



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2022-2023 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert:

Reference: Hearing on 15 November 2023, Annual Report of Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Listen. We Don't Shoot Our Wounded report recommendations

(1) What is the current implementation status of the 4 priority recommendations in this report, namely, recommendations 4, 8, 9 and 10?

(2) What is the current status of the other 8 recommendations?

Minister Berry: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council determined that there are four priority recommendations and implementation is progressing.
 - *Recommendation 4*
Yerrabi Yurwang were successful in receiving funding of \$530,000 to establish and deliver the Nara-Gana-Wali Strengthening Families Program in direct response to recommendation 4. The program will provide legal, advocacy, practical and healing activities underpinned by an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander strength based holistic, wellbeing model of care, intensive case management services; and collaboration with existing services to ensure referral pathways and discharge planning for effective and streamlined services.
 - *Recommendation 8:*
The implementation of recommendation 8 is still outstanding. The ACT has not established a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander coordinated approach for children and young people affected by family violence.
 - *Recommendation 9*
Funding to Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation's Aboriginal Women's Advocacy program to support the implementation of recommendation 9.

- *Recommendation 10*

Funding has been provided to Whispers Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Softball Corporation to deliver a project called *Community Healing Our Way*. The project is focused on healing from trauma caused by family violence and includes activities such as healing basket weaving, therapeutic art projects, and walks on country. During these sessions participants are provided a safe space to discuss their experiences and heal from their trauma.

2. Implementation of the 4 priority recommendations has overlap with some of the remaining 8 recommendations.

The ACT Government is guided by the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group (ERG) to determine the approach to progressing implementation, and therefore is focusing on the four priority recommendations identified.

The ACT Government is committed to addressing the high rates of family violence experienced by members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:



Date: 30/11/23

By the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Yvette Berry MLA