



STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION

MICHAEL PETTERSSON MLA (CHAIR), JONATHAN 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**

Asked by Elizabeth Kikkert MLA:

In relation to: poverty in relation to Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders

Output Class 2.3 now includes 'equality for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities' (Annual Report, p. 56). How many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT live below the poverty line?

- a. Of these, how many are children?
- b. Which specific ACT Government policies are designed to address poverty experienced specifically by Aboriginals and Torres Strait Islanders in the territory?

Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. Given the compounding and often complex factors that contribute to people living below the poverty line, poverty data is tracked at a national level. Information surrounding poverty in the ACT can be found through ACT Council for Social Services (ACTCOSS) and national Census data.

In October 2020, ACTCOSS published a report titled, *Factsheet: Poverty and inequality in the ACT*, which can be found at <https://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/advocacy-publications/factsheet-poverty-and-inequality-act>. Unfortunately, this report does not distinguish how many persons currently in this cohort identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

- a) Please see information in answer above.
- b) The *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* provides accountability to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and the ACT Government, to deliver programs and services and work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to address matters that are important to them.

Under the Agreement, ten Focus Area Action Plans contain agreed policies, programs, and actions to enable equitable outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT. Many in the Focus Areas of Economic Participation, Life Long Learning and Health and Wellbeing have a direct impact on economic outcomes. Policies, programs, and actions in the remaining Focus Areas may also contribute to economic outcomes.



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

CSD QON No. 62

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

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion

Signature:

Date:

26/3/21

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