



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

In relation to: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs policy and services and Cultural Awareness training - housing

Hearing: 13 November 2025

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Transcript provided: 18 November 2025

Answer Due: 25 November 2025

MS BARRY: Thank you very much. Just on housing as well, have you sought feedback, either from the Elected Body or housing residents that test the impact of cultural awareness training on the quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience of dealing with Housing ACT?

Ms Orr: I think that is one that really would go to Housing ACT. As to the question around the Elected Body and their— what role they might have in providing feedback or accountability, they would obviously— they have a—

MS BARRY: Sorry, minister. As you or your department, not— have you sought feedback, either from the Elected Body or housing residents to test—

Ms Orr: Yes, and this is the point we do, is the Elected Body will provide feedback for a number of forums to officials, to myself. And there is the— they have got their various reports they look at, so there will be a particular member focused on housing, in particular. And they will meet regularly with the directorate to provide feedback. They will also have oversight as going through the hearing process. And I meet with the chair and the deputy chair, and they provide feedback up to me as they see.

MS BARRY: So what feedback have you been provided on the cultural awareness training on quality of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander experience of dealing with Housing ACT?

Ms Orr: I must say, it has not been raised in meetings I have had, as a matter that people wish to discuss with me. The directorate will have to—

Ms Arthy: Yes, I think, Ms Barry, we will have to take that on notice and just go through the— because the people who are at the table here would not be necessarily the people who would be working with the Elected Body on this issue. So we will go and talk to that area and come back with advice.

OFFICIAL

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Housing ACT (HACT) is seeking to improve its engagement with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

HACT has not sought feedback direct from the Elected Body on the impact of the training.

HACT acknowledges there is further work to be done in lifting the cultural awareness and cultural competency of its staff.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Date: 27/11/25

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