



Extract of minutes of proceedings

Inquiry into men's suicide rates

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 016* – Tuesday, 1 April 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Apology: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair)

7. Commencement

- 7.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.01 pm.

11. Potential Future Inquiry

- 11.1. The Committee discussed potential future inquiry topics.
- 11.2. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to provide feedback on potential terms of reference and stakeholder list for an inquiry into men's suicide rates out of session prior to the next meeting.

8. Close

- 8.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.07 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 017* – Tuesday, 22 April 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.04 pm.

6. Proposed new inquiry – Inquiry into men's suicide

- 6.1. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to adopt the Terms of Reference as amended for the inquiry.
- 6.2. The Committee **resolved** [HANSON] that submissions for the inquiry close on 6 June 2025, and that a public hearing be scheduled for the week commencing 8 September 2025.



- 6.3. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to endorse the media release as amended.
- 6.4. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to endorse the 246A statement announcing the inquiry as amended.
- 6.5. The Committee considered the list of stakeholders provided by the secretariat, and suggested additions.
- 6.6. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to approve the letter inviting the Minister for Health and Mental Health to make a submission to the inquiry.

11. Close

- 11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.12 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 019* – Tuesday, 20 May 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 5.1. The Committee noted the following items of inward correspondence related to the inquiry:
 - 5.1.1. Received 5 May 2025, email from Jason regarding the Dads in Distress counselling service.
 - 5.1.2. Received 6 May 2025, email from ACTCOSS requesting an extension to provide its submission.
 - 5.1.3. Received 15 May 2025, email from the ACT Health Directorate Liaison Officer requesting an extension for the ACT Government to provide its submission.
 - 5.1.4. Received 15 May 2025, email from the Australian Psychological Society requesting an extension to provide its submission.
- 5.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to add details of the Dad's in Distress counselling service to the list of support services on the inquiry website.
- 5.3. The Committee **resolved** [HANSON] to extend the deadline for submissions to 8 August 2025, with no further extensions to be granted.
- 5.4. The Committee discussed the inquiry and requested the secretariat:
 - 5.4.1. provide advice on methods to invite submissions from people detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre



- 5.4.2. circulate the updated stakeholder list.
- 5.5. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to invite the Children and Young People Commissioner to a private briefing during one of its regular meeting times.
- 5.6. The Committee discussed social media promotion of the inquiry.
- 5.7. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to undertake a promoted social media post.
- 5.8. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that members may promote the inquiry on their own social media accounts, however posts should not include political branding, authorisation message, or content that politicises the inquiry.

9. Close

- 9.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.47 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 020* – Tuesday, 27 May 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02pm.

6. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 6.1. The Committee **resolved** [BARRY] to receive and publish the following submissions:
 - 6.1.1.Submission 1: Name Withheld.
 - 6.1.2.Submission 3: James Walker.
- 6.2. The Committee **resolved** [BARRY] to receive and authorise for partial publication Submission 2: Name Withheld.
- 6.3. The Committee noted that the secretariat has confirmed that the Children and Young People Commissioner is available to meet with the Committee on Tuesday, 3 June 2025 from 2.30pm to 3:00pm, to discuss the inquiry.
- 6.4. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Children and Young People Commissioner inviting her to attend the Committee's private meeting on Tuesday 3 June 2025 at 2.30pm for 30 minutes.
- 6.5. The Committee **endorsed** [TOUGH] the draft promoted social media post for the inquiry, including that:
 - 6.5.1.it will run for 18 days as a promoted post once published, and
 - 6.5.2.it will be published as soon as practicable.



- 6.6. The Committee discussed advice that the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC) had contacted the Chair regarding the safe conduct of the inquiry. The Committee requested the secretariat contact the MHCC to discuss.
- 6.7. The Committee requested the secretariat provide a copy of the stakeholder list on the L: Drive.
- 6.8. The Committee noted that the secretariat is developing advice on potential approaches to seeking submissions from people detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- 6.9. The Committee discussed the potential use of surveys or webforms for the inquiry.

9. Close

- 9.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.24 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 021* – Tuesday, 3 June 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.32 pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 5.1. The Committee discussed possible engagement approaches to the inquiry, noting its sensitive nature.
- 5.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] the Chair write to the Mental Health Community Coalition (MHCC) inviting them to a private briefing to discuss the inquiry and methods of engagement.
- 5.3. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] the secretariat confirm availability of MHCC representatives during the Committee's regular meeting time on either 10 June 2025 or 17 June 2025.
- 5.4. The Committee reviewed the stakeholder list and made suggested additions.
- 5.5. The Committee discussed options for seeking submissions from people detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 5.6. The Committee requested that the secretariat draft a letter to the Minister for Corrections, seeking written advice on the dissemination of information regarding the inquiry at AMC, for consideration at the next meeting.
- 5.7. The Committee noted the following approach to managing submissions:



- 5.7.1. Submissions will be placed onto the L Drive by the secretariat as received for Committee visibility.
- 5.7.2. The secretariat will review each submission and identify potential sensitivities, any barriers to publication, and options for Committee consideration.
- 5.8. Submissions will be presented to the Committee in bundles for formal consideration regarding acceptance and publication.

9. Close

- 9.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.51 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 022* – Tuesday, 17 June 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Mr Jeremy Hanson MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.03 pm.

7. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 7.1. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish the following submissions:
 - 7.1.1. Submission 4: Australian Multicultural Action Network
 - 7.1.2. Submission 7: Orygen
 - 7.1.3. Submission 9: South Asian Research and Advocacy Hub (SARAH).
- 7.2. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive and publish the following submissions:
 - 7.2.1. Submission 5: David Maywald
 - 7.2.2. Submission 6: Name withheld – Paragraph 2 redacted
 - 7.2.3. Submission 8: Menslink.
- 7.3. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive the following exhibit:
 - 7.3.1. Exhibit 1: All-party parliamentary group on issues affecting men and boys, Third Report, *Tackling Male Suicide: A New 'Whole System' Approach*.
- 7.4. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to receive the supplementary information provided by James Walker on 25 May 2025 as correspondence.



- 7.5. The Committee considered the record of discussion prepared by the secretariat for the private briefing held with the Children and Young People Commissioners on 3 June 2025.
- 7.6. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to adopt the record of discussion as amended.
- 7.7. The Committee considered the draft letter to the Minister for Corrections requesting advice on how the Committee may engage with people detained in the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 7.8. The Committee **resolved** [BARRY] to approve the letter as amended.

10. Close

- 10.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.35 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 024* – Tuesday, 31 July 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 12.01 pm.

4. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 4.1. The Committee deliberated correspondence from the Acting Director-General of the Justice and Community Safety Directorate and Minister for Corrections, regarding engagement with people detained at the Alexander Maconochie Centre.
- 4.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to extend the deadline for submissions from this cohort to enable further consideration at the next meeting on 12 August 2025.
- 4.3. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] for the Chair to write to the Minister advising the deadline and approach for seeking submissions from this cohort will be set following further consideration at the next meeting.

9. Close

- 9.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 12.22 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 025* – Tuesday, 12 August 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA



1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.01 pm.

7. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 7.1. The Committee continued its consideration of correspondence received from the Minister for Corrections and Justice and Community Safety Directorate regarding inviting submissions from detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 7.2. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to provide feedback and suggestions on potential questions for inclusion in support materials on the inquiry for detainees out of session.
- 7.2.1. The Committee requested the secretariat compile the feedback and suggestions for consideration at the next meeting.
- 7.3. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive and publish the following submissions:
- 7.3.1. Submission 10: Council on the Aging (COTA) ACT
- 7.3.2. Submission 11: Jordan Rocke
- 7.3.3. Submission 12: Running for Resilience
- 7.3.4. Submission 13: Lifeline
- 7.3.5. Submission 14: Dr Hilary Caldwell
- 7.3.6. Submission 15: ACT Children and Young People Death Review Committee
- 7.3.7. Submission 17: The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Psychiatrists
- 7.3.8. Submission 18: Playgroup NSW
- 7.4. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive the following submissions as confidential:
- 7.4.1. Submission 16
- 7.4.2. Submission 19
- 7.5. The Committee **resolved** [MEMBER] to receive the following exhibit:
- 7.5.1. Exhibit 2: Jason Kair
- 7.6. The Committee considered the record of discussion prepared by the secretariat for the private briefing held with Ms Lisa Kelly, Chief Executive Officer of Mental Health Community Coalition on 17 June 2025.
- 7.7. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to adopt the record of discussion from the private briefing with the Mental Health Community Coalition.
- 7.8. The Committee discussed possible timings for public hearings.



11. Close

- 11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.40 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 026* – Tuesday, 19 August 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.03 pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 5.1. The Committee noted that 57 submissions have been received as at 13 August 2025, and that due to current secretariat capacity restraints, these will be placed on the L drive for consideration at future meetings.
- 5.2. The Committee continued its consideration of correspondence received from the Minister for Corrections and Justice and Community Safety Directorate regarding inviting submissions from detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC).
- 5.3. The Committee considered feedback and suggestions received from Members in the out of session response email.
- 5.4. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Minister and Director-General, Justice and Community Safety Directorate advising of its agreed approach to engagement with detainees at AMC.
- 5.5. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to approve the letter to the Minister and any accompanying materials out of session in the week commencing 1 September 2025.
- 5.6. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that public hearings be scheduled for Tuesday, 14 October 2025 and Thursday, 16 October 2025

10. Close

- 10.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.34 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 027* – Tuesday, 9 September 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.04 pm.



6. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 6.1. The Committee requested that the secretariat add a content warning at the top of the 'submissions' tab for the inquiry webpage.
- 6.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish the following submissions:
 - 6.2.1. Submission 20: Australian Federal Police Association
 - 6.2.2. Submission 21: ACT Children and Young People Commissioner
 - 6.2.3. Submission 23: Stroke Foundation
 - 6.2.4. Submission 24: Mentoring Men
 - 6.2.5. Submission 25: Yourtown and Headspace
 - 6.2.6. Submission 26: RACGP NSW/ACT
 - 6.2.7. Submission 27: Health Research Institute UC
 - 6.2.8. Submission 28: ATODA ACT
 - 6.2.9. Submission 29: SEED Centre for Lifespan Research
 - 6.2.10. Submission 30: Strong Space Counselling
 - 6.2.11. Submission 31: Roses in the Ocean
 - 6.2.12. Submission 32: Emma Davidson
 - 6.2.13. Submission 33: Capital Health Network
 - 6.2.14. Submission 34: Australian Psychological Society
 - 6.2.15. Submission 35: The Right Direction Australia and Kinnections Australia
 - 6.2.16. Submission 36: Mr Perfect
 - 6.2.17. Submission 37: Carers ACT
 - 6.2.18. Submission 38: A Gender Agenda
 - 6.2.19. Submission 39: Stephen Rothwell
 - 6.2.20. Submission 42: Parenting Research Centre
 - 6.2.21. Submission 44: Suicide Prevention Australia
 - 6.2.22. Submission 45: Australian Men's Health Forum
 - 6.2.23. Submission 46: ACT MHCC
 - 6.2.24. Submission 47: Australian Men's Shed Association
 - 6.2.25. Submission 48: ACTCOSS
 - 6.2.26. Submission 49: Parents Beyond Breakup



- 6.2.27. Submission 51: Canberra After Suicide Support
- 6.2.28. Submission 52: ACT Government
- 6.2.29. Submission 53: Australian Christian Lobby
- 6.2.30. Submission 54: Australian Institute of Family Studies
- 6.2.31. Submission 55: Meridian
- 6.2.32. Submission 56: Alcohol and Drug Foundation
- 6.2.33. Submission 58: FINACT
- 6.2.34. Submission 59: Jayden Campbell
- 6.2.35. Submission 61: AMA ACT
- 6.3. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive Submission 40 confidentially.
- 6.4. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish pages 1–7 of Submission 22: Survivors and Mates Support Network in part, and receive pages 8–9 as exhibits.
- 6.5. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish Submission 50 as Name Withheld, and with all individual names redacted..
- 6.6. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish video one of Submission 57: Justin Geange, and receive video two as an exhibit.
- 6.7. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish Submission 60: The Men’s Table, and receive the two attachments as exhibits.
- 6.8. The Committee requested that the secretariat seek advice regarding publication sensitivities in relation to case studies provide by the following submitters:
 - 6.8.1. Submission 41: St Vincent de Paul Canberra/Goulburn
 - 6.8.2. Submission 43: Everyman Australia Limited.
- 6.9. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive the Suicide Prevention Australia Community Tracker September 2025 as an Exhibit.
- 6.10. The Committee discussed logistics, potential witnesses, and dates for the public hearings.
 - 6.10.1. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the Chair, on behalf of the Committee, write to the Speaker requesting funds for a duty counsellor to provide support during the public hearings.
 - 6.10.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to amend the hearing dates agreed at the meeting of 19 August 2025, and hold hearings on 16 October, 25 November, and 28 November 2025.



- 6.10.3. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the secretariat prepare the public hearing schedule for 16 October 2025 for circulation and approval out of session.
- 6.10.4. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the secretariat be authorised to make adjustments to the timings within the schedule to accommodate witness availability.
- 6.10.5. The Committee requested that the secretariat seek the Minister for Health and Mental Health's availability for the last session of the 28 November 2025 public hearing

16. Close

- 16.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 4.24 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 028* – Friday, 26 September 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 12.01 pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 5.1. The Committee **resolved** [BARRY] to receive and publish the updated version of Submission 38: A Gender Agenda.
- 5.2. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to invite witnesses to provide short opening remarks that were not covered in their submission at the public hearing on Thursday, 16 October 2025.

8. Close

- 8.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 12:17 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 030* – Wednesday, 14 October 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02 pm.



5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 5.1. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to receive Submission 62 as a confidential submission.
- 5.2. The Committee noted the following correspondence received in relation to the inquiry:
 - 5.2.1. received 10 September 2025, a copy of correspondence from Ms Tough to ACT Playgroups regarding submission 18;
 - 5.2.2. Received 10 September 2025, a copy of correspondence from Ms Tough to ACT Down Syndrome and Intellectual Disability (ACT DSID) regarding submission 18;
 - 5.2.3. Received 10 September 2025, correspondence from ACT Playgroups, regarding submission 18;
 - 5.2.4. Received 11 September 2025, correspondence from ACT DSID, regarding submission 18;
 - 5.2.5. Sent 10 September 2025t, correspondence to the Speaker regarding engagement of a duty counsellor for the hearings;
 - 5.2.6. Received 11 September 2025, correspondence from the Speaker approving engagement of a duty counsellor for the hearings.
- 5.3. The Committee considered the final schedule and media release for the public hearing on 16 October 2025.
- 5.4. The Committee **endorsed** [TOUGH] the public hearing schedule for 16 October 2025.
- 5.5. The Committee **endorsed** [TOUGH] the media release as amended.
- 5.6. The Committee noted support materials developed for the hearings and arrangements for a duty counsellor during the hearings.
- 5.7. The Committee deliberated the schedule for public hearings on 25 and 28 November 2025.
- 5.8. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the secretariat prepare the public hearing schedule for 25 and 28 November 2025 for circulation and approval out of session
- 5.9. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the secretariat be authorised to make adjustments to the timings within the schedule to accommodate witness availability.
- 5.10. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the invitation to the Minister for Health be approved out of session.

12. Close

- 12.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.05 pm.



Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 031* – Thursday, 16 October 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9:18am.

2. Inquiry into men's suicide rates public hearing

- 2.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- Capital Health Network:
 - Ms Stacy Leavens, CEO
- 2.2. Evidence completed; the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.3. The following witnesses attended via Webex and were examined:
- Australian Institute of Family Studies:
 - Ms Elixabeth (Liz) Neville, Director
 - Dr Sean Martin, Program Lead – Ten to Men
- 2.4. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.5. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- South Asian Research and Advocacy Hub [SARAH]:
 - Miss Nirmidha Sankar Kumara Suriyar, Submissions Manager
 - Miss Sahana Sriharan, Undergraduate Researcher
 - Mr Shaneeq Scherobin Syed, Undergraduate Researcher
- 2.6. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.7. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined.
- Alcohol and Drug Foundation:
 - Mrs Allison Reid, State Manager NSW/ACT (Via Webex)
 - Ms Amy Herbert, Manager, Policy and Engagement
- 2.8. The Committee took a break between 11:18am – 11:31am.
- 2.9. The following witness appeared via Webex and was examined:
- SEED Centre for Lifespan Research:



- Professor Rebecca Louise Giallo, Co-Deputy Director
- 2.10. Evidence completed, the witness withdrew.
- 2.11. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- Meridian:
 - Mr Joshua Anlezark
 - A Gender Agenda:
 - Dr Vik Fraser, Executive Director
- 2.12. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.13. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- St Vincent de Paul Society Canberra/Goulburn
 - Mr Benjamin Fitzgerald, Team Leader, Street to Home Program
- 2.14. The Chair suspended proceedings between 1:02pm and 3:02pm.
- 2.15. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- Running for Resilience:
 - Mr Glen Collins, Co-Founder & Board Member
 - The Right Direction Australia/Kinnections
 - Mr Joshua Vaughan, CEO/Manbassador
- 2.16. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.17. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- EveryMan Australia:
 - Gregory Aldridge OAM, CEO
 - Menslink:
 - Ben Gathercole, CEO
 - Josh Hewitt
- 2.18. Evidence completed, witnesses withdrew

4. Close

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:33pm



Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 1.03 pm

11. Inquiry into men's suicide rates public hearing

- 11.1. The Committee **[EMERSON]** to update the public hearing schedule to reflect the changed appearance time for the Mental Health Community Coalition ACT.

14. Close

- 14.1. The Chair adjourned the meeting at 5.10 pm.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 040* – Tuesday, 25 November 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 12.33 pm.

7. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 7.1. The following responses to QTONs from the hearing on 16 October have been received:
- 7.1.1. QTON 1 – Capital Health Network - ACT Mental Health and Suicide Prevention Plan (Mr Emerson)
 - 7.1.2. QTON 2 – Capital Health Network -ACT Mental Health – Federal funding figures (Mr Emerson)
 - 7.1.3. QTON 3 – Capital Health Network – ACT Mental Health – Gaps in service (Mr Emerson)
 - 7.1.4. QTON 4 – Capital Health Network – ACT Mental Health – Needs assessment reporting data (Ms Barry)
 - 7.1.5. QTON 6 – Alcohol and Drug Foundation – Screening and brief intervention (Miss Nuttall)
 - 7.1.6. QTON 7 – St Vincent de Paul Social Canberra/Goulburn – NSW Mandatory reporting guide (Miss Nuttall)
- 7.2. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive and publish the answers to QTONs 1,2, 3, 4, 6 and 7.



9. Inquiry into men's suicide rates – public hearing

9.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Canberra After Suicide Support
 - Mrs Verlene Marshall, Facilitator
 - Ms Sally Emerson, Founding Coordinator
 - Mr Murray O'Hanlon, Volunteer

9.2. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

9.3. The following witness came to the table and was examined:

- Men's Shed
 - Mr Gordon Cooper, President

9.4. Evidence completed, the witness withdrew.

9.5. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- ACT Council of Social Service (ACTCOSS)
 - Dr Devin Bowles, CEO
 - Ms Emma Agostino, Senior Policy Officer

9.6. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

9.7. The Chair suspended proceedings between 2.50 pm and 3.05 pm.

9.8. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Australian Medical Association (ACT)
 - Dr Kerrie Aust, President
 - Miss Emily Ryan, Junior Doctor Advisor

9.9. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

9.10. The following witness came to the table and was examined:

- Australian Men's Health Forum
 - Mr Glen Poole, CEO

9.11. Evidence completed, the witness withdrew.

9.12. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Youth Panel
 - Dr Steve Leicester, National Clinical Manager, Schools & Communities, Headspace



- Mr Michael Wilson, Research Fellow in Men's Mental Health, Orygen (via Webex)

9.13. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

11. Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 5.00 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 041* – Friday, 28 November 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair)

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.15 am.

2. Inquiry into men's suicide rates – public hearing

2.1. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Lifeline Australia:

- Ms Emma Carr, Head of Government Relations
- Dr Anna Brooks, Chief Research Officer

2.2. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.3. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Suicide Prevention Australia:

- Mr Christopher Stone, Executive Director
- Mr Jason Delgado, Data Analyst

2.4. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.5. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Carers ACT:

- Mr Cain Beckett, CEO
- Paul Gibbs, Mental Health Carera Policy Officer

2.6. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.

2.7. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:

- Australian Psychological Society:

- Dr Alexandra Murray, Head of Policy and Research, via Webex



- Dr Belinda Barnett, Senior Policy Advisor, via Webex
- 2.8. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.9. The Chair suspended proceedings between 11.35 am and 11.50 am.
- 2.10. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health and Minister for Mental Health
 - Health and Community Services Directorate officials:
 - Ms Robyn Hudson, Deputy Director-General
 - Ms Dannielle Nagle, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Mental Health Policy and Strategy
 - Canberra Health Service Directorate officials:
 - Mr Bruno Aloisi, General Manager, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Other Drug Services
 - Dr Ahmed Mashhood, Acting Director of Clinical Services
- 2.11. Evidence completed, the witnesses withdrew.
- 2.12. The Chair suspended proceedings between 1.00 pm and 2.00 pm.
- 2.13. The following witnesses came to the table and were examined:
- Mental Health and Community Coalition ACT:
 - Ms Lisa Kelly, Chief Executive Officer
 - Mr Ms Smera Naik, Policy and Training Officer

4. Close

The Chair closed the meeting at 2.32 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 042* – Friday, 5 December 2025

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA
Apology: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair)

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 9.15 am.

2. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 2.1. The Committee noted the inward correspondence from Dr Clarke.



- 2.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to provide proposed recommendations to the secretariat by close of business 23 January 2026 for consideration at the next meeting.

3. Close

- 3.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.38am.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 043* – Tuesday, 27 January 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.04 pm.

11. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 11.1. The Committee noted the following timeline for preparation and tabling of the inquiry report:

- 6 February 2026 – proposed recommendations due
- 10 February 2026 – recommendations discussion
- w/c 28 April 2026 – Chair's draft to Committee
- 12 May 2026 – 1st report consideration
- 19 May 2026 – 2nd report consideration (if required)
- Table by 28 May 2026.

- 11.2. The Committee requested the secretariat prepare a summary list of recommendations arising out of submissions and the public hearings to be circulated out of session.

15. Close

- 15.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 9.38 am.
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Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 044* – Tuesday, 10 February 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02 pm.



8. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

8.1. The Committee discussed the list of proposed recommendations.

8.2. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to publish the responses to QTONs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 and 8.

14. Close

14.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.08 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 045* – Tuesday, 17 February 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.01 pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

5.1. The Committee discussed the list of proposed recommendations and requested the secretariat prepare an additional recommendation for consideration at the next meeting.

11. Close

11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.25pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 047* – Tuesday, 3 March 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02 pm.

6. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

6.1. The Committee noted the additional recommendation.

13. Close

13.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.00 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 048* – Tuesday, 10 March 2026



Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02pm.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

5.1. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] that the Committee receive and publish the response to QTON 13 for the Inquiry into men's suicide rates.

13. Close

13.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.09 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 049* – Tuesday, 31 March 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Apology: Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair)

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.03pm.

10. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

10.1. The Committee noted the secretariat is preparing the Chair's draft report against the recommendations discussed by the Committee on 17 February 2026.

15. Close

15.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 2.28pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 050* – Tuesday, 14 April 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02 pm.



7. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 7.1. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] to receive the email from Suicide Prevention Australia, dated 16 January 2026 regarding the 'Doing It Tough' program as correspondence.

11. Close

- 11.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.05 pm.

Extract from *Minutes of Meeting 057* – Tuesday, 2 June 2026

Members present: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA (Chair), Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Deputy Chair), Ms Caitlin Tough MLA, Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

1. Commencement

- 1.1. The Chair opened the meeting at 2.02 pm.

4. Inquiry into men's suicide rates

- 4.1. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to receive and publish the correspondence from Suicide Prevention Australia as an exhibit to the inquiry.

5. Inquiry into men's suicide rates – report consideration

- 5.1. The Committee noted that the Chair's draft report was circulated on 26 May 2026.
- 5.2. No member submitted an alternative draft report.
- 5.3. The Committee agreed to consider the report by paragraphs together.
- 5.4. The Committee deliberated on the report as follows:

Pages i to vi – agreed to
Pages vii to ix – Recommendation 1 amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 1.1 to 1.13 – agreed to
Paragraphs 2.1 to 2.56 – agreed to
Paragraphs 3.1 to 3.11 – agreed to
Recommendation 1 – amended and agreed to
Paragraphs 3.12 to 3.39 – agreed to
New paragraph 3.40 inserted – agreed to
New paragraphs 3.41 to 3.46 – agreed to
Recommendations 2 to 5 – agreed to
Finding 1 – agreed to
Paragraphs 4.1 to 4.18 – agreed to
New paragraph 4.19 inserted – agreed to
New paragraphs 4.20 to 4.65 – agreed to
Recommendations 6 to 14 – agreed to
Paragraphs 5.1 to 5.23 – agreed to
Recommendation 15 to 17 – agreed to
Paragraphs 6.1 to 6.47 – agreed to



Recommendation 18 to 26 – agreed to
Paragraph 7.1 – agreed to
Paragraph 7.2 – amended and agreed to
Appendices A to D – agreed to
Appendix E – amended and agreed to

- 5.5. The Committee **resolved** [EMERSON] to adopt the report.
- 5.6. The Committee **resolved** [TOUGH] that the Secretary be authorised to make minor formatting and typographical changes to the report to prepare it for printing, after its adoption by the Committee but prior to its presentation.
- 5.7. The Committee agreed that the Chair would aim to table the report out of session on Thursday, 4 June 2026.
- 5.8. The Committee agreed to provide any additional comments or dissenting reports by close of business Wednesday, 3 June 2026.
- 5.9. The Committee noted the draft Chair's speaking notes for tabling the report.
- 5.10. The Committee discussed the Chair's approach to any media inquiries received about the report.
- 5.11. The Committee **resolved** [NUTTALL] to endorse the draft media release for report tabling.

10. Close

- 10.1. The Chair closed the meeting at 3.26pm.
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All minutes are signed by the Chair.

Ms Katie Langham
Committee Secretary
9 June 2026

