



**Legislative Assembly for the
Australian Capital Territory**

Standing Committee on Social Policy

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2024–25

Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
Standing Committee on Social Policy

Approved for publication

Report 4
11th Assembly
April 2026

About the committee

Establishing resolution

The Assembly established the Standing Committee on Social Policy on 3 December 2024.

The Committee is responsible for the following areas:

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
- Community Services
- Disability
- Early Childhood Development
- Education
- Families
- Health and health services
- Homelessness and housing services
- Intergenerational fairness
- Justice Health
- LGBTIQ+
- Mental health
- Multicultural Affairs
- Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence
- Seniors
- Social Housing
- Veterans
- Women (including the Office for Women)
- Youth Affairs

You can read the full establishing resolution [on our website](#).

Committee members

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Chair

Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, Deputy Chair

Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Ms Caitlin Tough MLA

Secretariat

Ms Katie Langham, Committee Secretary

Ms Jennifer Forest, Assistant Secretary (from 1 December 2026)

Mr Justice-Noah Malfitano, Acting Assistant Secretary and Committee Support Officer (from 30 September 2025)

Mr Dikshes Patel, Administrative Officer

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About this inquiry

The 2024–2025 Annual Reports were presented in the Assembly on 21 October 2025. Clause 3 of the establishing resolution refers all calendar and financial year annual and financial reports to the relevant standing committee for inquiry and report by 12 May of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

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Acronyms & Abbreviations

Acronym or Abbreviation	Long form
Bimberi	Bimberi Youth Justice Centre
CHS	Canberra Health Services
CMTEDD	Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate
CSD	Community Services Directorate
CRCC	Canberra Rape Crisis Centre
DFSVO	Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office
DVCS	Domestic Violence Crisis Service
FASD	Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
HCSD	Health and Community Services Directorate
iCBR	Infrastructure Canberra
LGBTIQA+	Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual and others
MACM	Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism
MLA	Member of the Legislative Assembly
QON	Question on notice
QTON	Question taken on notice
SDA	Specialist Disability Accommodation
TSP	Therapeutic Support Panel
UC	University of Canberra

Recommendations

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future Housing ACT Annual Reports a table indicating the distribution of Housing ACT properties across the different districts of the ACT, and how that has changed over the preceding years.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Housing ACT take a more proactive approach to engaging with squatters residing in its vacant properties to find them appropriate housing and connect them with support services.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that Housing ACT finalise future funding arrangements with organisations engaged through head leasing arrangements six to 12 months in advance of their contracts expiring.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake an audit of housing used for people with disabilities to ensure that these properties meet appropriate standards and are suitably modified to meet residents' needs. The Committee further recommends that, where any property is found not to meet these standards, the ACT Government take immediate steps to make the necessary modifications or relocate affected tenants to more suitable accommodation if that is the tenant's preference.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government exempt Housing ACT from paying rates.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete necessary maintenance and modifications to public housing within published service standards and consider the impact of reduced client visits.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review policies and legislative settings relating to mutual transfers and ensure that appropriate requests can be progressed within three months of being made. Where barriers are identified, the Committee recommends that the ACT prioritise making any necessary policy or legislative changes.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a long-term public housing construction plan to ensure that the future housing needs of Canberrans are met beyond current short- and medium-term targets.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government support the establishment of a dedicated domestic, family and sexual violence crisis service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and ensure funding for domestic, family and sexual violence crisis services is sufficient for all calls from people in crisis to be answered and actioned in a timely way.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult domestic, sexual and family violence organisations and finalise the new accountability indicators under the Safer Families output, in order to ensure that they are fit for purpose and drive genuine positive change for people experiencing domestic, sexual and family violence.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government avoid running community sector commissioning or the renegotiations of core contracts over the December–January period where more staff are likely to be on leave, and when services may experience a peak in demand.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ongoing provision of culturally appropriate Domestic and Family Violence programs for Multicultural communities.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work closely with organisations that support women to co-design the upcoming Women's Plan / Gender Equity Plan.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the Office for Women engages with Treasury and the Health and Community Services Directorate on the impact of low funding levels and insecure work on feminised workforces within the community sector and embed this work in both the upcoming Women's Plan/ Gender Equity Plan and community sector funding processes.

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government screen all young people upon their entry to the Bimberi Youth Justice for neurological and cognitive conditions including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and ensure appropriate support is made available both during and after detention.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure sufficient staffing and appropriate risk profiling at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including through increased funding, to reduce the use of lock-ins.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate unescorted access to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including for Official Visitors, to be able to fulfill their legislative obligations and that they be provided with the necessary training and radio to be unescorted.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure an independent evaluator is engaged early enough to undertake a developmental evaluation of the Therapeutic Support Panel.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism publishes its annual reports for the past two years and that future annual reports are published on time.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement an improved system to monitor the diversity and inclusion makeup of boards to ensure they better reflect the ACT community.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that future Health and Community Services Directorate Annual Reports include more comprehensive reporting on the implementation of its positive duties under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, beyond just the activities of the Office for Multiculturalism.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the Health and Community Services Directorate's recruitment policies to substantially promote diversity and inclusion.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government craft and implement a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan across the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a long-term funding model for ACT multicultural organisations to provide greater certainty and support effective planning.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently implement a disability death review function.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government progress work on community sector sustainability as a matter of priority.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the funding envelope for LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations to better reflect the work they do, and allow them to do that work sustainably.

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a full breakdown of costs for the closure of schools related to asbestos-laden sand as soon as possible.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in expanding its in-person flexible education offering to increase the number of students able to access this service.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publicly disclose in all future Annual Reports the number of Out of Area Enrolment applications made to each school with reasons for those applications, what percentage were accepted or rejected, and the reasons for any rejected applications.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the full results of the disability accessibility audit of Canberra Health Services' facilities and provide details of implementation activities against all recommended actions.

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health data in the ACT Health Data Dashboard.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government capture data on the availability of translating and interpreting services to ensure that there are sufficient services available for medical consultations in the ACT health system.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the Listening Report provided to Government in May 2025 on improving the functionality of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advocate to the Remuneration Tribunal for increased pay for Members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately provide a sustainable case management system for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner's office that supports the Commissioner's objectives.

1. Introduction

- 1.1. All annual and financial reports for the territory were tabled on 21 October 2025. A collated list of annual and financial reports is available online.¹
- 1.2. During its inquiry, the Standing Committee on Social Policy (the Committee) was required to examine all or part of the following annual and financial reports for 2024–25:
 - ACT Health Directorate Annual Report 2024–25;
 - ACT Official Visitors Annual Report 2024–25;
 - Canberra Health Services Annual Report 2024–25;
 - Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Annual Report 2024–25;
 - Community Services Directorate Annual Report 2024–25;
 - Education Directorate Annual Report 2024–25;
 - Corrigendum tabled 30 October 2025;²
 - Infrastructure Canberra Annual Report 2024–25.
- 1.3. On 9 September 2025, the Committee resolved to examine the annual and financial reports of the University of Canberra and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner as part of this inquiry.

Conduct of the inquiry

- 1.4. The Committee held public hearings on 10, 11, 12, 13, 17, 18 and 21 November 2025. At the hearings, the Committee heard from ACT Government Ministers, Official Visitors, the Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, the University of Canberra, and their respective accompanying officials.
- 1.5. Witnesses who appeared before the Committee are listed at **Appendix A**. Transcripts and footage of the hearings are available on the Assembly website.³
- 1.6. Committees began collecting information on the gender of witnesses in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs of, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses. A table showing the distribution of witness gender is at **Appendix C**.
- 1.7. A total of 195 questions were lodged during the inquiry: 76 questions were taken on notice (QTONs) by Ministers and statutory office holders during the hearings and 119 questions on notice (QONs) were submitted by Committee members and visiting Members of the Legislative Assembly (MLAs) following the hearings.

¹ ACT Government, Annual Reports, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/annual-reports> (accessed 19 November 2025).

² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 40*, 30 October 2025, p 534.

³ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Watch, read and listen*, <https://broadcast.parliament.act.gov.au/> (accessed 26 March 2026).

- 1.8. A list of questions (by subject, submitter, and recipient) is at **Appendix B**, and all published questions and answers available on the [inquiry webpage](#).

Machinery of Government changes

- 1.9. On 1 July 2025, several Machinery of Government changes came into effect to ‘better align the ACT Public Service to government priorities.’⁴ Of particular relevance to this inquiry was the establishment of the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) which incorporated the previous ACT Health Directorate (ACT Health), Community Services Directorate (CSD), and the Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs from the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate (CMTEDD).
- 1.10. The Machinery of Government changes were accompanied by new Administrative Arrangements,⁵ which included changes to some ministerial portfolios.⁶ HCSD officials appeared alongside Ministers to provide evidence in relation to the 2024–25 CSD, ACT Health, and CMTEDD annual reports.
- 1.11. This year the Committee held public hearings with Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) officials and relevant Ministers to examine the iCBR Annual Report. In previous years, iCBR officials have appeared alongside Ministers and directorate officials to provide evidence of major projects related to specific directorates.⁷

Acknowledgements

- 1.12. The Committee thanks everyone who participated in, or otherwise assisted, this inquiry. This includes the ACT Government Ministers, directorate officials, and statutory officers. The Committee extends particular thanks to the Hansard and Broadcasting staff of the Office of the Legislative Assembly.

⁴ ACT Government, *ACTPS 2025 Taskforce Report*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/aboriginal-community-controlled-organisation-establishment-and-expansion-fund/actps-2025-taskforce-report> (accessed 24 March 2026).

⁵ *Administrative Arrangements 2025 (No 1)*, 25 June 2025.

⁶ For example, responsibility for LGBTIQ+ policy and programs transferred from the Chief Minister to the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services.

⁷ For example, iCBR officials (previously Major Projects Canberra) appeared alongside Education Directorate officials and the Minister for Education and Early Childhood for the *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24* to provide evidence on education-related infrastructure projects.

2. Matters considered

Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

- 2.1. Ms Yvette Berry MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs on two occasions.
- 2.2. During the Minister's appearance on 10 November 2025, the following matters were considered:
- the impact of increased rates on the Housing ACT budget;
 - Housing ACT property maintenance, vacancies, distribution, and stock growth;
 - the Specialist Disability Accommodation program;
 - the Central Intake Service;
 - homelessness outreach programs;
 - squatting policy;
 - distribution of Housing ACT properties;
 - affordable rentals, including the Affordable Community Housing Land Tax Exemption Scheme;
 - Woden Youth Foyer; and
 - the Rent Relief Fund.⁸
- 2.3. During the Minister's appearance on 18 November 2025, the following matters were considered:
- the Housing Australia Future Fund;
 - public housing maintenance, including Programme service standards and communication with tenants;
 - implementation of the government-led delivery of the Total Facilities Maintenance Contract;
 - delivery of new public housing under the Growing and Renewing Public Housing Program; and
 - progress on the delivery of prefabricated homes.⁹

Health and Mental Health

- 2.4. Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Health and the Minister for Mental Health on two occasions.

⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 1–37.

⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 November 2025, pp 268–278.

2.5. During the Minister's appearance on 11 November 2025, the following matters were considered:

- elective surgeries;
- Canberra Health Services (CHS) specialist staffing;
- the ACT Government Analytical Laboratory;
- consultation on Voluntary Assisted Dying;
- Local Hospital Network costs and demand;
- ACT Health Directorate staffing;
- CO₂ emissions targets and electric vehicle use;
- cross-border payments and liabilities;
- data on bulk billed appointments;
- implementation of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2018*;
- activity-based funding;
- the Child and Adolescent Mental Health Service and support for young people thinking about gender;
- ACT Health Directorate strategic indicators and targets;
- alcohol and other drug services and facilities;
- procurement of equipment by CHS using private donations;
- recruitment of nursing staff;
- occupational violence in CHS;
- Access Mental Health service targets;
- the inquest into the death of Rozalia Spadafora; and
- hospital discharges and the availability of appropriate respite care.¹⁰

2.6. During the Minister's appearance on 18 November 2025, the following matters were considered:

- Arcadia House relocation;
- the Heli Deck at The Canberra Hospital, including usage, cost, design, and safety concerns;
- delivery of Tier 1 and Tier 2 health infrastructure projects, including:
 - Southside Hydrotherapy Pool;
 - Watson Health Precinct;

¹⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 38–84.

- the new northside hospital project; and
- Inner South Health Centre.
- multi-story carparking at The Canberra Hospital; and
- Commonwealth Government funding for ACT Health infrastructure.¹¹

Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

2.7. Dr Marisa Paterson MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence on 11 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- the discontinuation of the Nguru program run by the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC);
- the Room for Change program and funding for the Multicultural Hub;
- the ACT Government's coercive control and affirmative consent online campaigns;
- the Safer Families Levy;
- the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Coordinator-General;
- supports for children and young people exhibiting harmful sexualised behaviours;
- funding and demand for the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS); and
- the *Domestic Violence Agencies (Information Sharing Amendment) Act 2024*.¹²

Women

2.8. Dr Marisa Paterson MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister Women on 11 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- women's safety targets and engagement;
- the Women's Return to Work Grants program;
- funding for the women's sector;
- the Third Action Plan for the *Women's Plan 2016–2026*, development of the next Women's Plan, and establishment of the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women;
- the free period products initiative;
- funding for the Office for Women;
- renegotiation of core contracts with DVCS, CRCC, and EveryMan; and
- Audrey Fagan Programs and Grants.¹³

¹¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 November 2025, pp 279–287.

¹² *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 85–102.

¹³ *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 102–119.

Children, Youth and Families

- 2.9. Mr Michael Pettersson MLA appeared in his capacity as the Minister for Children, Youth and Families on 12 November 2025. The following matters were considered:
- the Therapeutic Support Panel, including consultation, support provided, and a future independent evaluation;
 - Child and Family Centre programs;
 - Next Steps for our Kids; and
 - out-of-home care transition plans and support to find affordable accommodation.¹⁴

Multicultural Affairs

- 2.10. Mr Michael Pettersson MLA appeared in his capacity as the Minister for Multicultural Affairs on 12 November 2025. The following matters were considered:
- the 2025 National Multicultural Festival, including grants, attendance and feedback;
 - impact of construction work on the 2026 National Multicultural Festival;
 - humanitarian supports for refugees;
 - availability of domestic and family violence supports for culturally and linguistically diverse communities;
 - reporting in accordance with the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*;
 - ACT Government use of interpreting and translation services, including the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters;
 - the Ministerial Advisory Council on Multiculturalism, including annual reporting requirements;
 - multicultural diversity across statutory and committee appointments;
 - the overseas qualification and assessment service; and
 - funding for multicultural services and organisations.¹⁵

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

- 2.11. Ms Suzanne Orr MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs on 12 November 2025. The following matters were considered:
- staffing within the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs;
 - remuneration of the ACT Reconciliation Council and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body;

¹⁴ *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 120–139.

¹⁵ *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 140–156.

- Yerrabi Yurwang Housing and the provision of culturally appropriate housing;
- cultural competency training across HCSD;
- the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Establishment and Expansion Fund;
- implementation of the Jumbunna Report recommendations;
- implementation of the *National Agreement on Closing the Gap* and the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028*, including the delivery of the Transformation Strategy and Phase 3 work; and
- the child development census.¹⁶

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

2.12. Ms Barbara Causon PSM appeared in her capacity as the Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner on 13 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- the office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, including staffing, case management processes and systems, and access for the public;
- reports of alleged child sex trafficking;
- work priorities and areas of focus for the office, including youth justice, the child protection system, young people transitioning out of out-of-home care, family-finding and family connection, and the recommendations from the Jumbunna Review report;
- the importance of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner role and the powers of the Commissioner; and
- the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth Advisory Group.¹⁷

Disability, Carers and Community Services

2.13. Ms Suzanne Orr MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services on 13 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- the Working with Vulnerable People scheme, including registration, compliance, information sharing, and ministerial advice regarding the proposed \$11 fee for volunteers;
- development of a Disability Death Review function;
- funding for the community sector, including implementation of the \$10 million boost announced in the 2025–26 Budget;

¹⁶ *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 157–174.

¹⁷ *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 175–183.

- funding to support and strengthen LGBTIQ+ communities, including sector sustainability;
- the *ACT Carers' Strategy 2018–2028* and development of the next action plan;
- implementation of the Carers' Recognition Card;
- disability accommodation in Housing ACT properties, including tracking of Specialist Disability Accommodation funding;
- implementation of the *Disability Inclusion Act 2024*;
- implementation of foundational supports; and
- workforce data on ACT Public Service employees with disabilities.¹⁸

University of Canberra

2.14. Officials from the University of Canberra (UC) appeared on 13 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- the National Centre for Australian Literature;
- public housing, including UC students seeking reasonable adjustments through the Specialist Disability Accommodation program;
- student housing, including occupancy, complaints mechanisms, accessibility, and cost;
- staff employment, including underpayment of casual professional staff; and
- UC partnerships and H Courses.¹⁹

Education and Early Childhood

2.15. Ms Yvette Berry MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Education and Early Childhood on two occasions.

2.16. During the Minister's appearance on 17 November 2025, the following matters were considered:

- management and remediation activities following the closure of several ACT public schools in response to safety warnings about traces of asbestos in 'craft sand' used in schools;
- ACT work, health and safety legislation requirements regarding the treatment of products suspected of containing asbestos;
- priority enrolment areas and applications for out-of-area enrolment on wellbeing grounds;
- flexible scheduling in schools and its effectiveness;

¹⁸ *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 184–204.

¹⁹ *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 205–214.

- staffing in ACT public schools;
- drivers of, and responses to, occupational violence in ACT public schools;
- an update on the ban on mobile phone use in schools; and
- senior secondary school language offerings for 2026.²⁰

2.17. During the Minister's appearance on 18 November 2025, the following matters were considered

- Tier 1 and Tier 2 education infrastructure projects, including:
 - Telopea Park School;
 - Strathnairn School;
 - Garran Primary School expansion and modernisation;
 - Majura Primary School modernisation;
 - New Primary School in Whitlam;
 - Narrabundah College modernisation;
 - Second Gungahlin College in Nicholls; and
 - Molonglo Valley College.
- the status of the proposed new primary school in Belconnen; and
- the determination and categorisation of education infrastructure projects and responsibility between iCBR and the Education Directorate.²¹

Seniors and Veterans

2.18. Ms Suzanne Orr MLA appeared in her capacity as the Minister for Seniors and Veterans on 17 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- implementation of 'nature prescriptions' under the *Age-Friendly City Plan 2020–2024*;
- consultation on, and development of, the next Age-Friendly City Plan;
- work to support the establishment of a veterans' wellbeing centre in the ACT and access to the veterans' hub in Queanbeyan;
- roll-out of the Support at Home program;
- the response to the Royal Commission into Defence and Veteran Suicide;
- digital literacy and in-person service delivery offerings for seniors;
- an update on activities of the Ministerial Advisory Council for Veterans and their families, including contributions to the Department of Veterans' Affairs regarding the establishment of a national peak body for ex-service organisations;

²⁰ *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2025, pp 215–241.

²¹ *Committee Hansard*, 18 November 2025, pp 258–267.

- whether driving restrictions associated with the use of medical cannabis have been raised with the office for seniors and veterans;
- the Veterans Grant Program;
- work on elder abuse, including with multicultural communities; and
- consideration of the proposed Food as a Healthy Social Connection program.²²

ACT Official Visitors

2.19. Representatives of the ACT Official Visitors appeared on 21 November 2025. The following matters were considered:

- timing and processes to visit Bimbiri Youth Justice Centre;
- budget pressures for ACT Official Visitors and engagement with the relevant ministers;
- the Adult Mental Health Unit, including facility improvements, additional work required, and discharge challenges;
- challenges impacting discharges from visitable places, including limited housing availability;
- delays in disability modifications for Housing ACT properties; and
- deaths in disability care and a disability death review function.²³

²² *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2025, pp 242–257.

²³ *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2025, pp 288–298.

3. Key issues

Housing

Property distribution across the ACT

- 3.1. The Committee sought information about the distribution of Housing ACT properties across the Territory and the availability of longitudinal data to demonstrate changes over time, noting a perception that public housing was being decentralised to the outer suburbs.²⁴
- 3.2. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs advised that tracking movements in housing stock over an extended period would be administratively complex, given factors such as sales, demolitions, rebuilds and changes in stock composition.²⁵ Officials advised that compiling this detailed data over time would also require diverting staff from other priorities.²⁶
- 3.3. In addition to these challenges, the Committee was informed that privacy and safety are concerns when providing suburb-level data:

If a person who was wanting to perpetrate violence, for example, understood that their partner was in public housing and somehow found out that it was in Waramanga, they then might be able to go through and understand where public housing is just from chatting through the neighbourhood and then locating their spouse or their partner or ex-partner. If it is a smaller number, it would be easier for a potential perpetrator to investigate. That is in the safety space.²⁷
- 3.4. In response to a question taken on notice (QTON), the Minister provided the following table outlining the district-level overview of Housing ACT properties in 2020 and 2025:

²⁴ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 17.

²⁵ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 17.

²⁶ Ms Penny Shields, Acting Executive Group Manager, Housing Assistance, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 18.

²⁷ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 18.

District	HACT Properties 30 Jun 2020	HACT Properties 30 Jun 2025
Belconnen	3,020	3,089
Gungahlin	1,198	1,253
Canberra Central	3,035	2,916
Molonglo	231	346
Tuggeranong	2,530	2,589
Weston Creek	792	769
Woden Valley	868	897
Rural/Other	30	14
Total	11,704	11,873

Figure 1: Distribution of ACT Housing properties by district [Source: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QTON 9*, 10 November 2025 (received 20 November 2025), p 2].

Committee comment

- 3.5. The evidence received during this inquiry suggests that data regarding distribution of ACT Housing properties does exist but is not proactively compiled or presented in a readily accessible format.
- 3.6. The Committee considers that inclusion of aggregated district-level distribution data in future annual reports would improve transparency and address any concerns regarding the geographic spread of public housing stock. This would enable clearer assessment of changes over time while appropriately managing privacy concerns.

Recommendation 1

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include in all future Housing ACT Annual Reports a table indicating the distribution of Housing ACT properties across the different districts of the ACT, and how that has changed over the preceding years.

Squatting policy

- 3.7. Housing ACT manages properties in accordance with the *Residential Tenancies Act 1997* and has standard operating procedures that guide its response and management when reports of unauthorised occupants in vacant properties are received.²⁸
- 3.8. The Committee sought clarification on the process for engaging with unauthorised occupants after evidence provided to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026 indicated limited engagement outside of issuing an Unauthorised Occupants Notice.²⁹

²⁸ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QTON 8*, 10 November 2025 (received 27 November 2025), p 1.

²⁹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 328*, Select Committee on Estimates 2024–25, 6 August 2025 (received 25 August 2025), p 1.

- 3.9. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs noted the importance of speaking to unauthorised occupants wherever possible, advising that Housing ACT's job, through whatever means, is to try and offer them support if they are willing and/or put them in touch with support services.³⁰
- 3.10. The Minister confirmed on notice that the approach taken to responding to reports of unauthorised occupants in ACT Housing properties may differ depending on individual circumstances:³¹

It is common, when responding to reports of Unauthorised Occupants, that no one is onsite at the time of inspection by HACT [Housing ACT]. In these cases, HACT officials will affix a standard notice to the property entry which advises that occupation is unauthorised and provide contact information for support services and Housing ACT. In cases where Unauthorised Occupants are onsite at the time of inspection, where safe to do so, HACT officials will engage with the person/s to provide guidance on next steps and when appropriate, serve the notice directly, as this is a legal requirement, after assessing the situation and individual circumstances.³²

Committee comment

- 3.11. The Committee acknowledges that individual circumstances will inform the most appropriate and safe approach to engage with unauthorised occupants in ACT Housing properties. However, the Committee considers that Housing ACT could adopt a more proactive approach when engaging with squatters residing in vacant Housing ACT properties, with a clear focus on identifying appropriate housing pathways and connecting individuals with relevant support services. Formalising this approach within policy and procedures would help ensure that engagement is consistent and prioritises support alongside property management obligations.

Recommendation 2

The Committee recommends that Housing ACT take a more proactive approach to engaging with squatters residing in its vacant properties to find them appropriate housing and connect them with support services.

³⁰ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 16.

³¹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homelessness, Homes and New Suburbs, *answer to QTON 8*, 10 November 2025 (received 27 November 2025), p 2.

³² Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QTON 8*, 10 November 2025 (received 27 November 2025), p 2.

Leasing arrangements

- 3.12. Community housing is provided at Housing ACT properties through head leasing arrangements with community service providers. As of 12 December 2025, there were 35 organisations engaged through head leasing arrangements with Housing ACT.³³
- 3.13. In a response to a question on notice (QON), the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs advised that Housing ACT aims to commence discussions with these organisations three months prior to the conclusion of existing contracts, however the timing of budget decisions can affect the ability to engage earlier.³⁴ The Minister also noted that Housing ACT may not have visibility of other ACT Government funding streams supporting those organisations.³⁵

Committee comment

- 3.14. Community housing organisations play an important role in providing appropriate social housing in the ACT and are often supporting vulnerable individuals and families.
- 3.15. The Committee notes that several of the organisations engaged through head leasing arrangements may receive ACT Government funding for other services they provide to the community.³⁶ Nevertheless, the Committee considers that earlier finalisation of head leasing and associated contractual arrangements would provide greater certainty for providers and support continuity of service delivery for those living in community housing.

Recommendation 3

The Committee recommends that Housing ACT finalise future funding arrangements with organisations engaged through head leasing arrangements six to 12 months in advance of their contracts expiring.

Specialist Disability Accommodation

- 3.16. Specialist Disability Accommodation (SDA) funding is provided through the National Disability Insurance Scheme to deliver housing modifications for people with very high physical needs, supporting them to live more independently in homes that meet their requirements.³⁷

³³ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 9*, 10 November 2025 (received 11 December 2025).

³⁴ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 9*, 10 November 2025 (received 11 December 2025), p 3.

³⁵ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 9*, 10 November 2025 (Received 12 December 2025), p 3.

³⁶ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 9*, 10 November 2025 (received 12 December 2025), pp 1–2.

³⁷ National Disability Insurance Scheme, *Specialist disability accommodation*, <https://www.ndis.gov.au/providers/housing-and-living-supports-and-services/specialist-disability-accommodation> (accessed 2 April 2026).

- 3.17. In 2017, Housing ACT registered to become an SDA provider,³⁸ and at the time of the hearings for this inquiry, there were around 110 Housing ACT properties enrolled in the SDA program.³⁹
- 3.18. In a statement to the Committee, the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs advised that, despite being a registered SDA provider, SDA had never been operationalised by Housing ACT. The Minister advised that she had made the decision not to renew Housing ACT's registration after advice from the Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) indicated Housing ACT would not be able to meet all requirements for reregistration. The Minister confirmed that she had written to the Auditor-General drawing the matter to his attention.⁴⁰

Committee comment

- 3.19. While this issue was a key point of discussion during the hearings for this inquiry, the Committee notes that the Assembly has referred an inquiry into SDA service delivery through Housing ACT to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration. As this inquiry is ongoing, the Committee has refrained from making recommendations specific to the SDA program in this report, and has written to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration to alert the Committee to the evidence received during this inquiry for its consideration.

Disability housing audit

- 3.20. The Committee examined the adequacy of modifications in public housing designated for SDA to ensure that properties meet the needs of tenants with disabilities. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs noted:

This is also an opportunity to better understand the needs of those particular tenants and to ensure that there are no outstanding modification requests to their homes. This feedback from tenants and from the community housing providers will guide decision making on the future role of the ACT government in providing specialist disability accommodation.⁴¹

- 3.21. The Committee also heard from the Vice-Chancellor of the University of Canberra, who raised concerns regarding some SDA properties not being fit-for-purpose, noting that some developers have provided cookie-cutter designs and that a small number of providers have treated SDA as a 'financial product' rather than prioritising tenant needs.⁴²

³⁸ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 6.

³⁹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 3.

⁴⁰ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 3–4.

⁴¹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 4.

⁴² The Hon Bill Shorten, Vice-Chancellor, University of Canberra, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 206–207.

Committee comment

- 3.22. The Committee considers that the issues raised regarding disability modifications through the SDA revelations highlight the need for a thorough audit of public housing to ensure that properties are suitably modified to meet the needs of tenants with disabilities.

Recommendation 4

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government undertake an audit of housing used for people with disabilities to ensure that these properties meet appropriate standards and are suitably modified to meet residents' needs. The Committee further recommends that, where any property is found not to meet these standards, the ACT Government take immediate steps to make the necessary modifications or relocate affected tenants to more suitable accommodation if that is the tenant's preference.

Increased rates

- 3.23. Housing ACT pays rates as a public trading enterprise. While it is funded by the ACT Government, it is not a government directorate, and paying rates is not a new financial obligation.⁴³
- 3.24. The Committee sought information on the impact of increased rates on Housing ACT's budget in the 2025–26 financial year. In a QTON response, the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs provided the impact of rates increases as a percentage of recurrent funding, as shown in the following table:

Item	Figures
General rates increase in 2025	\$1,898,000
Recurrent appropriation	\$61,652,000
Rates increase as % of recurrent appropriation	3.1%

Figure 2: Impact of rates increases as a percentage of recurrent funding for Housing ACT [Source: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QTON 1*, 10 November 2025 (received 20 November 2025), p 3].

- 3.25. The Minister confirmed that the 'increase in rates outlined in the above table is \$958,000 higher than originally forecast in the 2025–26 Budget Statements.'⁴⁴
- 3.26. Officials noted that fluctuations in the number of properties and the 3.75 percent indexation on recurrent funding can partially offset increases in rates. However, the Committee questioned whether this is sufficient. Officials advised:

⁴³ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 2.

⁴⁴ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 2.

... when we are putting our budgets together, there are general movements across the board. We might have expected a certain number of properties at a point in time and budgeted for that in terms of our rates. If we have a lower number of properties, there will be a slight surplus there, and we can use that to offset other increases in rates as well. As you touched on, we also have that 3.75 per cent increase in our funding for the rates themselves. There are several things that are happening, with movements in either direction, but our net increase that we are looking at was that \$958,000 that was referenced.⁴⁵

Committee comment

- 3.27. The Committee notes that the 3.75 percent indexation on Housing ACT's recurrent funding may be insufficient to cover the increase in rates, noting other costs also increase year on year. This suggests that Housing ACT faces additional financial pressure that is not fully mitigated by current funding arrangements. The Committee considers that exempting Housing ACT from paying rates would help relieve this pressure and ensure that resources are directed to core housing services.

Recommendation 5

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government exempt Housing ACT from paying rates.

Maintenance for modifications

- 3.28. The Committee notes concerns raised regarding the maintenance of public housing, including whether necessary maintenance and modifications are being completed within published service standards.⁴⁶
- 3.29. In response to a QTON, the Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs provided a breakdown of repairs and maintenance performance against both the targets:

⁴⁵ Mr Lewis Heyward, Chief Financial Officer, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, pp 35–36.

⁴⁶ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 13*, 10 November 2025 (received 3 December 2025), p.3.

KPI	Sub KPI	Category	Description	Result	Target
1	1.1	Responsive Repair and Maintenance	U4 – % of all urgent repairs completed within 4 hours	89.00%	100%
	1.2		PND – % of all priority repairs completed by 5pm next calendar day	89.40%	100%
2	2.1		D5 – % of all repairs completed within 5 calendar days	79.48%	100%
	2.2		D20 – % of all repairs completed within 20 calendar days	77.88%	100%
3	3.1		Planned maintenance activities completed in line with Annual Planned Maintenance Program	96.17%	95%+
5	5.1		Work Order Management	Planned Maintenance work orders – % completed against quarterly schedule	99.33%

Figure 3: Performance data against responsive repairs and maintenance categories [Source: Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 13*, 10 November 2025 (received 3 December 2025)].

3.30. While planned maintenance activities and work orders are meeting or exceeding targets, responsive repairs are consistently falling short of targets. Urgent and priority repairs are completed at around 89 percent against a target of 100 percent, with performance declining further for longer timeframes.⁴⁷ This suggests that while scheduled work is being delivered effectively, there are ongoing challenges in meeting time-based targets for other repairs.

Committee comment

3.31. The Committee notes that, alongside the challenges identified in meeting time-based repair targets, there has been a reduction in client service visit targets from 11,000 to 6,000 in 2025–26.⁴⁸ The Committee acknowledges the Minister’s advice that this reduction is due to an essential staff safety measure requiring Housing Assistance field work to be undertaken by two staff members.⁴⁹ However, the Committee considers that this reduction may further impact the timely identification and resolution of maintenance issues for tenants.

⁴⁷ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 13*, 10 November 2025 (received 3 December 2025), pp 1-4.

⁴⁸ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 13*, 10 November 2025 (received 3 December 2025), p.3.

⁴⁹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 13*, 10 November 2025 (received 3 December 2025), pp 1-4.

Recommendation 6

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government complete necessary maintenance and modifications to public housing within published service standards and consider the impact of reduced client visits.

Mutual transfer requests

- 3.32. Mutual exchange requests within the public housing system enable tenants to swap properties by mutual agreement.⁵⁰
- 3.33. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs advised that eligibility is subject to a range of requirements, including ongoing public housing eligibility, bedroom entitlement, and both properties being at a lettable standard.⁵¹ These requirements are governed by the *Public Housing Rental Assistance Program 2023* under the *Housing Assistance Act 2007* and the *Financial Management Act 1996*.⁵² One of these requirements is that neither party may have a debt owing to Housing ACT.⁵³
- 3.34. The Minister advised that all criteria must be met for a mutual exchange to proceed, although discretion may be exercised by a delegate in cases of hardship or exceptional circumstances.⁵⁴ The Housing ACT Debt Management Policy outlines the matters to be considered when exercising this discretion:
- the amount of the debt
 - any reasons why the debt has not been repaid, including domestic and family violence
 - whether the person has signed an agreement to repay the existing debt
 - if an agreement has been signed:
 - the length of time the agreement has been in place
 - whether repayments towards the debt are being maintained in line with the agreement
 - evidence that the person has successfully maintained a tenancy elsewhere.
 - the person's current situation.⁵⁵

Committee comment

- 3.35. The Committee considers that current eligibility criteria, particularly the requirement that people not have a Housing ACT debt, may limit the ability for mutual transfer requests to

⁵⁰ See ACT Government, *Transfer or swap your public housing home*, <https://www.act.gov.au/housing-planning-and-property/public-housing/transfer-or-swap-your-public-housing-home> (accessed 13 April 2026).

⁵¹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 14*, 10 November 2025 (received 28 November 2025), p 2.

⁵² Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 14*, 10 November 2025 (received 28 November 2025), p 2.

⁵³ ACT Government, *Transfer or swap your public housing home*, <https://www.act.gov.au/housing-planning-and-property/public-housing/transfer-or-swap-your-public-housing-home> (accessed 13 April 2026).

⁵⁴ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 14*, 10 November 2025 (received 28 November 2025), p 2.

⁵⁵ ACT Government, *Housing ACT Debt Management policy*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/debt-management-policy#Legal-framework> (accessed 13 April 2026).

be progressed in a timely manner. The Committee considers the operation of these settings should be reviewed, including the possibility for people to continue to repay their existing Housing ACT debt following transfer to a new Housing ACT property, to ensure that the system is supporting tenants to access suitable housing outcomes.

Recommendation 7

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review policies and legislative settings relating to mutual transfers and ensure that appropriate requests can be progressed within three months of being made. Where barriers are identified, the Committee recommends that the ACT prioritise making any necessary policy or legislative changes.

Public housing targets

- 3.36. The Committee sought information regarding the adequacy of current public housing stock targets to meet the ACT's population growth demand. The Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs explained that the ACT Government was 'tackling the housing crisis from a number of different fronts':⁵⁶

You will see growth in a whole range of different housing, from public housing for those people who need it most, to community housing, affordable rentals, private build to rents, build to rent to buys, which is another initiative that we are doing here in the ACT, as well as the 30,000 to which the ACT government has committed to grow housing generally, including the 5,000 community, affordable and public, by 2030. You are seeing growth. No, it is not the same as population growth, in the public housing numbers.⁵⁷

- 3.37. The *ACT Housing Strategy 2018–2028* 'does not set a single "optimal" number of public housing dwellings per capita', rather includes targets and principles which are based on demand and population growth indicators.⁵⁸ It then relies on adaptive targets which are regularly reviewed to ensure public housing supply meets real-time need.⁵⁹
- 3.38. The Minister confirmed that the ACT Government was focused on short to medium-term housing targets, including growing the Housing ACT portfolio to 13,200 properties by 2030, however 'opportunities for growth of the portfolio beyond the short to medium-term targets remain a key priority.'⁶⁰

⁵⁶ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 31.

⁵⁷ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *Committee Hansard*, 10 November 2025, p 31.

⁵⁸ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 15*, 10 November 2026 (received 11 December 2026), p 2.

⁵⁹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 15*, 10 November 2026 (received 11 December 2026), p 2.

⁶⁰ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs, *answer to QON 15*, 10 November 2026 (received 11 December 2026), p 2.

Committee comment

- 3.39. The Committee notes that current public housing targets are focused on the short to medium-term and do not extend beyond the next four years to 2030. Given the absence of specified targets in the ACT Housing Strategy, the Committee considers that long-term planning is needed to ensure the future housing needs of Canberrans are met as the population continues to grow.

Recommendation 8

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a long-term public housing construction plan to ensure that the future housing needs of Canberrans are met beyond current short- and medium-term targets.

Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander crisis services

- 3.40. The Committee sought information regarding reports that the Nguru Program, a crisis support program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people operated by the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre (CRCC), would be discontinued.⁶¹
- 3.41. The Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence advised that funding to CRCC had not been discontinued, noting that significant funding was provided in the most recent Budget. However, the Minister confirmed that there is no requirement within CRCC's funding agreement to deliver a dedicated program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and 'it is up to the board and CEO of CRCC as to how that money is allocated throughout their service and what services they deliver.'⁶² Officials explained:

We have been in discussions with CRCC following the 2025-26 budget, and have been in negotiations with them about how the new portion of funding can be allocated to meet the needs of the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre in support of its delivery of programs and services. The point we have reached is an arrangement where CRCC has a level of flexibility in what it delivers, but the kinds of programs and services for particular groups like the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community are a matter for them.

What we do require is that the Canberra Rape Crisis Centre, and all domestic, family and sexual violence services, deliver a culturally safe and a culturally responsive service. How they do that is different across organisations.⁶³

⁶¹ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 85.

⁶² Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 85.

⁶³ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2026, p 86.

- 3.42. The Committee heard that several organisations were funded to deliver Domestic and Family Violence services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities,⁶⁴ however none operate a crisis line like the CRCC and the Domestic Violence Crisis Service (DVCS).⁶⁵ The DVCS had confirmed in October 2025 that increased demand and costs meant some people were unable to get through on their crisis line.⁶⁶

Committee comment

- 3.43. In light of the ACT Government's stated commitments to improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities, and broader concerns regarding crisis calls not always being answered in a timely manner across the service system, the Committee considers that access to a dedicated, culturally informed crisis response service is crucial, particularly where no equivalent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led crisis support service is currently available.

Recommendation 9

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government support the establishment of a dedicated domestic, family and sexual violence crisis service for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and ensure funding for domestic, family and sexual violence crisis services is sufficient for all calls from people in crisis to be answered and actioned in a timely way.

Safer Families accountability indicators

- 3.44. The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSO) has one output related to the work of the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office (DFSVO). The sole accountability indicator for this output is the presentation of a family violence statement to the ACT Legislative Assembly.⁶⁷
- 3.45. Officials advised that this was a historic indicator, noting that the Community Services Directorate (CSD) had previously committed to review and revise accountability indicators following the Machinery of Government changes, with further information expected in the next budget.⁶⁸
- 3.46. When asked whether alternative or additional indicators had been considered, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence advised:

The work that is going on at the moment is to understand what that might be. I would not want to speculate and just pull things out of thin air. I think it is important that we do revise them. I do not think they are fit for purpose. Looking at the work

⁶⁴ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025 p 86.

⁶⁵ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025 pp 86–87.

⁶⁶ Ms Sue Webeck, Chief Executive Officer, Domestic Violence Crisis Service, Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration, *Committee Hansard*, 13 October 2025, pp 1–2.

⁶⁷ Community Services Directorate, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 363.

⁶⁸ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 98.

that is being done on the strategy, it would be good to have some alignment with that as well.⁶⁹

Committee comment

- 3.47. The Committee is concerned that the sole accountability indicator for Output 1.5 Safer Families does not meaningfully measure the effectiveness or impact of the ACT Government's domestic, family and sexual violence response. While noting that the indicator is under review, the Committee considers it essential that revised indicators are developed in consultation with domestic, sexual and family violence organisations to promote effectiveness and real-world change for victim-survivors.

Recommendation 10

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult domestic, sexual and family violence organisations and finalise the new accountability indicators under the Safer Families output, in order to ensure that they are fit for purpose and drive genuine positive change for people experiencing domestic, sexual and family violence.

Contract negotiations during peak demand periods

- 3.48. The Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence advised that core contract renegotiations were occurring with the DVCS, the CRCC, and EveryMan.⁷⁰ The DFSVO had written to these organisations providing a indicative timeline for the renegotiation.⁷¹
- 3.49. The Committee sought clarification of the timing of these negotiations and whether organisations would be required to submit responses over December and January, a period where organisations typically run on reduced staffing. The Minister confirmed that funding was stable during this period and that the negotiation would look to refine and streamline contracts with an indicative timeline of mid-2026.⁷²

Committee comment

- 3.50. The Committee is concerned that undertaking core contract negotiations during the December–January period may place unnecessary strain on domestic, family and sexual violence services at a time of peak demand and reduced workforce capacity. The Committee considers that better timing of these processes would support sector sustainability and service delivery.

⁶⁹ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 89–90.

⁷⁰ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 115.

⁷¹ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive General Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 115.

⁷² Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 115.

Recommendation 11

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government avoid running community sector commissioning or the renegotiations of core contracts over the December–January period where more staff are likely to be on leave, and when services may experience a peak in demand.

Multicultural Women’s Service

3.51. The Multicultural Hub offers two family and domestic violence programs for culturally and linguistically diverse communities:

- Multicultural Women’s Service (Women’s service) – provides Domestic and Family Violence support for multicultural women, children and young people including (but not limited to) case management and coordination, safety planning, referrals, brokerage and information and education sessions;⁷³
- Men’s Non-Violence Behaviour Program (Men’s service) – provides support to culturally and linguistically diverse men who are at risk or are using domestic, sexual and family violence.⁷⁴

3.52. While each service is independent, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence advised that there was a strong referral between the two programs.⁷⁵

3.53. The Committee heard that while the Men’s service was funded for three years to 2027,⁷⁶ funding was not confirmed for the complementary Women’s service beyond June 2026. The Minister advised:

This will be a matter for budget consideration over the coming budget process, recognising that it is a really valuable program, and it is identified that there need to be specific offerings to the culturally and linguistically diverse community in Canberra. mHub does a lot of really good work. It will be a matter for future budget consideration.⁷⁷

3.54. When asked what other services were available, the Minister advised the Women’s service was the ‘main service’ with other community organisations running culturally specific services within their local community. These services do not receive government funding.⁷⁸

⁷³ Multicultural Hub, *Domestic And Family Violence Support*, <https://mhub.org.au/domestic-and-family-violence-support/> (accessed 16 March 2026).

⁷⁴ Multicultural Hub, *CALD Men’s Non-Violence Behaviour Program*, <https://mhub.org.au/cald-mens-non-violence-behaviour-program/> (Accessed 16 March 2026).

⁷⁵ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 90.

⁷⁶ Ms Mimi Dyll, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2026, p 89.

⁷⁷ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 89.

⁷⁸ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 91.

- 3.55. The Committee sought to understand the demand for the Women’s service and how this might inform a future budget decision.⁷⁹ The Minister confirmed on notice that while mHub does not have or maintain a waitlist, no women had been turned away from the Women’s service.⁸⁰

Committee comment

- 3.56. While the mHub Men’s service is funded through to 2027, the Women’s service could finish partway through 2026 if no further support is provided. The Committee notes that, despite the difference in funding timelines, the two programs complement each other and together provide important support to multicultural communities.

Recommendation 12

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the ongoing provision of culturally appropriate Domestic and Family Violence programs for Multicultural communities.

Women

ACT Women’s Plan and sector funding

- 3.57. The ACT Women’s Plan sets out the ACT Government’s ongoing commitment to work in partnership with non-government organisations, business and the broader community towards gender equality for ACT women.⁸¹ The plan is set to conclude in 2026, and the Committee sought an update on the work underway for the replacement plan.⁸²

- 3.58. Officials advised that work had commenced to independently evaluate the plan, which would inform the development of the next plan:⁸³

The first step for us, and the thing we want to commence early next year, will be working with government and community stakeholders to map service gaps and to identify community needs and their priorities to see in the next Women’s Plan. The evaluation of the previous plan and the establishment of the women’s council will really help us cement what the plan is, and we will have a good six months to bed down feed in consultation findings and bed down the final plan.⁸⁴

- 3.59. The Minister for Women advised that the development of the next Women’s Plan will involve substantial consultation with the community sector and broader community,

⁷⁹ Ms Chiaka Barry MLA and Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 90–91.

⁸⁰ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence, *answer to QTON 28*, 11 November 2025 (received 19 November 2025), p 2.

⁸¹ ACT Government, *ACT Women’s Plan 2016–26*.

⁸² Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 107.

⁸³ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 107.

⁸⁴ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 109.

including the Women's Ministerial Council on Gender Equity.⁸⁵ The Minister announced the appointment of the Council in an update to the Assembly in March 2026.⁸⁶

Women's sector funding

- 3.60. In the context of the new plan, the Committee raised concerns that current funding structures for organisations in the Women's sector, including short term grants, may contribute to insecure employment and challenging working conditions for a predominately female workforce.⁸⁷
- 3.61. The Minister for Women acknowledged that workforce sustainability is a significant issue, particularly within the domestic, family and sexual violence sector, and advised that negotiations relating to enterprise bargaining agreements in the community sector were underway. The Minister further noted that workforce capability and support would be a priority consideration through the budget strategy process, and that the development of the new Women's Plan would provide an opportunity to consider these matters.⁸⁸
- 3.62. The Committee asked whether there was scope for the Minister for Women to advise Treasury on funding processes that better support the sector and its workforce. Officials advised that:

All budget submissions and cabinet submissions require a wellbeing impact assessment. That assessment is quite comprehensive. It requires the author of the document to consider the submission and the impact to various priority groups, including women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and to give cabinet that kind of information when it is making its considerations.⁸⁹

Committee comment

- 3.63. The Committee considers that co-design with women's organisations and addressing the impacts of insecure, short-term funding on feminised workforces should be central to the development of the new Women's Plan and broader community sector funding processes. This consultation should include consideration of the impact of six to 12-month funding contracts on organisations' ability to attract and retain staff and offer continuity of employment in a predominantly feminised workforce.

Recommendation 13

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government work closely with organisations that support women to co-design the upcoming Women's Plan / Gender Equity Plan.

⁸⁵ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Women, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 107.

⁸⁶ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Women, *Proof Debates*, 18 March 2026, p 849.

⁸⁷ Miss Laura Nuttall MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 106.

⁸⁸ Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for Women, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, pp 106–107.

⁸⁹ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 107.

Recommendation 14

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the Office for Women engages with Treasury and the Health and Community Services Directorate on the impact of low funding levels and insecure work on feminised workforces within the community sector and embed this work in both the upcoming Women's Plan/ Gender Equity Plan and community sector funding processes.

Children, Youth and Families

Bimberi Youth Justice Centre

Health assessments and screening

- 3.64. The Committee sought advice on whether children and young people are screened for neurological and cognitive conditions, including Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD), when entering detention at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre.⁹⁰
- 3.65. The Minister for Children, Youth and Families advised:
- Children, Youth and Families (CYF) consider multiple factors when undertaking an assessment for risk of significant harm to a child or young person or when completing a youth justice intake. These factors include whether a child or young person has been diagnosed with a disability or has a medical condition and whether this impacts on the parent or carer's ability to provide care and protection. For young people in detention in the ACT, Canberra Health Services is the provider of health care with Bimberi. If any concerns are identified through observation, self-disclosure, or information provided during the risk assessment process, referrals are made to the appropriate health services.⁹¹
- 3.66. Screening for neurological and cognitive conditions such as ADHD and FASD was raised during public hearings of the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–26.⁹² Canberra Health Services officials advised that, specific screening for these conditions was not included in the health assessments undertaken during the first 24 hours after a young person enters Bimberi:

Through the course of the detainee's contact with our health services, if we suspect it or they provide evidence or suggestions around a particular condition, whatever that might be, we can be engaged in further assessment and potentially interventions and treatment at that stage. But to potentially screen for a large variety of conditions, from a resource perspective it would be very challenging.⁹³

⁹⁰ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, *QON 55: Youth Justice health screening*, 12 November 2025.

⁹¹ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer to QON 55*, 12 November 2025 (received 1 December 2025), p 1.

⁹² Select Committee on Estimates 2025–26, *Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2025, pp 299–301.

⁹³ Mr Bruno Aloisi, General Manager, Mental Health, Justice Health and Alcohol and Drugs Service, Canberra Health Service, *Select Committee on Estimates 2025–25, Committee Hansard*, 24 July 2025, pp 300–301.

- 3.67. The Therapeutic Support Panel identified FASD as a systemic issue in its 2025 Report, pointing to research suggesting ‘FASD is underdiagnosed across Australia in population groups that come into contact with the justice system.’⁹⁴

Committee comment

- 3.68. The Committee recognises that referrals occur where concerns are identified but remains concerned that there is no systematic screening process for neurological and cognitive conditions upon entry into detention. The Committee notes that children and young people with FASD are more likely to exhibit behaviours that increase their risk of involvement with the youth justice system,⁹⁵ and without appropriate identification and adequate supports, these conditions may contribute to repeated contact with the justice system.⁹⁶

Recommendation 15

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government screen all young people upon their entry to the Bimberi Youth Justice for neurological and cognitive conditions including Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder, and ensure appropriate support is made available both during and after detention.

Lock-ins

- 3.69. The ACT Official Visitors’ Annual Report 2024–25 lists frequent lock-ins as an area of complaint by young people detained at the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Bimberi).⁹⁷
- 3.70. The Committee notes that information provided to the Assembly by the Minister for Children, Youth and Families in response to a Chamber QON indicated staffing shortages continue to be a major driver for frequent lock-ins.⁹⁸ For the period 1 March 2025 to 28 February 2026, there were 70 lockdowns at Bimberi, with 68 of these occurring due to staffing levels.⁹⁹

Committee comment

- 3.71. The Committee is concerned by reports of frequent lock-ins at Bimberi connected to staffing shortages. Given the negative impacts of frequent and unpredictable lock-ins on the wellbeing and rehabilitation of young people,¹⁰⁰ the Committee considers additional funding should be provided to address staffing shortages to reduce the frequency of lock-ins in the future.

⁹⁴ ACT Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 26.

⁹⁵ ACT Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 27.

⁹⁶ ACT Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 26.

⁹⁷ ACT Official Visitors, *Annual Report 2024/25*, p 19.

⁹⁸ ACT Human Rights Commission, *Commission Initiated Review of Allegations Regarding Bimberi Youth Justice Centre*, March 2019, [Review-of-Allegations-Regarding-Bimberi-Youth-Justice-Centre-2019.pdf](#), p 61.

⁹⁹ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer QON 946: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Capacity and staffing)*, 3 March 2026 (received 2 April 2026) pp 4–5.

¹⁰⁰ See discussion of the impact of lockdowns by the ACT Human Rights Commission. Source: ACT Human Rights Commission, *Commission initiated review of allegations regarding Bimberi Youth Justice Centre*, March 2019, p 61.

Recommendation 16

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure sufficient staffing and appropriate risk profiling at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including through increased funding, to reduce the use of lock-ins.

Unaccompanied access

- 3.72. During the public hearings, the ACT Official Visitors raised concerns about restrictions on their ability to move through Bimberi unescorted. They noted that visits are conducted with security escorting them through doors and buildings, and that this was the only induction they had received to Bimberi. Official Visitors expressed concern that staff are often nearby and able to hear conversations, which may affect their ability to build trust with young people detained at Bimberi.¹⁰¹
- 3.73. The Committee notes that restrictions on unescorted access are not limited to Official Visitors but also affect other statutory office holders. The Minister for Children, Youth and Families advised the Assembly in a response to a Chamber QON that the powers of entry vary between oversight roles. Decisions regarding unaccompanied access by Statutory Office holders are made by the HCSD Director-General or their delegate.¹⁰²

Committee comment

- 3.74. The Committee considers unescorted access would be valuable for all statutory office holders in carrying out their legislative oversight responsibilities effectively and independently.

Recommendation 17

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government facilitate unescorted access to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, including for Official Visitors, to be able to fulfill their legislative obligations and that they be provided with the necessary training and radio to be unescorted.

Therapeutic Support Panel evaluation

- 3.75. The Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) is a statutory body which was established in 2024 as part of the reforms to raise the minimum age of criminal responsibility.¹⁰³ The TSP assesses therapeutic needs of children and young people, provides advice on treatment and support, and assists those at risk of or engaging in harmful behaviours.¹⁰⁴
- 3.76. When asked whether the rollout of the TSP would be independently evaluated, the Minister for Children, Youth and Families advised that a review process would occur, with

¹⁰¹ Ms Kim Ward, Official Visitor for Young People, *Committee Hansard*, 21 November 2025, p 289.

¹⁰² Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer to QON 942: Bimberi Youth Justice Centre (Children and Young People Commissioner)*, 26 February 2026 (received 16 March 2026), pp 1–2.

¹⁰³ ACT Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 9.

¹⁰⁴ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *answer to QTON 37*, 12 November 2025 (received 25 November 2025), p 1.

procurement activities commencing shortly.¹⁰⁵ The Chair of the TSP advised that there was money in the budget allocated towards evaluation, and stressed the need for an external evaluator to be engaged early in the process:

We just need to make sure we find ways to make sure the evaluation plan and the indicators for success are selected early enough, so that we can make sure we can collect that data over a period of time. In March we will be two years into it. We have got a preliminary evaluation framework to think about what that looks like, but we really need someone external to be able to do that robust evaluation of what we are doing.

And as a recovering evaluator, I think it is really important that we do make sure someone external helps us choose those indicators for success and analyses that data, because that is how we have our ongoing learning and improvement. So, I do not want to wait to the end. I think we need to make sure we collect that data and iteratively look at it, to see how well it is going so we can continue to adapt. What we call a developmental evaluation.¹⁰⁶

Committee comment

- 3.77. The Committee agrees with the Chair of the TSP that an independent evaluator should be engaged early to develop indicators of success and support a developmental evaluation.

Recommendation 18

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure an independent evaluator is engaged early enough to undertake a developmental evaluation of the Therapeutic Support Panel.

Multicultural Affairs

Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism reporting

- 3.78. The Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM) is established under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* and consists of 11 members from diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds.¹⁰⁷ It works with peak bodies and community groups to provide advice to the Minister for Multicultural Affairs.¹⁰⁸
- 3.79. The MACM is required to prepare an annual report under the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.¹⁰⁹ In previous years the MACM has provided an update on its work in the CSD annual report and the Minister for Multicultural Affairs' annual ministerial

¹⁰⁵ Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 128.

¹⁰⁶ Dr Justin Barker, Chair, Therapeutic Support Panel, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 128.

¹⁰⁷ *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, ss 8 and 11.

¹⁰⁸ ACT Government, *Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism - ACT Government*, <https://www.act.gov.au/directorates-and-agencies/health-and-community-services-directorate/ministerial-advisory-council-for-multiculturalism> (accessed 31 March 2026).

¹⁰⁹ *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, s 14.

statement in the Legislative Assembly.¹¹⁰ The MACM also publishes a work plan, which is available on the Health and Community Services Directorate website.¹¹¹

- 3.80. The Committee raised concerns that this did not meet the reporting requirements under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*.¹¹² In response to a question taken on notice, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs advised that the former Community Services Directorate had informed the MACM that it could provide content for inclusion in the CSD annual report. The Minister confirmed that the HCSD had requested legal advice as to whether this approach is consistent with the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* and the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.¹¹³

Committee comment

- 3.81. If this legal advice establishes that the MACM is required to publish a standalone annual report, the Committee considers that the Minister should provide a statement to the Assembly explaining why this commitment has not been met.

Recommendation 19

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that the Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism publishes its annual reports for the past two years and that future annual reports are published on time.

Multicultural ACT

- 3.82. Multicultural ACT provides advice to directorates on the representation of people from multicultural communities when consulting on proposed board and committee appointments.¹¹⁴
- 3.83. Officials explained how this process operates:

When there is a vacancy on a board or a committee that the ACT government convenes, the Multicultural ACT team is sent all the applicants, and there is typically a panel that is convened to shortlist applicants. Sometimes the recruitment processes are more extensive than others. Typically, there would be a panel that is convened. The recommendations of the panel are sent to the Multicultural ACT team, who then consider the diversity of the panel and the broad representation of the community on that board, committee or council—whatever the forum is.¹¹⁵

¹¹⁰ Ms Tina Connor, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 151.

¹¹¹ Health and Community Services Directorate, *Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism*, <https://www.act.gov.au/directorates-and-agencies/health-and-community-services-directorate/ministerial-advisory-council-for-multiculturalism> (accessed 31 March 2026).

¹¹² Ms Chiaka Barry MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 150 and 156.

¹¹³ Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *answer to QTON 49*, 12 November 2025 (received 25 November 2025), p 1.

¹¹⁴ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025 p 154.

¹¹⁵ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025 p 154.

- 3.84. Despite this, there are no formal mechanism to monitor the diversity and inclusion makeup of boards and committee appointments across government once appointments have been made, or to assess whether the final composition of these bodies reflects the diversity of the ACT community. The Committee was advised that the role of Multicultural ACT is limited to providing advice and does not extend to comparing that advice with appointment outcomes.¹¹⁶

Committee comment

- 3.85. The Committee considers that improved monitoring of the composition of boards and committees across government would provide greater transparency regarding whether appointments reflect the diversity of the ACT community.

Recommendation 20

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement an improved system to monitor the diversity and inclusion makeup of boards to ensure they better reflect the ACT community.

Multiculturalism reporting

- 3.86. Under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, all ACT Government directorates are required to report annually on how they promote multiculturalism, including how they apply the principles of the Charter for Multiculturalism and consider multicultural inclusion in their policies and programs.¹¹⁷
- 3.87. In response to a QTON, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs explained that each ACT Government directorate reports on its obligations under the Act in its annual report, noting that the CSD Annual Report 2024–25 outlines activities undertaken to meet these obligations.¹¹⁸ The Committee notes that this information is limited to the actions of the Office of Multicultural Affairs and does not appear to include information about how the principles of the Charter are being embedded in other areas of CSD.¹¹⁹

Committee comment

- 3.88. The Committee considers future annual reports of the Health and Community Services Directorate should include reporting on how other areas of the directorate outside the Office of Multicultural Affairs are embedding the principles of the Charter for Multiculturalism in their broader policies and operations.

¹¹⁶ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 154.

¹¹⁷ *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, ss 15–16.

¹¹⁸ Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *answer to QTON 43*, 12 November 2025 (received 27 November 2025), p 2.

¹¹⁹ Community Services Directorate, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 181.

Recommendation 21

The Committee recommends that future Health and Community Services Directorate Annual Reports include more comprehensive reporting on the implementation of its positive duties under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023*, beyond just the activities of the Office for Multiculturalism.

Diversity and inclusion

3.89. The ACT Government has expressed a commitment to implementing principles of diversity, equity and inclusion across the ACT Public Service.¹²⁰

3.90. Officials advised that a diversity inclusion policy sits within the corporate area of HCSD which guides work around recruitment, training and support.¹²¹ Officials outlined the process undertaken for recruitment:

Within the Health and Community Services Directorate, when we do recruitment, we include language in all of our advertisements which promotes and encourages applications from people from different cultural groups, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Also, often, active efforts are made to promote the recruitment through EthicalJobs or other platforms where we know people are looking to work in the Health and Community Services Directorate.¹²²

3.91. The *Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy 2024–2027*, outlines actions for the former Community Services Directorate to build an inclusive culture, develop capability, and support diverse workforce participation. This strategy contained objectives and actions across recruitment, training, leadership, and inclusion initiatives.¹²³

Committee comment

3.92. Following the creation of HCSD, the Committee considers it important to bring together the objectives of both the former ACT Health Directorate and CSD under a single, cohesive diversity and inclusion plan. This would help to ensure a consistent and coordinated approach and prioritising the development of inclusive workforce practices across HCSD.

3.93. The Committee considers that updating recruitment policies to more substantially embed multiculturalism and inclusion would strengthen HCSD's capacity to attract, retain, and support a workforce that reflects the diversity of the community it serves.

¹²⁰ ACT Auditor-General, *Diversity, Equity and Inclusion in the ACT Public Service* (Performance Audit Report No 1/2026, 2026) p 1.

¹²¹ Ms Anne Maree Sabelico, Acting Deputy Director-General, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 148–149.

¹²² Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025 p 148.

¹²³ Community Services Directorate, *Diversity, Inclusion and Belonging Strategy 2024-2027*.

Recommendation 22

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the Health and Community Services Directorate's recruitment policies to substantially promote diversity and inclusion.

Recommendation 23

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government craft and implement a Diversity and Inclusion Action Plan across the Health and Community Services Directorate.

Funding for ACT multicultural organisations

- 3.94. The Committee raised concerns regarding the financial viability of multicultural organisations in the ACT, including the Multicultural Hub and Migrant and Refugee Settlement Services, particularly where limited alternative sources of funding are available.¹²⁴
- 3.95. The Minister for Multicultural Affairs advised that funding is a part of the budget process, but acknowledged the uncertainty caused by contracts nearing their close, including the challenges this presents for organisations, staff, and the continuity of services.¹²⁵
- 3.96. In response to a QON, the Minister drew attention to the annual National Multicultural Festival, noting that 'for many multicultural community groups, it is the largest fundraising opportunity of the year, and also provides opportunities to build lasting cross-cultural connections, strengthen stakeholder relationships, and promote community collaboration and cohesion.'¹²⁶ Furthermore, as outlined in its Annual Report 2024–25, CSD provides targeted support to multicultural organisations through programs and grants such as the Participation (Multicultural) Grants, which funded 19 organisations in 2023–24, and 32 in 2024–25.¹²⁷

Committee comment

- 3.97. The Committee recognises the important role that grant programs and opportunities such as the National Multicultural Festival play in supporting multicultural organisations. However, reliance on periodic grants and event-based fundraising alone may not provide the level of certainty required for effective long-term workforce, service, and organisational planning. The Committee considers that more stable funding arrangements would better support the sustainability of multicultural organisations and the continuity of services they provide to ACT communities.

¹²⁴ Mr Andrew Braddock MLA, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 153.

¹²⁵ Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 153–154.

¹²⁶ Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *answer to QON 64*, 12 November 2025 (received 8 December 2025) pp 1–2.

¹²⁷ ACT Community Services Directorate, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 144.

Recommendation 24

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government implement a long-term funding model for ACT multicultural organisations to provide greater certainty and support effective planning.

Disability, Carers and Community Services

Disability Death Review Scheme

3.98. The Committee sought an update on progress to establish a disability death review scheme.¹²⁸ The scheme was one of the recommendations from the Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability (Disability Royal Commission),¹²⁹ and would ‘assess, record, monitor, and review such deaths, formulate preventative strategies, maintain a death register, and support an expert advisory committee.’¹³⁰

3.99. The ACT Government advised it had accepted the recommendation in principle and further work was needed to understand how the concept could be delivered:

We are in the initial scoping stages of that deaths review scheme. That includes us considering issues around information sharing, particularly between the ACT government, the NDIS and the Quality and Safeguards Commission. I cannot pre-empt decisions taken by the government, but we would expect an action around exploring that review scheme further would be considered in upcoming disability action plans. That is again a decision taken by government. That would be the timeframe that we are looking at.¹³¹

3.100. The Official Visitor for Disability, stressed the importance of progressing a disability death review function, and highlighted the impact of limited information about the deaths of people with disability in care:

As far as deaths are concerned, for us, it would be very helpful to have that information closer, so that we can look at incident reports. Quite often they are people that we may be familiar with or know from previous visits. If we hear of somebody passing away four months ago and we met with them a month or two previously, and we were not aware of anything leading up to a potential death, it would give us more insight into the potential issues. It may be relating to care, it may be relating to health care and identifying any issues, particularly when there are several comorbidities and, in general, the complexity of care that is required.¹³²

¹²⁸ ACT Official Visitors, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 7.

¹²⁹ Royal Commission into Violence, Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation of People with Disability, *Executive Summary, Our Vision for an Inclusive Australia and Recommendations* (Final Report, September 2023) pp 306–308.

¹³⁰ ACT Official Visitors, *Annual Report 2024–25* (Annual Report, 2025), 9.

¹³¹ Mr Shaun Kelly, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Disability, Seniors, Veterans and Social Recovery, Strategic Policy, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 204.

¹³² Ms Kim Webster, Official Visitor Disability, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 297.

Committee comment

- 3.101. The Committee notes that this issue has been raised by the Official Visitors since 2021 and remains a significant ongoing concern,¹³³ with the 2024–25 Annual Report recommending that addressing the Disability Royal Commission recommendations be prioritised.¹³⁴ The Committee also recommended the establishment of a disability death review scheme in its previous Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24, with the ACT Government agreeing to the recommendation in principle.¹³⁵
- 3.102. While acknowledging that the ACT Government has accepted the recommendation in principle and that preliminary work has commenced, the Committee considers that progressing the implementation of a disability death review function is critical to ensuring that the deaths of people with disability are appropriately examined. As such, this work should be progressed as a priority.

Recommendation 25

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government urgently implement a disability death review function.

Community sector funding boost

- 3.103. The Community Sector Funding boost, announced in the 2025–26 ACT Budget, allocated \$10 million over two years to approximately 140 eligible community sector organisations.¹³⁶ The additional funding was a temporary measure to address the increased demand for essential services and the increased costs experienced by community organisations delivering those services.¹³⁷
- 3.104. The Committee sought an update on the impact of the funding boost and broader pressures affecting the sustainability of community organisations in the ACT. Officials advised that a tiered methodology was being used to allocate the funding:

Based on how much funding they [community sector organisations] receive from the ACT Government, we have created a tiering system for allocating that funding out to organisations. So non-government organisations who are eligible for the funding who receive less than \$20,000 of funding from the ACT Government receive a funding boost allocation of \$5,000; organisations that receive base funding of \$21,000 to of \$65,000 would receive a boost of \$10,000; and organisations that receive funding of over \$66,000 would receive a boost of \$37,000.

¹³³ ACT Official Visitors, *Annual Report 2023/24*, p 8.

¹³⁴ ACT Official Visitors, *Annual Report 2024/25* p 7.

¹³⁵ ACT Government, *Standing Committee on Social Policy – Report 1– Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 Government Response*, September 2025, pp 10–11.

¹³⁶ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025–26: Budget Outlook*, p 123. This pressure was noted in the ACTCOSS *State of the ACT Community Sector Report 2025*, which found ‘while 80% of respondents indicated their organisations receive ACT Government funding, only 7% say it covers the full cost of service delivery, and 9% consider their funding sustainable.’ See, ACTCOSS, *State of the ACT Community Sector Report 2025*, December 2025, p 8.

The majority of organisations sit in that last category, of the \$37,000. At this stage, the funding has been allocated to 134 of those organisations already...So soon the money will be all allocated.¹³⁸

3.105. Officials advised that initial feedback from the sector had been positive:

There has been a lot of really positive feedback around a few things—one, the methodology and understanding that it was important to have that tiering and understanding that providing an organisation that receives a small amount of funding to receive a large amount in the boost would be hard for them to manage and so that the methodology of the boost was really sound. The fact that organisations are able to allocate the funding to the range of things that they are able to and that they can make that choice themselves has also been really positively received. Additionally, we have received really positive feedback around the fact that organisations are able to work together and to pool their funding if they want to work towards joint decision-making.¹³⁹

3.106. The Minister confirmed that the funding boost was a temporary measure while the government examined the broader sustainability of the community sector ‘so that we are not reliant on measures such as this over a longer period of time.’¹⁴⁰

Committee comment

3.107. While the temporary funding boost has been positively received, the Committee is concerned that community sector organisations require further sustained funding increases, particularly in the context of increasing cost pressures and demand across the sector.

3.108. The Committee considers that short-term funding measures, while beneficial, do not address the underlying and ongoing sustainability challenges faced by the sector, particularly in relation to workforce and operational capacity. The Committee considers it is important that progressing work on community sector sustainability is prioritised to ensure the sector can continue to deliver services effectively without the need for ongoing temporary funding arrangements.

Recommendation 26

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government progress work on community sector sustainability as a matter of priority.

¹³⁸ Ms Fiona Dolan, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Service Design, Strategic Policy, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 190–191.

¹³⁹ Ms Fiona Dolan, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Service Design, Strategic Policy, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 191–192.

¹⁴⁰ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 193–194.

Funding for LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations

3.109. The Committee examined the adequacy and sustainability of funding arrangements for LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations under the Strengthening and Supporting LGBTIQ+ Communities grant program. The program provides grant funds to support community-led peer support initiatives for LGBTIQ+ people with disability.¹⁴¹ Funded activities in 2024–25 included:

- Delivery of LGBTIQ+ training for ACT Government directorates and community services.
- Peer led psychosocial support for LGBTIQ+ people and their families.
- Operation of the CBR Pride Hub.
- Building organisational capacity building to meet the needs of clients who identify as LGBTIQ+ and also live with disability.
- Operation of the Service User Reference Group.¹⁴²

3.110. The Committee raised concerns from LGBTIQ+ community organisation, Meridian, regarding the reliance of LGBTIQ+ community sector groups on funding from this stream and the impact of year-on-year funding. Meridian received year on year funding through the program from 2024–25, following a four-year contract from 2019–2024.¹⁴³ The Minister advised:

I have had meetings with Meridian where they have raised this issue. I have also had meetings with other organisations within the LGBTIQ+ community services sector that have raised similar concerns. We are looking at how we can best address that and work through how we get to something that is a bit more stable, regarding what we put out. We will continue to work through that, knowing that we are still going through all our budgetary processes and considerations. We need to be in line with those.¹⁴⁴

3.111. Officials noted that the Strengthening and Supporting LGBTIQ+ Communities grant program is not Meridian’s sole source of government funding and the directorate had worked closely ‘to negotiate what is realistic’ within the funding allocated.¹⁴⁵ Officials advised that they would take on board consideration of alternative models to provide greater funding stability for Meridian and other queer organisations going forward.¹⁴⁶

¹⁴¹ Community Services Directorate, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 51.

¹⁴³ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 195.

¹⁴⁴ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, pp 194–195.

¹⁴⁵ Ms Tina Connor, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 195.

¹⁴⁶ Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion, Health and Community Services Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 196.

Committee comment

- 3.112. While acknowledging that community sector groups such as Meridian may receive government funding from other sources, the Committee remains concerned that the limited nature of year-on-year contracts impacts on the longevity and sustainability of community organisations who deliver essential services to members of our community.

Recommendation 27

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the funding envelope for LGBTIQ+ community-led organisations to better reflect the work they do, and allow them to do that work sustainably.

Education

Craft sand products in schools

- 3.113. In November 2025, several ACT public schools were fully or partially closed following advice from the Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) and WorkSafe ACT that several children’s coloured sand products had been found to contain traces of chrysotile asbestos.¹⁴⁷
- 3.114. The Committee heard that the decision to close schools was made to ensure identification, assessment and remediation activities could occur in accordance with the *Work Health and Safety Regulations Act 2011* and the *Work Health and Safety Regulations 2011*.¹⁴⁸ Officials advised the cost of these remediation activities was yet to be determined:
- We know what the costs are in terms of engaging the external contractors. But it is going to depend on the remediation required in each school as to how much that is. We will have to calculate what it has cost once we are through this and we have all of that information.¹⁴⁹
- 3.115. In a statement to the Assembly, the Minister advised that remediation activities were ongoing and that the level of required works varied between schools.¹⁵⁰ While some schools were able to easily isolate sand products, others, such as Malkara School required extensive remediation works, including:

...clearing out the school’s sandpit, digging out and replacing turfed areas, pressure cleaning all hard surfaces, and scraping off the top layer of all soft-fall spaces before the space could be cleared. Then the playground needed to be relandscaped before students could return...¹⁵¹

¹⁴⁷ ACT Government, *Craft sand products in schools*, <https://www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/latest-articles/craft-sand-products-in-schools> (accessed 13 April 2026).

¹⁴⁸ Ms Jo Wood, Director-General, Education Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2025, pp 216–217.

¹⁴⁹ Ms Jo Wood, Director-General, Education Directorate, *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2025, p 217.

¹⁵⁰ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, *Proof Debates*, 2 December 2025, pp 3625

¹⁵¹ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, *Proof Debates*, 2 December 2025, pp 3625.

- 3.116. On 5 February 2026, the Treasurer presented the *ACT Budget 2025–2026: Budget Review*,¹⁵² which provided an additional \$2 million for the removal and remediation of asbestos-contaminated sand in ACT public schools.¹⁵³ Recent media reporting suggests that \$1.6 million has already been expended with more invoices being collected.¹⁵⁴

Committee comment

- 3.117. The Committee notes reports that the full scope and expenditure on remediation works is yet to be finalised. The Committee considers the full cost of remediation works, when known, should be published to ensure transparency of how the additional funds provided in the Budget Review have been spent.

Recommendation 28

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish a full breakdown of costs for the closure of schools related to asbestos-laden sand as soon as possible.

Flexible education

- 3.118. The ACT public education system includes a range of flexible education programs offered at alternative school settings to support learning for children who need complex and intensive support.¹⁵⁵ Of these, the Muliyan program is a voluntary program offered in-person for children in years 7 to 10.¹⁵⁶
- 3.119. The Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) called for more adequate funding for flexible education,¹⁵⁷ and noted in its 2025 report that demand for flexible education consistently outstrips availability.¹⁵⁸ The Muliyan flexible education model was noted as being ‘highly effective for children and young people’:

For a large proportion of the TSP cohort, Muliyan represents the most appropriate response, providing onsite education that responds to their individual needs. However, its ability to respond at scale is constrained by the physical limits of its premises, and the demand for this program now significantly exceeds capacity. To meet the level of need in the ACT, government could consider investment to bolster and expand Muliyan so that it can operate at a scale proportionate to demand.¹⁵⁹

- 3.120. The Committee reported on the oversubscription for the Muliyan program in its *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*,¹⁶⁰ and was advised that the ACT Government

¹⁵² ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 46*, p 813.

¹⁵³ ACT Government, *ACT Budget 2025–2026: Budget Review*, February 2026, p 45.

¹⁵⁴ Nieve Walton, ‘How much did the asbestos sand shutdown cost?’, *Canberra Times*, 6 March 2026, pp 10–11.

¹⁵⁵ ACT Government, *Alternative school settings*, <https://www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/find-a-school-and-enrol/alternative-school-settings> (accessed 19 March 2026).

¹⁵⁶ ACT Government, *Alternative school settings*, <https://www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/find-a-school-and-enrol/alternative-school-settings> (accessed 19 March 2026).

¹⁵⁷ Dr Justin Barker, Chair, Therapeutic Support Panel, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 127.

¹⁵⁸ Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 28.

¹⁵⁹ Therapeutic Support Panel, *Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People 2025 Report*, p 28.

¹⁶⁰ Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Report 1: Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*, April 2025, pp 62–63.

had committed to review the offering.¹⁶¹ The Minister advised in response to a QON for this inquiry that this review had commenced:

In October 2025, the Education Directorate (Directorate) engaged Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu through a competitive procurement process to deliver the Review of Flexible Education in the ACT, which includes the consideration of Muliyan, outreach and Waruga Yardhura. The final findings of this review will be reported to the Directorate in March 2026 and will inform future design, delivery and potential expansion of flexible education in the ACT public system. The ACT Government acknowledges that students from across Canberra access Muliyan. As part of the review and ongoing service planning, the Directorate is exploring options to expand access, which could include services delivered from other locations in the future, which would be subject to future decisions of government.¹⁶²

Committee comment

- 3.121. The Committee acknowledges that at the time of writing, the outcomes of the *Review of Flexible Education in the ACT* have not been made public. Nevertheless, over subscription for the Muliyan program has now been raised with the Committee in two consecutive Annual Reports inquiries, suggesting there is a continuing trend of unmet demand.

Recommendation 29

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government invest in expanding its in-person flexible education offering to increase the number of students able to access this service.

Out-of-area enrolments

- 3.122. ACT public schools are grouped into two categories for enrolment purposes:
- Category A schools, which have high demand and usually do not have available places for students outside their Priority Enrolment Area (PEA); and
 - Category B schools, which usually have some places available for students outside their PEA.¹⁶³
- 3.123. Category A and B schools will consider applications on wellbeing grounds and where the student has a sibling attending the school (subject to capacity). Category B schools will also consider applications where students are seeking to access a curriculum choice that is not offered at their PEA school.¹⁶⁴

¹⁶¹ ACT Government, *Standing Committee on Social Policy – Report 1– Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24 Government Response*, September 2025, p 18.

¹⁶² Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, *answer to QON 105*, 17 November 2025 (received 10 December 2025, p 1).

¹⁶³ ACT Government, 'Apply to a school outside your area, <https://www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/find-a-school-and-enrol/apply-to-a-school-outside-your-area#How-we-consider-your-application> (accessed 13 April 2026).

¹⁶⁴ ACT Government, 'Apply to a school outside your area, <https://www.act.gov.au/education-and-training/find-a-school-and-enrol/apply-to-a-school-outside-your-area#How-we-consider-your-application> (accessed 13 April 2026).

- 3.124. In 2025, the Education Directorate commenced a centralised process for the assessment of out-of-area enrolment applications made on wellbeing grounds. Under this process, the Education Directorate undertook an assessment of the application against the eligibility criteria, providing advice to relevant principals who made the final decision on whether the application was accepted.¹⁶⁵
- 3.125. The Committee sought advice on the extent to which out-of-area enrolments on wellbeing grounds were rejected. The Minister for Education and Early Childhood advised that 1,214 applications were received on wellbeing grounds across the ACT. Of these, 263 were recommended for acceptance and 952 for decline.¹⁶⁶ Officials advised they were unable to provide data on the breakdown of out-of-area enrolment applications for previous years due to how the data was collected.¹⁶⁷
- 3.126. The Committee notes additional data on out-of-area applications for curriculum reasons was provided to the Assembly in April 2026 in response to a QON. In relation to out-of-area college applications to access language courses, the Minister advised:

As of 12 February 2026, 115 enrolment applications were received, applying to an out-of-area college to access a language course in 2026. Of those, 73 were accepted, and 42 declined. Of the 42 declined, 31 were due to school capacity, 10 were declined because the chosen language course was available at the student's local school, and one was declined because the language course was not available at the out-of-area school applied to.¹⁶⁸

Committee comment

- 3.127. The Committee is concerned that school capacity constraints may impact students' ability to access schools outside their PEA on wellbeing grounds and/or impact their curriculum choices. The Committee considers further information is required on the number of out-of-area enrolment applications to ensure transparency and effective planning. Publicly disclosing the total number of applications, the grounds for those applications, and the proportion of accepted and rejected would provide help identify systemic pressures on schools and ensure student needs are addressed.

Recommendation 30

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publicly disclose in all future Annual Reports the number of Out of Area Enrolment applications made to each school with reasons for those applications, what percentage were accepted or rejected, and the reasons for any rejected applications.

¹⁶⁵ Mr Michael Crowther, Acting Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform, *Committee Hansard*, 17 November 2025, p 230.

¹⁶⁶ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, *answer to QTON 63*, 17 November 2025 (received 1 December 2025), p 2.

¹⁶⁷ Mr Michael Crowther, Acting Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 231.

¹⁶⁸ Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood, *answer to QON 872*, 3 March 2026 (received 2 April 2026) p 1.

Health

Disability accessibility

- 3.128. In 2023, Canberra Health Services (CHS) contracted specialist Disability Discrimination Act consultant Eric Martin and Associates to undertake an audit of CHS facilities to assess their ease of use by people with a disability against a set of pre-determined criteria.¹⁶⁹ The audit was identified as an action under the *Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2022–2025*.¹⁷⁰
- 3.129. In response to a QTON, the Minister for Health provided a copy of the *Facilities Management Disability Action Inclusion Plan Report Summary*.¹⁷¹ A total of 54 CHS sites were included in the audit, which identified 780 actions consisting of 10 high priority, 368 medium priority and 402 low priority actions. Definitions of each priority level is outlined in figure 4.

Priority type	Definition of criteria	Time frame for completion
High priority	<p>Focused on navigation access. Ability for consumers to enter the building and key facilities and moving around, with the assumption that further face-to-face assistance can be provided once the consumer is in the building.</p> <p>Actions are part of regulation and compliance.</p>	Should be programmed as soon as practical within 1 – 2 years
Medium priority	<p>Medium priority upgrades are those that do not directly impact access to services but could greatly improve the experience for people with disability.</p> <p>Actions may also require major refit or funding to implement.</p>	Should be incorporated into a future program for upgrade in the medium time frame within 2-5 years
Low priority	<p>Elements that are not within the building code or regulated but should be considered as part of improving access and well-being for people with disability.</p>	To be upgraded when the opportunity arises or future planning within 5 to 10 years.

Figure 4: Priority type, criteria and timeframe for actions identified from the accessibility audit of CHS facilities [Source: Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 27*, Attachment A, 11 November 2025 (received 24 November 2025), p 2].

¹⁶⁹ Tenders ACT, *Contract 2022120701*, <https://www.tenders.act.gov.au/contract/view?id=205489> (Accessed 18 March 2026).

¹⁷⁰ Canberra Health Services, *Disability Action and Inclusion Plan 2022–2025*, p 29.

¹⁷¹ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 27*, Attachment A, 11 November 2025 (received 24 November 2025).

- 3.130. The *Facilities Management DAIP Report Summary* includes details of the 10 high priority actions and the status of their implementation, however notes ‘There is a need to further assess ‘low and medium’ priorities from a consumer lens.’¹⁷²

Committee comment

- 3.131. The Committee notes the information provided on the 10 high priority actions identified in the accessibility audit of CHS facilities, and the status of actions to address these. Given the medium and low priority actions identified could improve the experience and wellbeing of people with disability, the Committee considers the full results of the disability accessibility audit should be made public to ensure transparency and accountability for their implementation.

Recommendation 31

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the full results of the disability accessibility audit of Canberra Health Services’ facilities and provide details of implementation activities against all recommended actions.

Health data

- 3.132. The ACT Health Data Dashboard was published in the 2024–25 financial year and provides a snapshot of ACT public health service activity and performance data.¹⁷³ The dashboard replaces the previous quarterly ACT health service data reporting,¹⁷⁴ and includes data across the following health domains:
- Emergency department;
 - Elective surgery waiting list;
 - Admitted patient care;
 - Walk-in centre; and
 - Safety and quality of the health system.¹⁷⁵
- 3.133. Similar dashboards in other jurisdictions, such as Queensland, include separate reporting on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health data.¹⁷⁶ When asked whether similar data would be included in the ACT dashboard, the Minister advised this would be considered ‘as the maturity of the system improves’:

Certainly, I have been pleased to see, where we do have the data being reported, that the gap has largely closed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander “did

¹⁷² Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *answer to QTON 27*, Attachment A, 11 November 2025 (received 24 November 2025).

¹⁷³ ACT Health Directorate, *Annual Reports 2024–25*, p 60; ACT Government, *ACT health service data dashboard*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/act-health-service-data-dashboard> (accessed 18 March 2026).

¹⁷⁴ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 67.

¹⁷⁵ ACT Government, *ACT health service data dashboard*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/act-health-service-data-dashboard> (accessed 18 March 2026).

¹⁷⁶ Queensland Government, *First Nations Health*, <https://www.performance.health.qld.gov.au/first-nations> (accessed 18 March 2026).

not waits” in the emergency department. Safety of the emergency department for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and whether or not you waited for treatment, is a well-recognised indicator of how people are experiencing that. Effectively, that gap has now closed between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander consumers and non-Indigenous consumers, which is really good. We would certainly like to be able to report that information publicly, but the priority at the moment is making sure that we can report on our patients.¹⁷⁷

Committee comment

- 3.134. The introduction of the health data dashboard provides an accessible and transparent platform for the public to view the performance of the ACT public health system and hospitals. The Committee considers this transparency should be extended to the performance of these systems for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through dedicated reporting on the health data dashboard. This could help identify specific areas of demand, support public confidence in the delivery of these services, and assist in reporting against health and wellbeing targets under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement.¹⁷⁸

Recommendation 32

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government include Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander health data in the ACT Health Data Dashboard.

Translating and interpreting services

- 3.135. The Committee examined the availability of translating and interpreting services more broadly, particularly in the context of engagement with multicultural communities and inclusive service delivery. Officials advised that, while the ACT is a member of the National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters, this role is limited to supporting national certification standards and does not extend to the direct provision of translation or interpreting services.¹⁷⁹
- 3.136. The Committee further heard that no ACT-specific work is currently underway to increase the availability of interpreters and translators, with current efforts instead focused on engagement with the Australian Government and the Department of Home Affairs to improve the national service and make more translators available.¹⁸⁰
- 3.137. Ahead of the public hearings for this inquiry, media reports raised concerns regarding the availability of appropriate translating and interpreting services within the health system

¹⁷⁷ Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, *Committee Hansard*, 11 November 2025, p 68.

¹⁷⁸ See reporting for Targets 17–19 on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement Dashboard. ACT Government, *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement*, <https://www.act.gov.au/open/act-aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-agreement> (accessed 19 March 2026).

¹⁷⁹ Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *answer to QTON 48*, 12 November 2025 (received 16 December 2025).

¹⁸⁰ Ms Tina Connor, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth & Multicultural Affairs, Inclusion Division, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 149.

and the impact on care for patients.¹⁸¹ In response to a QON, the Minister for Multicultural Affairs advised:

Canberra Health Services does not record the metric of whether issues relating to interpreters pertains to the injury or death of patients as it is not a reportable category of information.¹⁸²

Committee comment

- 3.138. The Committee is particularly concerned about the availability of translating and interpreting services in the health system, where effective communication is critical. The lack of ACT-specific data on service provision means it is unclear whether these services are sufficient to meet community needs.

Recommendation 33

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government capture data on the availability of translating and interpreting services to ensure that there are sufficient services available for medical consultations in the ACT health system.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Independent review of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

- 3.139. The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (the Elected Body) ensures that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT have a strong democratically elected voice, representing the interests and aspirations of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and providing advice to the ACT Government.¹⁸³
- 3.140. In 2024–25, an independent review of the Elected Body was undertaken with the view to improve the functionality of the Elected Body and enhance outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.¹⁸⁴ The final ‘Listening Report’ was delivered to the ACT Government in May 2025, with work occurring with the Elected Body and HCSD prior to it being taken to Cabinet and publicly released.¹⁸⁵
- 3.141. The Committee heard that while the report was comprehensive, its publication had been delayed due to privacy considerations. The Minister advised:

The report was quite detailed, and a lot of interviews with a range of people were undertaken. A lot of the information that came through, while very informative, could

¹⁸¹ Lily Nothling, ‘Calls for more interpreters in Australian medical industry to help those falling behind, *ABC News*, <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-11-07/calls-for-more-translators-in-australian-medical-industry/105978352> (accessed 13 November 2026).

¹⁸² Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs, *answer to QON 66*, 12 November 2025 (received 16 December 2025).

¹⁸³ *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008*, s 8.

¹⁸⁴ Community Services Directorate, *Annual Report 2024–25*, p 174.

¹⁸⁵ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 159.

potentially identify people in a way that invades their privacy. One of the issues we have been working through is how we can best present the information in the report without necessarily impinging on anyone's right to privacy or causing any harm through some of the commentary, in case some of the commentary causes offence in any way.¹⁸⁶

- 3.142. When asked whether the report would be released alongside a government response following a de-identification process, the Minister indicated that the approach remained under consideration.¹⁸⁷

Committee comment

- 3.143. The Committee notes that, while there are legitimate considerations regarding privacy and process, there remains uncertainty regarding the timing and sequencing of the Listening Report's publication. The Committee considers that timely publication of the report, with appropriate safeguards such as de-identification, is important to ensure transparency and to allow the community to benefit from its findings.

Recommendation 34

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish the Listening Report provided to Government in May 2025 on improving the functionality of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Remuneration

- 3.144. As a statutory body, remuneration for members of the Elected Body is determined by the ACT Remuneration Tribunal.¹⁸⁸
- 3.145. The Committee raised that other government advisory bodies are paid more than the Elected Body.¹⁸⁹ The Minister advised:

I must admit that I have not done a comparison across all the different councils—what pay rates there are and the determinations they have. In going to what I believe is the core of your question, though, which is the remuneration of the Elected Body, again, this is an ongoing discussion. As part of the review that is being finalised into the Elected Body, I anticipate that the resourcing, the number of hours and the remuneration of members of the Elected Body will be key parts of that discussion. We will go through that, and the Elected Body has been providing quite a bit of feedback through that process and, to date, anecdotally to me, as to how we address some of those issues.¹⁹⁰

¹⁸⁶ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 160.

¹⁸⁷ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, pp 160–161.

¹⁸⁸ ACT Remuneration Tribunal, *Determination 13 of 2025 (Amended): Part-time Public Office Holders*, 20 February 2026, p 6.

¹⁸⁹ Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, Chair, Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 158.

¹⁹⁰ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 159.

- 3.146. The Committee also queried the funding for the Elected Body secretariat and the sufficiency of that funding. The Minister stated:

My understanding is that secretariat services used to be coordinated out of the Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. Probably two years ago, there was a shift from having it within the office to having it provided externally and independently, to help enliven the Elected Body and give them a bit more independence. That arrangement was put in place, and I believe it was to align with the review that was undertaken of the Elected Body.

However, that review is still being worked through. My understanding is that we are looking at what we can do, because broadly everyone has been quite happy with the arrangement that is there. We are looking at how we can continue that, while we take the initial learnings from the first couple of years and the other considerations around that, and bring it all together.¹⁹¹

Committee comment

- 3.147. The Committee notes the distinct and important role of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in providing the democratically elected voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT. The work of the Elected Body plays an important role in helping to strengthen the delivery of government commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement.
- 3.148. Accordingly, the Committee considers that this should be reflected in the resourcing for the Elected Body, including secretariat support and remuneration arrangements for its members, to support members to effectively undertake this important role.

Recommendation 35

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advocate to the Remuneration Tribunal for increased pay for Members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

- 3.149. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner is an independent statutory office holder appointed in accordance with the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*.¹⁹² The Commissioner's functions include:
- advocating on behalf of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people;

¹⁹¹ Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, *Committee Hansard*, 12 November 2025, p 159.

¹⁹² *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*, ss 8–10.

- promoting the enjoyment of their rights and those of their families;
- inquiring into matters that affect their safety, development and wellbeing; and
- intervening in relation to decisions that will affect the rights or interests of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people.¹⁹³

3.150. The Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner prepares an annual statement which is tabled in the Legislative Assembly.¹⁹⁴ The 2025 Annual Statement was tabled on 24 March 2026.¹⁹⁵

Case management system

3.151. The Committee sought an update on the development of a case management system for the Commissioner's office. The Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, Ms Barbara Causon PSM, advised that the system is still being progressed, noting that there has been 'one demonstration of the proposed case management system and another demonstration is currently being organised.'¹⁹⁶ Ms Causon further explained that the Office is somewhat reliant on Digital Canberra to assist with implementation, and there is no exact timeframe for completion of the final stages of testing.¹⁹⁷

3.152. Ms Causon, who was appointed as the Acting Commissioner shortly before the public hearings commenced,¹⁹⁸ outlined ongoing issues with the absence of an appropriate case management system, highlighting difficulties in accessing some case records, stating:

Given the lack of an appropriate case management system for the office, accessing some of the case records has been quite difficult. We hope that the new case management system will resolve that issue. I also do not have access to any information that might have gone directly to Commissioner Turnbull-Roberts. So there are some gaps or emails that went directly to other staff members that may no longer be in the office. I do not have access to that information.¹⁹⁹

Committee comment

3.153. The Committee notes that it made a similar recommendation to the one below when this issue was first raised during its *Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*.²⁰⁰ Changes in staffing in the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner have further highlighted the risk associated with not having a sustainable case management system.

¹⁹³ *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*, s 11.

¹⁹⁴ *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Act 2022*, s 12.

¹⁹⁵ ACT Legislative Assembly, *Minutes of Proceedings, No 53*, 24 March 2026, p 920.

¹⁹⁶ Ms Barbara Causon PSM, Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 178.

¹⁹⁷ Ms Barbara Causon PSM, Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 178.

¹⁹⁸ *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner Acting Appointment 2025*, NI2025-550.

¹⁹⁹ Ms Barbara Causon PSM, Acting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner, *Committee Hansard*, 13 November 2025, p 180.

²⁰⁰ Standing Committee on Social Policy, *Report 1: Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023–24*, April 2025, p 74.

- 3.154. The Committee notes the Commissioner’s advice that testing was occurring with Digital Canberra and considers the ACT Government should prioritise this work to quickly implement a suitable and appropriate system to support the Commissioner’s objectives.

Recommendation 36

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government immediately provide a sustainable case management system for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner’s office that supports the Commissioner’s objectives.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1. The Committee would like to thank the Ministers, statutory officers and directorate staff who participated in this inquiry.
- 4.2. The Committee makes 36 recommendations.

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA
Chair
28 April 2026

Appendix A: Witnesses

Monday, 10 November 2025

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate

- **Ms Elizabeth Hall**, Executive Branch Manager, Affordable Housing Policy Coordination, Economic and Financial Group, Treasury

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Penny Shields**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Housing Assistance, Health and Community Services Directorate
- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Acting Deputy-Director General, Community Services
- **Ms Brooke Newman**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Client Services, Health and Community Services Directorate
- **Mr Ash Balaretnaraja**, Executive Branch Manager, Housing and Homelessness Policy and Programs, Health and Community Services Directorate
- **Ms Brooke Yates**, Executive Branch Manager, Housing and Inclusive Policy, Health and Community Services Directorate
- **Mr Lewis Hayward**, Chief Finance Officer, Finance and Assurance, Health and Community Services Directorate

Tuesday, 11 November 2025

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health, Minister for Mental Health

Canberra Health Services

- **Ms Janet Zagari**, Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Liz Lopa**, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
- **Ms Rosalie Hughes**, Chief Financial Officer
- **Mr Andrew White**, Executive Branch Manager, People and Culture
- **Mr Bruno Aloisi**, General Manager, Mental Health, Justice Health Alcohol and Drug Services
- **Ms Katherine Wakefield**, Executive Director, Women, Youth and Children

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Acting Director-General
- **Ms Robyn Hudson**, Deputy Director-General, Policy and Transformation
- **Ms Kerryn Coleman**, Chief Health Officer, Population Health Division
- **Ms Maria Travers**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Population Health Division
- **Ms Skye Jacobi**, Executive Group Manager, Health System Innovation and Performance

- **Mr Lewis Hayward**, Chief Finance Officer, Finance and Assurance
- **Ms Chloe Stoddart**, Executive Group Manager, Policy, Partnerships and Programs Division
- **Mr Toby Keene**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Ageing and End of Life Branch, Policy, Partnerships and Programs Division
- **Ms Caitlin Bladin**, Executive Branch Manager, Strategic Infrastructure, Health System Innovation and Performance

Dr Marisa Paterson MLA, Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion Division
- **Ms Tina Connor**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs
- **Ms Mimi Dyll**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office

Justice and Community Safety Directorate

- **Ms Nadia Marjan**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Civil and Regulatory Law Branch, Legislation, Policy and Programs Division

Wednesday, 12 November 2025

Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Children, Youth and Families

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Acting Deputy-Director General, Community Services
- **Ms Kate West**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Support Services for Children, Inclusion Division
- **Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion Division
- **Ms Melanie Saballa**, Executive Branch Manager, Next Steps, Children, Youth and Families Division

Therapeutic Support Panel

- **Dr Justin Barker**, Chair

Mr Michael Petterson MLA, Minister for Multicultural Affairs

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Acting Deputy-Director General, Community Services
- **Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion Division
- **Ms Tina Connor**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs, Inclusion Division

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Acting Director General
- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Acting Deputy-Director General

Thursday, 13 November 2025

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner

- **Ms Barbara Causon PSM**, Acting Commissioner of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Anne-Maree Sabellico**, Acting Deputy-Director General; Community Services
- **Mr Shaun Kelly**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Disability, Seniors, Veterans and Social Recovery, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Brooke Yates**, Executive Branch Manager, Housing and Inclusive Policy, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Fiona Dolan**, Executive Branch Manager, Commissioning, Policy and Service Design, Strategic Policy
- **Ms Vasiliki Bogiatzis**, Acting Executive Group Manager, Inclusion Division
- **Ms Tina Connor**, Acting Executive Branch Manager, Women, Youth, LGBTIQ+ and Multicultural Affairs, Inclusion Division

University of Canberra

- **Mr Geoff Drummond**, Interim Chief Operating Officer
- **The Hon Bill Shorten**, Vice-Chancellor and President

Monday, 17 November 2025

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Education and Early Childhood

Education Directorate

- **Ms Jo Wood**, Director-General
- **Ms Angela Spence**, Deputy Director-General
- **Mr Michael Crowther**, Acting Executive Group Manager, System Policy and Reform
- **Mr David Matthews**, Executive Group Manager, People, Communication and Governance

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA, Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Health and Community Services Directorate

- **Ms Kareena Arthy**, Acting Director General
- **Ms Sarah Conway**, Senior Director, Office for Seniors and Veterans

Tuesday, 18 November 2025

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Hayley Bell**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery; Health, Education and Justice

Ms Yvette Berry MLA, Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Catherine Loft**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery, Housing
- **Mr Faheem Khan**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery, Places and Spaces
- **Ms Kyla Kerkow**, Executive Group Manager, Pipeline, Capability and Estate

Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Health

Infrastructure Canberra

- **Ms Gillian Geraghty**, Director-General
- **Mr Ashley Cahif**, Deputy Director-General
- **Ms Hayley Bell**, Executive Group Manager, Delivery; Health, Education and Justice

Friday, 21 November 2025

ACT Official Visitors

- **Ms Clare Doube**, Official Visitor for Corrections and Official Visitors Board Member
- **Mr Geoff Dulhunty**, Official Visitor for Mental Health and Official Visitors Board Member
- **Mr Peter Muir**, Official Visitors Board Chair
- **Ms Kim Ward**, Official Visitor for Children and Young People
- **Ms Kim Webster**, Official Visitor for Disability

Appendix B: Questions on notice and Questions taken on notice

Questions on notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Housing Project Fund	02/12/2025
2	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Community and Public Housing	05/12/2025
3	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing Complaints	02/12/2025
4	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Level 3 Complaints - Housing ACT	28/11/2025
5	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Support for public housing tenants – Housing ACT	28/11/2025
6	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing Tenant Consultation	19/12/2025
7	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Tenant Relocation Support - Housing ACT	28/11/2025
8	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Fires in Housing ACT Properties	28/11/2025
9	14/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public housing head leasing arrangements	11/12/2025
10	14/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Specialist Disability Accommodation	22/12/2025
11	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Justice Housing Program	01/12/2025
12	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing – Waiting lists	28/11/2025
13	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing - Maintenance	03/12/2025

14	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing - Transfers	28/11/2025
15	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing – Stock	11/12/2025
16	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Budget challenges	19/12/2025
17	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Housing Budget allocations	28/11/2025
18	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Housing Project Fund Recipients	28/11/2025
19	14/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public housing developments	01/12/2025
20	14/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing - Maintenance	05/12/2025
21	14/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Public Housing Numbers	11/12/2025
22	11/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	National Housing Accord	23/12/2025
23	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Aboriginal Community Controlled Housing Providers	28/11/2025
24	12/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	The Reimagining Gateway Project	28/11/2025
25	17/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence (Safer Families Assistance Grants)	26/11/2025
26	17/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Domestic and family violence (Safer Families Office)	26/11/2025
27	17/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Reported actions from the National Plan to End Violence	26/11/2025

28	17/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Safer Families Office 2	26/11/2025
29	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Preventative health	28/11/2025
30	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Aged care	01/12/2025
31	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Ophthalmology	28/11/2025
32	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Support at Home	27/11/2025
33	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Zero Emissions Government Framework - ACT Health	01/12/2025
34	14/11/2025	Minister for Health	Chronic disease management	28/11/2025
35	14/11/2025	Minister for Health	illicit tobacco trade	01/12/2025
36	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Dental services	28/11/2025
37	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Endometriosis (Women's health)	04/12/2025
38	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Gynaecological services (Women's health)	28/11/2025
39	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Women's health - election commitments	28/11/2025
40	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Zero Emissions Government Framework - CHS	01/12/2025
41	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Health injury data relating to transport accidents	01/12/2025
42	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Aged Care Assessments	28/11/2025
43	12/11/2025	Minister for Health	Pelvic Botox	28/11/2025
44	17/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Office of Mental Health and Wellbeing (Mental health)	01/12/2025
45	17/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Mental Health program funding	01/12/2025
46	17/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Long term therapy and follow-up of mental health patients	04/12/2025
47	17/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Mental health services - Helping patients	28/11/2025
48	12/11/2025	Minister for Women	Period products	26/11/2025
49	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Youth Justice Strategic Plan	28/11/2025
50	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Youth Assembly Report	28/11/2025
51	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Funding towards ACT Youth Parliament	09/12/2025
52	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Healthy Centre Review Response	28/11/2025
53	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Life Course Data Initiative Pilot	08/12/2025

54	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people placement principle (Children and Young People Act 2008)	02/12/2025
55	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Youth justice health screening	01/12/2025
56	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Predatory behaviour and child sexual exploitation (Child and youth protection services)	29/01/2026
57	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	First 1000 Days Strategy	28/11/2025
58	14/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Bimberi Youth Justice Centre Throughcare	03/12/2025
59	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural grant programs outcome	28/11/2025
60	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	National Multicultural Festival	02/12/2025
61	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM)	03/12/2025
62	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Representation of Multicultural Communities	28/11/2025
63	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	CALD - Work Experience and Support Program	23/12/2025
64	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural Affairs funding	08/12/2025
65	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural affairs Anti-racism	11/12/2025
66	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural affairs - Interpreters	16/12/2025
67	14/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Language services (Senior secondary language education)	03/12/2025
68	19/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM)	16/12/2025
69	19/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Ministerial Advisory Council for Multiculturalism (MACM) (Payments to MAC Members)	28/11/2025
70	19/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	National Multicultural Festival - Funding	02/12/2025
71	19/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Multicultural affairs (Multiculturalism Act - compliance)	08/12/2025
72	19/11/2025	Minister for Health	Disability management in hospitals	04/12/2025
73	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Child and Family Centres (New Practice Framework)	28/11/2025

74	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Child and Youth Record Information System	02/12/2025
75	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Children and Youth Protective Services (Early Intervention Programs through the Support Services Branch)	03/12/2025
76	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Satisfaction survey - Child and Family Centres	02/12/2025
77	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	CYPS responsiveness	03/12/2025
78	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Housing ACT and NDIS SDA (Regulation of community service providers)	08/12/2025
79	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Chief Practitioner - Child and youth protection services	09/12/2025
80	19/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Zero Emissions Government Framework	01/12/2025
81	19/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Child welfare - out of home care)	08/12/2025
82	19/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Procurement policy)	02/02/2026
83	19/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Truth Telling Framework)	27/11/2025
84	14/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Secretariat support (Our Booris Our Way Oversight Committee)	03/12/2025
85	14/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Cultural competency training)	27/11/2025
86	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	LGBTIQA+ (ACT Policing relationship)	28/11/2025
87	19/11/2025	University of Canberra	Free Academic debate	16/03/2026
88	14/11/2025	University of Canberra	AI	16/03/2026
89	19/11/2025	University of Canberra	Artificial Intelligence	16/03/2026
90	19/11/2025	University of Canberra	Budget and Budget Outcomes	16/03/2026
91	19/11/2025	University of Canberra	Corporate Governance Review	16/03/2026
92	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Stakeholder Engagement	11/12/2025
93	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	LGBTIQA+ (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Advisory Group)	01/12/2025

95	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	NDIS Supports	02/12/2025
96	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	First Nations Rainbow/Queer communities	01/12/2025
97	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Integrated Service Response Program	02/12/2025
98	19/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Negotiations with Carers ACT (Respite Care)	01/12/2025
99	19/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Carers Recognition Card	01/12/2025
100	14/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Community sector pay parity	04/12/2025
101	19/11/2025	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner	Warrumbul Circle Court (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner)	11/12/2025
102	19/11/2025	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner	out of home care (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner)	11/12/2025
103	19/11/2025	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner	Community Engagement (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Children and Young Persons Commissioner)	11/12/2025
104	19/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Support for teachers (Education)	10/12/2025
105	17/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Flexible education (Education)	10/12/2025
106	17/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	ACT Early Childhood Strategy (Early Childhood)	10/12/2025
107	18/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Asbestos sand (Education)	10/12/2025
108	18/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Small Group Learning (Education)	10/12/2025
109	17/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Senior school language programs (Education)	05/12/2025
110	22/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Strong Foundations Phase 1 implementation (Education)	10/12/2025
111	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	AI in Schools (Education)	10/12/2025

112	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Allied Health in Catholic Schools (Education)	13/01/2026
113	22/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Zero Emissions Government Framework - Education Directorate emissions reduction targets (Education)	10/12/2025
114	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	School Staffing (Education)	07/01/2026
115	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Meals in Schools (Education)	10/12/2025
116	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Out of Area Enrolments (Education)	10/12/2025
117	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Early Childhood Education and Care Providers (Early Childhood Education)	10/12/2025
118	21/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Religious Education Review	10/12/2025
119	19/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Concerns raised by Official Visitors (Public housing)	19/12/2025

Questions taken on notice

No.	Date	Asked of	Subject	Response received
1	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Rates - percentage of funding (Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs)	20/11/2025
2	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Specialist Disability Accommodation (Public housing)	01/12/2025
3	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	SDA and NDIS funding (Public housing)	28/11/2025
4	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable rentals (Housing assistance policy and services)	05/12/2025
5	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Central intake data - under 15 years old (Housing assistance policy and services)	20/11/2025
6	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Central Intake Service - Service name (Housing assistance policy and services)	24/11/2025
7	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Outreach programs (Homelessness policy and services)	20/11/2025
8	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Squatting policy (Public housing)	27/11/2025
9	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Comparison of district distribution (Public housing)	20/11/2025
10	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Rental Scheme (Affordable and community housing policy)	28/11/2025
11	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Affordable Rental Scheme & Community housing land tax exemption scheme (Affordable and community housing policy)	28/11/2025
12	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Woden Youth Foyer (Homelessness policy and services)	27/11/2025
13	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Vacancies (Public housing)	27/11/2025
14	10/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Stock removals (Public Housing)	20/11/2025

15	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	VADCCCG consultation (Voluntary Assisted Dying)	24/11/2025
16	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Multicultural community engagement on policy (Voluntary Assisted Dying)	24/11/2025
17	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	VMO costs in 2024-25 (Local Hospital Network)	02/12/2025
18	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Cost modelling - nursing (Local Hospital Network)	24/11/2025
19	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Electric vehicles (Health emissions)	21/11/2025
20	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	ACT Health Cultural Integrity Commitment Statement (ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement)	21/11/2025
21	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	CSD Strategic Plan 2018-2028 (National Agreement and Closing the Gap Annual Report)	25/11/2025
22	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	General health survey details (Health)	21/11/2025
23	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Procurement of equipment using donor funds (Health infrastructure)	28/11/2025
24	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Occupational violence (CHS Workforce)	24/11/2025
25	11/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Access Mental Health target timeframes (Mental Health)	24/11/2025
26	11/11/2025	Minister for Mental Health	Access Mental Health and HAART (Mental Health)	24/11/2025
27	11/11/2025	Minister for Health	Report information (Disability Access Audit)	24/11/2025
28	11/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	mHub women's domestic violence program (Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence policy and programs)	19/11/2025
29	11/11/2025	Minister for the Prevention of Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence	Online campaign data (Coercive control and affirmative consent)	20/11/2025
30	11/11/2025	Minister for Women	Women's Return to Work Grants (Women's affairs policy and services)	19/11/2025
31	11/11/2025	Minister for Women	Free period products (Women's affairs policy and services)	19/11/2025
32	11/11/2025	Minister for Women	Audrey Fagan Mentoring Program (Women's affairs policy and services)	19/11/2025
33	12/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Yerrabi Yurwang Housing Program (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs policy and services)	27/11/2025
34	12/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Cultural Awareness training - housing (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander affairs policy and services)	27/11/2025

35	12/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund (Closing the Gap)	21/11/2025
36	12/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Transformation Strategy and Phase 3 engagement (National Agreement on Closing the Gap)	09/12/2025
37	12/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Advice (Therapeutic Support Panel)	25/11/2025
38	12/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Entry rate data (Next Steps for Our Kids)	02/12/2025
39	12/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Preferred provider panel (Out of home care)	25/11/2025
40	12/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Transition plans (Out of home care)	28/11/2025
41	12/11/2025	Minister for Children, Youth and Families	Transition plans 2 (Out of home care)	23/12/2025
42	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Attendance feedback survey (National Multicultural Festival)	28/11/2025
43	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	HCSD reporting (Multiculturalism Act 2023)	27/11/2025
44	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Employment (Translating and Interpreting services)	28/11/2025
45	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Service gaps and use of AI (Translating and Interpreting services)	28/11/2025
46	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Inaugural consultation event (Ministerial Advisory Council on Multiculturalism)	28/11/2025
47	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Advice on appointments (Multiculturalism ACT)	25/11/2025
48	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	National Accreditation Authority for Translators and Interpreters (Translating and Interpreting services)	16/12/2025
49	12/11/2025	Minister for Multicultural Affairs	Annual Report status (Ministerial Advisory Council on Multiculturalism)	11/12/2025
50	12/11/2025	Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs	Cultural competency training (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs)	27/11/2025
51	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers	WWVP Scheme - changes to employment (Disability, Carers and Community Services)	24/11/2025

		and Community Services		
52	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	WWVP Scheme - online verification (Disability, Carers and Community Services)	24/11/2025
53	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	WWVP Scheme - information sharing (Disability, Carers and Community Services)	24/11/2025
54	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Strengthening LGBTIQ+ community organisations (LGBTIQ+ policy and programs)	25/11/2025
55	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	Advice to Minister (WWVP scheme)	27/11/2025
56	13/11/2025	Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services	ACTPS workforce - people with disabilities (Disability inclusion and participation)	25/11/2025
57	13/11/2025	University of Canberra	Support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in out-of-home care	26/11/2025
58	13/11/2025	University of Canberra	UC students in public housing (Specialist Disability Accommodation)	16/03/2026
59	13/11/2025	University of Canberra	Employment types (UC Staffing)	16/03/2026
60	13/11/2025	University of Canberra	Complaints and costs (Student accommodation)	16/03/2026
61	17/11/2025	Minister for Health	Support from Home Programme (Aged care)	01/12/2025
62	17/11/2025	Minister for Seniors and Veterans	Ministerial Advisory Council on Veterans Affairs submission (Seniors and Veterans)	25/11/2025
63	17/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Out of area enrolments (Public schools)	05/12/2025
64	18/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Smell (Shirley Smith High School)	05/12/2025
65	18/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Anticipated capacity in 2027 (Whitlam school)	05/12/2025
66	18/11/2025	Minister for Education and Early Childhood	Project scope (Nicholls School)	05/12/2025

67	18/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Targets for maintenance (Key performance indicators)	05/12/2025
68	18/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Prefabricated and modular housing (Public Housing)	05/12/2025
69	18/11/2025	Minister for Homes, Homelessness and New Suburbs	Outsourcing in other jurisdictions (Public housing maintenance)	05/12/2025
70	18/11/2025	Minister for Health	Helipad use (Critical Services Building)	11/12/2025
71	18/11/2025	Minister for Health	Parking bay and helipad (Critical Services Building)	08/12/2025
72	18/11/2025	Minister for Health	Pilots refusing to land on helideck (Critical Services Building)	08/12/2025
73	18/11/2025	Minister for Health	Helideck location (Critical Services Building)	03/12/2025
74	18/11/2025	Minister for Health	Project budget reconciliation (Southside hydrotherapy pool)	04/12/2025
75	21/11/2025	Official Visitors	Bimberi - access to winter clothes and blankets	05/12/2025
76	21/11/2025	Official Visitor for Disability	NDIS funding levels minister to raise with federal counterpart	05/12/2025

Appendix C: Gender distribution of witnesses

Beginning in April 2023, in response to an audit by the Commonwealth Parliamentary Association, Committees are collecting information on the gender of witnesses. The aim is to determine whether committee inquiries are meeting the needs, and allowing the participation of, a range of genders in the community. Participation is voluntary and there are no set responses.

Gender indication	Total
Female	51
Male	17
Non-binary	0
Gender neutral	0
No data	1