



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

Steve Doszpot MLA (Chair), Amanda Bresnan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mary Porter AM MLA

Questions Taken on Notice Annual and Financial Reports 2009–2010

DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services		
HCSS QTON 10/6	Funding figures for accommodation places, community support and respite for last three fiscal years	31/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/7	Number on the waiting list for supported accommodation	31/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/8	Additional premium for Spotless sub contractors working on Saturdays	25/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/9	Breach of tenancy orders before ACAT (number and type)	31/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/10	Number of young women consulted as part of the women's plan	27/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/11	Children under six years of age with Autism	20/1/11
HCSS QTON 10/12	Accommodation for the aged	25/1/11
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs		
HCSS QTON 10/13	Progress report regarding implementation of the recommendations from the elected body.	10/2/11
HCSS QTON 10/14	United Ngunnawal Elders Council	10/2/11
HCSS QTON 10/15	Methodology used by Department of Education for closing the gap	3/3/11

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice

The Chair asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in relation to the Fiscal year, I would like to know how much was spent in fiscal year 2007-08 and 2008-09?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The table below represents the comparison of how much was spent on the Output 1.1 Disability Services and Policy in the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-2010 fiscal years.

	2007-08 Actual Result \$m	2008-09 Actual Result \$m	2009-10 Actual Result \$m
<u>Output 1.1 – Disability Services and Policy</u>			
Government Payment for Outputs	\$61.70	\$67.00	\$68.90
Accommodation Support	\$33.57	\$42.72	\$43.30
Community Support	\$10.52	\$6.16	\$6.01
Community Access	\$6.21	\$5.94	\$6.47
Respite – Services	\$5.63	\$6.06	\$6.77

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

31.1.11

Date:.....

MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice

The Chair asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in relation to Supported Accommodation: How many supported accommodation places are currently available for people with disability in the ACT? How many people have you got on the waiting list?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

There are currently 431 accommodation places available for people with a disability in the ACT.

Disability ACT currently has 96 registrations of interest seeking accommodation and support either now or in the future.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "JB", written over a circular stamp.

28.1.11

Date:.....

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice



Mr Coe asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in relation to an additional premium for any work which is done on a Saturday as opposed to Monday to Friday: is 7.30 am to 6 pm on Saturday treated in the same way as 7.30 am to 6 pm Monday to Friday?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Work orders are raised against the following five timeframes:

U4 - Urgent – will be attended to within 4 hours;

PND - Priority 6pm – will be attended to by 6pm on the next business day;

P96 - Priority 96 hrs – will be attended to within 4 days;

N20 – 20 days – will be attended to within 20 days; and

OTH – Planned maintenance program – dependent on nature and complexity of the work.

If a contractor is required to attend to an urgent work order outside the usual working hours Monday to Friday, including weekends and public holidays, the applicable after hours premium response time fee will be paid.

There is no applicable after hours or weekend premium response time fee paid for all other work order categories.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Date: 21.1.11

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**



**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice

The Chair asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services: how many breaches of tenancy agreement are there before ACAT at the moment?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

As at 21 January 2011 there were 38 matters before the ACAT relating to breaches of tenancy agreement.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

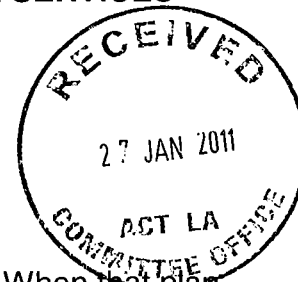
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28.1.11
Date:.....

MINISTER FOR WOMEN FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY
STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice



Ms Hunter asked the Minister for Women in relation to the Women's Plan: When that plan was put together, there were a number of consultation activities undertaken. Because it is not just a women's plan and it is also about girls, how many young women or girls were involved in those consultations and how did you go about ensuring that they were represented?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Office for Women and the Ministerial Advisory Council on Women conducted a range of consultations with women and girls in the ACT in the development of the ACT Women's Plan 2010-15.

Young women were identified as requiring a targeted approach to ensure their views were reflected in the consultation undertaken for the Women's Plan. The Office for Women held a specific consultation with young women completing their Year 10 and 12 certificates at the CIT, which eight young women attended. The Ministerial Advisory Council on Women also consulted with young women at the Australian National University, as well as secondary and high school students. 10% of the on-line survey respondents were aged 18-24.

A number of general consultations were held, including the ACT Women's Summit and for other population groups. Several of these consultations reported issues for young women and young women and their representatives also attended, for example the Youth Coalition of the ACT attended the Women's Summit.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA
Minister for Women

25.1.11

Date:.....

**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice



The Chair asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in relation to Autism Spectrum Disorder: of the 250 children being provided services, how many are under the age of six?

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

At the end of November 2010 there were 244 current clients of the Therapy ACT Autism Service. The age break-down for children under the age of six is outlined below:

0-5 years	44
5-6 years	50

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

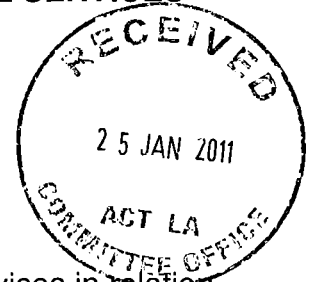
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**MINISTER FOR DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARING**

Wednesday, 24 November 2010

Question Without Notice Taken On Notice



Mr Seselja asked the Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services in relation to the population over the age of 60 in the ACT: What assessment has been done in terms of policy, in terms of what kind of pressures that will be putting on government services in particular, and particularly the operations of the department over the next decade?

Mr Hehir took on notice information in relation to accessible housing constructed in Canberra and how the Government will continue to grow accommodation suitable for aged people within our public housing portfolio.

MINISTER BURCH - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

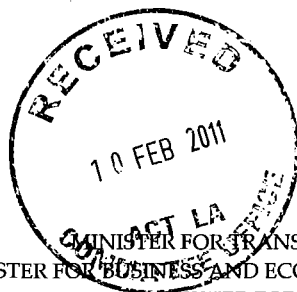
The ACT Government is committed to improving the level of accommodation for the ageing population. Adaptable housing incorporates sensible design features such as wider hallways, wider door opening widths and appropriate heights of bench tops. The Nation Building Jobs Plan (NBJP) required a minimum standard of Universal Design and aimed for 20% Adaptable Housing. The ACT Government will deliver 81% adaptable housing under this program and will ensure all new public housing construction meets the Universal Design Criteria or better.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.

Joy Burch, MLA

Minister for Disability, Housing and Community Services

Date *21-1-11*



HCS QTON 10/13

Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL
SERVICES
QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE**

24 NOVEMBER 2010

Mr Hanson - Asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs upon notice on 24 November 2010:

The Indigenous elected body provided a report into its estimates hearings and the government responded to that report. Can you can give me an update on the action that you are taking? There were a number of items, I think—employment strategy, better information, information on government services, the liaison officers at Calvary hospital and so on. I was wondering if you can give me an overview on the program.

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

Refer to attachment.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Date: 9/12

ACT LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

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Introduction

In the 2009 estimates style hearings process the Elected Body's report contained 6 key recommendations with an additional 23 recommendations, generally categorised into priority action areas of monitoring and evaluation, education, health, housing, community services, justice, economic participation and culture and identity.

The ACT Government's responses to those recommendations are set out below:-

Recommendation	Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action
1. Improve collection and management of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data	Report the outcomes from the whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data Monitoring Scoping Project to the Elected Body.	Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services (DHCS)	Project to be completed and reported on by end 2010	Existing
	Chief Ministers Department (CMD) to work in partnership with Australian Bureau of Statistics to improve data collection so that local demographics are captured and reported.	CMD	August 2011	New
	Produce and publish a demographic report on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.	CMD	December 2011	New
	Implement an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identifier within the Patient Master Index.	ACT Health	December 2010	Existing
	Provide the Elected Body with the ACT contribution to the national Indigenous Expenditure Report.	Treasury	June 2010	Existing

PROGRESS:

Since October 2009, the Department has been coordinating the "Whole of Government Approach to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Data" project. The project aims to scope various whole of government approaches to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander data that will improve the quality, accessibility and availability of these data. These data improvements will assist the ACT Government to gain a more comprehensive and coherent picture regarding the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents, their needs, and services provided to them and the outcomes achieved.

A consultation paper describing the key finding from the project was circulated to members of the ACT Information Development Working Group and the Information Development Steering Committee for feedback in October 2010. Following agreement, the document will be presented to the Taskforce on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs regarding recommendations for an implementation plan. It is envisaged a report on the outcomes from this project will be provided to ATSIEB at

Recommendation	the completion of the project. Commitments	Lead agency	Timeframe	Existing or new action Existing
2. Implement a whole-of-government Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander recruitment, retention and development strategy	The Employment Strategy will: in keeping with the ACT's commitment to the National Partnership Agreement, increase its Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce to 1.2% of the total ACTPS workforce by 2015; focus on attracting, retaining, and improving the capability of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people; ensure appropriate cultural competency and induction training programs are available; and improve the capability of the ACTPS as a workplace of choice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.	CMD/ Commissioner for Public Administration	End 2010	Existing
	Consult with the Elected Body when developing and implementing the ACT Public Service (ACTPS) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy.	CMD/ Commissioner for Public Administration All agencies	End 2010	Existing
3. Better information and promotion of ACT Government services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people	The ACT Government will seek the assistance of the Elected Body on the development and distribution of Aboriginal and/ or Torres Strait Islander specific references or material where appropriate.	All agencies	Ongoing	New
	Distribute communications products to a wider audience through links on the ACT Our Communities website and explore the development of a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander website.	DHCS / CMD	2010	New
	Indigenous Home School Liaison Officers to promote early childhood programs. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Group will be supported to focus on early childhood programs information at their community meetings in 2010.	DET DET	Ongoing 2010	Existing Existing
	Implement a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander project as part of the Respite and Carer Support Project through the Palliative Care Strategy.	ACT Health	End 2010	New
	Consult the Elected Body on the implementation of the Restorative Justice Access to Services Plan 2010-2013 (Restorative Justice, JACS) and the Victim Support Access to Services Plan 2008-2011 (Victim Support ACT, JACS)	JACS	End 2010	Existing
	Progress Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Services (ATSIS) has a small number of pamphlets, specifically for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, that provides information on its programs and services. There is also a Parentlink resource			

booklet specifically for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families.

PROGRESS:

Disability ACT is:

- reviewing all current information to make it more readily available and accessible, e.g. plain English;
- producing targeted information to the needs of particular groups;
- and has trialled an information stall at NAIDOC celebrations.

The Draft ACT Policy Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability seeks to improve communication with the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and contains specific objectives on how this may happen.

4. Improve support for school aged students during the transition to high school and beyond to maintain literacy and numeracy achievements	Monitor students' transition at key points of schooling and report this information to the Elected Body on an annual basis.	DET	Ongoing/ Annually	New
	Improve and maintain literacy and numeracy outcomes through personalised learning strategies for students from year 5 onwards.	DET	2010	Existing
	Apply Year 5 NAPLAN data to identify how Indigenous Literacy and Numeracy Program funding will be distributed.	DET	Ongoing	Existing
5. Increase the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander liaison officers at Canberra hospital	• The Canberra Hospital has two Liaison Officers and a Manager at present ACT Health will consult the Elected Body on creating two new Liaison Officer positions at Calvary Hospital, to alleviate workload pressures and broaden reach of Aboriginal liaison officers in the ACT.	ACT Health	June 2010	New
6. Pursue recurrent funding for the Indigenous liaison officer at the Women's Legal Centre	• Fund the Women's Legal Centre to support the Indigenous Women's Law Project to enable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access legal services. Consult the Elected Body on the implementation of 2010/11 Budget to increase the capacity for the Women's Legal Centre to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women to access legal services in the ACT.	Legal Aid Commission	July 2010	New

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Monitoring and Evaluation	Evaluate the effectiveness of programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, particularly accessibility and outcomes for those accessing mainstream services Publish budget line items related to Commonwealth and ACT Government spending on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander specific programs	All ACT Government agencies to work with the Elected Body to implement the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery Framework and associated Implementation Plan as the primary mechanism for measuring accessibility and the quality of service delivery across government. Report back to the Elected Body the outcome of investigating the feasibility of adding an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander identifier to the Patient Master Index. The ACT Government will distribute to the Elected Body, the ACT Report on Indigenous specific expenditure provided to the Commonwealth Productivity Commission. PROGRESS: Growing Healthy Families – Gungahlin Child and Family Centre The effectiveness of programs is assessed through client satisfaction surveys which have been developed by the Gungahlin Child and Family Centre for all programs run by the Centre. Disability ACT has used the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery Framework to inform the development of the draft ACT Policy Framework for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability. The Policy Framework will guide and enhance Disability ACT's response to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability as well as the family and community who care for them. A member of the Elected Body participated in the community consultation session on 30 September 2010 to further develop the draft Policy Framework.	DHCS	ongoing
			ACT Health	December 2010
			Treasury	May 2011
Education	An Elected Body member on the Indigenous Education Consultative Body Increased consultation and involvement with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families	Indigenous Education Consultative Body to interact with the Elected Body on a regular basis. Support the development of school and community partnership agreements.	DET	ongoing
			DET	Ongoing

Priority Action Area	Recommendation about Aboriginal Student Support and Parent Awareness funding	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Health	Longitudinal study of year 12 students and graduates and evaluation of the effectiveness of post-school options.	Work with the Commonwealth Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations to promote the Parent and Community Engagement initiative directly to parents and caregivers of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.	DET	Ongoing
		Require schools to provide evidence of how they involve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander parents and caregivers in developing proposals and allocating monies in ways to best support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.	DET	Annual
		Investigate strategies for tracking Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who leave our schools as an important evidence base for making decisions relating to education and training.	DET	End 2010
	• Input into the design, building, landscaping and maintenance of the planned Psychiatric Services Unit	Consult the Elected Body on the planning process via Capital Asset Development Plan consultation process.	ACT Health	2011
	• Clear culturally sensitive pathways for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to access detoxification units	Provide the Elected Body with a detailed briefing on the new process for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients accessing the Withdrawal Unit at the Canberra Hospital and take into consideration the feedback provided. The ACT Health Alcohol and Drug Program Aboriginal Liaison Officer will also be notified when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients are admitted to the Unit.	ACT Health	June 2010
	• Evaluate effectiveness of service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in particular accessibility and outcomes to mainstream services	The ACT Health Alcohol and Drug Program Aboriginal Liaison Officer will also be notified when Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients are admitted to the Unit.	ACT Health	Ongoing
		Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients the option of consenting for a key support person to talk on their behalf throughout the admissions process.	ACT Health	June 2010
		Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows a pre-admission medical assessment for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who have complex or co-occurring health issues.	ACT Health	June 2010
		Provide the Elected Body with available information on the outcomes of the process which allows Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients to nominate two people as telephone support people.	ACT Health	June 2010
	• Develop a cadetship program	Report back to the Elected Body on the development of a specific ACT	CMD/ ACT	End 2010

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
	to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander professional development	cadetship program, in consultation with the Commissioner for Public Administration as part of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment Strategy.		
Housing	• Consult Elected Body about community housing allocation	Housing ACT will consult with the Elected Body on current housing allocation policies (including the central intake service and common wait list) and future developments/ opportunities to address specific concerns of the Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander communities. Housing ACT will provide the Elected Body with progress updates on a quarterly basis, including the proposed allocation of housing to Indigenous families – and the basis on which these allocations are made. PROGRESS: The Social Housing Register (formally known as the Common waitlist for Public and community Housing) was implemented on 1 September 2010. There has been consideration of the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander in the development of the legislation, information fact sheets and the registration for housing assistance form. Contact has been made with the elected body secretariat to give a presentation on the social housing register and gain feedback on the registration and allocation process. It is hoped that this will take place in the next month. The Central Intake Service for homelessness tender was awarded to CANFACS. CANFACS have named the service First Point. First point will have steering committee and CANFACS consulted with the elected body regarding representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people's needs on the steering group.	DHCS	June 2010
	• Provide information on 'A place to call home' model	PROGRESS: A Place to call Home is an initiative of the National Partnership on Homelessness A commitment has been made by the ACT government that 50% of the properties under A Place to Call Home will be allocated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. A Place to Call Home has ten properties constructed to date. Of those ten properties three have been allocated to Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander families, another two have Aboriginal families identified for them. These families should be in those properties in early October. DHCS will continue to inform the elected body on the allocation of these properties.	DHCS	June 2010

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Community Services	• Develop a policy to support grandparents who provide care on an informal basis	Consult the Elected Body on the development of a policy to support grandparents who provide care on an informal basis.	DHCS	Existing
		Consult the Elected Body on the development of a Charter of Rights for Carers in the ACT during 2010. The Charter will include consideration of the informal caring role of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in the ACT.	DHCS	End 2010
	• Monitor number of grandparents in out of home kinship placements	The Office of Children, Youth and Family Services will report quarterly to the Elected Body on the number of grandparents in out of home kinship placements.	DHCS	Ongoing

PROGRESS:

The Department has undertaken research into a Charter of Rights for Carers in the ACT to provide a policy statement that recognises the important role of carers in the community. The Department recognises that the caring role is diverse and includes people caring for people with needs associated with disability, ageing, ongoing physical or mental illness, or substance abuse, kinship carers including grandparents providing informal care to grandchildren and foster carers. In recognising the informal caring role of grandparents the Department acknowledges that informal caring relationships could be provided by grandparents, uncles, aunts or any other significant person in the life of a child.

In developing the Charter of Rights for Carers in the ACT, the Department is committed to engaging with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body through the consultation process. The Department will engage a provider to undertake the consultations which are expected to commence in November 2010. It will be a requirement of the contract that the consultant engages with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body in this process.

PROGRESS:

In order to ensure the diverse range of carers are represented in the Charter, consultation will need to engage all sectors of the caring community, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander carers and elders, young carers and young adult carers, care recipients, and community organisations providing support services to carers in the ACT.

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
		Consultation with peak carer support organisations, interest groups and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body will be supported by a proposed charter and discussion paper. The discussion paper and proposed charter were released in October 2010 during Carers Week. The final Charter will be submitted for Cabinet consideration in December 2010. In order to capture the range of informal carers in the ACT, the proposed charter defines carers as persons who "provide unpaid care to someone else who is dependent on the person for ongoing care and assistance". This inclusive definition is consistent with the ACT Carers Recognition Legislation Amendment Act 2006 which provides recognition to all carers in the ACT to: - o Prevent discrimination; - o Enable carers to better protect the financial and other resources of the person in their care; and - o Provide carers with the right to make complaints on behalf of themselves or the person in their care to the Human Rights Commission. This definition also allows for the inclusion of informal carers, kinship carers and foster carers into the Charter of Rights for Carers in the ACT. PROGRESS: Data is currently being collected on this initiative and will be assessed for quality and integrity. It is proposed that reporting will occur at the same time as the quarterly reports are prepared for ACT Government reporting.		
Justice	• Continue to participate in developing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement • Develop measures of success for Circle Sentencing court • Increase funding for legal aid and Aboriginal Legal Service	Continue work on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Agreement with the Elected Body.	JACS	Ongoing
		Undertake a strengthening project for the ACT Circle Sentencing court, in consultation with the Elected Body. A part-time Indigenous Liaison Officer will be employed by the Legal Aid Commission to foster links with Indigenous communities in the ACT with the objective of reducing the barriers to Indigenous people accessing legal assistance services. Outcomes will be reported to the Elected Body on an annual basis.	• Legal Aid Commission	Ongoing
		Funding for the Aboriginal Legal Service is a Commonwealth	JACS	New

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment responsibility	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Economic participation	Maintain and support position of a Family Court Solicitor with the Aboriginal Legal Service	ACT to continue to advocate for the Commonwealth Government to address this need. Updates to be provided to the Elected Body on a regular basis.	JACS	Ongoing
	• Official Visitor to provide reports to Elected Body	Official Visitor to provide a report to the Elected Body, each year	JACS	Annual
	• Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander cultural and historical information in the Alexander Maconochie prison library	The AMC library will consult the Elected Body on the current cultural content of the library, and any proposed improvements.	JACS	June 2010
	• Prepare a Development Strategy for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander public sector employees	Continue delivering the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander traineeship program.	DHCS/ CMD	Ongoing
		• Support the newly formed Network for Aboriginal Liaison Officers. Continue to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander scholarships for secondary students.	ACT Health DET	Ongoing Ongoing
		Report back to the Elected Body on the proposed nursing scholarships for two Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islanders.	ACT Health	June 2010
		Consult the Elected Body on the development and implementation of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health Workforce Employment Plan for the ACT, incorporating clinical, educational, research and administrative positions.	ACT Health	End 2010
		• Continue to support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Liaison Officer roles for TAMS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employees.	TAMS	Ongoing
		Continue to support Murumbung Yurung Murra, a forum for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in Parks, Conservation and lands.	TAMS	Ongoing
		PROGRESS: As part of its Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP), the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services made a commitment to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Employment and Career Development Strategy. A draft strategy has been developed by the Department of Disability, Housing and Community Services, Reconciliation Action Plan Working Group. Consultation on the draft strategy will occur with relevant stakeholders including the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body and Chief Minister's Department by the end of 2010.		
		Disability ACT has created a non ongoing designated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Policy position in addition to supporting an		

Priority Action Area	Recommendation	Commitment	Lead Agency	Timeframe
Culture and identity	Dedicate and promote segments in ACT libraries covering Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander culture and history	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander trainee to graduation and employment. The ACT Library and Information Service will work with the Elected Body to further develop its collection of materials and resources relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and culture.	TAMS	June 2010

Accountability and Reporting

ACT Government agencies will be required to provide information about progress on the implementation of the ACT Government's response to the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs. This information will be included in an integrated annual report on progress and achievements against the five action areas contained in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Service Delivery Framework.



HCSS QTON 10/14

Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

MINISTER FOR TRANSPORT MINISTER FOR TERRITORY AND MUNICIPAL SERVICES
MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT MINISTER FOR LAND AND PROPERTY SERVICES
MINISTER FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AFFAIRS
MINISTER FOR THE ARTS AND HERITAGE

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

25 NOVEMBER 2010

Ms Hunter - Asked the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs upon notice on 24 November 2010:

you mentioned that you had put forward some reforms or suggestions to assist with building capacity of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council. What are they and how have they been received?

Mr Stanhope - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The Office for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs has engaged the Australian Indigenous Leadership Centre to work with representatives of the United Ngunnawal Elders Council.

A number of meetings have recently been held to develop draft rules to assist Council in managing its agenda, the conduct of meetings and the provision of advice to Government.

Approved for circulation to the Committee.

Jon Stanhope MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Date:.....

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL SERVICES

ACT DEPARTMENT OF DISABILITY, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
ANNUAL REPORT HEARINGS 2009-10 HELD ON 24 NOVEMBER 2010

ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE

MR DOSZPOT: To ask the Minister for Education and Training

How does a target of halving the gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in reading, writing and numeracy fit with a decision announced in October for cuts to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literacy and numeracy office program?

MR BARR: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

From 2011 the funding for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander literacy and numeracy officers has been redirected into thirty public schools identified as Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander focus schools.

Schools receiving these additional funds for staffing are required to develop Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) for every Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student with an emphasis on improving each student's literacy and numeracy.

This redirection of funding is a refocus on increased accountability at the classroom and school level in meeting student needs.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Community and Social Services

Signature: *Andrew Barr*

Date: 23.2.11

By the Minister for Education and Training, Mr Andrew Barr MLA

Note: Answers to questions taken on notice should be lodged with the Committee Office within 5 working days of the hearing date, electronically and in hard copy.