



ACT|atsieb

2024 - 2027

**COMMUNITY
CONSULTATION PLAN**

**ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER ELECTED BODY**

Acknowledgement

ATSIEB acknowledges the Ngunnawal people as traditional custodians of the Canberra region and pay our respects to their Elders, as well as acknowledge and celebrating their ongoing culture and contribution to the ACT region. ATSIEB also recognises any other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region.

ATSIEB further acknowledges that many other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples from across Australia have now made Canberra their home. We acknowledge and celebrate their cultures and contribution to the ACT and region.

ATSIEB members are reflective of the diversity of our community in the ACT.

Foreword

This strategy has been developed to guide the consultative activities of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) during this term of operation. However, consultation with community is a daily priority for ATSIEB members and will be embedded into all ATSIEB activities.

The Elected Body is committed to being truly representative of the needs, views, and priorities of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, and to bringing the Body back to true ownership by the community.

This means providing multiple opportunities and ways for the community to provide input and feedback and to raise their concerns with ATSIEB, including in-person events, informal yarns, and through our online channels.

It means engaging with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations, and Registered Aboriginal Organisations to understand their aspirations, targets and concerns, and ensuring these are represented when ATSIEB members connect with Government leaders and officials.

And it means proactively engaging with the community and being available for community conversations, as well as ensuring ATSIEB activities are reported to the community for their knowledge and feedback.

ATSIEB looks forward to strengthening its connection with the community and ensuring that the Elected Body continues to be a strong voice for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Canberra.

About the Elected Body

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) is responsible for representing the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living within the ACT. It supports the ACT Government to develop policy and provide services that are relevant to the needs of people within the community as well as advocating for accountability, transparency and effectiveness.

ATSIEB has the following functions under the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008* (the Act):

- To receive, and pass on to the Minister, the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT on issues of concern to them and, when asked by the Minister, to give the Minister information or advice about the views of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on matters stated by the Minister.
- To represent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and to **act as an advocate on systemic or whole-of-government issues** affecting their interests.
- To **foster community discussion** about:
 - issues of concern to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT
 - the functions of ATSIEB
 - the Act.
- To conduct **regular consultation** with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and report the outcomes of that consultation to the Minister and any other Minister responsible for the matter that is the subject of the consultation.
- To make recommendations to government agencies about **research proposals** that further the objects of the Act.
- To monitor and report on the **effectiveness and accessibility of programs and services** conducted by government agencies for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.
- To **monitor and report on the access** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT to programs and services conducted by government agencies for the general public.
- To provide **advice to government agencies on appropriate representation** of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT on consultative bodies established by government agencies.
- When asked by a government agency or another person, 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.
- Any other function given to ATSIEB by the Minister.
- Any other function given to ATSIEB under the Act or another territory law.

Members

The Elected Body represents Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT and acts as an advocate on systemic or whole-of-government issues affecting their interests.

The Elected Body consists of seven members, elected for a three-year term by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT.

The Elected Body engages with each of the ACT Government directorates to engage on discussions regarding service delivery or issues raised by the community. Each member has a different portfolio and works with the Director-Generals to drive change.

The elected members for 2024 – 2027 are:

- Maurice Walker (Chair)
- Bradley Bell (Deputy Chair)
- Vicki Bradley

- Helen Wright
- Deanne Booth
- Kaylene McLeod
- Billy T Tompkins

Full bios for each member can be viewed on the ATSIEB website.

About the community consultation plan

The community consultation plan will:

- cover the ATSIEB term from 26 July 2024 – 26 July 2027 (Section 12 (2)(a))
- describe the grounds relevant to a determination by the ATSIEB that a person has a traditional connection to the ACT region (Section 12 (2)(b))
- maximise the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people living in the ACT by providing reasonable opportunities to participate in each consultation through regular consultation opportunities (Section 12 (2)(c))
- inform community members of upcoming opportunities for consultation through the Elected Body (Section 12 (3))
- describe areas of interest, be open and transparent, facilitate community feedback and lead to sustainable decisions (Section 13).

Consultation will:

- be focused on a particular area of interest (Section 13 (a))
- be open and transparent (Section 13 (b))
- lead to sustainable decisions (Section 13 (c))
- provide relevant information (Section 13 (d))
- provide opportunities for feedback (Section 13 (d))
- provide a written report (Section 13A) on consultation activities to the Minister and published on the ATSIEB website covering:
 - topic
 - the ATSIEB's view
 - issues raised by the community
 - recommendations.

Traditional connection to the ACT region

In the event that ATSIEB needs to consult on cultural heritage matters as described in Section 12(2)(b) of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2008 for the purpose of Section 9(1)(a)(iii) they may consult broadly across the community.

As outlined in the Act, ATSIEB will first defer any requests relating to cultural heritage matters in Canberra and the region to the United Ngunnawal Elders' Council in the first instance.

However, should ATSIEB be required to consult with another organisation or individual, in order to be satisfied that the organisation or individual has a traditional connection to the ACT region, the ATSIEB has agreed that a person would have to demonstrate the contribution they would make on the specific topic.

Principles

The Elected Body will plan the community consultations according to the following principles:

- Regular opportunities to yarn and sit with our community to discuss our needs
- Engage and listen to all parts of the community to understand their experience
- Be accessible to the community through face-to-face and online consultation
- Leverage the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement to focus change and outcomes
- Seek to understand the connections between the service delivery and the community's experience.

Types of communication

To gain best insights and feedback from the community, the ATSIEB will use a range of communication methods including:

Information and events

When ATSIEB needs to inform the community of specific information or upcoming events.

Channels:

- ATSIEB email distribution list
- ATSIEB social media
- Community communication partners such as community- controlled organisations in the ACT
- Specific updates from ATSIEB members and ACT Government directorates

Consultation

When ATSIEB needs to gather community perspectives on a particular proposal or action.

Channels:

- Yarning and sitting with the community
- Kitchen conversations
- Online forum such as social media or Microsoft Teams
- Q&A sessions at drop-in locations
- Surveys and polls

Collaboration and co-design

When community and government need to work side-by-side to design policies, programs and services.

Channels:

- Face-to-face co-design opportunities
- Online meetings (Microsoft Teams or Zoom)

Consultation topics

The Elected Body will ask the community what they want to talk about. For example:

Area of interest

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement

Chief Minister

Community Services

Education

Environment, Planning, and Sustainable Development

Health

Justice and Community Safety

Major Projects

Transport and City Services

Specific topics

- Children and young people
- Cultural integrity
- Inclusive community
- Community leadership
- National Closing the Gap Agreement
- Next phase of the Agreement
- ACTPS workforce capability
- Economic development
- Vocational education
- Housing
- Youth justice
- Disability
- Child protection
- Home schooling
- Child protection
- Planning
- Parks
- Chronic disease management
- Vaccination
- Access
- Criminal age of responsibility
- Diversion
- Rehabilitation services
- Access to health and education
- Canberra Hospital expansion
- Light rail planning and construction
- Wooden CIT campus
- Urban infrastructure
- Boomanulla Oval
- Bus routes
- Roads

Approach

To ensure the transparency of the process, prior to each consultation, the ATSIEB will:

Step	Key activities
Prepare	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Select topic • Gather background information and specific data • Consider format of consultation — guest speakers, panelists, co-design workshop, face-to-face or online (taking into consideration COVID-19 restrictions) • Consider needs of the community participating — barriers or specific needs for participation • Select and book venue, facilitator and report writer.
Notify the community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Advertise the time and location of consultation across a range of communication channels • Collect RSVPs • Consider travel and/or technology requirements
Hold the consultation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare venue and/or required technology • Ensure chair/facilitator is aware of the number of people expected • Provide key information and data to attendees • Be specific on outcomes required from the session • Collate information from the consultation
Write up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gather feedback from consultation and compile a report to be circulated to the community and submitted to government • Follow-up with specific needs and recommendations with responsible directorate(s)

Consultation communication action plan

Pre-Consultation Communications		
Activity	Channel	Timing
Website update announcing Consultation details	ATSIEB website	6-8 week prior
Media release announcing consultation	Media & published on ATSIEB website	6-8 weeks prior
Communique announcing consultation	Email distribution list	6-8 weeks prior
Social media posts to all ATSIEB channels announcing consultation	LinkedIn, X	6-8 weeks prior, and ongoing up to date of consultation
Personal letter from Chair to key stakeholders with announcement and request to share with community	N/A	6-8 weeks prior
Comms pack sent to relevant Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations with request to share to their social media/email lists	Email	6-8 weeks prior
Reminders published to main channels	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communique - Social media - Media alert 	1 week prior
On the day		
ATSIEB promotional/information materials available for community	Flyers/QR codes	On the day
Community newsletter sign up list available	Flyer/QR code	On the day
Post-Consultation Communications		
Update social media and website with attendance, and summary	LinkedIn/X and website	Within 1 week
Media release/communique with brief summary, attendance and notice of when report will be released	Media, email and published on ATSIEB site	Within 1 week
Consultation report release <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Website update 	N/A	Within 2 months post-Consultation

<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Media release- Communique- Letter to Minister- Social media posts- Letter to key stakeholders including copy of report		
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Consultation timings

ATSIEB will develop timeframes and dates for consultations in discussion with the community. A live calendar will be regularly updated with upcoming meeting, consultation and hearing dates on the ATSIEB website.