



## Standing Committee on Public Accounts

**Inquiry into Appropriation 2022-2022 (No 2) and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) 2022-2022 (No 2)**  
**ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA to ask the Treasurer

Ref: 2022-23 Budget Review, pp.45, 58

In relation to: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eminent Panel for Community Engagement and Healing (Eminent Panel)

1. Of the \$3.011 million from the Healing and Reconciliation Fund appropriated for the Eminent Panel, how much is intended to pay the Healing Foundation, how much is intended for pay for the work of the Eminent Panel, and how much (if any) is intended to pay for anything else (and what would that be)?
2. When is the work performed by the Healing Foundation expected to be complete?
3. What is the breakdown of funding for the Eminent Panel (for example, payments to members, office space, secretariat support, etc.)?
4. When is it expected that the Eminent Panel will conclude its consultations and make recommendations to government?
5. What is the \$96,000 appropriated for 2024–25 intended for?
6. Whilst the government has stated that ‘the Eminent Panel will not replace existing representative and advisory bodies’, is it conceivable that its recommendations for how to ‘re-design representation, governance and engagement mechanisms’ could include redesigning existing representative and advisory bodies?

Mr Andrew Barr MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. For the purposes of the Budget process, the estimated allocation of the \$3.011 million is as follows:
  - The Healing Foundation - Community Healing and Reconciliation engagement (including recommendations for ACT Healing Strategy): \$809,800
  - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Eminent Panel totals \$2,201,049, for:
    - The Eminent Panel’s work: \$891,732
    - Secretariat support: \$557,979

- Communication support: \$245,213
- Policy and engagement support: \$506,125

These allocations may change based on feedback from the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the first phase of the project.

2. The preliminary phase of work by the Healing Foundation is expected to be completed by May 2023 with Eminent Panel appointments occurring after this period. However, it is important to ensure that this process reflects the need for the community to work at the speed of trust, and it is expected that the timeline for this process will evolve over time to reflect the community's need. This will include working with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to identify the mechanisms and design of the Eminent Panel. The second phase of the work by the Healing Foundation is expected to be complete by late 2024 at this stage, however, the work may extend beyond this timeframe
3. The funding allocated for the work of the Eminent Panel is outlined at the response to question 1.
4. The Eminent Panel is expected to conclude its consultations and make recommendations to Government in late 2024. This timeframe could change depending on when the Eminent Panel appointments take place.
5. The funding allocation of \$3.011 million is over 18 months which is over three consecutive financial years from February 2023 to August 2024.
6. The community consultation to be undertaken by the Eminent Panel will be broad and will likely include recommendations for how to re-configure representation, governance and engagement mechanisms. This could include recommendations to redesign existing representative and advisory bodies, noting that the terms of reference for the Eminent Panel have not been determined at this stage. The Eminent Panel itself, as a body, will not replace any existing representative or advisory bodies.

Responses to frequently asked questions regarding the Eminent Panel for Community Engagement and Healing are available here:

<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/atsia/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-eminant-panel-for-community-engagement-and-healing>

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature: 

Date: 16.3.23

By the Treasurer, Mr Andrew Barr MLA