

2025

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ELEVENTH ASSEMBLY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY

—

REPORT 1 - INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2023-24

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
September 2025**

Introduction

On Tuesday, 3 December 2024, the Legislative Assembly passed (with amendments) a motion to establish standing committees and stated calendar and financial year annual and financial reports stand referred 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*.

The 2023-2024 Annual and Financial Reports were reviewed by the relevant Standing Committees, and each Committee held hearings and reported separately. The below Government Response addresses the recommendations within the report from the Standing Committee on Social Policy.

During its inquiry the Standing Committee on Social Policy was required to examine all or part of the following Annual and Financial reports for 2023–24:

- ACT Health Annual Report 2023–24;
- Canberra Health Services Annual Report 2023–24;
 - Corrigendum tabled 5 December 2024;
- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate Annual Report 2023–24;
- Community Services Directorate Annual Report 2023–24;
- Education Directorate Annual Report 2023–24; and
- University of Canberra Annual Report 2023.

Standing Committee on Social Policy – Report 1 - Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2023-24

Recommendation	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE (AGREED/AGREED IN-PRINCIPLE/EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY/NOTED/NOT AGREED)
Recommendation 1 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an estimate of the timeframes required for the collation and approval of non-standard data for release to Committees.	Noted It is important to note that the collation and analysis of non-standard data often requires bespoke data collection, analysis, validation, and governance checks to ensure accuracy, privacy, and compliance with relevant legislation and policies. As such, the timeframe required will depend on a range of factors, including the specifics of the question asked.
Recommendation 2 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government lobby the Commonwealth and NSW Governments for health funding based on the actual cost of service provision in the ACT, rather than the National Efficient Price.	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government will continue to engage in negotiations with the Commonwealth Government and the NSW Government to receive funding that more closely reflects the actual costs of service delivery in the ACT. The national setting under the National Health Reform Agreement sets a costing footprint for all jurisdictions, based off the National Efficient Price (NEP). The ACT, through implementation of Activity Based Funding and Sustainability review of Canberra Health Services, will be driving efficient price over time in the ACT to promote a sustainable system and fairer funding arrangements.
Recommendation 3 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government communicate to the Assembly the expected costs and benefits of Canberra Health Services moving away from fee-for-service models for Visiting Medical Officers to putting on more salaried staff.	Noted Negotiations with relevant specialist groups regarding moving away from a fee-for-service model, or alternative approaches to improve the efficient use of resources are ongoing. Benefits will include a reduction in VMO spend, a subsequent increase in Staff Specialist FTE along with greater Senior Clinician engagement in the organisation. Any future improvements in efficient use of resources will be reflected in the financial performance of the agency. Full Time Equivalent (FTE) numbers and spend on Visiting Medical Officers are included in the Canberra Health Services Annual Report.
Recommendation 4	Agreed in-principle

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government communicate to the Assembly what affect the move away from fee-for-service employment models is having on attracting medical professionals, and the impact on accreditation of all health units.	Canberra Health Services medical FTE has increased by 7.85 per cent over 2024-25. Medical FTE and headcount numbers are included in the Canberra Health Services Annual Report. As of July 2025, all Canberra Health Services specialties are accredited and from 2025-26, Canberra Health Services accreditation status will be published in the Annual Report.
Recommendation 5 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide greater access and transparency on key health data, including; • Staff numbers and positions; • Visiting Medical Officers; and • Staff surveys on sentiment and how they feel about their workplace.	Existing Government Policy FTE and Headcount numbers are included in the Canberra Health Services Annual Report, as is Visiting Medical Officer information. In 2025, Canberra Health Services will transition to the Whole of Government (WoG) culture survey, and data would then be included in the WoG release
Recommendation 6 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular updates on how the Integrated Operational Centre is working, including any changes to how medical professionals interact with the Centre and how it affects patient care.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government will establish an independent inquiry by September 2025 with the aim of which will include consideration of planned care arrangements across the ACT public health system, including the Operations Centre. The inquiry will engage stakeholders and make findings. A final report is due to the Assembly by 30 June 2026.
Recommendation 7 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide regular forecasts on the demand for health and hospital services, including walk-in centres.	Existing Government Policy Every year, the ACT Budget includes the best estimate of activity expected through the Local Hospital Network for the coming year. The Budget also includes funding and FTE estimates across the various agencies delivering health and hospital services. The Government publishes the ACT Local Hospital Network Service Level Agreement annually which provides estimated activity across the six service classifications outlined in the National Health Reform Agreement. The Health and Community Services Directorate also publishes past health services activity data that can support the observation of changes in activity across the year, such as seasonal and policy-driven

	variations in service demand in different areas of the health service. For example, increased respiratory illness during winter months, reduced general practitioner availability during holidays and after-hours, and low activity elective surgery periods.
Recommendation 8 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continues the work on paediatric services across the ACT, including fully implementing the paediatric model of care in the Emergency Department.	Existing Government Policy Canberra Health Services continues to prioritise improved outcomes for children of the ACT and surrounds. Work continues to implement the recommendations in the Child and Adolescent Clinical Services Plan 2023-2030. The Canberra Hospital Emergency Department continues to provide care in dedicated paediatric facilities with support from Paediatric trained Emergency Medicine specialists.
Recommendation 9 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government develop a plan to ensure the level of healthcare provided in the Alexander Maconochie Centre is equivalent to that provided in the community.	Existing Government Policy Justice Health Services (JHS) consistently strives to deliver health care equivalent to community standards within the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). This commitment to increasing health care access and quality for detainees is specifically reflected in the AMC Detainee Health & Wellbeing Strategy (2023 to 2028) and the associated Action Plan. Custodial Mental Health Services (CMHS) provides community equivalent mental health services in the AMC including crisis mental health services and specialist psychiatry services commensurate with community-based public mental health services. In many instances, the services provided in the AMC exceed community equivalence, including no waitlist for psychiatric services, all urgent crisis referrals are seen within two hours, and all detainees requiring inpatient mental health treatment have timely access to local hospitals. The 2025-26 Budget includes funding for design improvements to health infrastructure at the AMC. Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (Winnunga) delivers a culturally tailored model of care for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people at AMC. As an Aboriginal community-controlled primary healthcare service, Winnunga provides essential health, social, and wellbeing services, ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients receive culturally appropriate support throughout their stay, with continued support upon release. In 2024-25 and 2025-26, the ACT Government

	increased funding to Winnunga for services at the AMC to ensure full staffing costs were met to support equivalent healthcare delivery.
Recommendation 10 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensures that whole of government strategies and plans for which the Community Services Directorate has a coordinating role are: • coordinated in such a way that all actions can be reported on by the relevant office; • have clear expenditure reporting in place; and • can be discussed in full at public hearings by ensuring officials from across directorates are present, where required, with the relevant Minister.	Noted Many of the strategies for which Health and Community Services is the lead agency are whole-of-government strategies. Delivering social change requires effort across-government to address for intersectionality and all directorates play a role in responding to the needs of, and improving outcomes for, various cohort groups. Progress on whole of government strategies for which HCSD has a coordinating role is reported at least annually, which provides the opportunity for coordinated implementation advice to be made public. It is not feasible for HCSD to undertake real time monitoring of actions that are the responsibility of other directorates and Ministerial portfolios, despite their inclusion in whole of government strategies. Budget expenditure and reporting is the responsibility of the directorate that receives the budget allocation and HCSD cannot report against allocations to other directorates. Officials from various directorates will attend public hearings if they anticipate the Minister may be asked a question relevant to a whole of government strategy they have some responsibility for. Alternatively, they may provide briefing notes to officials who will be attending to give a clear and contemporary update. It is not feasible for every official with responsibility for implementing actions for every whole of government strategy or plan to be available for all hearings. For this reason, committees are able to be directed to the current responsible Minister and directorate where items fall outside HCSD's and relevant Ministers responsibilities. Questions are also able to be taken on notice if required.
Recommendation 11 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure programs are designed around measurable outcomes to enable outcomes-based reporting and evaluation.	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government is committed to outcomes-based reporting and evaluation to ensure it continues to provide the community services that support people within our community. The Government makes careful, evidence informed decisions about which services and supports for those with the greatest need are best Government-delivered or supported-to-deliver via non-government organisations. The Commissioning Framework provides a collaborative approach to determining outcomes and priorities for health and community services. Developing outcomes frameworks has been a core element of

	commissioning for health and community services. Improving data systems and reporting to enable system level outcomes evaluation is in progress and will be a continuing focus as the ACT Government progresses its commitment to support the community services sector and deliver associated reform. The ACT Government notes measuring outcomes in Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence (DFSV) systems is complex and requires appropriate data systems, and it is anticipated funding arrangements for new and continuing DFSV programs will support improved outcomes measurement and reporting. In addition, the ACT DFSV Strategy (the Strategy) and the First Action Plan, along with a Monitoring and Evaluation Framework (Framework) are currently under development. The Framework will consider both system-level and program- and initiative-level monitoring and evaluation to ensure that the progress and impact are measured effectively and that meaningful data and insights are captured to inform future investment decisions. The Framework will also establish a consistent approach to monitoring, reporting and evaluating reforms and initiatives to address DFSV.
Recommendation 12 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a discrete fund, separate from consolidated revenue, for the receipt, management and reporting of all activity related to the Safer Families Levy, including all income and expenses.	Not Agreed The revenue raised by the Levy is collected by the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate and is distributed to the Territory Banking Account. For the purposes of the <i>Financial Management Act 1996</i>, this account is a singular account to which all consolidated revenue is transferred into. Treasury and the Health and Community Services Directorate have explored the possibility of establishing a mechanism to separate the Levy from the Territory Banking Account, and found that this will require significant resourcing, manual reconciliations and potential legislative changes. It would not be practical or cost-effective to create a discrete fund. Although establishment of a separate account is not practical, the ACT Government is dedicated to ensuring expenditure of the Safer Families Levy is fully transparent and targeted where it is most needed. The administration of the Levy continues to be strengthened as the government implements commitments made through the Government Response to the ACT Auditor General's Performance Audit Report Safer Families Levy. In 2024-25, the government, with input from key community sector stakeholders, developed a set of principles to guide how the Levy should be allocated as outlined in the government response. The 2025-26 Budget is the first to apply these principles, with further detail provided in the newly released 2025-26 Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Budget Factsheet. This resource provides clear and detailed

	information on funding for domestic, family and sexual violence initiatives, including how the Levy contributions are allocated, and which principles each initiative aligns with. The government publicly reports on its efforts and achievements in addressing domestic, family and sexual violence in a range of places each year, including budget papers, directorate annual reports and Ministerial Statements.
Recommendation 13 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure appropriate coercive control training is conducted for all current police, healthcare, and other frontline workers, and that this training is also provided to all new employees in future.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government has committed \$375,000 to build awareness and capacity across the ACT Government and the community sector to better identify and respond to coercive control, which is central domestic and family violence (DFV). The coercive control response package includes: • a public education campaign to build community understanding of the dynamics of coercive control, which was launched in May 2025; • training for ACT Policing and Courts, which is currently under development; and • integration of coercive control into the ACT Domestic and Family Violence Risk Assessment and Management Framework (RAMF), which is being updated in 2025. Training for a range of Government and community sector frontline workers on the updated RAMF is anticipated to commence in early 2026. The ACT Government recognises the importance of having a trained workforce and that training approaches in relation to the above should be iterative in nature and consider existing and new employees across a range of services. The training to be delivered now and into the future is subject to available resourcing.
Recommendation 14 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that there are accessible, clear and consistent referral pathways relating to family and domestic violence for the culturally and linguistically diverse community.	Agreed A priority of the ACT DFSV Strategy will be embedding culturally safe services and referrals across the full spectrum of DFSV responses, including improving the accessibility of mainstream services. The ACT Government recently launched a community education campaign on coercive control, which is available in a range of community languages, and aims to ensure individuals can identify when they may be experiencing coercive control and know where to seek help. This campaign is appearing in mainstream

	media, and will also be disseminated through the CALD community through engagement with community leaders. The ACT Government has also recently funded Multicultural Hub Canberra (mHub) to deliver the CALD Men's Non-Violence Behaviour Pilot Program specifically for culturally and linguistically diverse men who are using domestic, family and sexual violence or at risk of using violence. The program works within a strong cultural context to create change and address these types of behaviours. In addition, working together with community leaders and other members of the multicultural community and key stakeholders, education and information sessions to newly arrived migrants is an essential early intervention component of this program. Participation in this program is voluntary and free, and referrals can be made directly by participants or through other agencies.
Recommendation 15 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government report on the specific actions being undertaken to address women's perception of safety as measured by Strategic Indicator 5 of the Community Services Directorate Annual Report.	Agreed The Health and Community Services Directorate reports on women's perceptions of safety, via the National Survey of Community Satisfaction with Policing, as a proxy indicator for women's participation, or women's perceptions of Canberra as a community where women are safe, healthy, equally represented and valued for their contributions. <i>The ACT Women's Plan 2016-2026</i> (the Women's Plan) outlines priority areas for action to enhance the participation of ACT women, including their economic status, social inclusion, safety and wellbeing. The ACT Government is delivering a number of initiatives to improve women's perceptions of safety and inclusion in public places, including <i>Third Action Plan 2023-2026</i> (TAP) Action 2.10 to pilot and implement the Gender Sensitive Urban Design Guide and 2.9 to increase the representation of women, girls and non-binary people, and works by women and non-binary artists in public art across Canberra. Progress on these actions are reported on annually as part of the TAP reporting.
Recommendation 16	Agreed in-principle The ACTPS Gender Equity Strategy 2024-2029 requires ACTPS directorates and Public Sector Bodies with workforce headcounts of more than 100 people to develop and implement a Gender Action Plan. Due to

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government publish all directorate workforce gender equity strategies and action plans on its website.	the size, complexity and diverse nature of work in the ACTPS, each entity is required to tailor action plans to meet gender equity goals at a local level. Under the ACTPS Gender Equity Strategy 2024-2029, agencies and public sector bodies that are required to have an action plan must report progress against the plan in their annual report. Given the number of plans, and that annual reports are available on agency websites, the Government considers that this remains the most appropriate mechanism for monitoring progress and performance.
Recommendation 17 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government prioritise increased funding to the Community Sector.	Noted The ACT Government is committed to continuing to provide community services to support people within the community. Informed by evidence, the ACT Government makes careful decisions about which services and supports it funds to best meet the needs of Canberrans, and when to fund non-government organisations to provide certain services. The ACT Government, community sector and private providers all have an important role to play in delivering the most required and most effective services to support the unique needs of our community. The ACT Government consistently and equitably increases contract funding to community sector contracts through the annual setting of the Community Sector Indexation (CSI) rate. The rate reflects both wage and CPI increases and enables organisations to better keep up with increasing costs. Indexation fluctuates in response to economic pressures as they change over time and while government recognises that it is not perfect, it is an efficient way to adjust the price government pays for service delivery. In the 2025-26 Budget ACT Government is providing approximately \$8 million for CSI indexation in 2025-26. In recognition of increasing demand and cost pressures faced by community organisations, the 2025-26 ACT Budget provides a \$10 million funding boost over 2 years for community sector organisations with funding arrangements subject to CSI.
Recommendation 18	Agreed in-principle ACT Government has accepted in principle the Disability Royal Commission recommendation to establish a disability death review scheme, which will need to consider options to identify deaths in disability care and

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a dedicated Death in Disability Care review function.	resolve any information sharing issues with the Commonwealth Government. The ACT Government has not yet commenced this work.
Recommendation 19 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide definitive guidance to the Office of the Senior Practitioner, the Education Directorate, and all ACT schools on the definitions and application of the Senior Practitioner Act 2018 to enable consistent application of the rules, and ensure a safe school environment for ACT children.	Agreed The Education Directorate and Office of the Senior Practitioner have jointly developed and agreed on guidance material, which has been shared with all schools within ACT. Additional Office of the Senior Practitioner education sessions are in development.
Recommendation 20 The Committee recommends that ACT Government provide an update on progress made against the recommendations of the Disability Royal Commission.	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government is continuing to work with the Commonwealth to finalise the Disability Royal Commission (DRC) inaugural Biannual Report which is expected to be published by the end of August 2025. The inaugural Biannual Report will compile updates from the Australian Government, States and Territories on the progress of implementation of DRC recommendations. The inaugural Biannual Report will be published on the Department of Social Services website.
Recommendation 21 The Committee recommends the ACT Government provide a revised roadmap for the implementation of the changes to foundational supports in the ACT.	Noted Negotiations between the Commonwealth and state and territory governments on the long-term health and disability reform agreement are still underway. While the Commonwealth’s Disability Reform Roadmap, released in September 2024 outlines a national vision for foundational supports to be progressively rolled out from 2025–26, it is not anticipated that implementation will commence within the 2025 calendar year. The ACT Government continues to work collaboratively with the Commonwealth and other jurisdictions to design services for foundational supports, with local contexts and needs in mind. In 2024 and 2025, the ACT has led a series of high-level community consultation sessions with disability service providers and advocacy organisations to inform preliminary work on foundational supports. These engagements have focused on gathering early insights and have been high-level to date, recognising that national design and funding arrangements for foundational supports are still under negotiation. Once

	these are settled, the ACT expects to have more targeted consultation with key stakeholders for input and advice.
Recommendation 22 The Committee recommends the ACT Government publish a timeline for the consideration and implementation of the Carers Recognition Card.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government has made a commitment to explore the feasibility of a carers recognition card so that carers can more easily access services and supports without having to verify every time that they are a carer. Policy work to explore the feasibility of a carer recognition card is underway. This work is considering what carers have told government and advocacy organisations about what would be helpful for them, aligning this to options around a potential card’s purpose and administration options. Once complete, this advice will require government consideration on feasibility and next steps, at which time a timeline for implementation will also be considered.
Recommendation 23 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the relevant service provider is appropriately resourced to provide immediate support for Canberrans at immediate risk of homelessness or rough sleeping, and that data is collected and published on the percentage and number of successful callbacks performed monthly.	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government has continuously increased the amount of funding to the homelessness sector and for homelessness services over the past five years – from \$26 million in 2020-21 to \$36 million in 2024-25. This has funded 51 specialist programs delivered by 27 sector partners. The Government has also committed over \$140 million in homelessness funding over the next four years for emergency and transitional accommodation, free food and counselling and social inclusion supports. These services aim to assist people to resolve crisis, re-establish family links where appropriate, and enhance the capacity of people to live independently. Onelink does not collect data on callbacks. It is noted reporting on callbacks would divert resources away from frontline and core services and would be contingent on clients providing sufficient information to support callbacks.
Recommendation 24 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take appropriate action to reduce the average number of	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government has continuously increased the amount of funding to the homelessness sector and for homelessness services, including rough sleepers, over the past five years – from \$26 million in 2020-21 to \$36 million in 2024-25. This has funded 51 specialist programs delivered by 27 sector partners.

individuals confirmed to be rough sleepers, and report on the actions being undertaken.	The Government has also committed over \$140 million in homelessness funding over the next four years for emergency and transitional accommodation, free food and counselling and social inclusion supports. These services aim to assist people to resolve crisis, re-establish family links where appropriate, and enhance the capacity of people to live independently. The Census provides verified data on numbers of rough sleepers. In 2021, there were 59 rough sleepers in the ACT. The ACT had the second lowest rate of rough sleepers (1.3 persons per 10,000) nationally in 2021. Actions to support rough sleepers in the ACT are reported through CSD's annual report, ACT Government reporting on the ACT Housing Strategy, the Australian Health and Welfare Institute's Report on Government Services and Specialist Homelessness Services Collection.
Recommendation 25 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government have high regard to the housing needs of Canberra's most vulnerable people when making choices on what to fund in future budgets.	Noted The ACT Government considers the wellbeing impact of all decisions made through Cabinet, including budget processes. All matters for decision in the budget, including housing, are assessed via the wellbeing domains to better understand their broader impacts.
Recommendation 26 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government take steps to significantly reduce the average public housing wait times across all lists as soon as practicable by taking measures such as: • re-tenanting vacant properties as quickly as possible; and • significantly increasing the stock of Housing ACT properties.	Existing Government Policy The ACT Government is committed to re-tenanting vacant properties. The ACT Government has committed to building more public housing including the delivery of 13,200 public housing homes by 2030.
Recommendation 27 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government increase the number of Housing Managers employed by Housing ACT as soon as practicable, and continue to	Noted This recommendation has financial impacts. Housing ACT provides employees with access to training and employee assistance programs.

improve the quality and accessibility of appropriate pastoral and mental health support services available.	
Recommendation 28 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government advise how often physical inspections of Housing ACT properties are undertaken, and whether this is frequent enough.	Existing Government Policy The number of property inspections undertaken per year is determined by the requirements in the <i>Residential Tenancies Act 1997</i> . Housing ACT undertakes inspections across its portfolio and reports on the number of Client Service Visits through the CSD annual report.
Recommendation 29 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consult with the community when considering the sale of Housing ACT properties which are providing a community amenity, such as the Foveaux Street Peace Garden.	Not agreed As noted by the committee the example used was an unapproved community amenity. Given all HACT property is located on residential land with respective permitted use, community spaces are not routinely delivered or approved. HACT asset sales are determined through multi-criteria assessments. Community engagement or feedback on sale selections during assessment or prior to market, reduces market fairness and may inhibit Government in seeking value for money outcomes.
Recommendation 30 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure grant funding available under the Safer Families Assistance Program be demand driven.	Noted The 2025-26 ACT Budget will invest an additional \$400,000 in the Safer Families Assistance Grants Program (the Program), for a total investment of \$776,000. A small-scale review will occur in 2025-26 to consider Program's operations, effectiveness, eligibility and opportunities for improvement, including potential duplication with other financial assistance schemes.
Recommendation 31 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider whether updates to Part 2 of the Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2024 are required to ensure easy identification and comparison of actions to implement commitments under: the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	Noted The Annual Report for the 2024-25 financial year is being developed in line with the Annual Report (Government Agencies) Directions 2025, which commenced on 9 May 2025. Section B9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reporting requirement specifies: <i>Reporting entities must report annual progress under the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019 – 2028 (ACT Agreement) and the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National</i>

Agreement 2019–2028; • the National Agreement on Closing the Gap; • the Our Booris, Our Way report; and • any independent reviews of these documents, including the Productivity Commission’s Closing the Gap Review and the First Nations-led review of the National Agreement.	<i>Agreement). This is done through the Impact Statement and through the ACT Annual Report for the National Closing the Gap Agreement coordinated by the Office of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs for the ACT Public Service.</i> The Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy (OIRWS) are responsible for consulting with directorates in the development of Annual Report (Government Agencies) Directions 2026. Through this consultation process the addition of further reporting can be considered for inclusion in Section B9 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Reporting.
Recommendation 32 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government announce a roadmap for the transfer of Boomanulla Oval and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm to community control, including a date on which the transfers will take place.	Agreed The Government agrees to working with the Elected Body to develop an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island Advisory Committee to oversee operations and work with the ACT Government to transition management of Boomanulla. It is acknowledged though that the pathway to Community-control must be led by Community and move at a pace that is determined by Community to ensure sustainable outcomes. Significant work has progressed in collaboration with Community and across ACT Government directorates to support the transition of the Ngunnawal Bush Healing Farm (NBHF) to Community-control, and to support later self-determined transition to a residential service. Listening to Community, transition to Community-control and residential services will progress in three stages: • Stage 1 involves releasing an open grant process in 2025 to identify an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) the Health and Community Services Directorate can partner with to deliver Community-control of the NBHF. • Stages 2 (Community-control of day program operations) and Stage 3 (Delivery of residential services) are both subject to Stage 1 completion and government funding decisions. Critically, the time taken to transition between stages will be self-determined by the ACCO.
Recommendation 33 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider ensuring that invitations are forwarded to non-	Existing Government Policy

Government Members of the Legislative Assembly for Government-run multicultural events.	A number of ACT Government run multicultural community events, such as the National Multicultural Festival, are open to the public and welcome all community members, including Members of the Legislative Assembly. ACT Government run multicultural events held in the ACT are apolitical and it is convention to invite all members of the Legislative Assembly.
Recommendation 34 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government strengthen accountability in relation to both the Youth Advisory Council and the ACT Youth Assembly.	Agreed In 2025, the ACT Youth Assembly became an annual event, acknowledging its role in amplifying young people's voices in governmental decision-making. Hosted by the Youth Advisory Council (YAC) and supported by the Community Services Directorate, the Assembly enables young people to communicate directly with government through the ACT Government expert observers present to inform forum discussions, senior ACT Government executives that participate in the panel that provides initial reflections on the recommendations and the publication of a public report. The ACT Government prepares a response to the report, which is published on the ACT Government website. The ACT Government also refers to the outcomes of the Assembly to inform and progress ACT Government priorities, for example the development of the MindMap ACT Youth Portal. The YAC operates under a Terms of Reference, which are currently being reviewed in light of the change to annual Youth Assemblies. Improved accountability and governance will be considered as part of this review.
Recommendation 35 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider providing a formal response to the Listen to Me! report.	Existing Government Policy Through the Children Youth and Families team within the Health and Community Services Directorate, the ACT Government is undertaking work in response to the report. Noting there is no requirement to formally respond, policies will be updated to strengthen practice in line with the five actions, legislation and any agreed outcomes coming from working groups.

Recommendation 36 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government review the priorities and culture in place at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, to ensure a more appropriate balance to place the needs of the individual as a primary consideration, within the context of a secure environment, and to ensure better connections and information flows between groups involved in the management of the Centre.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government notes the Inspector of Custodial Services 2024 Healthy Centre Review of the Bimberi Youth Justice Centre discussed the expiry of the Blueprint for Youth Justice 2012-22 and the absence of a defined strategic purpose. Recommendation 1 of the Review is that the ACT Government articulate a strategic purpose for Bimberi, and a corresponding model of care. The Inspector’s report is under active consideration and further information will be provided in the Government response to that Report.
Recommendation 37 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government procure and implement body scanner technology at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, the ACT Watch House and ACT court cells as soon as practicable to eliminate the cause for strip searches to be conducted on children and young people.	Agreed in-principle The procurement and implementation of body scanner technology will be considered by the ACT Government as part of the development of the new City Police Station. Procurement and implementation of a body scanner for use in the ACT court cells is already underway, noting children and young people are not strip searched at the ACT court cells. In relation to Bimberi Youth Justice Centre, this recommendation will be considered as part of the Government’s Response to the Inspector of Custodial Services 2024 Healthy Centre Review of Bimberi (Recommendation 10). Any resourcing requirements would be subject to a future budget process and taken in the context of government’s competing priorities in a constrained fiscal environment.
Recommendation 38 The Committee recommends that any unqualified and inexperienced person employed at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre as a Youth Worker must be supervised at all times, and be enrolled in an appropriate training program to attain a qualification.	Existing Government Policy Bimberi undertakes a thorough recruitment and training program for operational staff. This includes suitability assessment, interviewing, reference checks, national police checks and a fitness assessment as part of the recruitment process. Suitable applicants are then required to undertake a 7-week induction program and 2 weeks of supervised ‘buddy’ shifts prior to working with young people. While it is not a requirement for employment, operational staff are encouraged and supported to complete a Certificate IV in Youth Work, Youth Justice or equivalent.
Recommendation 39	Agreed

The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a formal report of progress on the 12 priority actions listed in the Strong Foundations Phase One Implementation Plan due to be completed in 2024.	The Government will provide a formal report of progress on the 12 priority actions at the conclusion of the Strong Foundations Phase One Implementation Plan in December 2025.
Recommendation 40 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide ongoing updates on the 11 priority actions listed in the Strong Foundations Phase One Implementation Plan due to be progressed throughout 2025.	Agreed The Government will report on Strong Foundations implementation progress throughout the four-year implementation.
Recommendation 41 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure the scale of its Muliyan flexible education offering is sufficient to meet the level of need in the community.	Existing Government Policy It is acknowledged there is increase in demand for flexible education offerings, including Muliyan. The ACT Government has committed to review the current offering.
Recommendation 42 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government conduct rigorous monitoring and review of workplace incidents in ACT public schools and reports at least biannually to the Assembly.	Existing Government Policy The Education Directorate conducts rigorous monitoring and review of workplace incidents in ACT public schools. Workplace incident data is published in Annual Reports.
Recommendation 43 The Committee recommends that ACT Government provide a clear timeline and engagement plan surrounding the Majura Primary School upgrades.	Agreed The Education Directorate and Infrastructure Canberra have developed a timeline and engagement plan regarding Majura Primary School modernisation. School community engagement commenced in June 2025, including information provided about project engagement and timelines.
Recommendation 44 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide a clear timeline and delivery plan to bring all ACT public school heating and cooling systems up to standard.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government has committed to establish a dedicated heating and cooling fund for heating and cooling upgrades in ACT public schools. Upgrades are also being provided through the Electrification of Government Gas Assets program. This will contribute to meeting Government greenhouse gas emissions

	targets and the goal of net zero emissions. Heating and cooling investment will be prioritised based on identified need across public schools and be informed by asset condition information.
Recommendation 45 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government continue to engage with other jurisdictions to both widen the scope and expand the powers of early childhood education and care regulators to capture concerning operator behaviours beyond the area of immediate child safety and ensure stronger protection for educators and families.	Agreed in-principle The ACT Government continues to work with all jurisdictions on potential changes to the National Quality Framework to better regulate problematic providers, particularly those with complex corporate structures. Governments are currently considering various potential options, noting that the current Review of Child Safety Arrangements under the National Quality Framework includes consultation options regarding regulation of related providers.
Recommendation 46 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide an end of financial year update to the Assembly on the University of Canberra's financial position as at 30 June 2025, as provided for in section 35(2)(d) and Schedule 1 of the University of Canberra Act 1988.	Agreed in-principle Per section 35(2)(d), the Treasurer may request information on the University of Canberra's financial position as at 30 June 2025. The university will have one month to provide the information from the date of request. Prior to 30 June 2025, the Minister for Economic Development will present the University of Canberra's 2024 Annual Report to the Legislative Assembly in accordance with the legislation.
Recommendation 47 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government investigate the long-term decline in university enrolments of male students.	Not Agreed This is a national trend, which is beyond the scope of the ACT Government to investigate and have tangible impact.
Recommendation 48 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government provide sufficient funding to ensure Official Visitors are able to make as many visits as necessary to fulfil their functions effectively and reliably.	Noted The Official Visitors budget for 2024-25 was \$649,000 for Official Visitors' remuneration and expenses. In addition, \$179,000 was budgeted for remuneration for the Executive Officer and Chair and other controlled administrative expenses. Requests for additional funding are considered in accordance with usual budget processes.

Recommendation 49 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government explore options for the implementation of a case management software system for use by the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People's Commissioner.	Agreed in-principle The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) and the Office of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People's Commissioner (the Commissioner) are working with Digital Canberra to explore options for a case management solution for the Commissioner.
Recommendation 50 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government consider whether further supports and safeguards can be put in place to protect young people and children in residential and Out-of-Home Care.	Existing Government Policy ACT Government has a comprehensive framework in place to protect children and young people, particularly those in residential and out-of-home care. This occurs through daily engagement, ongoing case management, regular care team meetings, access to therapeutic support services, referral to support services and mentoring programs. Across Government, there is a strong commitment to keeping children safe, and wherever possible preventing rather than just responding to harm. Cross-agency collaboration, including with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner and the ACT Children and Young People Commissioner, strengthens responses to child sexual exploitation and builds frontline capacity to identify and act on risks. Initiatives like the Therapeutic Support Panel and Intensive Adolescent Service (IAS) provide early intervention and intensive support for at-risk youth, aiming to divert them from statutory systems. Processes are in place to assess and respond to substantiated harm, including Working with Vulnerable People (WWVP) registration and potential police referrals. Oversight bodies, Family Group Conferencing, and multi-agency roundtables ensure coordinated decision-making, information sharing, and continuous improvement in child protection practices.