



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

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Truth Telling Framework and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

1. I note you are responsible for development and implementation of a Truth Telling Framework. What are your plans to deliver this?
2. Have you provided recommendations to government for consideration?
3. What directions have you received from the Minister or government in relation to this responsibility?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Our immediate priority has been to explore and address how the ACT Public Service (ACTPS) operates, with a view to meet our obligations of Transforming Government, in line with Priority Reform Three of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap. This means embedding cultural integrity, safety, and responsiveness across the ACTPS before we expand externally.

The Framework will provide a structured approach for directorates to undertake truth-telling through supported processes, address systemic issues raised by the community, and establish governance mechanisms to ensure accountability.

Looking ahead, the framework will also enable genuine partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community through multiple avenues, including the Elected Body, Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), and grassroots engagement. This approach ensures truth-telling is holistic, culturally appropriate, and tailored to the ACT and surrounding region.

2. Formal recommendations have not yet been submitted to government. We are undertaking careful scoping and planning to ensure truth-telling is developed holistically and

appropriately for the ACT context. This includes aligning with commitments under the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028, the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, and the ACT Government's support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

Our approach is informed by engagement with community and key stakeholders, and will include strategies for internal transformation, community partnership, and cultural preservation.

3. As the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, I have been working within my portfolio to establish a Truth Telling Framework that takes a holistic approach. This includes:

- reforming government organisations to embed cultural integrity and eliminate systemic racism
- supporting community control and local-led solutions
- providing genuine commitment and partnership through initiatives such as a Cultural Preservation Project, which will record, store, and share the unique historical and cultural experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT and surrounding region.

This direction reinforces the ACT Government's role as a signatory to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and its commitment to the principles of the Uluru Statement from the Heart—Voice, Treaty, Truth.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

Date: 27/11/25

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA