a Vision Zero approach to road safety which is based on the highly successful Swedish approach to road safety. It can be summarised in one sentence—no loss of life on our roads is acceptable.

<p>17. <a href="#">ACTP December Quarter - Criminal Statistics</a></p> <p>Cleared by ACT Policing Executive and Tamsyn Harvey 01.02.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although Canberra is one of the safest places to live we are not immune to increases in crime and we need ensure we do not become complacent.</li> <li>• The Government has been pro-active in working with ACT Policing to address property crime through the Property Crime Prevention Strategy 2016-2020, launched in September 2016.</li> <li>• The main challenge the ACT is currently facing in relation to property crime is the increase in motor vehicle thefts. We are not alone in this, motor vehicle theft remains a challenge across Australia with NSW, NT, QLD and TAS also seeing increases in 2017.<sup>1</sup></li> <li>• The Government has worked with ACT Policing to identify when and how cars are being stolen and this will form the basis for community education campaigns being developed in 2018.</li> <li>• ACT Policing's targeted focus on recidivist and property crime offenders in 2016-2017 saw, 40 individuals arrested and 268 charges laid. ACT Policing also recovered over \$1.4 million worth of stolen vehicles and property, the majority of which has been returned to owners.</li> </ul>
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<sup>1</sup> <https://carsafe.com.au/dashboard#tab1>

**18. Infringement  
Notices Via Email**

Cleared By  
DCPOR  
22.01.18

- ACT Policing will begin sending Traffic, Criminal and Parking Infringement Notices via email following the introduction of new capabilities for officers.
- When someone is issued with an infringement notice, they will be asked if they would like it to be provided via email or hard copy. If they choose the email option, they will be asked to provide their email address.
- If an email address is incorrect or false, a hard copy of the infringement will be sent to the address listed on their driver's licence.
- A printed card will also be provided to the person issued the infringement, which will outline the offence, date, time and location.

19. [Report on Government Services](#)

Cleared By ACT Policing Executive  
22.01.18

- ACT Policing’s continued high performance on critical measures including community perceptions, complaints from the public, road safety and crime victimisation demonstrate that we have a highly effective police force.
- The arrangement the ACT has with the Australian Federal Police to support ACT Policing, helps to provide value for money taking into account, economies of scale and shared or enabling services. Other factors that influence the amount of resourcing ACT Policing need to operate efficiently include the ACT’s small geographic footprint compared to other jurisdictions and our relatively low victimisation rates.
- The ACT community continues to grow and the Government and community’s expectations of ACT Policing continue to evolve and change.
- In 2017-18, the ACT Government increased funding to \$161.8million for ACT Policing, including \$8.8 million for a range of new initiatives.
- This includes a \$2.1million investment in the future of ACTP to review current operating models and infrastructure in light of the growing ACT population and infrastructure.
- This review will assist the Government and ACT Policing to make informed evidence based decisions on police resourcing and service delivery requirements in the ACT over the coming years.
- The community can be assured that this Government is committed to providing ACT Policing with the funding and resources it needs, now and into the future, to ensure Canberra remains one of the safest places to live, work and visit.

<p>20. <a href="#">Independent Integrity Commission</a></p> <p>Cleared By Tamsyn Harvey and ACT Policing 22.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• I note the Committee’s recommendation that ‘an ACT Anti-Corruption and Integrity Commission should have oversight of policing officers funded to deliver services by and to the ACT taxpayer and community’.</li><li>• I am also aware of ACT Policing’s position and representations to the Committee, and acknowledge the current oversight mechanisms in place for the AFP and ACT Policing.</li><li>• I can assure the community that the Chief Police Officer and I share a commitment to ensure the high level of professional standards and integrity within ACT Policing remains visible and accountable.</li><li>• The Government will consider the recommendations from the Committee along with ACT Policing’s advice in our response to the report.</li></ul>
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21. [Tasers](#)

Cleared By ACT  
Policing and  
Tamsyn Harvey  
15.01.18

**Death in Waramanga**

- My condolences go out to all of those affected by the recent tragic death involving a male in Waramanga.
- It is not appropriate for me to comment further as this death is now a matter for the Coroner.

**Funding and rollout**

- The \$2.7million provided by Government will make a significant impact for ACT Policing workforce through a four-fold increase of the current operational capacity from 90 TASERs to 371.
- How the new tasers are rolled out is a matter for ACT Policing, however I understand decisions around deployment will be based on risk and threat and will be reviewed based on operational requirements to ensure the greatest possible benefits and safety for the ACT community.
- The funding is for tasers fitted with video cameras that record image and sound and for the existing governance and specialist training will continue to ensure there is accountability around their use.
- ACT Policing has governance and oversight arrangements in place to assure the community that any use of force is reviewed to ensure it is appropriate and reasonably necessary in the circumstances.
- I am advised that all ACT Policing officers are trained in communication and negotiation techniques as the primary way to de-escalate a situation with vulnerable people, including those with mental health conditions or affected by alcohol or other drugs and that ACT Policing emphasises the use of negotiation, communication and de-escalation techniques, prior to using physical force.

- ACT Policing is currently progressing the procurement of 281 tasers in accordance with the Commonwealth Government Procurement Guidelines.
- Officers renew their Use of Force qualifications annually over a two day period. It takes approximately one hour for an officer to renew the CEW component.
- As at 28 November 2017 approximately 250 ACT Policing members had been trained in the use of CEWs.

## 22. [Criminal Gangs](#)

Cleared By ACT Policing and Tamsyn Harvey  
15.01.18

- Canberra remains a very safe city to live in, however, we are not immune to the presence and activities of OMCGs, including those who travel from interstate.
  - The Government passed the Crimes (Police Powers and Firearms Offence) Amendment Bill 2017 in November to assist police to target serious and organised crime. The Bill includes:
    - a new offence directly addressing drive-by shootings to ensure this behaviour is subject to an appropriate penalty; and
    - new crime scene powers.
  - The Government also introduced fortification removal laws in November 2017.
  - In August 2016, the ACT Government committed an additional \$6.4 million in Taskforce Nemesis funding over four years, employing eight additional staff.
  - The ACT Government approach to OMCG activity has to date focused on strengthening traditional law enforcement responses to any threat posed to the community by OMCGs.
  - The ACT Government continues to work with ACT Policing to ensure our police have the necessary tools to effectively deal with serious and organised crime entities and, wherever possible, to confiscate their criminal assets and put offenders before the courts.
- Between 2014 and 25 January 2018, ACT Policing had:
    - charged 102 OMCG members with 84 offences (persons may have been charged multiple times)
    - executed 88 search warrants
    - attended to 20 shooting incidents – with 2 people shot and receiving non-life-threatening injuries
    - attended 19 arson incidents – some of which also involved shootings
    - prepared for and monitored 17 OMCG runs.

**23. [Firearms](#)**

Cleared By ACT  
Policing and  
Tamsyn Harvey  
22.01.18

**Recent firearms seizures**

- On Thursday 18 January 2018 Detectives from ACT Policing Criminal Investigations Team executed a search warrant at a residence in Kambah following an investigation into aggravated robberies across Canberra.
- Police located and seized 14 firearms of various types including improvised firearms, modified rifles and pistols. Numerous other firearm parts and ammunition was also located and seized.
- A 23-year-old man was arrested and will face the ACT Magistrates Court charged with unauthorised possession of firearms, unauthorised manufacture of firearms and possess ammunition.
- As the matter is before the Courts, it would be inappropriate for me to comment further.



ONGOING ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>24. <a href="#">ACT Policing FTE and Funding</a></p> <p>Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Through the 2017-18 Budget, the ACT Government has invested \$161.8 million in ACT Policing, including \$8.8 million for a range of new initiatives, to ensure Canberrans continue to feel safe in their community.</li> <li>• No general savings measures have been applied to ACT Policing in the 2017-18 Budget, however, ACT Policing provided \$1.3 million in offsets over two years towards new Budget initiatives.</li> <li>• The focus of the new four year Purchase Agreement is on the quality and performance of our policing service.</li> </ul> <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As at 27 December 2017, there was a total of 867 ACT Policing staff. Of the 867 ACT Policing staff 675 (78 per cent) are sworn members.</li> <li>• In the last 6 months a recruit course commenced at the Barton College that will supply ACT Policing with 13 female recruits and 10 male recruits to start in May 2018.</li> </ul> <p>ACT Policing resources fluctuate throughout the year due to mobility between ACT Policing and AFP and the timing of commencement of new recruits.</p> </div>

<p>25. <a href="#">Police Pursuits</a></p> <p>Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ACT Government is committed to Vision Zero and deterring drivers from fleeing from police because of the risk this introduces on our roads.</li><li>• That is why the Government introduced new laws in March 2016 to give police enhanced investigative powers and higher penalties to deal with drivers who fail to stop for police.</li><li>• These laws were introduced at the same time ACT Policing moved to a limited pursuit policy.</li><li>• The number of pursuits has reduced and there have been no deaths or serious injuries on Canberra roads relating to pursuits since the limited pursuit policy and laws were introduced.</li><li>• ACT Policing will continue to update me on the impact of the reforms.</li></ul>
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<p>26. <a href="#">Liquor Reform Package - Policing</a></p> <p>Cleared By ACT Policing 15.01.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government is committed to developing a regulatory regime that supports Canberra businesses, helps develop this community's vibrant night life and does so while ensuring public safety.</li><li>• The Government's investment of \$4.866million for additional police resources will:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ provide greater coverage of the broader ACT, focussing upon regional centres and entertainment precincts;</li><li>○ increase proactive liquor licensing enforcement activities and programs (including enforcement of new offences contained in the Amendment Act and increased enforcement of existing offences under the <i>Liquor Act 2010</i>);</li><li>○ increase collaboration with Access Canberra liquor enforcement teams;</li><li>○ develop targeted campaigns with key ACT Government stakeholders; and</li><li>○ support Regional Targeting Team officers being deployed to major ACT events in the capacity of subject matter experts in liquor legislation enforcement.</li></ul></li><li>• Police will continue to work closely with licensees to make sure the ACT's nightlife precincts are safe for the whole community.</li></ul>
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27. [Terrorism](#)

Cleared By  
Bren Burkevics  
15.01.2018

- While the national terrorism threat level remains at PROBABLE, there is no known specific or credible threat to the ACT.
- People should continue to go about business as usual but be alert to any suspicious activity and, most importantly, to report suspicions and concerns to the appropriate authorities.
- Concerns about national security or terrorism should be reported immediately to the National Security Hotline on 1800 123 400. Alternatively, [www.nationalsecurity.gov.au](http://www.nationalsecurity.gov.au) provides more information.
- If a situation requires a police response, call Police Operations on 131 444. If the situation is life threatening; call Triple-Zero (000).

Strategy for Protecting Crowded Places

- The Government and ACT Policing use the strategy when planning and delivery managing major events in the ACT. These events include the National Multicultural Festival, New Year's Eve and Floriade.
- In conjunction with event organisers, the Government and ACT Policing use the strategy to inform the development of risk assessments and security measures. These security measures include the enhanced use of the Public Safety CCTV system, installation of temporary traffic management arrangements, the sharing of crowded place information with event organisers, the engagement of security personnel and the training and exercising of event staff.
- ACT Policing delivered the first crowded place forum in the ACT on 30 November 2017.
- The Government is also finalising a plan to ensure a consistent and agreed approach to the implementation of the Strategy in the ACT.

**28. [Bail laws](#)**

Cleared By  
Tamsyn Harvey  
15.01.18

- The Bail Act 1992 provides protection to victims as well as uphold the presumption of innocence for people charged with offences.
- The presumption is in favour of bail, unless a person is accused of committing a serious offence (such as manslaughter, sexual assault, threatening to kill, stalking).
- The presumption means that bail should be granted unless there are sufficient reasons for it being refused.
- The presumption in favour of bail being granted is subject to the court's consideration of a number of factors, including the nature and seriousness of the alleged crime, the person's risk of reoffending, the likelihood of the defendant being found guilty, the defendant's character, health, and whether they have any family members that are dependent on them.
- The ACT over recent years has undertaken a number of reviews of our bail laws. In light of a number of high-profile incidents in recent years, bail issues have been reflected on and reconsidered.
- All bail decisions in the ACT must be made by a police officer, magistrate or judge.

# MINISTER FOR EMERGENCY SERVICES

## 5 March 2018

*(new entries italicised)*

HOT ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>29. <a href="#">Bonner Incident</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 2.3.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Firefighters are often called upon to respond to a complex variety of hazards and emergencies, and outcomes such as the one at Bonner can have a significant impact.</i></li> <li>• <i>While our thoughts and prayers are with the three individuals who lost their lives, and their family and friends, there are some matters that have arisen from this incident, particularly in relation to communications.</i></li> <li>• <i>I understand that the ESA Commissioner has clarified these matters in a message published on the ESA website.</i></li> <li>• <i>I take this opportunity to recognise and thank all of our firefighters, paramedics and emergency service personnel for their professionalism, and their continued efforts to care for and protect the Canberra community.</i></li> </ul>

<p>30. <a href="#">UFU comments on Ainslie and Dickson stations</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 2.3.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <i>The ACT Fire &amp; Rescue station in Ainslie is not unsafe, as claimed by the UFU. It is currently a fully operational station with no evidence of contamination.</i></li><li>• <i>The handling of exhaust fumes from fire trucks means that the air quality within the station is well above the limits set by Australian workplace exposure standards.</i></li><li>• <i>The temporary relocation of an ambulance and crew to Ainslie is required while some remediation work is undertaken at the nearby ACT Ambulance Service (ACTAS) station in Dickson, which was damaged by storm water during Sunday's storm. This work is expected to be completed within the coming weeks.</i></li><li>• <i>The relocation of the ACTAS crew, which has been in place since the evening of Tuesday 27 February 2018, will ensure that ACTAS response times are minimised for the community in that part of Canberra.</i></li></ul>
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31. [ACTAS Resourcing](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- I acknowledge that the demand on our ACT Ambulance Service is at the highest levels ever. I would like to thank everyone across all levels and areas within ACTAS who continue to work so effectively during these busy times.
- In December 2017 I announced a funding package to allow for the recruitment of 24 additional staff (23 paramedics and one mechanic), as well as two new ambulances.
- This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway to replace recent retirements and transfers.
- These new staff will help ACTAS meet its operational target of having 10 ambulance crews at the ready at any one time, and a further two ambulances available during peak periods.
- This is a significant funding enhancement which will assist our ACTAS staff to continue to maintain the highest standards of service delivery in the nation.



32. [Report on Government Services](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- For the sixth year in a row ACT Ambulance Service response times are the best in the country. Averaging 8.7 minutes.
- The report showed increased demand for ambulance services meant response times were seconds slower than last financial year, however, additional frontline resources hitting the road in early 2018 will ensure response times remain the fastest.
- The ACT Government is committed to additional frontline resources that will aim to meet continued increases in demand.
- The community should have the highest confidence in the performance of their ambulance and fire services.
- The strong results are a credit to the professionalism of the women and men of both services, and the wider ACT Emergency Services Agency.
- Results also show the ACT State Emergency Service had a boost in volunteer numbers, increasing resources that respond to flood and storms.

33. [2003 Bushfires and Bushfire Season Preparations](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- The 18th of January 2018 marked 15 years since the 2003 Canberra Bushfires.
- As generations begin to forget the impact of that event, we must reflect on the lessons learned, and make sure that the ACT community understands that it is inevitable that this type of bushfire event could happen again.
- The ACT Government, including the ESA, are better prepared for a bushfire emergency than ever before.
- Our policies, warnings systems, and governance arrangements lead emergency management practice on a national level. The ACT community can be certain that they live in one of the safest cities in the world, with well-funded, well-resourced and well-governed emergency services.
- Canberrans can be reassured that our Emergency Plans and bushfire preparedness are well developed. The ACT Emergency Services Agency has prepared a Strategic Bushfire Capability Framework that identifies our bushfire response capability in the ACT.
- The ESA Commissioner has briefed me on how our bushfire response resources and each of our emergency services are ready for the bushfire season.
- Being ready for bushfires also requires the ACT community to be ready too. On 20 December 2017 I launched this season's 'Canberra Bushfire Ready' awareness campaign, where residents were encouraged to know their level of risk to bushfire and what they should be doing to prepare, including completing and practicing their Bushfire Survival Plan.

34. [ACTF&R Recruitment and staffing](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- General recruitment began on 1 September 2017 and applications closed on 18 September. Successful candidates from this process progressed to a Recruit College that commenced on 29 January 2018.
- The Government has funded 18 places in ACTF&R College 39 and this will see the additional firefighters in operation by May 2018. This College includes two places as part of the Indigenous Fire and Rescue Employment Strategy (IFARES), and four female firefighters.
- This recruit training will meet the ACT Government's commitment to recruit additional firefighters to address current shortages and replace staff likely to leave the service. The ACT Government also remains committed to the Women in Emergency Services Strategy and supports half of the 16 places available being filled by women who demonstrate their ability to meet the necessary standards to become a firefighter.

Lateral Recruitment Process

- The recent Lateral Recruitment campaign run by ACTF&R was highly successful, resulting in nine suitable candidates from around Australia graduating on 3 November 2017.
- The lateral recruitment of experienced firefighters will provide short term relief to staffing levels prior to the ACTF&R general recruitment campaign.
- I am also advised there is no issue conducting training over the bushfire season. ACTF&R staff at the ACT Emergency Services Agency Training Centre are developing a draft program which includes flexible arrangements and training activities, should some resources not be available for any reason.

Staffing

- I am advised by the Chief Officer that ACTF&R's staffing arrangements over the next 12 months will not impact on the ability of ACTF&R to fully staff appliances, including during the 2017-18 bushfire season.
- ACTF&R is aware that a reduction in staff numbers may occur over the next 12 months, although exact numbers are difficult to forecast accurately depending on the retirement decisions of staff.

35. [ESA vehicle servicing](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
14.3.18

- The ESA commissioned a review of production planning and workshop practices in the ESA Workshop.
- The review was conducted by the Noetic Group, and was received by the ESA in late 2017. It made a number of recommendations, including the provision of additional resources.
- As part of the recent announcement in relation to additional ambulance resources, the Government also committed funds for an additional mechanic to support the ESA Workshop, and to enhance the ESA's capability as we continue to increase the size of the fleet.
- The ESA Executive is currently working with ESA Workshop staff and the Transport Workers Union, to discuss the best way to address the recommendations of the review.

*If asked: Pumper breakdown while responding to a house fire in Narrabundah*

- The engine of Fyshwick's ACT Fire & Rescue pumper overheated while responding to a house fire in Narrabundah at approximately 8:30pm on Wednesday 28 February.
- The occupants of the house safely evacuated before their arrival, but the pumper was disabled and the crew was unable to effectively fight the kitchen fire until a second pumper from Phillip arrived on scene.
- It is normal practice for ACT Fire & Rescue to dispatch two pumpers to all reported structure fires.
- Mechanics from the ESA Workshops are currently undertaking tests to determine the extent of damage sustained to the vehicle's engine.

ONGOING ISSUES	TALKING POINTS
<p>36. <a href="#">ACTF&amp;R Involvement regarding Bentley Apartments</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Community Safety section within ESA’s Risk &amp; Planning branch has an advisory role in relation to building construction in the ACT.</li> <li>• Prior to the construction of the Bentley Apartments, Community Safety officers were asked to provide comment in relation to whether the proposed car park could be considered an “open deck” car park, based on a fire engineering analysis of the ventilation openings. If supported, this would mean that sprinklers would not be required to be installed in the car park.</li> <li>• Community Safety supported this and provided such advice to the building certifier.</li> <li>• It appears that the beams and columns in the car park may have then been constructed with insufficient fire resistance rating.</li> </ul>

<p>37. <a href="#">Bushfire risk and planning at Ginninderry</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The ACT Emergency Services Agency (ESA) will closely oversee the Ginninderry development in West Belconnen to ensure it meets current Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area and as well as any other specific directions deemed necessary by the ESA Commissioner.</li><li>• In planning for new estates in or near bushfire-prone areas the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development Directorate works very closely with the ESA.</li><li>• In addition to the Australian Standards for construction in a bushfire prone area, the <i>Emergencies Act 2004</i> also allows the ESA Commissioner to set additional standards in a situation where a development proposal is received that would concentrate vulnerable members of our community in a bushfire prone area.</li><li>• This decision would usually be made following advice from technical experts, including those within ESA Risk and Planning and the ACT Rural Fire Service.</li></ul>
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38. [Bushfire Abatement Zone](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- The current model for the provision of emergency services in the ACT is serving the community very well. It ensures a seamless response across agencies, and across services, to any emergency incidents faced by the people of the ACT.
- The BAZ incorporates rural areas immediately surrounding the built-up area where specific measures may be required to reduce risk to life and property in the built-up area of Canberra from fires occurring in that zone.
- It is important to highlight that the existing response arrangements remain, whereby the first response to all grass and bushfires in the ACT will be by the nearest available most appropriate resource, irrespective of jurisdiction or service.
- As has been demonstrated, including in the most recent 2016-17 fire season, our fire services have an excellent record of working together collaboratively and cohesively in responding to fires in the BAZ to protect the ACT community.

<p>39. <a href="#">ESA Strategic Reform Agenda</a> Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Strategic Reform Agenda (SRA) comprises six projects: Computer Aided Dispatch (CAD) System/Territory Radio Network (TRN) upgrade and website hosting, Communications Centre Reform, Blueprint for Change, Station Upgrade and Relocation Project, Women in Emergency Services, Strategic Bushfire Management Plan.</li><li>• Significant progress has been made to help the ESA improve its services for the wider community, support its people and mature as an agency.</li><li>• A Joint Consultative Committee was established on 11 February 2016 to provide a formal mechanism for consultation between employee representatives and the Directorate on the reasons for proposed changes and their likely impact, and to enable employees and their representatives to contribute to the decision making process.</li></ul>
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<p>40. <a href="#">ComCen</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Government announcement in June 2016 about ComCen reforms was made following extensive consultation and consideration of all the issues and feedback received.</li><li>• The announcement proposes to realign the roles of the ACT Fire &amp; Rescue (ACTF&amp;R) officers who currently work in the ComCen. It will also put additional firefighters on the road to assist in preventative and community work, improve response times, give firefighters the opportunity to provide shift relief (for each other), assist colleagues on special leave, and help to reduce overtime rates.</li><li>• A long-term outcome of the ComCen project will be to develop a staffing model that allows call takers and dispatchers to deal with any type of emergency incident currently received in the ComCen. This will improve the operability of the ComCen and allow for a unified response to any emergency event.</li></ul>
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<p>41. <a href="#">ACTAS Blueprint for Change</a></p> <p>Cleared By Dominic Lane 6.2.18</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The Blueprint for Change Implementation project commenced in 2017. It continues to be a high priority for the ACT Ambulance Service and aligns with the broader ESA Strategic Reform Agenda.</li><li>• The Oversight Committee is headed up by an Independent Chair, Mr David Place, an experienced senior operational manager from the South Australian Ambulance Service. I receive regular updates, the last on 28 September.</li><li>• In his most recent update, Mr Place noted that positive change is occurring such as the commencement of implementation of the new ACTAS Leadership Framework, considerable progress towards the introduction of a Peer Support program, Flexible Work Arrangements, Wi-Fi on all ambulance stations as well as a successful trial of powered stretchers.</li><li>• I am pleased with the progress being made and strong support from all involved including the Transport Workers Union and workplace representatives.</li><li>• On 21 December 2017, I announced the Government’s commitment to provide additional ambulance resources, including the recruitment of 24 additional staff as well as two new ambulances. This is in addition to the recruitment of 11 paramedics currently underway.</li><li>• This will ensure that Canberrans continue to receive the fastest ambulance response times in the country.</li></ul>
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42. [Volunteer concerns](#)

Cleared By  
Dominic Lane  
6.2.18

- I thank the volunteer for taking the time to write to me, to express their opinion on a number of matters they consider important as an ACTRFS volunteer.
- I note that the matters raised by the volunteer are also the subject of a number of written Questions on Notice from Mrs Jones during the Annual Report Hearings in March 2017 and the Estimates Hearings in June 2017.
- All feedback is appreciated and contributes to ESA's program of continuous improvement.