



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Redirected to: Minister for Finance

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Procurement policy and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 1 December 2025

I note you have well exceeded your procurement target for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations, well done ... having exceeded the target by such a wide margin.

1, What have you learned from this outcome that you will apply to future procurement exercises?

2. What changes will you be making to Procurement policies into the future?

a. Will the 2% target be adjusted?

b. Are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations now sufficiently competitive that targeted procurements are no longer necessary?

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

1. What have you learned from this outcome that you will apply to future procurement exercises?

The outcome reflects the ACT Government's recognition of, and strong commitment to driving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic participation in procurement through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (Policy).

Procurement ACT will continue to encourage and support Territory entities to apply the Policy in future procurement through training and ongoing awareness, as well as an increase of 0.25% to the

2025-26 financial year addressable spend target, which has been set at 2.25% for this reporting period.

The ACT Government will also continue to support future policy development, further elaborated on in Question 2.

2. What changes will you be making to Procurement policies into the future?

Directly relevant to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander economic participation, and subject to successful passage of legislation, the [Government Procurement Amendment Bill 2025](#), introduced on 29 October 2025 will permit Territory entities to obtain a single quotation from a certified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander entity, without the need to seek exemption from the relevant monetary threshold.

This amendment reduces the administrative steps required of a Territory entity in situations where a certified Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander entity has the capability and capacity to provide the required goods or services.

A comprehensive review of the Policy has been completed, and updates to the Policy are being prepared following further discussion with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders, including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body. It is anticipated that the updated Policy will commence in the financial year 2026-27.

The ACT Government continues to work in partnership with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders to deliver meaningful change and uphold its commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the ACT Agreement. This includes an initiative under the Third Action Plan to further refine procurement policies and target ACT Government procurements to help improve Indigenous economic outcomes.

a. Will the 2% target be adjusted?

Yes, a 2.25% addressable spend target has been set for the 2025-26 financial year.

The target for future years will be set having regard to relevant factors, including results from previous years, supplier capacity and capability, and input from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander stakeholders.

b. Are Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Organisations now sufficiently competitive that targeted procurements are no longer necessary?

While meeting the 2024-25 addressable spend procurement target is encouraging, it does not provide firm evidence that targeted procurements are no longer necessary.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 2/2/26

By the Minister for Finance, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA