



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA: To ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 72

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: ATSIEB Secretariat

- (1) In the hearing discussion about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB), it was mentioned that its secretariat now resides outside of OATSIA. When did the Elected Body request this change, and when did it go into effect?
- (2) Do communications from within directorates/government go to the Elected Body directly through the independent secretariat, or are these communications coordinated in any way through or by OATSIA?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

- (1) In December 2022, CSD worked with ATSIEB to identify local enterprises that could deliver independent secretariat functions. ATSIEB was involved in the selection process and provided feedback in terms of the skills and experience required and approved the selection of the suitable organisation. The contract to engage Coolamon Advisors was executed and came into effect in February 2023.
- (2) Through the executed contract, Coolamon Advisors is required to provide comprehensive secretariat support to ATSIEB across governance, administration, engagement and policy.

ATSIEB members also meet regularly with the Directors-General of directorates relevant to the ATSIEB members' portfolio responsibilities. These meetings are coordinated by Coolamon Advisors as the independent secretariat in line with their contracted functions.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "R. Stephen-Smith".

Date:

17/8/23

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