

ESTIMATES 2007

Question on Notice

Indigenous Affairs

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38 Indigenous Affairs Foskey

Indigenous health

DR FOSKEY: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

In relation to Indigenous health:

1. Can the Minister why no new targeted funding has been allocated to Indigenous health?
2. How does the Minister expect to improve health outcomes for our Indigenous population without new, targeted funding?
3. Can the Minister outline what services are currently delivered by the Community Sector to Canberra's Indigenous population?

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

1. The Government provides just over \$2 million in funding for Indigenous specific health initiatives annually.

The ACT Government is committed to improving the health outcomes for Indigenous people.

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health and Family Wellbeing Plan 2006-2011, *A New Way*, incorporates key ACT Government Action Plans with National Strategic Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health to provide a responsive and effective health system for Indigenous people in the ACT and surrounding regions. ACT Health, in collaboration with the Aboriginal Community, is progressing the implementation of "A New Way". Some of the actions can be progressed with existing resources. Actions requiring new funding will be subject to future budget considerations.

Immediate priorities being progressed for Indigenous health are designed to enhance access to mainstream health services and programs by fostering a coordinated approach to health service delivery across ACT Government Agencies.

The ACT Health Cultural Respect Implementation Plan 2006-2009 aims to strengthen and improve the experience of Indigenous people accessing mainstream systems of the health sector through influencing corporate health care governance, addressing issues relating to organisational management and improving culturally appropriate health care delivery.

ACT Health will develop and provide a program of Cultural Awareness training and development opportunities for ACT Health sector staff to encourage a cooperative and coordinated approach to service provision across the wider health sector.

2. See 1 above.
3. Attachment A outlines the current core services delivered by the Community Sector to Canberra's Indigenous Population.

Attachment A

<p>Community Health Service Provider</p>	<p>Service provided</p>
<p>Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service</p>	<p>Funding to Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Service under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Program is for the provision of health services including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal Midwifery Access Program ▪ Dual Diagnosis Program ▪ Youth Detox Support Service ▪ Mental Health Liaison Officer ▪ Administrative Support Service ▪ Hearing Health Program ▪ Dental Health program ▪ Communicare Data System ▪ Drug and Alcohol Program ▪ Sexual and Blood Borne Virus Unit
<p>University of Canberra</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Aboriginal Scholarships
<p>Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Alcohol & Drug Program – Primarily aimed at Aboriginal people aged less than 25 years and their families.
<p>Ngunnawal Aboriginal Corporation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home & Community Care – Provide in-home community care, domestic and transportation assistance
<p>Carers ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Home & Community Care - Indigenous Community Care Program
<p>Community Health</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 4 x Aboriginal Liaison Officer – Providing advocacy to Aboriginal people accessing Drug and Alcohol services within the community health setting and providing t assistance to patients at The Canberra Hospital.
<p>Mental Health ACT</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 1 x Aboriginal Liaison Officer - providing advocacy to Aboriginal people accessing Mental Health and related services.

258 Indigenous Affairs Smyth

Indigenous elected body

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 3, page 66 – concerning indigenous affairs:

1. What structure is being planned for the proposed ACT Indigenous Elected Body.
2. What election process will be used to determine representation on this Body.
3. Who will be eligible to be elected to this Body.
4. What resources will be available to support the activities of this Body.
5. What will be the role of the Body.
6. What will be the status of matters that are considered by this Body.

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA: The answer to the members question is as follows:

- (1) The proposal for an elected body covering its structure, processes, eligibility, role and matters to be considered by the elected body will be the subject of government consideration shortly.
- (2) See answer to question (1)
- (3) See answer to question (1)
- (4) Financial resources have been appropriated in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 budgets for the development, implementation and subsequent ongoing operations of the elected body. \$300,000 has been appropriated for 2007-08 and in the out years for these purposes.
- (5) See answer to question (1)
- (6) See answer to question (1)

259 Indigenous Affairs Smyth

Indigenous trainee program

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 3, page 66 – concerning indigenous affairs:

1. What training will be provided to the people who enter the Indigenous Trainee Program.
2. How long will people participate in this Program.
3. How will potential employment opportunities for Trainees be determined.
4. When will the first people be identified for this Program and how will this process take place.

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA: The answer to the member's question is as follows:

- (1) The Indigenous Trainee Program will provide computer skills, communication, and business administration to Certificate II level training.
- (2) The Program will be for 12 months.
- (3) ACT Government agencies will consider nominating, from the outset of the program, existing full time positions at the ASO 2/3 level that will be available for participating trainees. Trainees successfully completing the 12 month program will be placed in the positions on a full time basis.
- (4) The first people will be identified for the program by September 2007. The process for identifying the trainees involves information dissemination about the program to the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities through print media advertisements and information sessions. All applicants will be provided with a one week job ready assessment course from which the successful trainees will be selected for the program.

260 Indigenous Affairs Smyth

Yarramundi reach facility

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 198 – concerning indigenous affairs:

1. What capital works projects still have to be undertaken or completed at the Yarramundi Reach facility.
2. If any of these capital works projects have been delayed, what is the reason for the delays.
3. What action is being considered to encourage an increase in the level of cultural programs that are undertaken at the Yarramundi Reach facility.
4. What activities are currently performed by the management group at the Yarramundi Reach facility.
5. In the event that maintenance activities at that site are undertaken by staff from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, how will the costs incurred for these activities be allocated between the Department and the Yarramundi Reach facility.

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

- (1) The first stage of capital works will upgrade the hydraulic, electrical and heating and ventilation systems.
- (2) The refurbishment has been delayed approximately six months due to a revision of the scope of works. This work is scheduled to commence by early August 2007 and be completed by December 2007.
- (3) The Office of Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs is encouraging the managing organisation to forge additional partnerships with appropriate groups in the ACT to further develop the cultural program.
- (4) The management group organises cultural activities and is responsible for the daily operations of the facility such as 'bush tucker' courses, bush survival techniques (run by an Aboriginal bushman), cultural awareness courses and circle of sentencing (justice activity), including organising for repairs and maintenance as required.
- (5) If maintenance activities were to be undertaken by staff from the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services the cost allocation would be determined in consultation with the managing body prior to any decision being made on transfer of maintenance responsibilities.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

261 Indigenous Affairs Smyth

Yarramundi reach facility fund

Brendan Smyth MLA: To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs:

In relation to Budget 2007-08 Paper 4, page 198 – concerning Indigenous affairs:

6. How are the activities at the Yarramundi Reach facility funded.
7. If these activities are funded by grants, how many grants have been made.
8. What evaluation is made of the outcomes of the use of these grant funds.
9. Is the use of these grant funds subject to audit as part of the acquittal process.
10. What has been the outcome of the audit of these grants.

Mr Jon Stanhope MLA: The answers to the Member's questions are as follows:

- (1) The Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services provides *Burringiri Aboriginal Corporation* with an annual grant of \$120,000 (since December 2003) to manage (including repairs and maintenance) and to conduct activities in the Cultural Centre.
- (2) See answer (1) above.
- (3) Staff from the Department are in regular contact with the Manager of the Cultural Centre regarding the operations and activities relating to the facility.
- (4) The Office of Multicultural and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs receives regular correspondence on the use of the funds but these are not required to be audited under the grant agreement. The Department's activities including administration of grants is audited annually by the ACT Auditor General.
- (5) See answer to (4) above

430 Indigenous Affairs Foskey

QTON – Indigenous students at Narrabundah Primary School

DR FOSKEY : Asked the Minister for Indigenous Affairs on 25 June:

In relation to: Indigenous students at Narrabundah Primary School:

One of the proposals in respect of the 2020 process came from Narrabundah primary school, and I believe it is one that you might be interested in. The proposal was that it be made a school with a greater emphasis on providing education to Canberra's indigenous children, beyond primary school even. There was a very comprehensive proposal put in, in consultation with the indigenous community as well as that school community. I am wondering if you are giving that some further thought, given that indigenous students were very disadvantageously affected by the school closures in that five of the seven primary schools that have closed had indigenous enrolments of over five per cent?

MR STANHOPE : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

As I indicated at the Estimates hearings, there is a range of views on the concept of an Indigenous-specific school setting and there are a significant number of parents who prefer the opportunities for schooling that are currently available to Indigenous students. The Government's major focus is on continuing to improve outcomes for Indigenous young people. I have established a taskforce, which includes the Chief Executives from the key service delivery areas of health, education, disability, housing and community services. The Taskforce will provide me with advice on how to continue to enhance educational outcomes and opportunities for Indigenous and Torres Strait Islander children and their families living in the ACT.

Based on the August 2006 School Census, there were 27 students, who identified as Indigenous, who had to change schools as a result of the closure of the seven primary schools at the end of 2006. These students represented over five per cent of the students affected by the closures in only two of those seven schools, not five of the seven schools.

The Government has released a package of educational reforms and made a record investment in public education that will ensure access to a range of high quality public schools for all Canberra students. The Government takes very seriously the impact of the school closures on individual students and their families. All families were offered the opportunity to participate in transition planning and all students were involved in transition processes conducted by their school to assist them in choosing alternative government schools to meet their individual needs. Indigenous students and their families received additional support in their transition to new schools through the Indigenous Home School Liaison Officers in the Department of Education and Training. Individual families affected by school closures are also receiving \$750 per child who transfers to an alternative government school to assist with expenses, such as new uniforms and transport.

435 Indigenous Affairs Smyth

QTON – Output class 3.2 Community Affairs

MR SMYTH : To ask the Minister for Indigenous Affairs

How many staff will work on indigenous affairs, across other ACT Government agencies, outside Output class 3.2 Community Affairs.

MINISTER STANHOPE : The answer to the Member's question is as follows:-

Across ACT Government there are staffing resources dedicated to providing Indigenous specific policy and/or services to clients outside the Output class 3.2. A summary of these resources are in the following table:

ACT Government FTE providing Indigenous specific policy and/or services

	ACT Health	DET	DHCS	JACS	TAMS	ACT PLA	CMD	DT
<i>Number of FTE</i>	8	19.5	28	6	2.7	0	nil	nil