



## MEDIA RELEASE

19 August 2016

# Handover of the 5th and 6th Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Hearing Reports to ACT Government

Today Ms Joanne Chivers, Deputy Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body delivered the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ATSIEB Hearing Reports to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Dr Chris Bourke.

“Under the Elected Body Act, the Elected Body has the function of monitoring and reporting on the effectiveness of programs conducted by government agencies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT” Ms Chivers stated.

“The Elected Body’s Hearings process is the vehicle for monitoring the effectiveness of programs conducted by government agencies and is notable for asking senior officials the tough questions about whether targets have been met for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and if not, why not.”

“The 5th and 6th Elected Body Reports to ACT Government are the vehicle for reporting on the effectiveness of programs conducted by government and also demonstrates the Elected Body’s commitment to holding the ACT Government accountable to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities within the ACT” said Ms Chivers.

The 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> ATSIEB Hearing Reports raises a number of concerns with the ACT Government’s progress towards Closing the Gap in Indigenous Disadvantage and made recommendations for improvements to government process and the strengthening of outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.

“As shown in the body of the reports, compared with other jurisdictions, statistics for the ACT are mixed. Outcomes are average for some dimensions while for others — such as the ratio of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander to non-Indigenous prisoners in the criminal justice system — they are alarming” said Ms Chivers

“The Elected Body continues to advocate for programs and initiatives that will: support strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families; reduce trauma for our young people in out of home care; and reduce the exposure to the criminal justice system for our young people and adults.”

Statement Ends

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Ms Chivers is available for interview on [0434 838 361](tel:0434838361) (media enquiries only).  
For more information on the Elected Body visit <http://atsieb.com.au/>