

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

NOTICE OF MOTION

MR EMERSON: I give notice that I shall move – That this Assembly:

- 1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the recent violent attacks against women while exercising in the ACT;
- 2) notes that:
 - a) the ACT aspires to be, and should be, a place where women feel safe at all times;
 - b) there has been a concerning increase in misogynistic online content, including from male influencers on social media, that is cultivating a toxic attitude toward women among young boys and men;
 - c) reported rates of family, domestic and sexual violence in the ACT continue to increase;
 - d) services like Menslink play a vital role in fostering the development of positive masculinity, delivering early intervention behaviour change programs, and supporting boys and young men through counselling, mentoring and education;
- 3) further notes that:
 - a) many women report feeling unsafe exercising at night, which is exacerbated by poor lighting and damaged footpaths;
 - b) the ACT Government has developed Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines which, according to the Second Action Plan of the ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026, is part of "building a community where women and girls are safe and supported to participate", acknowledging that "safety at home and in public spaces is essential to full and equal participation of women and girls in our community";
 - c) the second year reporting on the ACT Women's Plan 2016-26 Third Action Plan indicates that a pilot implementation of the Gender Sensitive Urban Guidelines Framework and Implementation Toolkit was expected to be completed by May 2025;

- 4) calls on the ACT Government to take practical measures to improve safety for women, including:
 - a) ensuring organisations like Menslink are funded sufficiently to maximise the reach and impact of their work;
 - b) providing better lighting and footpaths, especially in popular exercise locations;
 - c) advocating to, and collaborating with, the National Capital Authority to address lighting issues and ensure women feel safe exercising in Commonwealth-owned areas like the Lake Burley Griffin perimeter;
- 5) further calls on the ACT Government to:
 - a) roll out the implementation of its Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guidelines across the entirety of the ACT; and
 - b) table a detailed implementation plan and timeline for the rollout, along with an update on other matters arising from this motion, in the first sitting week of 2026.

Thomas Emerson MLA
23 June 2025