

2014

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

**GOVERNMENT RESPONSE TO THE
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL
SERVICES
REPORT NO 3**

INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2012-13

**Presented by
Ms Katy Gallagher MLA
Chief Minister**

Government Response

Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services Report No 3 – Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2012-13

Introduction

The Annual Reports of All ACT Government agencies are referred to the Standing Committees of the ACT Legislative Assembly for examination and report.

The Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services reviewed annual reports for:

- Community Services Directorate; and
- Health Directorate.

The Committee made 14 recommendations.

Response to Committee Recommendations

Recommendation 1

2.10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Legislative Assembly review the allocation of Standing Committee portfolio responsibilities with a view to making practical refinements such as the allocation of the Art Portfolio to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing, Community and Social Services.

Government Response

Noted.

This is a matter for the Legislative Assembly.

Recommendation 2

2.18 The Committee recommends that funding of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Job Readiness Support Program continue.

Government Response

Agreed.

Three years funding was provided in the 2013-14 ACT Budget.

Recommendation 3

2.20 The Committee recommends that, on an annual basis, the ACT Government review programs associated with the incarceration of juvenile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders to ensure a continuing reduction in incarceration rates of juvenile Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders.

Government Response

Noted.

The Annual Progress Report on the *Blueprint for Youth Justice in the ACT 2012-22* reports on the outcomes of supports and interventions to address the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention.

Recommendation 4

2.31 The Committee recommends that the After-hours Bail Support Service continue.

Government Response

Agreed.

The After-hours Bail Support Service has been continued within existing resources.

Recommendation 5

2.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government sustain and develop initiatives that seek to reduce domestic violence.

Government Response**Agreed.**

The ACT Prevention of Violence Against Women and Children Second Implementation Plan will be released in early 2015. The Plan will build on initiatives established in the first action plan, and establish new initiatives to reduce domestic violence. Implementation will be dependent on available resources.

Recommendation 6

2.44 The Committee recommends the Microcredit Program be sustained and expanded.

Government Response**Noted.**

The ACT Microcredit Program was launched on 24 February 2014. It builds on the success of the Women's "Brilliant Ideas" microcredit program.

Recommendation 7

2.51 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure service providers are given targeted information and support as part of the preparation for the introduction of the National Disability Insurance Scheme.

Government Response**Agreed.**

Service providers have received targeted information to prepare their services for the NDIS.

Regular quarterly forums of CSD funded services have been held with all service providers attending. Service providers are currently confirming the service types that they will deliver under the NDIS support clusters.

Recommendation 8

2.54 The Committee recommends that the Everyone, Everyday Program continue.

Government Response

Agreed.

The Everyone, Everyday Program continues in 2014-15. The Community Development team from Disability ACT is delivering professional development sessions to participating schools over the year.

Recommendation 9

2.66 The Committee recommends that, as a matter of priority, the Community Services Directorate implement a robust single grants management system.

Government Response

Agreed.

Community Services Directorate is currently introducing the smarty grants online tool, to be used across the Directorate.

Under the streamlined process, various grant rounds have been reviewed and combined into one grant round process.

Recommendation 10

2.69 The Committee recommends that the Indigenous Showcase remain a feature of the Annual National Multicultural Festival.

Government Response

Noted.

The National Multicultural Festival is reviewed each year. Planning for each Festival takes into account feedback from community, business and government.

Recommendation 11

3.35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government's Immunisation Strategy includes data on a varied range of target groups to ensure high rates of immunisation for all sectors of the community

Government Response

Agreed.

The *ACT Immunisation Strategy 2012-2016* includes the collection of data for numerous targeted groups in the community. This data collection is ongoing and progress for the targeted groups is monitored and evaluated on a regular basis. Evaluation of the specific datasets collected and recommendations for future data to be collected will be undertaken with the review of the strategy.

Recommendation 12

3.38 The Committee recommends that the ACT Health continue efforts in the area of preventative health and in particular programs such as Towards Zero Growth.

Government Response**Agreed.**

The Healthy Weight Action Plan was completed and launched in October 2013. Implementation is progressing, with a focus on community engagement.

Recommendation 13

4.16 The Committee recommends that, commencing in 2013-14, the State of the Service Report include an additional presentation of the information contained in individual directorate and triple bottom line reports as contained in their respective annual reports.

Government Response**Noted.**

The Annual Report Directions are currently being reviewed, with the intention of improving the relevance of information specific to agency performance, strategy and budget outputs.

Recommendation 14

4.19 The Committee recommends that the Annual report directions be amended to include reporting on (a) ACT public sector websites, including their usability and usage and (b) social media use by directorates and agencies.

Government Response**Noted.**

The Annual Report Directions are currently being reviewed, with the intention of improving the relevance of information specific to agency performance, strategy and budget outputs.