



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

**Inquiry into ACT Budget 2021–22
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Ref: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Budget Outlook, p. 152, output class CSD 3.1
Strategic Policy

In relation to: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Healing and Reconciliation Fund

1. How much of the \$463,000 budgeted for 2021–22 is for the Ngunnawal Language Centre, and how much is being provided to ‘develop the governance arrangements to oversee the administration of the ... Fund’?
2. In the hearing, the minister stated that a person has been employed to manage the fund.
 - a. Who is this person, and when was this position filled?
 - b. Will this person be overseeing the development of a structure to oversee the fund?
 - i. If not, who will?
 - ii. What is the role of the local community in this development?
 - c. What will be the total cost of developing the governance arrangements to oversee the administration of the fund, and will any of this come from the fund itself?
3. What initiatives are planned for the budgeted amounts in 2022–23, 2023–24, and 2024–25?
4. Is the Healing and Reconciliation Fund limited in any way to commitments contained in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement?
 - a. If so, why?
 - b. Also if so, does that mean that new priorities or initiatives cannot emerge?

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member’s question is as follows:–

1. Expenses to support for a Ngunnawal Language Centre in 2021-22 is \$282,000 and \$79,000 is budgeted to establishment of a governance structure for the Healing and Reconciliation Fund.
 - a) The official recruited to support the establishment of the Fund has demonstrated the skills, experience, expertise and relevant qualifications required to fill a SOG B identified position (meaning the position only to be filled by an Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander person). The official commenced in the role on 9 July 2021.
 - b) The official will be overseeing the development of the governance arrangements in collaboration with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body as the democratically elected representatives for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and partners to the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* (ACT Agreement) and the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap*. Community engagement on governance arrangements of the Fund will be a topic of discussion.
 - c) The cost of future governance arrangements cannot be determined until further work is undertaken in collaboration with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

representatives. In the 2020-21 Budget, \$167,000 was committed to work to develop a governance structure for the Healing and Reconciliation Fund (in addition to \$150,000 to support the commencement of Treaty conversations). A further \$79,000 was provided in the 2021-22 Budget to support this ongoing work. This funding is in addition to the \$20 million provided over 10 years for the Healing and Reconciliation Fund.

2. The Healing and Reconciliation Fund budgeted amounts in 2022-23, 2023-24, and 2024-25 will support healing initiatives and local priorities identified by the Community. A co-design process will determine the best way to administer the Fund in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Initial Community priorities for funding relate to:
 - A Ngunnawal Language Centre;
 - A Treaty Process for the ACT;
 - Expanding the Aboriginal Community Controlled Sector; and
 - Community control of Boomanulla Oval and Yarramundi Cultural Centre.
3. While new initiatives and priorities will come forward in Phases Two, Three and Four of the ACT Agreement, aligning with the terms of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, the Healing and Reconciliation Fund is not limited to commitments contained in the ACT Agreement. It is envisaged that the governance arrangements for the Healing and Reconciliation Fund would consider other initiatives coming forward that are strongly supported across the Community and align with the objectives of the Fund.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:



Date:

19/11/21

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA