



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: Our Booris, Our Way

The Budget Outlook shows \$4.857 million over four years to implement the *Our Booris, Our Way* recommendations. Can the minister please provide a breakdown of this funding both by recommendation and within each recommendation?

- a. Recommendation 3 in the final report is 'to explicitly embed the Child Placement Principle' (p. 75), and this principle requires 'the participation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives, external to the statutory agency ... in all child protection decision-making' (p. 4). How many child protection decisions in the ACT currently involve the participation of external Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representatives, and when can we expect this to be happening across all decision-making?
- b. The Budget Outlook also states that the government 'will continue foundational work to grow the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector focussing on children, young people and families' (p. 80). How many community-controlled organisations in the ACT currently qualify to participate in child protection decision-making?
- c. What are the criteria used to determine whether an organisation is able to fill this role?
- d. Many of the recommendations made in *Our Booris, Our Way* are nearly three years old now. Can the minister please provide an update on which are completed, which are in process, and when each recommendation will be fully implemented?
- e. Who is currently serving on the interim Implementation Oversight Committee?
- f. Have any former members of this committee resigned? If so for what reasons? And have they been replaced, or has work proceeded with a smaller committee?
- g. Has anyone involved with the *Our Booris, Our Way* project (from inception to implementation) raised concerns that the ACT Government does not fully understand the intent of the recommendations? If so, what has the government done to seek clarity on this point and/or made improvements?



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**CSD QON No. 60**

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Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

The \$4.857 million over four years to implement the *Our Booris, Our Way* recommendations are outlined in the table below. It is not possible to provide specific resourcing per recommendation, as there is overlap in delivering against the intent of the multiple recommendations.

Description	2020-21		2021-22		2022-23		2023-24		TOTAL \$ Value
	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	FTE	Amount	
ACCO Development SOGA	0.5	98	1	202	1	205	1	498	1,709
ACCO Development Executive 1.3	0.5	137	1	282	1	287	1		
Oversight Committee SOGA	0.5	98	1	202	1	205	1	369	1,192
Oversight Committee SOGC			1	158	1	160	1		
Community Engagement		20		20		20		20	80
Sitting fees and Remuneration and facilitation		44		134		85		85	348
CYPP4 – Aboriginal Senior Practitioner			1	171	1	173	1	175	519
CYPP3 – Cultural Services			1	154	1	155	1	158	1,009
CYPP3 – Family Group Conferencing	0.5	75	1	154	1	155	1	158	
<b>20-21 Budget</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>472</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>4,857</b>
Oversight Committee SOGC	1	158							158
Community Engagement		22							22
Sitting fees and Remuneration and facilitation		95							95
CYPP4 – Aboriginal Senior Practitioner	1	167							167
CYPP3 – Cultural Services	1	150							150
<b>20-21 Supply Budget</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>592</b>							<b>592</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>1,064</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,477</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,445</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1,463</b>	<b>5,449</b>

- a) Consistent with section 10 of the *Children and Young People Act 2008*, Child and Youth Protection Services (CYPS) staff are expressly directed in policy and procedure to seek submissions to all best interest decisions pertaining to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children from an involved agency or service providing support to the child or family. Best interest decisions include information sharing, contact, carer suitability, case closure, care team membership and Cultural Plan development. Decisions pertaining to CYPS Intake processes are made in consultation with the Cultural Services Team who provide advice to all appraisals of reports relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. Similarly, staff with cultural expertise provide advice on placement decisions and applications to Court for Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander children.



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- b) There are no Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in the ACT that are suitable entities for a care and protection purpose under the *Children and Young People Act 2008*. This does not preclude them from participating in decision-making on individual matters when they are involved in delivery of services to those individual families.
- c) In the ACT, to become a registered care and protection organisation, entities must demonstrate their compliance with the 18 Care and Protection Organisation Standards. Compliance to these standards is a requirement to be a registered child protection organisation, as specified in the *Children and Young People Act 2008*.
- d) There are 28 recommendations in the Our Booris Our Way Final report with recommendations and sub-recommendations totalling 36. Each of the actions listed under the recommendations contribute to a systemic reform, not just of the child protection system, but across government, to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. This systemic reform will take time.

There were 15 interim recommendations made as the review progressed. During that time the Community Services Directorate provided quarterly reports on progress to the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee.

In July 2020 the Government provided a comprehensive response providing an update on progress against each of the recommendations. I tabled this in the Assembly on 13 August 2020. The Government Response can be found on the Legislative Assembly website and can be accessed here

[www.parliament.act.gov.au/ data/assets/pdf file/0009/1621836/10 List Government-Response-Recommendations-from-the-Our-Booris,-Our-Way-Review-July-2020.pdf](http://www.parliament.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0009/1621836/10_List_Government-Response-Recommendations-from-the-Our-Booris,-Our-Way-Review-July-2020.pdf)

I have also committed to tabling a six-monthly update on progress against each of the recommendations. The next update will provide progress against each of the recommendations during the period July to December 2020. The update will also provide information on priority activities for the next 6 months from January to June 2021. The first six-monthly implementation update will be tabled in the Legislative Assembly in May 2021.

- e) Current members of the Implementation Oversight Committee are:
  - Ms Barb Causon (previous Chair of the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee)
  - Ms Natalie Brown (previous Deputy Chair of the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee)
  - Ms Robyn Martin (CEO, Beryl Women's Inc, and previous member of the Our Booris Our Way Steering Committee)
  - Ms Caroline Hughes (member of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body)
- f) Ms Alana Hughes (Winnunga), and Ms Kim Davidson (Gugan Gulwan) have both resigned from the Committee. The remaining members of the Committee have continued to meet on a monthly basis. An expression of interest to fill the current vacancies has been circulated to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.



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- g) The Community Services Directorate has worked closely with the Implementation Oversight Committee to understand the original intent of all recommendations. CSD provides quarterly updates on progress and meets with the Oversight Committee quarterly to discuss implementation.

Where the Committee has identified that actions are not meeting the intent of the recommendations the Directorate has been undertaking considerable work to review actions and align implementation with the original intent.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date: 7/4/21

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA