



Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2021-2022 **ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**

Asked by **MRS ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA**:

Reference: Hearing on 9 November 2022, Annual Report of CSD

In relation to: Page 64, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Co-Design Network

1. The annual report states that, 'Over the past 12 months, the [Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Co-Design] Network provided invaluable input into a range of Child and Youth Protection Services policy, procedures and publications' (p. 64). Can the minister please summarise the content of that input?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Co-Design Network (the Network) comprises Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members with lived experience of the human services system in the ACT. Members work in partnership with ACT Government directorates, supporting the development of culturally appropriate and trauma informed human services practices and policies by sharing their personal cultural insights.

In addition to supporting the development of new practices and policies, members continue to review existing practices and policies with the aim of continuous improvement. Members are continuing to work with Child and Youth Protection Services to provide cultural insight into child, youth and families policies and practices informing amendments and suggesting opportunities to improve cultural safety. A significant focus of the working relationship between the Network and Child and Youth Protection Services is to lay the foundations of a working relationship which is built on trust to bring about culturally appropriate reform.

Over the past 12 months, the Network has worked with Child and Youth Protection Services to develop two fact sheets, ensuring the tone, language and communication style are appropriate and inclusive of the impact of trauma. These two fact sheets are:

- Care and Protection Order Factsheet – Interim and Final, and
- Care and Protection Order Factsheet – Emergency Action.

More broadly, Network members have provided feedback on several projects which impact Child and Youth Protection policy and procedures, including:

- the Charter of Rights for Parents and Families involved with ACT Child Protection Services;
- embedding the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in legislation; and
- the principles to guide the cultural safety of an External Merit Review model.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'R. Stephen-Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Date: 12/1/23

By the Minister for Families and Community Services, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA