



ACT|atsieb

ACT | Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander  
Elected Body

## **PROTOCOLS FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH NSW AND AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

*(Endorsed on 28 February 2013, see Decision on Agenda Item 13 of ATSIEB Meeting No.4/2012-13)*

1. The ACT is a 'City State' surrounded by the State of New South Wales. The ACT is also the national capital of Australia.
2. The ACT is not only the seat of National Government; it is an 'emporium' for the people of southern New South Wales (NSW). People travel into that emporium to access a variety of public and private services, work opportunities, commerce and other facilities. These include hospital treatments, jobs in the Commonwealth public service, restaurants and the airport. Similarly, residents of the ACT travel over the border, though in different numbers, for a different mix of reasons and mostly to destinations further afield.
3. Many members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the surrounding region are either employed in the delivery of those services, or are clients for those services. Section 10 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* provides for ATSIEB, in exercising its functions, to communicate with a non-government entity providing a service or administering a program used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT. For the purposes of this protocol, ATSIEB interprets Section 10 to apply to the services provided by the NSW and Australian Governments to members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. ATSIEB may invite a representative of a NSW or Australian Government agency to attend a meeting of ATSIEB to discuss any issues relating to the functions of ATSIEB or the government agency.

### **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Boards or Committees**

4. ATSIEB acknowledges that some government agencies have formal boards or committees to advise on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander issues. As a preference, ATSIEB will consult with the relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Advisory Board or Committee on an issue in the first instance, if relevant. Should an ATSIEB member become aware of an issue or concern that merits further action then this must be brought to ATSIEB for consideration before taking any action or making any representations direct to the relevant NSW or Australian Government agency.
5. All enquiries relating to ATSIEB or to NSW or Australian Government agencies must be directed through the Secretariat.
6. The Secretariat will arrange the necessary briefs, reports or meetings between ATSIEB or the Chair or an authorised ATSIEB member and NSW and Australian Government representatives.