



Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: MR THOMAS EMERSON MLA

Addressed to: MR CHRIS STEEL MLA, TREASURER

In relation to: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ELECTED BODY

Hearing: 13 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript pp 30, 31

Transcript provided: 20 February 2025

Answer Due: 27 February 2025

Mr Chris Steel MLA took on notice the following question:

Mr Emerson: Okay, thank you. For the Treasurer, have you met with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body since becoming Treasurer?

Mr Steel: Not since becoming Treasurer, but certainly in the past, and their work continues to feed into each minister's development of business cases that can be brought forward to the budget process. So still meeting with the relevant stakeholders, but very happy to meet with the elected body.

Mr Emerson: Do you know when the last time was that you met with them?

Mr Steel: I do not, off the top of my head, no. No. But they have certainly, at times, met with the entire cabinet or representatives of them.

Mr Emerson: Would you be able to take that on notice?

Mr Steel: Happy to take that on notice, yes.

MR CHRIS STEEL MLA, TREASURER: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I can advise that representatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body met with Cabinet in 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2023.

I participated in a budget roundtable meeting on 21 February 2025 with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and representatives of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as a part of the 2025-26 budget consultation process.

In preparing for the 2025-26 Budget process, Treasury in collaboration with the Wellbeing Team, the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, and the Aboriginal Services Development Branch in the Community Services Directorate, conducted information webinars and information

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sessions with agencies to ensure they understood their requirements under the Budget Process Rules. This included information on the requirement to engage with the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs and the Aboriginal Services Development Branch for all Budget proposals which have disproportionate impacts on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

The ACT Government also uses Wellbeing Impact Assessments to ensure that proposals before Government consider the wellbeing impacts of decisions which can support the development of policies and programs that lead to better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and deliver on our commitments to Closing the Gap.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration

Signature: 
By the Treasurer, Mr Chris Steel MLA

Date: 7/3/25