



## Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

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

Asked by **Mrs Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:**

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

In relation to: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and 2023 Impact Statement

According to the Annual Report, the 2023 Impact Statement 'is expected to be released in early 2023-24' (p. 413). It was stated in the hearing that the government is still working on this statement.

1. What is its planned release date now?
2. The first impact statement was dated 2021, and the next impact statement is dated 2023 (p. 413). What is the intended frequency of these impact statements? If annual, why has there been a 2-year gap since the first statement?

**Minister Stephen-Smith:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. As Mr Moyle said during the hearing on 15 November 2023, the Impact Statement 2023 (together with the Annual Report on the National Closing the Gap) was tabled in the Legislative Assembly in September 2023 (see P53 of Hansard). This report is publicly available on the ACT Government website and can be accessed via :  
<https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/atsia/agreement-2019-2028> or  
[https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0011/2292563/Appendix-A-Impact-Statement-2023\\_FA.pdf](https://www.communityservices.act.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0011/2292563/Appendix-A-Impact-Statement-2023_FA.pdf).

2. Under the commitments in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement, the Impact Statements are produced annually.

There is not a two-year gap between the first and current Impact Statement. The first Impact Statement was produced in 2022 and was titled 'Impact Statement 2021' with the year referencing the latest data available at the time it was produced. The title of the second Impact Statement uses the year '2023' in reference to the year of publication. This change in naming convention was adopted to better standardise reporting.

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

Signature:

Date:

29/11/23

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