



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2023-2024

Mr Mark Parton MLA (Chair), Ms Jo Clay MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

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

Ref: Budget Outlook, p. 72

Hearing Date: 28 July 2023

In relation to: Supporting Development of the ACCO Sector

The Budget Outlook mentions government support for 'the growth and development of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sector' (p. 72), but ACTCOSS's budget response notes a lack of investment in Aboriginal community-controlled organisations. Can the minister please outline any funding or initiatives in this budget to help grow the territory's ACCO sector?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

In delivering ACT Government's commitments in response to the National Agreement on [Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2](#), the Aboriginal Service Development Branch (ASD) provides high level strategic policy development, service design, and embeds a genuine partnership approach and relationship with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, ACT Government and NGOs and Human Services sectors. Example includes:

- Ongoing work to identify opportunities for current Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) including capability development, governance, training, learning and guidance material, and ensuring development of ACCOs is underpinned by Closing the Gap outputs and deliverables.

Since January 2023, ASD has been engaged in the delivery of more than \$11 million in funding to ACT ACCOs:

- Assisted Health in executing the \$9.4 million Alexander Maconochie Centre investment to Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health Services for the continuation of the Community Services holistic model of health service delivery;
- Brokered in partnership with the Domestic, Family, Sexual Violence Office to execute over \$1.3 million in grants to three ACCOs (Sisters in Spirit, Yerrabi Yurwang and Clybucca Dreaming) to deliver advocacy and support services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and families, aligning with Recommendation 4 of the 2009 'We Don't Shoot our Wounded' Report;
- Facilitated the delivery of a \$700,000 grant to Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Youth Corporation to deliver an Intensive Family Support Program; and

- Assisted Yeddung Mura as a grant recipient of \$425,000 under the 2022-23 Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence Grants Program.

The ASD Branch has also supported Yerrabi Yurwang in engaging with Commonwealth Government funding opportunities and securing a lease for the Yarramundi Cultural Centre offices and activity/meeting space.

In addition, CSD is further developing the *Strengthening Partnership – Investing for Social Impact* (Commissioning Framework) to support delivery of services and new initiatives to ACCOs, including:

- communication and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities about these opportunities; and
- enable ACCOs to have a streamlined reporting and single interface with ACT Government through the 2022-2024 Commissioning Roadmap.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2023-2024

Signature:



Date:

16/8/23

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