



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Reference: Health and Community Services Directorate

Hearing: 23 July 2026

In relation to: Closing the Gap

Question received: 28 July 2026

Answer Due: 7 August 2026

1. The City and Environment Directorate budget statements (Budget Statements E) clearly acknowledge their commitments to Closing the Gap (Strategic Indicator 7.2: embedding cultural integrity in 100% of senior executive performance agreements) but strategic indicators like these haven't been established in other directorates. Why hasn't the Health and Community Services Directorate established strategic indicators related to the Closing the Gap commitments, and what is your directorate doing to address these commitments?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) currently does not have a standalone strategic indicator related to Closing the Gap. The strategic indicators framework for HCSD will be considered as part of a recently commenced review of reporting metrics, which will identify appropriate measures for future reporting periods. Existing arrangements remain in place while this work is completed.

While HCSD does not currently report against a specific Closing the Gap strategic indicator, our commitments are embedded through executive accountability, workforce initiatives and targeted actions.

In July 2026, 100% of current HCSD Senior Executives completed performance agreements that included commitments to cultural integrity and Closing the Gap relevant to their areas of responsibility.

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Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature: 

Date: 13/08/26

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA