



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON LEGAL AFFAIRS

Ms Chiaka Barry MLA (Chair), Mr Taimus Werner-Gibbings MLA
(Deputy Chair), Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA (Member)

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024-25

Question Taken on Notice (Committee)

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Attorney-General

Redirection:

Reference: Justice and Community Safety

Hearing Date: 20/11/2025

In relation to: Attorney-General and Restorative Justice

Question Lodgement Date: 27/11/2025

Date Answer Due: 04/12/2025

UPT pp 23-24.

MR RATTENBURY: Okay, thank you. And I note in the annual report there is a fascinating statistic that identifies that 58 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people were referred to restorative justice in 2024-25. Then it goes on to say, “Three cases progressed to formal conferences in the financial year.” I am interested to just understand what you can tell us about, I guess, the gap there. And I appreciate there will be a level of nuance, so can you explain to us why so few progressed to a formal conference?

Ms Hutchinson: Yes, look, absolutely, Mr Rattenbury. There are a range of reasons matters referred to restorative justice may not progress to a formal conference. Some of those relate to the nature of the matter type, the careful work that the conveners do to ensure the suitability of a matter for conference, including safety of all participants. In relation to the nature of referrals received for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participants. We have been doing some careful work with the key referring entity, which is the Galambany Court, about the types of referrals that we are receiving so that we can ensure that we are seeing more of those translate to conference. And that includes sort of work with the court and potential participants about understanding what is involved in the process.

MR RATTENBURY: Do you know then, does this data mean that the 55 cases that did not proceed to formal conference, they all went back into the court process? Or are there other pathways that those 55 individuals will have gone down?

Ms Hutchinson: Some of those matters may still be on foot in in relation to restorative justice. There would not be one single pathway and outcome in relation to them. It would be very dependent on the specifics of the matter. But I can take that question on notice if it would be useful.

MR RATTENBURY: What I am trying to explore is—which may help you answer the question on notice—is there a suitability problem for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in this model where a lot of them are ending up back in the court process because restorative justice—either the referrals are not the right ones or there is some other issue there that is seeing a particularly low rate of success? And you know my views on this. I am very supportive of restorative justice and I want it to work well, so I am just interested to understand whether there is an issue there that we need to be looking at.