

2026

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

**Health and Community Services Directorate Half-yearly Performance Report
(31 December 2025) pursuant to Section 30E of the Financial Management Act 1996**

**Presented by
Yvette Berry MLA
Deputy Chief Minister
February 2026**

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Health and Community Services Directorate
Statement of Performance
For Half Yearly 1 July 2025– 31 December 2025

OUTPUT CLASS 1: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE
OUTPUT 1.1: COLLABORATIVE LEADERSHIP, STRATEGIC POLICY, PROGRAMS AND PLANNING

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Number of planned communications campaigns released annually	2	1	1	-	
b. Number of clinical services plans released	1	-	-	-	
c. Health system strategic documents released	4	2	2	-	
d. Annual progress report on the implementation of the Office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan published	1	1	1	-	

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. This indicator reports on the Directorate's activity in developing communication campaigns that support continued good health in the ACT community. Planned campaigns to be undertaken for 2025-26 are:
 - i. Winter Wellness; and
 - ii. Summer Safety.
- b. This indicator reports on the Directorate's health system leadership activity in identifying and addressing service demand and reform. The following clinical services plan is planned to be released in the 2025-26 financial year:
 - i. Care of Older Canberrans – Dementia Health Services Plan (BPSD).
- c. This indicator reports the Directorate's activity in leading, developing, and implementing government health initiatives through release of strategic documents that guide and support improved health outcomes for the ACT community. The following strategic documents are planned to be released in the 2025-26 financial year:
 - i. ACT Health Data Strategy;
 - ii. ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Strategy;
 - iii. Mental Health Commissioning Investment Strategy; and
 - iv. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Action Plan.
- d. The annual progress report on the implementation of the office for Mental Health and Wellbeing Workplan is completed as a standalone component of the Directorate's Annual Report.

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OUTPUT CLASS 1: HEALTH AND COMMUNITY CARE
OUTPUT 1.2: POPULATION HEALTH AND KEEPING CANBERRANS HEALTHY

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Total number of inspections and proactive site visits of food business	2,500	1,250	1,352	8	1
b. Percentage of children in the ACT who have been fully immunised as defined by the Australian Immunisation Register:					
i. 12 to 15 months	95%	95%	95%	-	
ii. 24 to 27 months	95%	95%	92%	-3	
iii. 60 to 63 months	95%	95%	95%	-	
c. Percentage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT who have been fully immunised as defined by the Australian Immunisation Register for the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population:					
i. 12 to 15 months	95%	95%	92%	-3	
ii. 24 to 27 months	95%	95%	88%	-7	2
iii. 60 to 63 months	95%	95%	95%	-	

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. Total number of inspections where compliance has been assessed according to the ACT Food Act 2001 and the Food Standards Code, and proactive site visits of food businesses conducted by the Health Protection Service.

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Explanation of Material Variance (>5%)

1. This positive result is largely due to an increase in food related inspections as other inspectorate responsibilities such as swimming pools, cooling tower and recreational water reduce in the first quarter due to winter.
2. The Directorate has initiated activities to promote awareness and catch up of missed vaccines. This includes social awareness campaigns and communicating with immunisation providers to raise awareness and encourage steps to increase vaccination rates. It is important to note that due to the low sizes of the target population, vaccination coverage statistics in these cohorts can be quite dynamic from quarter to quarter. ACT Government welcomes the introduction of the National Immunisation Strategy 2025-2030 and is looking to develop specific strategies regarding Priority Area 1 - Improving Access to Immunisation, with emphasis on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cohorts.

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OUTPUT CLASS 2: STRATEGIC POLICY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
OUTPUT 2.1: INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Number of community building, participation grants and scholarship programs administered.	16	8	4	-50	1
b. Percentage of participants who successfully complete the Work Experience and Support Program.	90%	90%	100%	11	2
c. Proportion of funded services that were visited by a Relationship Manager during the financial year.	75%	38%	27%	-29	3
d. Number of community engagement opportunities for veterans in the ACT	8	4	3	-25	4
e. Number of community engagement opportunities for seniors in the ACT	7	4	4	-	
f. Satisfaction of funded organisations with government contract administration (as measured by annual survey)	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	5

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. This indicator measures the number of grants allocated to assist community organisations to strengthen capacity, sustainability and address disadvantage in the community.
- b. This indicator measures the percentage of people who finish the program or secure paid employment prior to completion of the program. The program is designed to assist Canberrans from multicultural backgrounds to enter the workforce by providing an opportunity to improve skills and confidence, as well as develop important networks within the ACT Public Service.
- c. This indicator measures the proportion of funded services organisations visited during the financial year. The service visits could be either in-person or virtual.
- d. It measures the number of Ministerial Advisory Council meetings and community engagements held for veterans in the ACT.
- e. It measures the number of Ministerial Advisory Council meetings and community engagements held for seniors in the ACT.
- f. This indicator measures the extent to which non-government entities that administer and provide services contracted by the government are satisfied with the way their contracts are administered, including management of contract compliance through monitoring contractual requirements and service delivery quality, disbursement of contract payments and offering advice and support to service providers.

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Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The lower than targeted result is because:
 - The Community Support and Infrastructure grants program has ceased, and the funding has been used as an offset to fund the Food Bank Fund.
 - The Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF) grant round is open all year until the funds are exhausted. This round is considered administered when all funds have been committed which is expected in quarter 4 of 2025-26.
 - The remaining programs will be administered in quarter 3 and 4 of 2025-26.
2. This is the first-round result for the 2025-26 Work Experience and Support Program. The target noted above is an annual target. The second-round of the program may impact this result.
3. Most service visits are undertaken in quarter 3 and quarter 4 after annual performance reporting have been submitted and reviewed.
4. The lower than targeted result is due to timing. The Directorate anticipates meeting the target as public commemorations or events are scheduled in the second half of the financial year.
5. This is an annual survey and is expected to be conducted and reported in the fourth quarter of 2025-26.

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OUTPUT CLASS 2: STRATEGIC POLICY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
OUTPUT 2.2: OFFICE FOR DISABILITY

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Note
Accountability Indicators					
a. Number of community engagement opportunities for people with disability in the ACT	8	4	8	100	1
b. Implement Companion Card Program - Number of Companion Card affiliates	94	94	97	3	

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. This indicator measures the number of Disability Advisory Council meetings and events managed or funded by the ACT Government for the engagement of ACT people with a disability, their families and carers. The title of this indicator has been renamed in 2025-26 to reflect replacement of the National Disability Strategy with Australia's Disability Strategy 2021-2031.
- b. This indicator measures the implementation of the Companion Card Program through the number of Companion Card affiliates recruited.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The higher than targeted result reflects that the latter half of the calendar year is a busy time for the disability community with a large number of activities timed to coincide around the International Day of People with Disability on 3 December.

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OUTPUT CLASS 2: STRATEGIC POLICY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
OUTPUT 2.3: STRATEGIC POLICY

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Implementation of projects included in the Whole of Government plan on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement	3	3	0	-100	1
b. Provision of strategic policy advice on human services issues to drive improved outcomes for children, young people and their families	2	1	0	-100	2
c. Performance improvement initiatives	2	2	2	-	

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. The projects are:
 - 1.the new *Impact Statement Dashboard* reporting the progress against the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement* refreshed and going live;
 - 2.the *ACT Annual Report for the National Closing the Gap Agreement* tabled in the ACT Legislative Assembly;
 - 3.development of capacity and capability building projects for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander agencies.
- b. The two initiatives are:
 - 1.legislative reform identified by the *Our Booris, Our Way* Review; and
 - 2.modernising the Children and Young People Act 2008.
- c. The two initiatives are:
 - 1.Australian Early Development Census; and
 - 2.the *Our Booris, Our Way* Dashboard Reporting.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The next ACT Closing the Gap Annual Report is scheduled to be tabled later in the 2025-26 financial year in alignment with the Commonwealth Government and Coalition of Peaks release date for their reporting.
 The Impact Statement dashboard refresh for the current PowerBi version was updated in August 2025. The Annual Impact Statement reporting is due for tabling in June of each year with the 2024-25 data to be tabled in June 2026 and the subsequent dashboard update to follow soon after with an estimated timeframe of August 2026.
 The 2025-26 ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF) Grant Program opened on 1 July 2025 and will remain open until all 2025-26 funds are exhausted, or 30 June 2026, whichever comes first. Final reporting on the 2025-26 AEEF Grant is expected in quarter 4 of 2025-26.
2. Considerable work has been undertaken to progress actions across both initiatives. It is anticipated that progress against these actions will be delivered in the second half of the year.

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OUTPUT CLASS 2: STRATEGIC POLICY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
OUTPUT 2.4: REGULATION, ASSURANCE AND QUALITY

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Note
Accountability Indicators					
a. Regulatory and process reform initiatives	1	1	1	0	
b. Number of regulated service providers	7,000	7,000	5,906	-16	1
c. Number of tenancies managed by registered community housing providers	2,450	2,450	2,396	-2	

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. The initiative is the 'Senior Practitioner work towards reducing and eliminating restrictive practices through safeguarding approaches'.
- b. This indicator measures the number of regulated services providers.
- c. This indicator measures the quantum of tenancies managed by the community housing providers registered under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The target reflects the projected NDIS active providers reported in the National Disability Insurance Scheme (NDIS) Quarterly Report and associated Australian Capital Territory (ACT) Quarterly Performance Dashboard. The lower than targeted result is mainly due to lower than anticipated increase in NDIS active providers.

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OUTPUT CLASS 2: STRATEGIC POLICY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
OUTPUT 2.5: SAFER FAMILIES

Measure	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Note
Accountability Indicator a. Family Violence Statement presented to the ACT Legislative Assembly	1	N/A	N/A	N/A	1

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicator

- a. This indicator measures the Government's progress and achievements in addressing family and domestic violence.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The Annual Ministerial Statement is delivered at the end of each financial year to report on achievements of that year and previous financial years, while also outlining the commitments for the next financial year. The 2025-26 Statement is scheduled to be delivered by June 2026.

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OUTPUT CLASS 3: CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
OUTPUT 3.1: CHILD AND FAMILY CENTRES

Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Number of Community Development/Education Programs	175	88	87	-1	
b. Number of Parenting Assistance Sessions	1,215	608	878	44	1
c. Client satisfaction with services	90%	N/A	N/A	N/A	2

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. The number of group sessions run by Child and Family Centres addressing community development and education issues.
- b. The combined Parent Group Sessions and Parents as Teachers home visits to achieve a count of all sessions run by Child and Family Centres, which assist with a wide variety of parenting issues being experienced by families.
- c. A 'self-report' telephone survey of clients who access the service, received at least one provision of service and had a case opened on Child and Youth Record Information System (CYRIS).

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. In-line with ongoing increases in population and vulnerability, the Child and Family Centres continue to provide high levels of support to the community based on demand. The higher than targeted result is reflective of the level of complexity of family needs and increase in number of families seeking and being provided with parenting interventions and supports.
2. The annual survey will be undertaken, and the result reported, in the fourth quarter of 2025-26.

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OUTPUT CLASS 3: CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES
OUTPUT 3.2: CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

Measure	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Note
Accountability Indicator					
a. Hours of service provided to the clients of the Child Development Service	14,787	7,394	14,782	100	1

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

Explanation of Accountability Indicator

- a. The total hours of services provided to clients of the Child Development Service.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

- Recruitment for vacant clinical positions has been successful and expertise retained, which has allowed the service to operate with maximum efficiency and capacity during this time period. There has also been an increase in capacity through Best Start budget initiative, increasing numbers of staff and capacity of service.

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OUTPUT CLASS 3: CHILDREN, YOUTH AND FAMILIES					
OUTPUT 3.3: CHILD AND YOUTH PROTECTION SERVICES					
Measures	2025-26 Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Targets	2025-26 Dec YTD Results	Var. %	Notes
Accountability Indicators					
a. Number of custody days used annually	5,000	2,500	4,208	68	1
b. Youth Justice Case Plans completed	90%	90%	100%	11	2
c. Child Protection Reports and Child Concern Reports about children and young people	18,000	9,000	6,941	-23	3
d. Child Protection Reports requiring appraisal	2,500	1,250	286	-77	4
e. Number of child protection reports received and proceeding to appraisal that were substantiated	500	250	48	-81	5
f. Number of children and young people receiving a service during the year	2,800	2,800	1,859	-34	6
g. Number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people receiving support during the year	630	630	577	-8	7
h. Total number of children and young people for whom the Director-General has parental responsibility	805	805	641	-20	8
i. Total out-of-home care days used annually	300,000	150,000	135,501	-10	9
j. Number of out-of-home care days used by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people	89,000	44,500	40,858	-8	10
k. Average investment per out-of-home care day	\$333	\$333	\$454	36	11
l. Number of permanency placements	25	13	12	-8	12

The above Statement of Performance should be read in conjunction with the accompanying notes.

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Explanation of Accountability Indicators

- a. The number of days served in custody by the young person.
- b. The proportion of case plans prepared or reviewed within six weeks of the start of a supervised sentenced order.
- c. The number of contacts by persons who believe or suspect that a child or young person is or has been abused or neglected counted for each individual child or young person.
- d. A report is considered to require an appraisal if, on the basis of the information received and known history of the child or young person, there appears to be reasonable risk of abuse or neglect, or that the child or young person is likely to be in need of care.
- e. An appraisal of a child or young person and their situation is recorded as 'substantiated' if in the professional opinion of the case manager there is reasonable cause to believe that the child has been, is being, or is likely to be physically or sexually abused, neglected or emotionally abused in a way that has caused or is causing significant harm.
- f. The number of individual children and young people receiving appraisal, support and/or ongoing casework from Child and Youth Protection Services during the year.
- g. The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individual children and young people receiving appraisal, support and/or ongoing casework from Child and Youth Protection Services during the year.
- h. The number of children on a given day who are subject to a child protection court order conferring part or sole parental responsibility to the Chief Executive or a Voluntary Care Agreement under section 397 of the Children and Young People Act 2008.
- i. The number of days for which the Child and Youth Protection Services made a payment for overnight care of children in out of home care.
- j. The number of days for which the Child and Youth Protection Services made a payment for overnight care of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out of home care.
- k. The average cost per out-of-home care day for the Child and Youth Protection Services in ACT.
- l. The number of permanency orders made throughout the year including inter-country adoptions, local adoptions, stepfamily or 'known' adoptions & Enduring Parental Responsibility orders.

Explanation of Material Variance (=>5%):

1. The increase is due to a significant and sustained increase in the number of young people in Bimberi since mid-2025. The increase is attributed to factors such as active police operations in the community and the nature and severity of young people's charges resulting in longer periods of remand and sentencing.
2. This is a positive result. All case plans required (18) for young people on supervised sentenced orders were completed with the young person within six weeks of the start of the order.
3. The number of reports received can fluctuate depending on a range of factors, including but not limited to, community expectations and recent events in the media relating to child abuse and neglect, community education and change in the reporting partners.
4. As part of the CYF reform, CYF has changed its service offer to focus on early supports and diversion. This significantly lower result is reflective of the fact that we are working earlier with families to divert from the statutory system, looking at what supports we can put in place to help families before they reach a crisis point.
5. The below target result can fluctuate depending on the results of the appraisal for each child or young person and indicates fewer children and young people reported to Children, Youth and Families experienced substantiated abuse and neglect.
6. On review of the current business rules, it was identified that system changes implemented over the last few years has resulted in a shift away from the original definition for this indicator. The business rules have been compared with the documented indicator specifications and updated to correctly include the original scope. As part of the CYF reform, CYF has changed its service offer to focus on early supports and

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diversion. These new supports are not included in the current definition of the 'receiving a service' indicator. HCSD is undertaking a review of the counting rules and will develop a new/updated indicator for future use that more appropriately reflects the full breadth of services provided to support children, young people and their families.

7. On review of the current business rules, it was identified that system changes implemented over the last few years has resulted in a shift away from the original definition for this indicator. The business rules have been compared with the documented indicator specifications and updated to correctly include the original scope. As part of the CYF reform, CYF has changed its service offer to focus on early supports and diversion. These new supports are not included in the current definition of the 'receiving a service' indicator. HCSD is undertaking a review of the counting rules and will develop a new/updated indicator for future use that more appropriately reflects the full breadth of services provided to support children, young people and their families.
8. This is a positive result as it appears that over time, this number is incrementally decreasing from the original estimated target. There are various factors that could be contributing to this result including the number of substantiated abuse and neglect and continued focus on family finding and on providing support service to ensure children and young people remain in family and home.
9. This is a positive result with fewer children requiring care than the previous year. This could be attributed to less entries into care and more exits from short term orders.
10. This is a positive result with fewer children requiring care than the previous year. This could be attributed to less entries into care and more exits from short term orders.
11. The higher than budget result is mainly due to more intensive responses required for out of home care services and a lower than budgeted number of out-of-home care days used.
12. The number of permanency orders finalised at court is lower than anticipated for local adoptions, stepfamily or 'known' OOHC adoptions.