



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

JACS No. 32

STANDING COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE AND COMMUNITY SAFETY

JEREMY HANSON CSC MLA (CHAIR), MARISA PATERSON MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), JO CLAY MLA

Inquiry into referred 2019–20 Annual and Financial Reports and Budget Estimates 2020-21
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Asked by Ms Jo Clay MLA: To ask the Children and Young People's Commissioner:

In relation to: **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner**

ACTHRC AR, p74

The review of annual reports found that a cultural plan was completed for 90% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children (page 74). Although this number is encouraging, the Our Booris Our Way Final Report found that despite high compliance, quality is low (page 86, Recommendation 11(a)).

One recommendation from the Our Booris Our Way Steering Committee is to appoint an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner to provide monitoring, advice and advocacy on both systemic and individual cases (page 97, Recommendation 7).

Does the Human Rights Commission support the appointment of this commissioner and how is the Commission engaging with this recommendation?

Ms Jodie Griffiths-Cook: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:—

The ACT Government referred the recommendation for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner to the Protection of Rights Services Review, which was undertaken in 2020 and for which a report was recently finalised, which we understand will be tabled by the responsible Minister in due course.

In the course of the review, the ACT Human Rights Commission provided support for the exploration of this recommendation by sharing information about current functions of the Commission to assist in shaping the potential scope of functions for a dedicated Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children's Commissioner.

Should the ACT Government decide to create such a position, the ACT Human Rights Commission will be pleased to work alongside and collaborate with the successful appointee in the interests of improving outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, and their families.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety

Signature:

Date: 9 March 2021



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By the Children and Young People's Commissioner, Jodie Griffiths-Cook