



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Reference: HCSD

Hearing: 12 November 2025

In relation to: Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM)

Question received: 19 November 2025

Answer Due: 27 November 2025

I note the Ministers comments that the Ministerial Advisory Council's annual reporting obligation under s14 of the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* is only to provide input to the Ministers annual statement.

I draw your attention to the Act and the explanatory memorandum when the Bill was introduced which make it clear that the Annual Report and the Annual statements were separate requirements - and both were to ensure transparency and accountability.

1. Can you confirm that it the intent of government that the Ministerial Advisory Council NOT produce an annual report?
2. Can you provide legal advice as to how that approach is consistent with the specific language of the Act?
3. Do you intend to amend the Act to remove that requirement?
4. Why is it that the MAC has not provided an Annual Report either this year or last?

Mr Michael Pettersson MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

I reject the premise of the question. I did not make any comments to that effect.

I am advised that the then Community Services Directorate provided advice to the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM) advising that it could provide its annual report content to the directorate for inclusion in the directorate's Annual Report.

The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) is currently seeking legal advice to determine if this approach is consistent with the requirements of the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* and the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*. Once this advice is received, HCSD will work with the MACM to ensure its reporting obligations are met.

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature: 

Date: 11.12.25

By the Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA