

ACT GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
to the
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ELECTED BODY

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM 2008-09 ESTIMATES HEARINGS

Chief Minister's foreword

*The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body was established in 2008 under the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008** to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT have a strong, democratically elected voice.*

The formation of the Elected Body was a significant and positive step in the reconciliation journey. Being empowered to hold government agencies to account for the services they provide, the programs they administer and the outcomes they deliver – the Elected Body was deliberately designed to be an active, valued representation of its community and people.

The Elected Body has been called upon to provide advice on a range of existing and emerging policy issues. Beyond consultation alone, the Elected Body also has the ability to drive reform. Section 26 of the Act states, in part:

If the Elected Body invites the chief executive of a government agency to attend a meeting to answer questions or provide information about the functions of the government agency, the chief executive must take reasonable steps to attend the meeting, and answer the questions and provide the information, as requested.

The recent hearings were designed to bring to life the aspirations and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT. The discussions, similar to any estimates committee, were robust and the questioning of senior officials, direct. These hearings formed the basis of the Report on the outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Estimates Hearing 2008-2009. I am pleased to release the ACT Government's response, which honours this government's commitment to fully engage and respond to the circumstances of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We are all committed to equitable and quality service delivery across government – and in partnership with the community and government. I am confident the Elected Body will continue to work tirelessly to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

*Jon Stanhope
Chief Minister
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs*

Overview of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Elected Body) is unique in Australia. The ACT is the only jurisdiction to have a democratically elected, representative body with powers enshrined in law, being the **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008** (the Act).

The Elected Body consists of seven people who are elected every three years to represent the interests and requests of the local Indigenous community. To be eligible to vote or be nominated as a candidate for the Elected Body, a person must be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, at least 18 years old, and be on, or entitled to be on, the ACT electoral roll.

The Elected Body has the following functions:

- to receive, and pass on to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT on issues of concern to them;
- to represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and to act as an advocate for their interests;
- to foster community discussion about:
 - issues of concern to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT; and
 - the functions of the Elected Body.
- to propose programs and design services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT for consideration by the ACT Government and its agencies;
- to monitor and report on the effectiveness of programs conducted by government agencies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT;
- to monitor and report on the accessibility by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT to programs and services conducted by government agencies for the general public;
- to give information or advice to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs; and
- to recommend any reasonable action it considers necessary to protect Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural material or information considered sacred or significant by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.

First Report from the Elected Body

On 19 August 2009, the Elected Body with the full support of the ACT Government conducted a hearings process similar to Budget Estimates. Chief Executives were called before a panel of elected representatives to present evidence supporting their agency's spending and decision-making in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

With the hearings conducted by the Elected Body, Chief Executives were obliged to answer directly and on the public record, questions pertaining to performance of their particular agency and issues of concern to the community.

.....

**“THIS IS A VERY HISTORIC OCCASION FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLE IN AUSTRALIA.
THE PROCESS NEEDS TO BE CONTINUED;
THAT MUTUAL OBLIGATION THAT WE MAY DEVELOP TODAY NEEDS TO BE PUT IN PLACE
AND MAINTAINED, NOT ONLY THROUGH CHIEF EXECUTIVES
OR THE MINISTERS BUT ALSO THROUGH EACH OF THE DEPARTMENT SECTION HEADS
TO ENSURE THAT THE BEST POSSIBLE SERVICE IS BEING DELIVERED TO OUR PEOPLE...”**

Chair, Elected Body to Chief Executive, ACT Health¹

.....

During the hearings, the Elected Body representatives raised various matters concerning:

- *detailed information on current service delivery;*
- *opportunities to improve outcomes; and*
- *performance and accountability.*

The Chair also specifically asked each Department questions about Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff numbers and professional development plans and levels of data collection and evaluation.

¹ *Report on the outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Estimates Hearing 2008-2009, 19 August 2009, page 56.*

The hearings were recorded by Hansard and the Elected Body produced a detailed report on the outcomes of the hearings. The Report on the outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Estimates Hearing 2008-2009 (the Elected Body's Estimates Report) was tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly, by the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, on 25 February 2010.

The Elected Body's Estimates Hearings Report highlighted a range of issues and opportunities at agency level and across government. The report contains six key recommendations and 23 recommendations across the priority action areas of monitoring and evaluation; education; health; housing; community services; justice; economic participation; culture and identity.

This report documents the ACT Government's response to the Elected Body's recommendations. This report also outlines how the ACT Government intends to progress the agenda of ensuring equitable access to quality services to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

Overarching narrative from the first Estimates Hearings

"A good story to tell ... but it will get better" Dr Jim Watterson, Chief Executive, Department of Education and Training, page 47

One of the fundamental components of a harmonious and prosperous society is ensuring that the interests and aspirations of all community members are known, especially in relation to the formulation, coordination and implementation of government policies and programs that affect daily life. Civic engagement builds community connectedness.

At the hearings, Chief Executives and senior officials were asked to provide the Elected Body a narrative to accompany the available information regarding service provision and performance.

Transcripts from the hearings, contained in Part 4 of the Elected Body's Estimates Report, present an optimistic outlook from the people who oversee ACT Government services. Overwhelmingly, government officials relay positive stories about collaboration and innovation. Good stories with a desire for continuous improvement.

**“THE IDEA IS FOR YOU TO SAY WHAT YOU DO, HOW YOU DO IT ...
AND WHAT HAVE BEEN THE OUTCOMES”**

Chair, Elected Body to Chief Executive, Department of Territory and Municipal Services²

² *Report on the outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Estimates Hearing 2008-2009, 19 August 2009, page 87.*

On Policy Development

"I have a personal commitment which is also reflected in the organisation that, wherever possible, we will seek to get Indigenous perspectives in our policy development. That is not just in natural resource management; that is across the whole gamut of policy areas in which we work." Mr David Papps, Chief Executive, Department of the Environment, Climate Change, Energy and Water, page 104

On data

"...data is critical not only to this issue but more specifically to how we shape our services for everybody and make sure that we understand who those services are for and how those services are changing over time" Mr Andrew Cappie-Wood, Chief Executive, Chief Minister's Department, page 111

On promotion of services

"The way that we market and that we talk with community I think is very important. We do not expect the community to come to us; we go to them." Ms Caroline Hughes, Centre Director, Yurauna Centre, Canberra Institute of Technology, page 125

On Employment

"The implementation of a targeted employment strategy will assist the department to further improve the attraction, retention and overall employment outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across the department." Mr Gary Byles, Chief Executive, Department of Territory and Municipal Services, page 89

On Learning

"One of the unique elements that we have the opportunity to build on is that we have small numbers. We have the capacity to know them all well. We have the capacity to personalise what we are doing. It is unlikely that any other state or territory is going to do it faster or better than we can." Dr Jim Watterson, Chief Executive, Department of Education and Training, page 48

On Early Childhood

"We have seen a shift from 2008 to 2009 in that readiness (for school) factor. It has moved from 40 per cent of the children being ready for school to 63 per cent." Ms Kathy Melsom, Director, Indigenous Education and Early Years Learning, Department of Education and Training, page 50

On Children's Services

The new Children and Young People's Act 2008 reflects "the Indigenous placement Principle where, if (Aboriginal) children do come into our care, we seek out an Aboriginal person to determine where these children should be placed and try to manage them appropriately with Aboriginal families if available." Mr Frank Duggan, Senior Director, Office for Children, Youth and Family Support, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, page 65

On Housing Transition

"We need to find a way to work with those families... to say, 'stay in the system, work with us, we'll get you back on track'." Mr Martin Hehir, Acting Chief Executive, Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, page 76

ACT Government commitments

The ACT Government welcomes the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body's Estimates Report, which is comprehensive and informative. The report highlights achievements to date, and areas for improvement in delivery of services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Given the differential in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, across all critical indicators, the ACT Government acknowledges the need for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to have improved access to, quality delivery of, and equitable outcomes from mainstream services. The 'gap' needs to be closed expeditiously. This can only be achieved through a partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and in particular, through our valued working relationship with the Elected Body.

The ACT Government accepts that gaps in data collection, information provision and accessibility all impact on the performance of services delivered to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who live in the ACT. The government is committed to utilising existing skills and resources to develop and implement whole-of-government approaches to resolve these issues.

In its first term, the Elected Body has played a pivotal role in highlighting the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The Elected Body's work has the strong support and respect of the ACT Government.

The government is committed to ensuring that all agencies fully and effectively support the Elected Body. As such, the government will instigate a new approach to build the work of the Elected Body into government processes – ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in decision making at the highest level. Senior officials will be identified within each department at the Deputy Chief Executive or Executive Director level, to seek advice from, to inform, and work in partnership with Elected Body representatives with aligned portfolio responsibilities. These positions of responsibility will not be delegated.

The Chair of the Elected Body will continue to interact directly with Ministers and Chief Executives when appropriate.

The ACT Government will also convene a special meeting with Ministers, to be hosted with Elected Body representatives, prior to May 2011 for local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to be held at the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre.

Delivery on the commitments outlined in this report is also an important aspect of the government's agenda and these agreed actions will become the point of reference for future reports to the Elected Body and to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.

All parties are to be commended for their commitment to this process. Let's see it through – together.

Key Recommendations

All ACT Government agencies accept in principle the six key recommendations contained in the Elected Body’s Estimates Report.

The table below outlines existing and new commitments which ACT Government agencies will implement to address each of the six key recommendations. Progress against each of these commitments will be reported to the Elected Body and may be refined or enhanced as a result of engagement with the Elected Body.

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
1. Improve collection and management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report the outcomes from the whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Monitoring Scoping Project to the Elected Body. 	Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)	Project to be completed and reported on by end 2010	Existing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Chief Ministers Department (CMD) to work in partnership with Australian Bureau of Statistics to improve data collection so that local demographics are captured and reported. 	CMD	August 2011	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Produce and publish a demographic report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT. 	CMD	December 2011	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identifier within the Patient Master Index. 	ACT Health	December 2010	Existing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Elected Body with the ACT contribution to the national Indigenous Expenditure Report. 	Treasury	June 2010	Existing

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
2. Implement a whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and development strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult with the Elected Body when developing and implementing the ACT Public Service (ACTPS) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy. The Employment Strategy will: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> in keeping with the ACT's commitment to the National Partnership Agreement, increase its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce to 1.2% of the total ACTPS workforce by 2015; focus on attracting, retaining, and improving the capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; ensure appropriate cultural competency and induction training programs are available; and improve the capability of the ACTPS as a workplace of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. 	CMD/ Commissioner for Public Administration	End 2010	Existing

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
3. Better information and promotion of ACT Government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Government will seek the assistance of the Elected Body on the development and distribution of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander specific references or material where appropriate. 	All agencies	Ongoing	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Distribute communications products to a wider audience through links on the ACT <i>Our Communities</i> website and explore the development of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander website. 	DHCS / CMD	2010	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Home School Liaison Officers to promote early childhood programs. 	DET	Ongoing	Existing

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Body will be supported to focus on early childhood programs information at their community meetings in 2010. 	DET	2010	Existing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project as part of the <i>Respite and Carer Support Project</i> through the Palliative Care Strategy. 	ACT Health	End 2010	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the Elected Body on the implementation of the <i>Restorative Justice Access to Services Plan 2010-2013</i> (Restorative Justice, JACS) and the <i>Victim Support Access to Services Plan 2008-2011</i> (Victim Support ACT, JACS) 	JACS	End 2010	Existing

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
4. Improve support for school aged students during the transition to high school and beyond to maintain literacy and numeracy achievements	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor students' transition via the Transitions Officer and report this information to the Elected Body on an annual basis. 	DET	Ongoing/ Annually	New
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improve and maintain literacy and numeracy outcomes through personalised learning strategies for students from year 5 onwards. 	DET	2010	Existing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Apply Year 5 NAPLAN data to identify how Indigenous Literacy and Numeracy Program funding will be distributed. 	DET	Ongoing	Existing

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
5. Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison officers at Canberra hospital	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Canberra Hospital has two Liaison Officers and a Manager at present. ACT Health will consult the Elected Body on creating two new Liaison Officer positions at Calvary Hospital, to alleviate workload pressures and broaden reach of Aboriginal liaison officers in the ACT. 	ACT Health	June 2010	New

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
6. Pursue recurrent funding for the Indigenous liaison officer at the Women's Legal Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fund the Women's Legal Centre to support the <i>Indigenous Women's Law Project</i> to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access legal services. Consult the Elected Body on the implementation of 2010/11 Budget to increase the capacity for the Women's Legal Centre to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access legal services in the ACT. 	Legal Aid Commission	July 2010	New

Priority action areas – additional recommendations

The Elected Body's Estimates Report contained an additional 23 recommendations, generally categorised into priority action areas of *monitoring and evaluation; education; health; housing; community services; justice; economic participation; culture and identity.*

Many of the commitments provided in response to the recommendations were given directly to the Elected Body at the time of the hearings, or were provided following questions taken on notice. These initial commitments have been supplemented by additional actions proposed by agencies during the process of compiling and releasing this report.

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Monitoring and Evaluation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate the effectiveness of programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly accessibility and outcomes for those accessing mainstream services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> All ACT Government agencies to work with the Elected Body to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery Framework and associated Implementation Plan as the primary mechanism for measuring accessibility and the quality of service delivery across government. 	DHCS	ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Publish budget line items related to Commonwealth and ACT Government spending on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back to the Elected Body the outcome of investigating the feasibility of adding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identifier to the Patient Master Index. 	ACT Health	December 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Government will distribute to the Elected Body, the ACT Report on Indigenous specific expenditure provided to the Commonwealth Productivity Commission.. 	Treasury	May 2011
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An Elected Body member on the Indigenous Education Consultative Body 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Indigenous Education Consultative Body to interact with the Elected Body on a regular basis. 	DET	ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increased consultation and involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families about Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness funding 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the development of school and community partnership agreements. 	DET	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to promote the Parent and Community Engagement initiative directly to parents and caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. 	DET	Ongoing

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Require schools to provide evidence of how they involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and caregivers in developing proposals and allocating monies in ways to best support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. 	DET	Annual
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Longitudinal study of year 12 students and graduates and evaluation of the effectiveness of post-school options. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Investigate strategies for tracking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who leave our schools as an important evidence base for making decisions relating to education and training. 	DET	End 2010
Health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Input into the design, building, landscaping and maintenance of the planned Psychiatric Services Unit 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the Elected Body on the planning process via Capital Asset Development Plan consultation process. 	ACT Health	2011
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Clear culturally sensitive pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access detoxification units 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Elected Body with a detailed briefing on the new process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients accessing the Withdrawal Unit at the Canberra Hospital and take into consideration the feedback provided. 	ACT Health	June 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Health Alcohol and Drug Program Aboriginal Liaison Officer will also be notified when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients are admitted to the Unit. 	ACT Health	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Evaluate effectiveness of service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular accessibility and outcomes to mainstream services 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients the option of consenting for a key support person to talk on their behalf throughout the admissions process. 	ACT Health	June 2010

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows a pre-admission medical assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who have complex or co-occurring health issues. 	ACT Health	June 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients to nominate two people as telephone support people. 	ACT Health	June 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a cadetship program to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back to the Elected Body on the development of a specific ACT cadetship program, in consultation with the Commissioner for Public Administration as part of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy. 	CMD/ ACT Health	End 2010
Housing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult Elected Body about community housing allocation 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing ACT will consult with the Elected Body on current housing allocation policies (including the central intake service and common wait list) and future developments/ opportunities to address specific concerns of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities. 	DHCS	June 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Provide information on 'A place to call home' model 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Housing ACT will provide the Elected Body with progress updates on a quarterly basis, including the proposed allocation of housing to Indigenous families – and the basis on which these allocations are made. 	DHCS	June 2010
Community Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop a policy to support grandparents who provide care on an informal basis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the Elected Body on the development of a policy to support grandparents who provide care on an informal basis. 	DHCS	Existing

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the Elected Body on the development of a Charter of Rights for Carers in the ACT during 2010. The Charter will include consideration of the informal caring role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT. 	DHCS	End 2010
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitor number of grandparents in out of home kinship placements 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Office of Children, Youth and Family Services will report quarterly to the Elected Body on the number of grandparents in out of home kinship placements. 	DHCS	Ongoing
Justice	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to participate in developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue work on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement with the Elected Body. 	JACS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop measures of success for Circle Sentencing court 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Undertake a strengthening project for the ACT Circle Sentencing court, in consultation with the Elected Body. 	JACS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Increase funding for legal aid and Aboriginal Legal Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A part-time Indigenous Liaison Officer will be employed by the Legal Aid Commission to foster links with Indigenous communities in the ACT with the objective of reducing the barriers to Indigenous people accessing legal assistance services. Outcomes will be reported to the Elected Body on an annual basis. 	Legal Aid Commission	New
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Funding for the Aboriginal Legal Service is a Commonwealth responsibility 	JACS	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maintain and support position of a Family Court Solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ACT to continue to advocate for the Commonwealth Government to address this need. Updates to be provided to the Elected Body on a regular basis. 	JACS	Ongoing
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Visitor to provide reports to 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Official Visitor to provide a report to the Elected Body, each year 	JACS	Annual

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
	Elected Body			
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and historical information in the Alexander Maconochie prison library 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The AMC library will consult the Elected Body on the current cultural content of the library, and any proposed improvements. 	JACS	June 2010
Economic participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Prepare a Development Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public sector employees³ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue delivering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traineeship program. 	DHCS/ CMD	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support the newly formed Network for Aboriginal Liaison Officers. 	ACT Health	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships for secondary students. 	DET	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Report back to the Elected Body on the proposed nursing scholarships for two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders. 	ACT Health	June 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consult the Elected Body on the development and implementation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Employment Plan for the ACT, incorporating clinical, educational, research and administrative positions. 	ACT Health	End 2010
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer roles for TAMS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees. 	TAMS	Ongoing
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Continue to support Murumbung Yurung Murra, a forum 		

³ Also refer to the ACT Government commitments at Recommendation 2 above.

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
		for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in Parks, Conservation and lands.	TAMS	Ongoing
Culture and identity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dedicate and promote segments in ACT libraries covering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Library and Information Service will work with the Elected Body to further develop its collection of materials and resources relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture. 	TAMS	June 2010

Accountability and Reporting

ACT Government agencies will be required to provide information about progress on the implementation of the ACT Government's response to the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. This information will be included in an integrated annual report on progress and achievements against the five action areas contained in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery Framework.