



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY
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Submission Cover sheet

**Inquiry into memorialisation through
public commemoration**

Submission number: 015

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Inquiry into memorialisation through public commemoration
Places, monuments, streets, and suburbs

Terms of Reference:

Inquire into and report on:

The promotion of equality and diversity in the people recognised through public commemoration (places, monuments, streets, and suburbs) in the ACT

More could be done to ensure equality and diversity and the promotion of this through public commemoration in the ACT via places, monuments, streets and suburbs.

I note the work of the ACT Place Names Committee to ensure diversity and recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. I was a former member of the Committee. Having two Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members also ensured a strong voice at meetings. Members were supportive and the Secretariat team also.

The prominence of women and non-binary people in place naming conventions across the ACT

There is a lack of prominence of women and non-binary people in place naming conventions across the ACT. More information and regular information should be made available on the process of nomination. Clarity around who assesses the nominations and ensuring diversity on the panel/committee also would ensure great representation of women and non-binary people.

Opportunities to increase the representation of women and non-binary people, especially of diverse backgrounds and First Nations leaders through public commemoration (places, monuments, streets, and suburbs) in the ACT

I offer the following suggestions to increase the representation of women, especially of diverse backgrounds and First Nations leaders through public commemoration in the ACT:

- Ensure that the relevant committee reflect diversity – women, non-binary people, First Nations people
- Actively consult with Ngunnawal people as the Traditional Custodians
- Actively consult with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, community and community organisations
- Actively consult with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
- Hold a campaign throughout the year – invite schools to nominate
- Look to past recipients of the ACT Women’s awards, and
- Look to past recipients of the ACT NAIDOC awards.

Suggestions of women and non-binary people who could be commemorated in the ACT

I offer the following suggestions of women who could be commemorated in the ACT:

- Aunty Kerry Reed-Gilbert – poet, advocate, activist
- Aunty Thelma Weston, Torres Strait Islander Community Elder, ACT NAIDOC recipient – Elder of the Year and National NAIDOC recipient – Female Elder of the Year
- Aunty Lydia George, Torres Strait Islander Community Elder
- Dawn Casey
- Pat Turner
- Pat Anderson
- Aunty Agnes Shea, Ngunnawal Senior Elder
- Ruth Bell, Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian
- Matilda House, Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian
- Roslyn Brown Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian, and
- Caroline Hughes, Ngunnawal Traditional Custodian.

Suggestions of suitable nominations for public commemoration and location sites

Suggestions of suitable nominations for public commemoration and location sites include public spaces, such as parks, streets, common areas. However, these may be considered dependent on the nominated individual and their association with a specific part of the ACT.

Any other related matters

There are many outstanding women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who have been honoured previously. They can be found via the Australia Day Honours, ACT Honour Walk, ACT women's award and NAIDOC awards (national and ACT) for successful recipients.

ACT Government to fund the *She Shapes History* tour, *Through Women's Eyes* <https://sheshapeshistory.com.au/> and the Committee attend one of the tours. Encourage more learning and business initiatives such as this.