



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY INCLUSION
Michael PETTERSSON MLA (Chair), Laura NUTTALL MLA (Deputy Chair),
Nicole LAWDER MLA

MEDIA RELEASE

Report tabled – Inquiry Loneliness and Social Isolation in the ACT

The Standing Committee on Education and Community Inclusion Committee today tabled the committee's report on its *Inquiry into Loneliness and Social Isolation in the ACT*.

The committee received 39 submissions, held three public hearings, and conducted one site visit.

The committee report makes 28 recommendations to enhance social connection across the ACT.

The report is available on the Assembly's website at:

<https://www.parliament.act.gov.au/parliamentary-business/in-committees/recent-reports>

Committee Chair, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA said that loneliness and social isolation are complex issues that impact many individuals in the ACT community.

'The committee heard throughout the inquiry that social connection is essential for health and wellbeing.' Mr Pettersson said.

'The committee was told that cost, lack of transport, and a lack of accessible spaces to socialise all present barriers to social connection, and that these barriers impact vulnerable Canberrans in particular.'

'It is important that government prioritise social connection by destigmatising loneliness, providing support to those experiencing it through initiatives such as social prescribing, and working across government to reduce barriers to social connection.'

'We thank the ACT Government, and those organisations and individuals who participated in this inquiry. In particular, the committee is grateful to all individuals who shared their personal experiences.'

Under the Assembly's standing orders, the ACT Government is required to table its response to the report within four months.

27 AUGUST 2024
STATEMENT ENDS.

For further information, please contact:

Committee Chair, Mr Michael Pettersson MLA, on (02) 6205 1436

Committee Secretary on (02) 6207 5498 or at LACommitteeECI@parliament.act.gov.au