



Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory

Standing Committee on Public
Accounts and Administration

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

Submission number: 17

Submitter: Ngambri (Kamberri) Cultural Group (Walgalu Speaking) Inc

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22 September 2025

Mr James Milligan
Chairperson
Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration
Legislative Assembly for the ACT
LACommitteePAA@parliament.act.go

Dear Mr Milligan,

Inquiry into Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025

I am writing in response to the Committee's inquiry into the Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.

I appreciate the intent of the Bill is to legislate the ACT Government's commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) and to acquit essential actions 3.5 and 4.3 of the Productivity Commission's 2024 Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (the Productivity Commission Review).

While I am in broad agreement with the Bill, I am reluctant to support it in its current form.

The ACT Government has a long track record of not recognising the three different groups of Aboriginal peoples with connections to the ACT, without discrimination. This is one of the many causes of distress and lateral violence in the Aboriginal community in the ACT. In its current form, the Bill will enable the ACT Government to continue to discriminate between the different groups.

To get around this issue, I suggest the Bill be amended in Part 3, Section 8(2) by adding a third principle: "(c) the principle of non-discrimination between local Aboriginal traditional custodians" (on page 5 of the Bill). Indeed, the Bill should also include a reference to Section 27 (2) of the *Human Rights Act 2004* (ACT).

I trust the Committee will take this suggestion seriously, given the current circumstances with respect to the recognition of the traditional owners of the ACT by the ACT Government.

Yours sincerely


Paul Girrawah House

On behalf of the Ngambri (Kamberri) Cultural Group (Walgalu Speaking) Incorporated