



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JOHNATHAN DAVIS MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), PETER CAIN MLA

**Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

ELIZABETH KICKERT: To ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Ref: CSD Annual Report 2019–20, p. 467

In relation to: the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy

The Annual Report mentions the need 'to reduce some of the barriers to government procurement encountered by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises' (p. 467). What are these barriers, and how has this policy reduced them?

- a. What is the precise process Territory Entities follow in identifying and acting upon opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises in their procurement activities?
- b. Is there some kind of database? If so, who maintains and updates that? What roles do enterprises themselves play?

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith the answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (The Policy) aims to drive cultural change within the Territory to address barriers such as bias and lack of awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises. The Policy provides a process for obtaining an exemption from the procurement thresholds to undertake a single select if approaching an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise for a procurement less than \$200,000. The Policy also includes measures and targets to incentivise and track Territory entities spend and engagement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises.

Territory entities can use any of the identified Certifying Authorities in the Policy to identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises. This includes Supply Nation, Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations or National Aboriginal Community Controlled Health Organisation. All Certifying Authorities have a publicly searchable list of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises.

Procurement ACT maintains a Canberra Region Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprise List (List) to help Territory entities identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises from the Canberra Region. The List is available on the Procurement ACT website allowing Territory entities to access it at any time to conduct market research and identify Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Enterprises that can provide the required goods, services or works.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QON No. AR - 72

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Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts

Signature:

Date: 24/3/21

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA