



# Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–2024

## Answer to question taken on notice

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Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Daniel Ng

In relation to: Pilot of first nations court experience reports – update on progress

Hearing: 13 February 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p30

Transcript provided: 17 February 2025

Answer Due: 24 February 2025

Daniel Ng took on notice the following question(s):

**MR EMERSON:** Thank you. I have a question about the independent review of the ACT Restorative Justice Scheme and related independent research into models of alternative restorative justice regimes, I think, which is particularly focused on sexual violence. Has that review and related research been completed?

**Ms Hutchinson:** So the answer to that is the review of the restorative justice regime is ongoing, and we expect the final report in the first quarter of this year.

**MR EMERSON:** Okay. And I am just going to sneak in another one about something that is ongoing, a pilot trialling Aboriginal court experience report prepared by a First Nations psychologist, which could lead to legislative changes. Do we have an update on the timeframe for that pilot? I understand that was due to be completed in June this year.

**Ms Hutchinson:** You are talking about, just to clarify the question, the court experience reports?

**MR EMERSON:** Yes, yes, for First Nations people.

**Ms Hutchinson:** Yes. I do not have any information about that.

**Mr Ng:** Mr Emerson, that is an issue being run through ACT Courts and Tribunal. I would be happy to take that on notice and come back to you with information about that.

**MR EMERSON:** Okay. Yes, that would be great if we can get an update on the progress and if there is any legislative reform.

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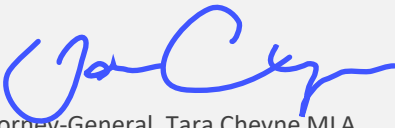
Tara Cheyne MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The circle sentencing court process recently started in the ACT Supreme Court as part of a pilot program with a view towards this process extending to this court for more serious matters.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander accused persons going through the court as part of the pilot will also be given the opportunity to participate in court experience reports for consideration by a presiding justice at the time of sentence.

The Supreme Court Circle Sentencing Pilot has ordered and received specialist reports in relation to four participants and ordered but are yet to receive reports for another five participants. At this stage, because it is a pilot there are no legislative reforms being considered.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Legal Affairs

Signature:   
By the Attorney-General, Tara Cheyne MLA

Date: 24/2/25