



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

**SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2024-2025**

Ms Nicole Lawder MLA (Chair), Ms Suzanne Orr MLA (Deputy Chair),  
Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE  
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by: Ms Leanne Castley

Addressed to: Minister for Business

Redirected to: N/A

Reference: Uncorrected Hansard Transcript [Page 58-59]

In relation to: Number of ATSI businesses

Hearing Date: 29 July 2024

QTON lodgement date: 30 July 2024

Answer Due Date: 2 August 2024

**MS CASTLEY:** Sure, okay. And how many ATSI businesses do we have in Canberra do we know?

**MR GENTLEMAN:** 36,000.

**MS CASTLEY:** No that is businesses as a whole. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander, do we know?

**MS STARICK:** We know through First Nations reporting that there are about—actually I might take that on notice. But it is difficult to know. When you classify what is an owned and operated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation or a business that may not be majority owned but works closely with that sector there are different ways to measure Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned and operated businesses in the ACT.

**MINISTER GENTLEMAN:** The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Canberra Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise List identifies a total of 350 Canberra Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises as at 26 July 2024 – refer [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise Search - Procurement ACT](#).

The ACT Government's [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy](#) (Policy) defines an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise as a business or community organisation which:

- is at least 50 per cent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-owned;
- can demonstrate that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are involved in the daily operation of the Enterprise and have effective control relative to the degree of ownership; and
- is registered with a Certifying Authority.

A Certifying Authority is an organisation which provides services to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community including confirmation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander ownership and control of Enterprises. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise's eligibility for business opportunities under the Policy is determined through a certification process.

The following organisations are currently approved Certifying Authorities:

- Supply Nation;
- National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation (NACCHO); and
- Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations (ORIC).

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2024-2025

Signature:



Date: 2/8/2024

By the Minister for Business, Mick Gentleman MLA