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ACT | Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Elected Body

	A.C.T. LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE OFFICE
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Mr Steve Doszpot MLA
Chair
Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety
Legislative Assembly for the Australian Capital Territory
GPO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Mr Doszpot

Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No.2 of 2015

On behalf of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Elected Body), I would like to thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission to the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No.2 of 2105: *The Rehabilitation of Male Detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre*.

As you are aware, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are highly represented within the population of the Alexander Maconochie Centre (AMC). Hence, the affect rehabilitation has on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees are of significant importance to ATSIIEB specifically: (1) during incarceration; and (2) upon re-entry into the community.

The Auditor-General's report highlights several inefficiencies with the AMC rehabilitation process that detrimentally impact on all detainees (including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders). ATSIIEB is dismayed with the dysfunctional nature of the rehabilitation process due to the lack of critical frameworks and systems, as stated:

"AMC planning for rehabilitation is ineffective as there is no rehabilitation planning framework, no evaluation framework and no finalised case management policy framework. - The information management systems used at the AMC are inadequate."

The report strongly implies much work is needed to bring the rehabilitation system on track to achieve an effective and efficient sustainable working model.

ATSIIEB notes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees have access to support, specific programs and services, and a range of AMC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander support staff. However, ATSIIEB is interested in how effective these initiatives have assisted detainees throughout the rehabilitation process (including lessons learnt to assist other disadvantaged groups). ATSIIEB is aware of anecdotal feedback from detainees regarding:

- Limited access to criminogenic, therapeutic, employment and training programs; and
- A lack of assistance and support to them, post release.

ATSIEB supports the ACT Government response to all recommendations. However, we are interested in the flow on effect of how these recommendations improve rehabilitation efforts and the lives of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander female detainees.

ATSIEB sees a direct correlation between the report's recommendations and objectives of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-18 (which aim to reduce over-representation, improve access to justice services and improve data collection, reporting and evaluation).

We are keen to see how the report's recommendations align, cross-reference and link to the implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership action plan.

ATSIEB specific comments to the recommendations and government response are at **Attachment A**.

In closing, thank you for the opportunity for ATSIEB to make a submission on the report.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Collins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Diane Collins
Chairperson
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
5 May 2016

ATTACHMENT A

Inquiry into the Auditor-General's Report No.2 of 2105: *The Rehabilitation of Male Detainees at the Alexander Maconochie Centre*

ATSIEB Specific Comments

Recommendation 1: Rehabilitative Framework

Response: Agrees – ATSIEB strongly supports ACT Corrective Services developing and strengthening an overarching rehabilitation framework.

ATSIEB seeks an opportunity to provide comments and/or input to the rehabilitation framework document (specifically impacts and the effectiveness of service delivery to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees).

Recommendation 2: Role of Commercial or Business Enterprises ('Prison Industries')

Response: Agrees – ATSIEB supports the work to identify viable industries for the AMC.

ATSIEB requests a copy of the comprehensive report for presentation to the Minister for Justice.

Recommendation 3: Accountability and Reporting

Response: Agrees - ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

Recommendation 4: Evaluation Framework

Response: Agrees – ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

This recommendation is linked to Recommendations 1, 3 and 8.

Recommendation 5: Throughcare

Response: Agrees – ATSIEB supports developing a Throughcare policy and acknowledges the 2014-15 ACT Government budget initiative – '*extending the Throughcare program to support offenders transitioning into the community and helping to reduce recidivism*'.

ATSIEB seeks an opportunity to provide comments and/or input to the Throughcare policy (during the developmental stage).

Recommendation 6: Case Management Policy Framework

Response: Agrees - ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 8.

Recommendation 7: Addressing Individual Detainee Needs

Response: Agrees - ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

ATSIEB acknowledges the AMC has been developed a benchmark to effectively capture individual needs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees and plans to implement a similar approach across all AMC target groups.

ATSIEB is keen to see:

- Whether this approach has translated into Aboriginal *and* Torres Strait Islander detainees effectively gaining access to AMC and stakeholder internal/external rehabilitative programs, support and assistance; and
- How the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander benchmark is rolled out effectively and efficiently across all AMC target groups.

Recommendation 8: ACTCS Information Management System

Response: Agrees – ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

ATSIEB acknowledges the 2015-16 ACT Government budget initiative – *enhancing ACT Corrective Services by developing an improved information management system*.

ATSIEB acknowledges that this approach improves data collection to assist generating relevant information for use by various systems and frameworks across the AMC (specifically in relation to policies, programs, accountabilities, reporting and evaluation processes).

Recommendation 9: Improving Level Service Inventory-Revised (LSI-R) Effectiveness

Response: Agrees - ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 8.

Recommendation 10: The ‘Structured Day’ and Sufficient ‘Purposeful Activity’

Response: Agrees - ATSIEB strongly supports this recommendation and the government response.

This recommendation is linked to Recommendation 2.

ATSIEB suggests that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees should be encourage to self nominate or be referred to criminogenic, therapeutic, employment and training programs or services that are offered by the AMC and/or stakeholders.

ATSIEB is keen to see how the realisation of recommendation 2 as being a beneficial sufficient ‘Purposeful Activity’ for detainees and their self nomination to this activity.