

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
REPORT TO GOVERNMENT





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MEMBERS OF THE ELECTED BODY

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (the Elected Body) comprises members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the Australian Capital Territory.

Rod Little	Member of the Amangu-Wajuk peoples of Western Australia and a long time resident of Canberra.
Diane Collins	Originally from Condobolin, NSW, Wiradjuri country and lives in the Canberra/Queanbeyan community.
Maurice Walker	Originally from Woorabinda in Central Queensland and has called Canberra home for the past 30 years.
Lynette Goodwin	A Wiradjiri/Yuin Aboriginal woman with strong cultural ties in the Canberra Region.
Brendan Church	Member of the Barkindji people of Western NSW who has spent his entire life living in Canberra.
Roslyn Brown	Founding member of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council who grew up in the Tumut Plains and Gundagai region.
Masepah Banu	Originally from Boigu Island in the Torres Strait and is a traditional custodian of the Keodal'Augadhalaige, Malu Kiai, Zenadh Kes and acknowledges his grandmothers people from Cape York Peninsula.

Acknowledgement of traditional custodians

ATSIEB acknowledges that Canberra has been built on the lands of the Ngunnawal peoples. We pay our respects to the Ngunnawal peoples and we acknowledge and celebrate their ongoing culture and contribution to the ACT and region.

ATSIEB acknowledges its statutory obligation under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* to consult with and consider the views of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council (UNEC).

ATSIEB also acknowledges and has respect for the many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia who now live in Canberra and we acknowledge and celebrate their cultures, diversity, and their contribution to the ACT and region.



CHAIRPERSON'S FORWARD

Rod Little Chairperson

I am pleased to present the 4th Report on the Outcomes of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Hearings 2013.

The Elected Body holds the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples central to all we do as an elected representative voice for our peoples in our pursuit of rights and social and emotional well-being improvements for our community.

This report is considered to be a significant report for change and is essentially due to the community contribution, the high level of preparation and commitment of members and the secretariat over a number of days in our pursuit of our people's aspirations.

On behalf of ATSIEB I acknowledge and appreciate the contributions, cooperation and collaboration of our community and the ACT Government and directorates for the maturing of this the fourth hearing process.

Community engagement has been a priority for ATSIEB this term of office and community feedback has added value to the lines of enquiry during the hearings process for government and service providers to elicit further action to affect positive change in alignment with our Strategic Plan 2012–2017.

This report has taken into account previous hearings and recommendations to ensure we continue to capture and reflect the needs of our community through our questioning, and report the results of positive actions.

With a growing ACT population and the feedback, ATSIEB and community maintain a level of dissatisfaction in some service areas with the seemingly minimal social return from investments from governments and will continue to raise these areas in the hearings process.

For these hearings, ATSIEB prepared a number of questions in advance for directorates some of which responded responsibly demonstrating respect and commitment to the relationship and the process and allowing for more focused enquiry for evidence supporting effective achievements.

The Elected Body reiterates the importance of developing a consolidated demographic of where our young, elderly and families live in the ACT. To support this approach ATSIEB seeks the assistance of the ACT Auditor General to investigate evidence where investments in services and programs are having positive effect on families and others.

Our unique model of representation and hearings process is the envy of many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in other jurisdictions and we will seek to strengthen our relationships and the hearings process as 'best practice' to maximise positive outcomes for our community.

On behalf of the elected members, I submit this report to the ACT government and invite further collaboration and commitment to improving the lives of ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and look forward to the next hearings. I also, look forward to working objectively in good faith on a new agreement between the Elected Body and the ACT Government.



Section 1: THE ATSIEB OUTCOMES REPORT

What is the ATSIEB Outcomes Report and who is it for

ATSIEB was established under the ACT's *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* (the Act) to enable the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of the ACT to have a strong democratically elected voice that is able to represent the community's interests and aspirations.

Every year ATSIEB conducts estimate style hearings to carry out its functions in accordance with the Act. The hearings occur with all ACT Government directorates and service agencies to assist ATSIEB to investigate how well the ACT Government is performing on delivery of the priorities of *Our Community, Our Future 2012–2017 Strategic Plan* and *Closing the Gap* in life outcomes for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

In 2013, ATSIEB initiated a change to the process with all ACT directorates receiving a set of generic questions prior to the estimate hearings to ensure that all of the issues raised by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT are responded to.

The ATSIEB Outcomes Report is a synopsis of the key outcomes from the hearings process and is for the:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT and surrounding Queanbeyan region.
- ACT Government and its directorates and service agencies

What does the ATSIEB Outcomes Report aim to achieve

The Outcomes Report aligns with the legislative functions of ATSIEB as outlined in the Act, namely to:

- Propose programs and design services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT for consideration by the government and its agencies.
- Monitor and report on the effectiveness of programs conducted by government agencies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.
- 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.

The Outcomes Report aims to consolidate both the hearing questions and directorate responses into a strategic document that succinctly outlines the priorities of ATSIEB over the next 12 months and makes recommendations to the ACT Government on the issues raised during the hearings.

Context of the ATSIEB Outcomes Report

ATSIEB implement their functions under the Act in the context as informed by community of their needs and aspirations and the policy context of the Council of Australian Government's commitment to *Closing the Gap* indicators to:

- close the life-expectancy gap within a generation
- halve the gap in mortality rates for Indigenous children under five within a decade
- ensure access to early childhood education for all Indigenous four years olds in remote communities within five years
- halve the gap in reading, writing and numeracy achievements for children within a decade
- halve the gap in Indigenous Year 12 achievement by 2020
- halve the gap in employment outcomes between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians within a decade.

ATSIEB acknowledge the development of the *ACT Whole of Government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement* which seeks to articulate how the ACT Government will progress equitable outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT to ensure:

- effective coordination and performance measurement mechanisms of programs and delivery of services to improve outcomes
- mainstream service delivery agencies have effective strategies in place to achieve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander outcomes and meet their needs
- partnerships are in place within the local service system to ensure high quality integrated service delivery
- adequate and culturally accessible information regarding available programs and services in the ACT.

In Australia, social justice and human rights for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples is grounded in the practical, day-to-day realities of life. Social justice also means recognising the distinctive rights that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples hold as the original peoples of this land, including:

- **the right to a distinct status and culture**, which helps maintain and strengthen the identity and spiritual and cultural practices of Indigenous communities
- **the right to self-determination**, which is a process where Indigenous communities take control of their future and decide how they will address the issues facing them
- **the right to land**, which provides the spiritual and cultural basis of Indigenous communities.

The **United Nations Declaration of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples** (the Declaration) provides a blueprint for Indigenous peoples and governments around the world, based on the principles of self-determination and participation, to respect the rights and roles of Indigenous peoples within society.

The rights in the Declaration are based on:

- justice
- democracy
- respect for human rights
- equality and non-discrimination
- good governance
- good faith

The Declaration is the instrument that contains the minimum standards for the survival, dignity and well-being of Indigenous peoples all over the world (Mick Gooda, Social Justice Commissioner).

ATSIEB vision

That all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT are fully engaged in shaping and creating their future wellbeing.

ATSIEB mission

To provide a strong, respected and democratically elected voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT by:

- Understanding and representing community needs and priorities.
- Supporting the development of government policy and services that meet community needs.
- Advocating for accountability, transparency, and effectiveness in achieving social and economic outcomes for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The way forward

ATSIEB priorities

Five key priorities have been identified by ATSIEB to work closely with the ACT Government to progress in the next 12 months:

- 1 Evidence of access and impact to improve outcomes for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.
- 2 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership across all ACT Government directorates.
- 3 Focused and effective services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.
- 4 Focused and effective policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.
- 5 A review of ATSIEB and its capacity to carry out and sustain effectiveness of its functions under the Act to develop and enter into a new ATSIEB–Whole of ACT Government Agreement.

Priority 1: Evidence of access and impact

To enable ATSIEB 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 the data collection and information systems must be in place for this to occur.

ATSIEB has a long standing commitment to ensuring that data, investment and performance in all public and private sector services and programs are needs based and accessible by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.

ACT Government expenditure on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans in 2010–11 was \$131.2m of which \$112.7m was expenditure on mainstream services and \$18.5m was expenditure on targeted services and programs.

ATSIEB recognises that there are data privacy issues that impact on the availability of data in particular policy areas due to the small number of service populations and the potential for identification. Notwithstanding this issue, ATSIEB is committed to ensuring that there is needs based planning and expenditure in the ACT to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health and wellbeing in the ACT.

ATSIEB key result areas

- Development of evidence of access and impact indicators to ascertain the effectiveness of all ACT services and programs in improving outcomes and identifying gaps in service delivery for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
- Development of *baseline* demographics for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community which is complemented by *prediction and trend analysis* across all ACT directorates to inform needs based planning and expenditure.

Priority 2: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leadership in ACT directorates

ATSIEB is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are employed across all levels, including senior executive, across ACT Government services, programs, and directorates.

This commitment is further extended to ensuring that all employees within the workplace are able to provide culturally respectful services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

The future challenge however for the ACT Government will be to develop strategies to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are employed in senior leadership positions across the directorates.

Key action area

- Development of an *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Leadership Program* which is designed to support and mentor Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public servants into senior executive positions within the ACT directorates and service agencies.

Priority 3: Focused and effective services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT

ATSIEB have, for a number of years, informed and identified a number of new service proposals for the ACT Government in accordance with its legislative function to propose programs and design services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the ACT.

Notwithstanding the need for there to be an alignment between program and service proposals and design and ACT Government policy and strategy priorities, ATSIEB is concerned that a number of existing service proposals remain in various states of planning phases. These delays obviously will prolong access and potential effectiveness and further exacerbate the disadvantage or health and wellbeing and the dependency on social services.

Key result areas

- The inclusion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the development of targeted strategies to support *enterprise development* and participation in *social procurement* in the ACT.
- The development of *social enterprise strategies* to support the sustainable development and community leadership of Boomanulla Oval, the ACT Aboriginal Legal Service, the ACT Cultural Centre, and an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing organisation and an ACT Indigenous Chamber of Commerce.
- The development of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander (residential) Aged Care facility* to be progressed through the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum.
- The inclusion of ATSIEB and/or lead Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the decision making processes.

Priority 4: Focused and effective policy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT

ATSIEB is committed to working with the ACT Government to develop good public policy for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples living in the ACT.

As a result of the 2013 estimates hearing process, ATSIEB have identified a number of key policy priorities that require an integrated policy response from across a number of ACT directorates.

Key result area

- Development of integrated policy responses across relevant ACT directorates to address the inter-relationship between:
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander domestic violence, child contact, child residency, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander foster care and out-of-home services.
 - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander incarceration rates and access to sufficiently resourced and effective integrated services post release.
 - Evidence based policy development in collaboration with ATSIEB or Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander services.
 - The inclusion of ATSIEB or lead Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in the decision making processes.

Priority 5: A review of ATSIEB to affirm its capacity to carry out and sustain effectiveness of its functions under the Act to develop and enter into a new ATSIEB–Whole of ACT Government Agreement.

ATSIEB and the government have agreed that since the inception of the Elected Body in 2008, it is prudent to review the formal arrangements as ATSIEB has grown in its experience and objectivity. With new arrangements, relationships and partnering, ATSIEB is of the view that ACT Aboriginal and Torres Islander families and individuals can look forward to a brighter future.

Key result areas

- A new ATSIEB–Whole of Government Agreement to meet the needs and aspirations of the peoples.
- A renewed Justice Agreement underpinning the Whole of Government Agreement. Other directorates will also underpin the overarching agreement.
- A review of the ACT ATSIEB Act to enhance the leadership and capacity of the Elected Body to grow and effectively represent and affect change.

Implementing the Outcomes Report priorities

Leadership and governance

The **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Sub-Committee** of the ACT Strategic Board has oversight of the implementation of the recommendations arising from the ATSIEB estimate reports.

Membership of the Sub-Committee comprises the ATSIEB Chair, Director Generals of Community Services, Education and Training, Health, Justice and Community Safety, Chief Minister and Treasury, and the Chief of Police.

Monitoring progress

ATSIEB will monitor progress against the 2013 Outcomes Report and its 2012-2017 strategic priorities over the 2013–2014 financial year at each of its six (6) meetings.

ATSIEB also uses these formal meetings to discuss and develop policy positions as a result of the outcomes from the two (2) community forums held each financial year.

This will be a critical mechanism in the over-arching Whole of Government Agreement.



Section 2: **ACT GOVERNMENT PROGRESS ON CLOSING THE GAP**

ATSIEB acknowledges and commends the ACT Government directorates and service agencies for their commitment to the Hearings process.

In this context, the Outcomes Report process also provides the opportunity for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT to be informed about the breath of work that is occurring across all ACT Government directorates. This section is designed to showcase the breath of this work and also demonstrate the connection and relevance with their needs and aspirations.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment and retention

ATSIEB is committed to ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are employed across all levels, including senior executive, across ACT Government services, programs, and directorates.

This commitment is further extended to ensuring that all employees within the workplace are able to provide culturally respectful services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

All ACT Government directorates are working toward the 2% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment target by 2015. A number of directorates currently exceed this target while others continue to work towards achievement by 2015.

In addition, the ACT Respect Equity and Diversity Framework and the ACT Government Cultural Awareness Training program, developed by the Yurauna Centre through CIT Solutions, continue to be implemented across all directorates.

Directorate	%	Directorate	%
Chief Minister and Treasury	0.66	Health Directorate	0.98
Commerce and Works	1.00	Territory and Municipal Services	1.25
Community Services Directorate	3.00	Canberra Institute of Technology (CIT)	2.10
Education and Training Directorate	0.95	Environmental and Sustainable Development	2.60
Economic Development Directorate	1.66	Justice and Community Services	1.38

ATSIEB commends the ACT Government for the ongoing efforts and implementation of the ACT Public Service Employment Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People and the Respect Equity and Diversity Framework.

Heritage, environment, and community

ATSIEB is committed to working with the ACT Government to ensure that public infrastructure, municipal services, and environmental management services respect, preserve, maintain and strengthen the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural heritage of the ACT.

The **Indigenous Community Bus** service trial will provide an ‘on-demand’ service to the community. This bus service could be considered in providing access to the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm on Paddy’s River Road.

Parks and Conservation are working in partnership with the Community Services Directorate and the Alexander Maconochie Centre to train inmates in making cultural artefacts and souvenirs for the Murumbung Yurung Murra forum.

The **Libraries ACT Indigenous Community Engagement Team** facilitates activities and networks to encourage Indigenous people to use library services and ensure that library collections and services meet the needs to the Indigenous community.

The **ACT Heritage Register** includes 62 registrations that relate to Aboriginal places and/or Aboriginal objects. Many of these registrations cover multiple sites and effectively protect 3358 individually identified sites or objects and are protected under the provisions of part 75 of the *Heritage Act 2004*.

Snapshot of TAMS and ESSD programs and projects

Indigenous Literacy Day events	Yurung Dhaura Aboriginal Land Management Team
Indigenous Story Time Kits	Caring for Our Country Program
Digital Story-telling Program	On Country Projects
Murumbung Yurung Murra	Time to Talk website
Genealogy project	Mobility Project — Indigenous Community Bus
Heritage Council	Cultural tours
Ngunnawal Bush Resources Book	Caring for the Cotter Project
Bush Resource Book project	Bush Tucker Garden (Aranda)

Healthy homes

A healthy home is fundamental to the health of a population, focuses on improving current poor living conditions, including water and sewage systems, waste collection, and electricity and housing infrastructure.

Development of a five (5) year **Out of Home Care Strategy** to provide a framework for out of home care services and the range of models best suited to meet the needs of children and young people in care.

Commitment to establish **culturally appropriate housing for elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people** comprising of 5 two-bedroom units on a single site plus respite accommodation for at least five (5) individuals with relatively high support needs.

The **National Disability Insurance Scheme** will allow people with a disability to have a choice over the organisations they want to purchase their services and supports through Disability Care Australia. Organisations will need to be registered providers and demonstrate that they meet the laws and operational requirements developed by DisabilityCare Australia.

Snapshot of CSD programs and projects

Turnaround Program	Strengthening Families Project
Training programs at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre	Child and Family Centres

Economic participation

ATSIEB has a long term commitment to increasing employment and private enterprise opportunities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT and endorse the COAG Closing the Gap strategies:

- increasing training and employment opportunities for job seekers
- encouraging businesses to train and employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- supporting start up Indigenous businesses
- procurement strategies
- encouraging enterprises based on land and culture
- increasing employment in the public sector

The **Social Procurement Policy and the Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) Policy** is designed to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations achieve successful tenders.

Growth, Diversification and Jobs—A Business Development Strategy for the ACT includes commitment to assist Indigenous people start or grow their business.

\$75,000 has been allocated to support **Indigenous economic development** opportunities in 2012–13 with additional amounts of \$25,000 in three out-years.

Inclusion of **Business of the Year Award** as part of NAIDOC Awards Ball in July 2013.

Snapshot of Economic Development programs and projects

Boomanulla Touch Football Competition	2012 NAIDOC Sports Day
AFL NSW/ACT AUSKICK and Netball ACT Indigenous Program	Come and Try Buroinjin Program
WhISPers Softball Club Sports First Aid and Sports Teacher Training	Deadly Sistas Tennis Club

Safe communities

ATSIEB is committed to working with the ACT Government to improve family and community safety through law and justice responses, prevention and early intervention and diversion approaches, and family and child support services.

ATSIEB commends the ACT Government for its commitment to the first ACT Aboriginal Justice Agreement, and its ongoing re-commitment to finalising the second Justice Agreement which will focus on reducing the incarceration rate, improving access to services, and improving data collection that positively demonstrates effective outcomes for participants.

The **Restorative Justice** project refers all eligible young Indigenous people either as a diversion or in conjunction with prosecution and has been successful and will be expanded as standard process. There has been a 100% compliance rate with the agreements from conferences.

Data from the **After Hours Bail Support Service** (AHBSS) indicates that Indigenous young people are far more likely to engage in the service, than non-Indigenous young people, on multiple occasions.

Judicial procedures are mostly for breach of bail offences and the Front Up Program is designed to redress this situation by allowing Indigenous people to voluntarily surrender themselves to the court without having to be processed by the ACT Watch House. ACT Corrective Services are also working with a number of Indigenous agencies within the ACT to maximise the opportunity for offenders to comply with the conditions of Court orders.

Sentencing of Indigenous offenders is assisted by the **Galambany Circle Sentencing Court** to provide culturally relevant sentencing options for eligible Indigenous people who have offended. The Government Response to the Galambany Court Consultation Report is currently being developed.

A **Justice reinvestment** approach underpinned by early intervention, prevention and diversion; improved access to effective and efficient services; integrated responses to meet individual need; and a strong evidence base to inform policy and service system responses is required to enhance the likelihood for change.

Snapshot of Justice programs and projects

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Assistance	Joint Champions Group—Tenant Participation
Indigenous Boarding House Program	Dunial Program
MPower	Front Up Program
PCYC Reset Program	Restorative Justice Trial
Indigenous Youth Justice Programs and Services Coordination Group	Indigenous Women’s Law and Justice Support Program
Aboriginal Justice Centre	Women’s Legal Centre
Galambany Circle Sentencing Court	Indigenous Healing Camps
Relationships Australia Counselling	Winnunga Social Wellbeing Program

Healthy lives

ATSIEB is committed to working with the ACT Government to ensure that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT has access to equitable and high quality health care regardless of where they live in the Territory.

An equitable health system is one that is culturally competent and recognises and values people's connection to country and cultural wellbeing as an essential element to achieving a state of wellness.

Estimated **expenditure of \$35.5 million** of the Healthy Lives building block for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Canberrans in 2010–11. Of the \$35.5 million, \$30.7 million was allocated for use by mainstream services and \$4.8 million for programs and services specifically targeting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

ATSIEB is anxious to establish the evidence that reflects accurately the effect of this exceptional investment on the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and in particular how it will meet the needs of our now estimated 5000 population as at the 2011 Census.

Mental Health Community Policing Initiative (MHCPI) has led to improved outcomes for mental health consumers by having clinicians embedded within the Police Operations Centre, a four day mental health training program is delivered on a monthly basis to ACT Police, and a dedicated mental health worker seconded to work with ACT Police.

The **New Way Plan** will be developed in consultation with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Forum, ATSIEB, community organisations, and the community. It is expected that it will integrate ATSIEB's health priorities, the Closing the Gaps targets and complement the COAG National Partnership Agreement on Closing the Gap in Indigenous Health Outcomes for the ACT.

The **Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm** (NBHF) phases 1 and 2 have been completed and the **Model of Care** when complete will guide the development of the operational policies, building requirements, and staffing models for the NBHF for an eight-bed capacity
www.health.act.gov.au/about-us/your-health-our-priority/ngunnawal-bush-healing-farm

The Environment and Sustainability Development Directorate received 25 representations relating to the NBHF Design and Siting DA and 27 representations relating to the Lease Variation DA on 8 April 2013. The directorate had 45 days to assess the representations and determine the outcome of the DAs.

Snapshot of ACT Health programs and projects

Antenatal, Pre-pregnancy, Teenage Sexual and Reproductive Health (APTSRH) Project	No More Boondah coffee table book
Improving data collection activities	Mental Health Community Policing Initiative
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy 2010–2014	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Impact Statement and Guide to Engagement and Consulting with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in the ACT

Early childhood and schooling

ATSIEB recognises the importance of the early years as providing a strong foundation for future development, health and wellbeing across the life span.

The experiences and relationships that a child has, as their brain develops, can either support learning or interfere with it. The later transitions for children and young people from early childhood—primary—secondary schooling are also important in supporting young people to achieve their aspirations.

An **estimated \$231.4 million** has been expended on services to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT in 2010–11. ATSIEB will be working closer with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Advisory Group and the directorate to ensure maximum benefit and academic outcomes are equal to other students in the ACT.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander history and cultures are being embedded across the curriculum through the implementation of the Australian Curriculum cross-curriculum priority—Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Histories and Cultures.

Homework groups, yarning groups, and cultural rooms have been established in a number of schools to increase student engagement and recognise Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultures.

Personalised Learning Plans are in place with individual learning goals and set targets to monitor student performance and growth in literacy and numeracy. These are developed in conjunction with parents and carers and reviewed each semester.

Tertiary education outcomes through CIT in 2011 resulted in \$0.8 million on direct Indigenous activities through the Yurauna Centre including 22,100 hours of direct public education delivery to 262 students, Indigenous support activities, and commercial training contracts.

Snapshot of Education and Training programs and projects

Therapy ACT Koori Preschools Program	Ganbra Smart Kids
Aspirations Program	Student Support Centres
Years 11 and 12 Tertiary Scholarships	Big Fella Little Fella Buddy Reading Program
School Scholarships	Accepting the Challenge Action Inquiry Program
Tutorial Support Scheme	Yarning Groups
Homework Groups	Cultural Rooms
Youth Connections Program	Personalised Learning Plans
Network Student Engagement Teams	Tuggeranong Literacy and Numeracy Program
Access 10 Program	Learning Options Program
CIT Indigenous Scholarships	Road Ready Program



Appendix 1

Functions 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 through 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 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander 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
 - the functions of the Elected Body
 - the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* (the Act).
- 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.
- 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.



Appendix 2

ATSIEB hearing acknowledgements

Transcript preparation

ACT Legislative Assembly Hansard and Communications

Secretariat

The Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the Community Services Directorate provides secretariat support to ATSIEB.

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Duties

Throughout the estimates process and in conducting the hearings on 23 and 24 April 2013.

All information gathered during the hearings is to be used by ATSIEB to develop strategic policy positions and to report back to the ACT Government on the effectiveness of government services and program delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.

