



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Catherine Rule, Director-General, Community Services Directorate

In relation to: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations

Hearing: 25 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 21

Transcript provided: 27 February 2025

Answer Due: 6 March 2025 5:00PM

Catherine Rule took on notice the following question(s):

THE CHAIR: Take that on notice. That is okay. Thank you. Would you be able to provide on notice the list, which those 17 organisations are?

Ms Orr: As in which ACCOs do we—

THE CHAIR: Yes, which of the 17 – so there is 7 ACCOs operating in the ACT?

Mr Simpson: Of what we are aware of through those there.

THE CHAIR: That you are aware of.

Mr Simpson: So they are the Aboriginal Legal Service – would you like me to list them for you or—

THE CHAIR: We could table it – if you have got a list, we can table them.

Ms Orr: I think, it is – I think—

THE CHAIR: Or we can just pop it on notice.

Ms Orr: I think we would have to read it. Yes, I think we cannot—

Ms Rule: We will just take it on notice, given the time, I think.

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

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations working in partnership with the ACT Government understand the ACT Government uses the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Community-Controlled Organisation (ACCO) definition (Clause 44). Under this Agreement, an ACCO delivers services, including land and resource management that builds the strength and empowerment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and people and is:

- a. incorporated under relevant legislation and not-for-profit;
- b. controlled and operated by Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people;
- c. connected to the community, or communities, in which they deliver the services;
- d. governed by a majority Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander governing body.

Underpinned by the principle of self-determination, the ACT Government is not assessing whether an organisation meets the above criteria. Through genuine dialogue and understanding, the ACT Government accepts an organisations own assessment of whether they are an ACCO.

The Aboriginal Service Development Branch (ASD) within the Community Services Directorate works with a range of human service delivery ACCOs, Aboriginal-led entities including sporting organisations, and several key stakeholders who support and are vital to the sustainability of the human services delivery community-controlled sector.

The below list of known ACT ACCOs operating in the human services system has been collated from partnership discussions, and will be subject to updates as new ACCOs emerge, and other entities evolve.

1. Aboriginal Legal Service (NSW/ACT)
2. Corroboree Group
3. Every Mob
4. Gudan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation
5. Mental Health for Mob
6. SEARMS Community Housing Aboriginal Corporation
7. Thirrili
8. Tjillari Justice Aboriginal Corporation
9. Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services
10. Worldview Foundation Limited
11. Yeddung Mura Aboriginal Corporation
12. Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation

The below list of known ACT Aboriginal sporting corporations which the ACT Government is engaged with:

13. whISPers Softball Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Corporation

The below list of known ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander entities who are committed to meeting the requirements of Clause 44 and are actively transitioning to become an ACT ACCO:

14. Sisters In Spirit Aboriginal Corporation
15. Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm Aboriginal Corporation
16. Yhurwun Bullan Aboriginal Corporation (formerly known as Clybucca Dreaming)
17. Winanggaay Ngunnawal Language Aboriginal Corporation

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Date:

05/03/25

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Suzanne Orr MLA