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## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **Committee Reference - Select Committee on NSW Police Force responses to vulnerable people**

Ms Higginson says—

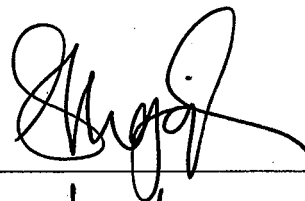
Mr PRESIDENT: I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

- (1) That a select committee be established to inquire into and report on the responses of the NSW Police Force to vulnerable people in New South Wales, and in particular:
  - (a) responses to the elderly, First Nations people, people living with a disability, those experiencing poverty, people experiencing mental illness, young people, those experiencing substance dependency, and individuals from culturally and diverse backgrounds,
  - (b) how police responses to vulnerable people impact employees of the NSW Police Force, families and communities
  - (d) the effectiveness of NSW Police Force policies, procedures and training,
  - (e) the use and regulation of force in police responses to vulnerable people, including without weapons, and the implementation of previous reports and recommendations relating to the use of force by the NSW Police Force,
  - (f) formal and informal mechanisms within the NSW Police Force to support employees, promote best practice policing, and encourage the reporting of negligence or misconduct,
  - (g) alternative strategies to having police as first responders to issues involving vulnerable people, including resource considerations,
  - (h) the effectiveness of the Police, Ambulance, Clinical, Early, Response (PACER) program,

- (i) data collection, use and accessibility, including the recording of information in Computerised Operational Policing System (COPS),
  - (j) the effectiveness of various accountability and integrity mechanisms, including the referral and investigation of complaints under Part 8A Police Act 1990 and the investigation of matters by the Law Enforcement Conduct Commission and the New South Wales Ombudsman,
  - (k) any other related matter.
- (2) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, the committee consist of six members comprising:
  - (a) two government members,
  - (b) two opposition members, and
  - (c) two crossbench members.
- (3) That the Chair of the committee be Ms Higginson.
- (4) That, notwithstanding anything to the contrary in the standing orders, at any meeting of the committee, any four members of the committee will constitute a quorum.
- (5) That, unless the committee decides otherwise:
  - (a) all inquiries are to be advertised via social media, stakeholder emails and a media release distributed to all media outlets in New South Wales,
  - (b) submissions to inquiries are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration,
  - (c) attachments to submissions are to remain confidential,
  - (d) the Chair's proposed witness list is to be circulated to provide members with an opportunity to amend the list, with the witness list agreed to by email, unless a member requests the Chair to convene a meeting to resolve any disagreement,
  - (e) the sequence of questions to be asked at hearings alternate between Opposition, crossbench and Government members, in that order, with equal time allocated to each,
  - (f) transcripts of evidence taken at public hearings are to be published,
  - (g) supplementary questions are to be lodged with the Committee Clerk within two business days following the receipt of the hearing transcript, with witnesses requested to return answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions within 21 calendar days of the date on which questions are forwarded to the witness,

- (h) answers to questions on notice and supplementary questions are to be published, subject to the Committee Clerk checking for confidentiality and adverse mention and, where those issues arise, bringing them to the attention of the committee for consideration, and
  - (i) media statements on behalf of the committee are to be made only by the Chair.
- (6) That the committee report by 1 April 2024.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Angela', written over a horizontal line.

Dated

21/9/2023



## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **General Notice – Deer in NSW are a low risk of viral and parasitic risk for livestock and human health.**

Mr Borsak says—

Mr PRESIDENT: I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

That this House notes,

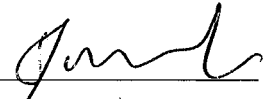
- (1) A recent research paper from the NSW DPI Vertebrate Research Unit was published by CSIRO in Wildlife Research titled: A review of viral and parasitic infections in wild deer in Australia with relevance to livestock and human health, by Huaman *et al.*
  - (a) The research team involved evaluated the role of wild deer as wildlife hosts of viral and parasitic pathogens in Australia. The study's search of published scientific papers was conducted on 02 December 2022. The researchers highlight how advanced genomic techniques have increased our understanding of wild deer diseases in Australia.
  - (b) The review aimed to: (1) review current knowledge of deer infection in Australia; (2) examine how this compares to deer overseas; and (3) assess the implications for wild and domestic animal populations and humans.
  - (c) The evaluation showed that research focused on detecting gastrointestinal parasites and helminths. However, exposure to four protozoan and four vector-borne parasites were recently assessed in PCR-based assays in wild deer from eastern Australia. PCR-based screening of deer serum and blood samples detected no active infection (i.e., where the pathogen replicates) of Sarcocystis and a range of vector-borne infections relevant for the livestock industry. This is indeed good news for NSW.
  - (d) Several zoonotic diseases do occur in wild deer in Australia, including Q fever, leptospirosis, fasciolosis, cryptosporidiosis, and giardiasis which are also common in native wildlife and domestic animals in NSW. While SARS CoV2 virus has been detected in certain species of free-ranging White-tailed deer in the United States. The good news is that there are no White-tailed deer in Australia and the SARS CoV2 virus has not been detected in the Euro-Asian *cervus* deer species which we have in NSW.

- (e) The paper stated that deer are infected by and susceptible to many diseases, some of which are zoonotic, meaning that they could also affect humans. But the good news for NSW once again is that that research suggests a low risk of transmission from wild deer to livestock and humans in Australia.
  - (f) The paper further stated that increasing the focus on wildlife disease surveillance to detect emerging infectious diseases and integrate wildlife and environmental health into One Health policies is crucial to prepare Australia to better recognise and manage the adverse impacts of zoonotic diseases.
  - (g) The paper recommended developing a passive surveillance system through the Australian deer hunter community. The paper further stated that deer hunters harvest large numbers of deer. The authors in their final recommendations that training in identifying, recording macroscopic lesions, and collecting specimens could be provided to hunters as part of the licensing process, and hunters could help monitor the presence and distribution of infectious diseases.
- (2) Wildlife Health Australia produce information papers. In its' Foot and Mouth Disease Version 1.2 of 15 August 2022: Australian Native species, feral and zoo animals, stated that "Evidence to date suggests that wild and feral populations of animals (apart from African buffalo) (*I would like the house to note that this species is not present in Australia*) pose a low risk of transmitting infection to domestic livestock. Feral animals are unlikely to play a significant role in maintaining and spreading foot-and-mouth disease in Australia."
- (3) In October 2003 a report published in Veterinary Record by Bhattacharya *et al* reported on the identification of foot-and- mouth disease from a captive grey kangaroo in a zoological garden in Kolkatta, India and that two days after the onset of clinical signs, the kangaroo died.
- (5) That this House acknowledges:
- (a) The importance of biosecurity to the future of farming and the natural ecosystems of New South Wales as well as the health of its citizens.
  - (b) The low risk of transmission of viral and parasitic infections in wild deer to livestock and human health in NSW and Australia.
  - (c) Eastern Grey kangaroos are a potential vector of Foot and Mouth disease in NSW.
  - (d) The results of this research and these reports and publications does not fit or suit the current narrative of the pest management industry in Australia who make significant amounts of cash from selective research and futile management operations.
  - (e) That information in NSW publications and websites should reflect the sound published peer-reviewed research, reports and information and not the anti-deer propaganda espoused by the rabbits of conservation, the Invasive Species Council.

- (f) NSW government should resource the DPI NSW Hunting division to develop and support a passive surveillance system through professional kangaroo and pet meat harvesters, the NSW deer hunter community and the general hunting community, by providing training in identifying, recording macroscopic lesions, and collecting specimens so that NSW hunters could be engaged and help monitor the presence and distribution of infectious diseases in NSW in an on-going, broadscale, community-based, collaborative, citizen science program, at little cost to NSW taxpayers..

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Dated \_\_\_\_\_

  
21/9/23



## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **General Notice - ABS data on physical and sexual violence**

Ms Boyd says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

(a) the Australian Bureau of Statistics released Tranche 2 of the Personal Safety Survey in August 2023, which found that:

- (i) one in five women have experienced sexual violence since the age of 15;
- (ii) women with disability, university aged women, single mothers, LGBTQIA+ people and people experiencing financial stress were at highest risk of physical and sexual violence;
- (iii) approximately 2 million women have experienced sexual violence by a man they knew, and around 600,000 by a male stranger, and these figures demonstrate that there are a huge number of assaults that are going unreported;
- (iv) perpetrators of physical and sexual assaults against women were most often an intimate partner and most often happened at home, with 63 percent of women physically assaulted by an intimate partner, 53 percent of women sexually assaulted by an intimate partner, 70 percent of physical



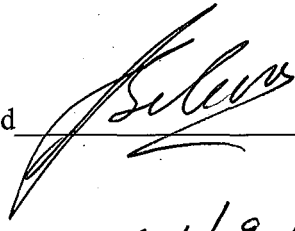
assaults occurring at home, and 69 percent of sexual assaults occurring at home;

- (v) in all three categories of physical violence, sexual violence and sexual harassment, young women between ages 18 and 24 years old experienced the highest rates of violence;
  - (vi) women were more likely to seek support from an informal source (46 percent) such as a friend or family than a formal source (27 percent); and
  - (vii) women who experienced sexual assault by a male and did not contact the police listed reasons including that they felt ashamed or embarrassed, they did not think there was anything the police could do, they felt they would not be believed, they felt they could deal with it themselves, they did not regard the incident as a serious offence, they were fearful of the person responsible, they lacked trust in the police, or they had a fear of legal processes and cultural or language reasons; and
- (b) according to Australia's National Research Organisation for Women's Safety (ANROWS) chief executive, the results of the survey are deeply concerning, but not surprising.

(2) That this House calls upon the NSW Government, following their notable underspend on the gendered violence sector in the 2023-2024 Budget, to act urgently to prioritise legislation and initiatives that act to end this growing crisis.

Signed

Dated

  
24/9/23



## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **General Notice - Wheelchair accessible taxis**

Ms Boyd says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) taxis are an essential form of point to point transport for many people with disability, many of whom rely exclusively on wheelchair accessible taxis (WATs) to get around in their daily lives;
- (b) several concerns have been raised in relation to major systemic issues within the taxi system, particularly with the Taxi Transport Subsidy Scheme (TTSS), WATs and the associated booking system, and using interstate dockets, including by Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA), Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN), People with Disability Australia (PWDA), Public Interest Advocacy Centre (PIAC) and NSW Taxi Council;
- (c) according to data collected by PDCN in February 2023:
  - (i) there is clear evidence that the point-to-point transport network is not meeting the needs of people with disability,
  - (ii) industry practices are actively discouraging people with disability from using taxis and participating in society,

- (iii) there has been a clear declining trend in customer service across the industry which appears to correlate with several regulatory changes in the point-to-point transport system,
  - (iv) 88% of people surveyed prefer to use the Smartcard over paper dockets,
  - (v) for those who use the Smartcard, 66% reported problems using it, which mostly related to drivers purportedly not knowing how to process the card or wanting to use dockets as a preference,
  - (vi) drivers do not appear to understand how to use the Smartcard on their payment terminals, which along with a lack of practical knowledge of how to process the cards has caused frustration for both passengers and drivers,
  - (vii) users of WATs are increasingly concerned about the unreliability of these services, which is likely due to lack of vehicles and WAT operators within the broader taxi fleet and the decreasing availability of these vehicles for those who need them, and
  - (viii) 30% of those surveyed in the past 12 months had experienced booking a WAT that never turned up, and nearly 25% of participants had waited more than 2 hours for a booked taxi to arrive;
- (d) Spinal Cord Injuries Australia (SCIA) and Physical Disability Council of NSW (PDCN) have called on the NSW Government to:
- (i) organise a high level roundtable between Transport for NSW, Point to Point Commission, Taxi Council, 13 Cabs, WAT operators and WAT users, to discuss methods to dramatically improve taxi service provision for all people with disability,
  - (ii) remove any costs associated with the Cabcharge payment terminal for using the TTSS smartcard, and insure that the smartcard is cost neutral for taxi service providers,
  - (iii) make a commitment that Transport for NSW will review incentives for WAT licenses and no interest loans for WAT vehicles,
  - (iv) ensure that Smartcard implementation occurs in full across the entire fleet of WATs in NSW and is paired with appropriate education to ensure all drivers and operators understand how to use it,
  - (v) enforce appropriate oversight, enforcement and penalties by the Point to Point Commissioner for non-compliance of the WAT licence, including in relation to operation of the vehicle and wheelchair restraints and conduct of all drivers,

- (vi) make a commitment that Transport for NSW will implement the recommendations of the Point to Point Independent Review 2020, and the recommendations of the Inquiry into Operation of the *Point to Point Transport (Taxis and Hire Vehicles) Act 2016*,
  - (vii) provide additional incentives for drivers to take on WATs to increase the WAT fleet, particularly in limited markets,
  - (viii) create and enforce a single streamlined central booking system across the whole state, and
  - (ix) nationalise the interstate WAT booking system.
- (2) That this House calls on the NSW Government to endorse the calls from the disability sector and take direct action to implement them.

Signed

Dated

21/9/23



## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **General Notice - Bangladesh elections**

Ms Boyd says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

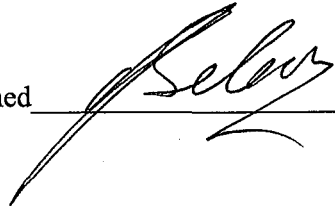
I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) it has been over 15 years since Bangladesh has had an election that was legitimate, according to the United States Institute of Peace,
- (b) Sheikh Hasina presided over two rigged and controversial elections in Bangladesh in 2014 and 2018, and failed to 'advocate' for free and fair elections,
- (c) the European Union found that the national election held in Bangladesh in 2018 was marred by violence,
- (d) Capital Punishment Justice Project, R. Kennedy Human Rights and other human rights groups are gravely concerned over the number of enforced disappearances in Bangladesh and the denial of access to justice for the victims,
- (e) Human Rights Watch has found that the Bangladeshi government continues to be linked to enforced disappearances,
- (f) US Secretary of State Antony Blinken has noted that the United States is adopting a policy to restrict visas for Bangladeshis who undermine the democratic election process in their home country,

- (g) in 2021 the Biden administration levied sanctions against the Bangladeshi Rapid Action Battalion, and
  - (h) the British parliament has discussed the politically-biased imprisonment of Bangladeshi leader Khaleda Zia and expressed their concern about how the 2018 general election was conducted.
- (2) That this House calls on the Australian Government to:
- (a) appeal to the Bangladeshi Government to accept independent oversight of the coming national election in order to ensure that the election is fair and free of unlawful practices and interference,
  - (b) advocate for all political prisoners, including the opposition leader Khaleda Zia, to be immediately released,
  - (c) support the introduction of a judicial system that is accessible and fair for all Bangladeshis, and
  - (d) impose Magnitsky style sanctions against Sheikh Hasina, members of the Rapid Action Battalion (RAB) and DB police for their ongoing failure to uphold human and democratic rights in Bangladesh.

Signed



Dated

21/9/25



## **LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL**

### **General Notice - Disability Pride Festival 2023**

Ms Boyd says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

(1) That this House notes that:

- (a) Australia's third annual Disability Pride Festival was held on Saturday 16 September at Ashfield Civic Centre with the theme of "solidarity not charity", which was attended by members of the disability community, allies of the disability community, world pole dancing champion Deb Roach, First Nations Auslan user and artist Daniel McDonald, chairperson of Guide Dogs Australia Jaci Armstrong, para-athlete Summer Giddings, Your Story Legal Support, Greens MLC Abigail Boyd, Greens MLC Dr Amanda Cohn, Greens MP Kobi Shetty, Greens Councillor Dylan Griffiths, Greens Councillor Liz Atkins, Greens Councillor Marghanita Da Cruz, *and many others*,
- (b) disability pride is a global movement that means different things to different people, that celebrates the diversity of the disability community and reclaims the history, culture and languages of the disability community,
- (c) the first Disability Pride Festival was held in Boston, Massachusetts in the United States in 1990, to commemorate the Americans with Disabilities Act being signed into law, which was at the time a step in achieving civil rights protections for people with disability,

- (d) Disability Pride Month is celebrated every July across the world, and is also celebrated at various times of the year in the form of parades, festivals, conferences, workshops and awareness events all of which aim to promote awareness and honour the vibrancy of disability pride,
  - (e) disability pride stands firmly against the ableism that exists throughout the entirety of the systems we stand upon, and fights against the charity model of disability which assumes that all people with disability are objects of pity rather than human beings who live in a society that is fundamentally constructed to disable a significant portion of people from living full and dignified lives, and
  - (f) the 1.37 million people with disability living in NSW face significant obstructions, barriers and inequalities in society in relation to all areas of life including health, education, the workforce, accessing infrastructure, using transport and in housing.
- (2) That this House calls on the NSW Government and all members in this place to affirm support for disability pride and all associated events and celebrations.

Signed



Dated

21/9/23





## LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

### NOTICE OF MOTION

Mr Buttigieg says—

Mr PRESIDENT:

I give notice that on the next sitting day I will move:

1. That this House notes that:

- a. on 20 August 2023, the Indo-Australian Bal Bharathi Vidyalaya (IABBV) Hindi School held an event celebrating Hindi Divas, or Hindi Day, at Thornleigh West Public School, and the Hon. Mark Buttigieg MLC was honoured to attend representing the Premier, The Hon. Chris Minns MP and Minister for Multiculturalism, The Hon. Stephen Kamper MP,
- b. Hindi Day is celebrated on 14 September each year and celebrates the day Hindi was made one of India's official languages,
- c. the event also celebrated 36 years of the IABBV Hindi School teaching the Hindi language,
- d. IABBV Hindi School was established in 1987 by a group of mothers from India who had migrated to Sydney and wanted to build a brighter future for their children. By teaching their children Hindi, they built bridges of understanding with their families back home while helping young Indian Australians become proud of their heritage and culture,
- e. the IABBV Hindi School is run entirely by volunteers, providing not just language classes but other activities like music, sports, dance and drama,
- f. the event involved a Welcome to Country by Uncle Laurie Bimson and Auntie Trudy, wonderful performances from students, presentations of awards, and speeches from many community leaders, Parliamentarians and councillors, including:
  - i. Mr Manish Gupta, the Consul General of India in Sydney,
  - ii. The Hon. Damien Tudehope MLC,
  - iii. Ms Charishma Kaliyanda MP,
  - iv. Mr Alister Henskens SC MP,
  - v. Mr Matt Cross MP,
  - vi. The Hon. Matthew Kean MP,
  - vii. The Hon. Councillor Philip Ruddock AO, Mayor of Hornsby Shire Council, and
  - viii. Councillor Jeff Pettett, Mayor of Ku-ring-gai Council,

2. That this House:

- a. congratulates the IABBV Hindi School, including its Founder and President, Mrs Mala Mehta OAM, for conducting such an enjoyable event, and
- b. recognises the value language schools bring to our multicultural communities.

Signed: 

Dated: 21 Sept 2023