



ACT
Government

ACT Government Response to *The Long Yarn* Report

Findings of the Domestic Violence Prevention Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group to update the findings of the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report

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Acknowledgement

The ACT Government welcomes *The Long Yarn* as a report led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and authorised by the Domestic Violence Prevention Council (DVPC) Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group. The Government acknowledges and thanks the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors, family members, community sector workers, Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations and leaders who generously shared their experiences and wisdom to offer the government clear and compelling advice on solutions to stop domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV). Your courage, leadership and compassion will act as a shining light guiding all DFSV responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT to assist healing and foster safer families. The Government acknowledges and thanks all members, past and present, of the DVPC Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group for your work in partnership with the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Office to improve the lives of your community.

Background

In October 2019, the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Yvette Berry delivered a joint Ministerial Statement in the ACT Legislative Assembly on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Rachel Stephen-Smith on the ACT Government's commitment to working in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to address domestic and family violence.

In the statement, Ministers Berry and Stephen-Smith formally acknowledged the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report (2009) and apologised for the Government's delay in responding to the report which examined the high levels of domestic and family violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, the barriers to accessing services and the resulting devastating impacts.

The Joint Statement included some early actions in response to the 12 recommendations and made a strong commitment to working with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representative bodies, including the Domestic Violence Prevention Council's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group (Expert Reference Group), on areas of future work from the report and beyond.

After the Government's response, the Expert Reference Group met Government representatives to discuss the next steps to deliver on this commitment. Given the length of time since the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report was released, the Expert Reference Group worked with Curijo, an Aboriginal female-owned and led consultancy, to undertake a further consultation in 2020 with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT to consider whether the original 12 recommendations remained current and respond to community identified need. It was also an opportunity to determine other areas where there were gaps in supports for victim-survivors, children and young people, and people who choose to use violence to change their behaviour.

The overwhelming feedback compiled in 2021 was that the recommendations from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report were still relevant, with the addition of men being included in recommendations as both perpetrators and victims of violence.

In the following years, the Expert Reference Group prepared *The Long Yarn* report which sets out the consultation outcomes of this process, including important refinements to the original recommendations from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report. *The Long Yarn* calls for a greater focus on addressing structural racism, cultural safety in all services, healing, and working with men and boys. It retains the original 12 recommendations, with updated wording to incorporate the community feedback.

The Expert Reference Group formally presented *The Long Yarn* report to Minister Berry on 19 August 2024.

At the October 2024 election, the ACT Government made a commitment to continue working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to implement recommendations from *The Long Yarn* report.

Summary of findings and recommendations

The Long Yarn represents a set of key themes raised by consultation participants when updating the original recommendations of the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report, including that:

- men need to be represented in all recommendations as both victims and people who use violence;
- the ACT needs Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led and operated family and domestic violence services;
- victims of violence need to be supported and not be punished by the removal of their children;
- data collection should be improved to show a true picture of family and domestic violence affecting the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT, and must demonstrate not all domestic and family violence experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people is perpetrated by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men;
- the ACT requires more healing-inclusive supports for people who choose to use violence, as they may be past victims themselves, and healing people who choose to use violence is the best strategy for prevention; and
- the structural racism that exists within the community services sector must be addressed, and there must be accountability for all workers who support both victims of family and domestic violence and people who use violence.

The Long Yarn makes 12 recommendations that call on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and Government to work together to build capacity to address domestic and family violence in the following areas:

- centring voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims
- a strategic planning and delivery framework
- holistic supports for Aboriginal women, men and children
- community education and mentoring
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce
- long-term funding for Aboriginal-led and operated services
- family supports for children to remain living with their parent/family
- healing interventions
- system-wide culturally safe services

- Aboriginal-led research and evaluation

The refinements made to the original *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report recommendations focus on the importance of committing long-term funding to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led services and working with men and boys as victims, perpetrators of family violence, and allies in preventing violence.

Overview of ACT Government Response

The ACT Government has carefully considered each recommendation and provided a detailed and thorough response to the Report. *The Long Yarn* made 12 recommendations with some recommendations including multiple elements. The ACT Government agrees to all 12 recommendations.

Since 2022-23, the ACT Government has committed almost \$11million in funding for ACCOs providing DFSV services. This included new investment in the 2025-26 Budget, with \$6.022 million dollars over 3 years from 2026-27 for 4 Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) and Aboriginal-led organisations, as well as a 'violence is not our way' education campaign to encourage victim-survivors and perpetrators to seek help and promote positive role models for men, women and children. This investment is intended to support implementation of *The Long Yarn* recommendations and support service continuity and sustainability for Aboriginal-led responses, especially for newly established services.

The 2025-2026 ACT Budget also implemented the Safer Families Levy Principles, which includes a commitment to ensure a meaningful allocation of Safer Families Levy funding is directed to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander-led programs and services delivery (Principle 5), particularly Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experiencing, or at risk of experiencing, domestic, family and sexual violence. Of the \$18.7 million contribution from the Safer Families Levy for new initiatives in the 2025-26 Budget for the Safer Families Package, \$5.8 million in Safer Families Levy investment has been allocated to ACCOs.

Following the Budget announcement, some progress has been made against all 12 recommendations of *The Long Yarn*.

The ACT Government understands much more work and investment is needed, and in accordance with Closing the Gap - Priority Reform Three – Transforming Government Organisations, the Government is committed to continuing to listen to the wisdom and expertise of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT and embedding this wisdom and knowledge within the ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy. The Government is determined to continue working in respectful, transparent partnerships with ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations to ensure the availability of culturally safe, self-determined, evidence-based and responsive practices and services to address DFSV in our communities.

Implementation and accountability

The Long Yarn recommendations are a continuation of the work from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report. These recommendations include both immediate and long-term reforms to prevent family and domestic violence, and improve responses for victim-survivors, children and young people, as well as people who use violence. Since 2019, the ACT Government has made a concerted effort to work with the

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on DFSV supports and invest in community-led solutions. We acknowledge this happens within the constraints of government systems and that progress has been slower than we would like. The Government will use the clear direction from *The Long Yarn* report to drive reforms that deliver real change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Expert Reference Group has provided the Government updated advice on the priority recommendations for action. They have called for a continued focus on **Recommendations 4, 8, 9 and 10**, carried over from the *We Don't Shoot Our Wounded* report. Further to these, the Expert Reference Group has identified **Recommendations 5, 7 and 11** as future priorities.

Progress against *The Long Yarn* recommendations is not a 'once and done' exercise. Rather, it requires an ongoing and sustained commitment to fulfil the intentions of the people who demonstrated courage and leadership in offering the Government comprehensive advice on what needs to be done.

The ACT Government recognises the importance of appropriate oversight and governance to support ongoing reporting and accountability as progress against *The Long Yarn* recommendations continues. To oversee implementation, the ACT Government commits to working with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, including the Expert Reference Group, Aboriginal Community-Controlled and Aboriginal-led Organisations, through the development of the ACT Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Strategy and its Action Plans.

Responses to Recommendations

Recommendation	ACT Government Response	
Recommendation 1: Make a joint and public commitment to preventing family violence, supporting victims, and helping men to live violence-free lives.	Agree	The ACT Government agrees to use every opportunity through its public statements and policies to make clear its enduring commitment to prevent and respond to all forms of domestic, family and sexual violence in the ACT community. Domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) is not, and never will be, acceptable in the ACT. The ACT Government acknowledges that DFSV is not, and has never been, a part of Aboriginal society and culture. The causes of DFSV do not stem from Aboriginal culture. DFSV affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people must be recognised and understood within the historical context of colonisation and settlement. On 22 October 2019, the Joint Ministerial Statement delivered by the Minister for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence Yvette Berry on behalf of the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs Rachel Stephen-Smith put on record their shared and unequivocal commitment to listen to and work in deep partnership with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to address DFSV. The ACT Government committed to creating the necessary supports and services that assist community healing and aspirations of strong resilient families free from violence. At the 2024 ACT election, the ACT Government reaffirmed this commitment and publicly promised to implement all recommendations of <i>The Long Yarn</i> report. In delivering the Government Response to <i>The Long Yarn</i> and related Ministerial Statement, the ACT Government is again making a joint and public commitment to prevent and respond to DFSV experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, children and men, while supporting people who use violence to change their behaviour.

		The ACT Government supports several local and national initiatives to address DFSV affecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people: • <i>ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–2028</i> Commits to reducing family violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children by 50% by 2031, aligned with Closing the Gap Target 13. • <i>Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence 2025 – 2035</i> (in development) A national framework co-designed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to end DFSV, promoting a whole-of-society approach and genuine partnerships. This will follow the <i>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Action Plan 2023–25</i> (under the <i>National Plan to End Violence Against Women and Children 2022–2032</i>). • <i>ACT Corrective Services’ Be the Change We Seek Framework</i> Focuses on reducing overrepresentation in the justice system through: • Culturally capable workforce • Safe and responsive services • Rehabilitation and reintegration • Strong partnerships and collaboration Future arrangements for reporting on progress against <i>The Long Yarn</i> recommendations will continue to publicly affirm the Government’s commitment to preventing family violence, supporting victims, and helping perpetrators change their behaviour to live violence-free lives.
Recommendation 2: Ensure that the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of family violence continue to be heard, actions	Agree	The ACT Government is committed to centring victim-survivors in responding to and preventing DFSV and ensuring the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are represented across all areas of this work.

implemented, and outcome information communicated to community.		The ACT Government and the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Coordinator-General continues to regularly engage with the Domestic Violence Prevention Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group who share community views and expertise. The ACT Government is partnering with Women's Health Matters and Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation (Sisters) on the Victim Survivor Voices Project - piloting an intersectional and sustainable engagement model for consulting with adult victim-survivors on initiatives aimed at addressing DFSV. Sisters is funded specifically to uplift the voices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of DFSV and ensure First Nations people's voices are represented in the Victim Survivor Voices Project. Sisters will also run a series of forums with First Nations women in the ACT focusing on DFSV responses and solutions through systemic advocacy activities. In 2021, ACT Policing established a First Nations Working Group to guide engagement with the ACT's First Nations community. The Working Group comprised members across ACT Policing, including First Nations Liaison Officers, working with community to co-design responses. In 2023, ACT Policing entered into a contractual arrangement with Education Training & Management Perspectives, a 100 percent Aboriginal-owned consultancy and training business, to partner with the First Nations Working Group. The First Nations Working Group reports to the Chief Police Officer's First Nations Advisory Board.
Recommendation 3: Identify a strategic planning and delivery framework to deliver real changes aimed at supporting and healing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and perpetrators of family violence and carrying forward improvements in the access to justice and to services.	Agree	The ACT Government is committed to continuous improvement and strategic planning for the delivery of services to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander who have experienced, or are continuing to experience, DFSV. The ACT Government is developing a comprehensive, evidence-based 10-year ACT Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Strategy to guide priorities in addressing domestic, family and sexual violence in the ACT. Consultation commenced in June 2025 and will continue throughout the year. The ACT Government recognises that centring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander perspectives in the Strategy is vital. ACCOs delivering DFSV services and supports have been identified as key stakeholders and will be engaged throughout all phases of the consultation.

		The ACT is working with the Australian Government, in partnership with SNAICC – the National Voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Families, on developing the <i>Our Ways – Strong Ways – Our Voices: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Plan to End Family, Domestic and Sexual Violence</i>. When delivered, it will be the first national policy framework created with and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and takes a whole of society approach to address the unacceptable and disproportionate rates of violence against Aboriginal women and children. The ACT Government will soon release the ACT Corrective Services Cultural Services Model of Care, delivering an evidence-based, best-practice approach to working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander offenders and supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff in a culturally-appropriate and respectful manner. The ACT Government has also incorporated three Commissioning workshops in the development of programs relating to diversion, prevention and breaking the cycle for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people connected to or at risk of contact with the Criminal Justice System. Commissioning brings together internal Government and external sector and community stakeholders to ensure all voices are heard.
Recommendation 4: Establish a specific service/s for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women where a range of legal, advocacy, practical and healing activities can be delivered separately but under the one umbrella.	Agree	The ACT Government recognises community-led responses are essential to delivering real change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Prior to 2022-23, the ACT Government did not fund any ACCOs for dedicated DFSV responses. The ACT now funds 5 ACCOs for DFSV responses, with over \$5 million provided directly to ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations between 2023-2026 to Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation, Yhurwun Bullan Aboriginal Corporation, Yeddung Mura (Good Pathways) Aboriginal Corporation, Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation and WhISPerS Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Softball Corporation. The 2025-26 ACT Budget commits further funding over 3 years from 2026-27 to continue investment in 4 DFSV programs delivered by ACCOs, as part of implementing <i>The Long Yarn</i> report recommendations.

		In 2023, the ACT Government collaboratively designed and developed grant programs in consultation with ACCOs and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community leaders. Through grants assessment panels comprising a majority Aboriginal women, the ACT Government funded 5 ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations for a range of DFSV programs and services, in recognition that community-led responses are essential to delivering real change for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These ACCO services encompass individual and systemic advocacy; holistic, wraparound support for women and children impacted by DFSV; working with people who use violence and programs to support prevention and healing. The ACT Government funds justice system-focused programs delivered by ACCOs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and families. They include supports covering diversion, reintegration, circle sentencing and legal assistance services. The Government also funds services provided by mainstream legal assistance providers to target the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members. The ACT Government administers Commonwealth funding for legal assistance in the ACT under the National Access to Justice Partnerships 2025-2030. Funding is quarantined in this agreement for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Legal Services. Under the new agreement, a new quarantined funding stream has been added for Aboriginal community-controlled Family Violence Prevention Legal Services (FVPLS). In the ACT, this service is delivered by the Aboriginal Legal Service NSW/ACT. The ACT Government acknowledges work needs to continue with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community on identifying potential service linkages and unmet needs to fulfil the intentions of this recommendation.
Recommendation 5: Develop and implement a community and professional education program stressing that “violence is not our way” encouraging victims and perpetrators to	Agree	The ACT Government has committed \$600,000 over 2 years from 2026-27 in the 2025-26 Budget to develop and implement a community and professional education program, to be designed and led by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Communicating that ‘violence is not our way’,

seek help and emphasize positive role models for men, women, and children.		the aim is to encourage victims and perpetrators to seek help and emphasise positive role models for men, women and children.
Recommendation 6: Implement initiatives to resource and assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to further support and mentor each other, and for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to train and seek qualifications to assist victims of family violence. These initiatives should expressly integrate spiritual and cultural contexts.	Agree	The ACT Government is progressing, in genuine partnership, a range of capability and capacity building activities designed to support the growth and sustainability of the ACT community-controlled sector and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workforce. In early 2023, the Aboriginal Service Development Branch (ASD) was established within the Health and Community Services Directorate to support and work in partnership with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, new and existing ACCOs and government partners to deliver on various aspects of the ACT 2019 – 2028 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement and the Closing the Gap agreement. Since establishment, ASD has been working with ACCOs supporting their operational capability and capacity to meet community goals to deliver across the entire human services system. This includes holistic and culturally safe wraparound services, responding to individual ACCOs needs as determined by the individual ACCO and bringing partners together to collaboratively address challenges and explore opportunities. The ACT Government has committed \$3.86 million over 4 years to establish the ACCO Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF) through the 2024-25 ACT Budget. The AEEF is designed to support the establishment, growth and sustainability of local ACCOs, consistent with the ACT Government commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap Priority Reform 2: Building the community-controlled sector and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028. The AEEF provides an alternative funding source that is focused on supporting establishment, capacity and capability building activities for ACCOs, which may include support for training and mentorship programs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, enhancing the capacity of ACCOs to deliver culturally appropriate domestic, family, and sexual violence support services. In late 2024, ACT Corrective Services commenced the Post-Custody Mentoring Pilot program which connects volunteer mentors with women in custody to provide them emotional support, prosocial supports, friendship and logistical support. The Government is also funding an ACCO for an intensive

		Case Management Pilot program for First Nations detainees with multiple incarceration episodes. Delivered by Yeddung Mura, the program aims to provide a robust, integrated support system to help detainees reintegrate into the community and significantly reduce reoffending rates.
Recommendation 7: Commit to long-term funding arrangements for Aboriginal led and operated services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of violence that are ongoing and expressly recognise the more complex and intensive case management requirements involved in assisting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of violence.	Agree	The ACT Government is committed to investing in ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations to address the disproportionate and unacceptable rates of DFSV experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, in line with commitments under the <i>National Agreement on Closing the Gap</i> Priority Reform 2: Building the Community Controlled sector. This includes Clause 55 to increase the proportion of services delivered by ACCOs, commensurate with the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. The 2025-26 ACT Budget further demonstrates the government's commitment to growing a strong and sustainable DFSV ACCO sector. Significant funding over 3 years from 2026-27 has been allocated to continue investment in 4 DFSV programs delivered by ACCOs, as part of implementing <i>The Long Yarn</i> report recommendations. This investment includes a \$5.809 million contribution from the Safer Families Levy. The initiative brings the ACT Government's total investment in ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations for DFSV responses to almost \$11 million between 2023-2029. The ACT Government recognises longer-term funding arrangements are essential for the continuity of services provided by ACCOs and is committed to providing funding certainty ongoing.
Recommendation 8: Develop a culturally safe and coordinated approach to supporting children and young people affected by family violence that recognise the importance of education and of family; and which offers practical, sustainable and nonpunitive support to the parent who is also a victim of family	Agree	The ACT Government recognises children are victim-survivors in their own right and require dedicated supports. The <i>Our Booris Our Way Review</i> and <i>Next Steps for Our Kids 2022-2030</i> strategy aim to improve supports and system responsiveness for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families through a broader focus on early supports that are culturally safe, integrate service delivery and lead with self-determination as a core principle. <i>Next Steps for Our Kids</i> articulates a clear reform agenda to improve the lives of children and young people. Under the reform, the Children, Young People and Families Preferred Providers group has been created. This group includes an ACCO that delivers an 'Empowering Families' service, under the

violence to support children to remain living with their parent/family.		Sustaining Families service banner. This service focuses on supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and their families involved with, or at risk of becoming involved with the care and protection system. The ACT Government Children, Youth and Families programs are committed to the Safe and Together Model, the internationally recognised Family and Domestic Violence framework for use in the child protection sector. Although developed in the US, the model recognises the cultural knowledge held by women as victim-survivors and also women within families. The model supports partnering with the victim-survivor and non-offending family members; recognising the safety that can be achieved within a family. The model also provides a template for how to talk to men who use violence and to that end, strongly emphasises father inclusive practice.
Recommendation 9: Provide culturally safe advocacy, assistance and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women from the time they report to police through the prosecution and court process and linked to victim support measures aimed at securing their personal, financial and social stability and security.	Agree	The ACT Government is committed to providing culturally-safe advocacy, assistance and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men, women and children in their interactions with the justice system, noting children can be victims of crime irrespective of their parent's status as victims of crime. It recognises that initiatives are in place to fulfil this commitment, however more work is needed to deliver the system-wide change the recommendation is seeking. ACT Policing's First Nations Liaison Officer capability remains a key element of the Community Engagement Team, supporting both the ACT Policing workforce and the First Nations community around engagement and referral pathways for the provision of support services. Victim Support ACT engages four Aboriginal staff to provide culturally safe and appropriate advocacy, support and assistance to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of crime and/or their children. This includes an outreach program where staff regularly attend Aboriginal controlled community agencies as well as meeting with clients in community and at the Alexander Maconochie Centre. The Family Violence Safety Action Program has a designated position to provide support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients, as well as playing an advisory role to the Program and other staff in the Program to ensure a culturally appropriate and safe response. The Sexual Violence Response team also has a designated First Nations Senior Advocate. Services provided by all positions can include

		case coordination, support and advocacy with police, the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions and at Court, assistance to access the Victims of Crime Financial Assistance Scheme, assistance to obtain counselling and other therapeutic services and other supports needed on a case-by-case basis. The ACT Government committed funding in the 2025-26 Budget for a 2-year pilot program to establish a new role for Sexual Assault Advocates within Victim Support ACT and co-located with ACT Policing's Sexual Assault and Child Abuse Teams. These Sexual Assault Advocates will fill a crucial gap in empowering victim-survivors of sexual assault, including Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander men and women, and providing critical information about their rights, advocacy to uphold those rights and referrals to appropriate support services. The program will consult and explore partnership opportunities with ACCOs, community services and agencies to support a collaborative approach to developing a trauma informed multi-disciplinary response to better support Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.
Recommendation 10: Identify and implement a range of healing, supportive, advocacy and other interventions focused on addressing the trauma and harm from family violence for both victims and perpetrators.	Agree	The ACT Government recognises that healing is a vital prevention strategy to support reducing violence and fostering strong, resilient Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families. Many of the ACCO-run programs receiving additional funding in the 2025-26 ACT Budget include healing-focused activities. Separately, funding has been provided to Yedlung Mura to trial a culturally appropriate version of the Caring Dads program, an evidence-based behaviour change program run over 17 weeks through group based-intervention commencing in 2025. Victim Support ACT offers all victims of crime access to therapeutic services, including counselling to address the trauma and harm from family violence, with access to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander counsellors and supports.
Recommendation 11: Training and other initiatives whether in the community or justice sectors aimed at supporting victims of family violence to access	Agree	The ACT Government is committed to embedding cultural competency across sectors supporting victim-survivors of domestic, family and sexual violence in the ACT.

justice and services in the ACT must expressly include components to improve understanding of the dilemmas and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and perpetrators to minimise stereotyping and discriminatory responses where accountability is present.		Four mainstream services in 2023-24 have also received one-off funding to partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations and communities to improve frontline community sector services understanding of the dilemmas and experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims and to minimise stereotyping & discriminatory responses. They include CatholicCare Canberra Goulburn, Legal Aid Commission ACT, Women's Legal Centre and Victim Support ACT. The ACT Government will also work with ACCOs and other specialist DFSV services as part of the development of the ACT Domestic, Family and Violence Strategy to explore a coordinated approach to building culturally-safe and trauma-informed practice in working alongside Aboriginal and Torres Straits Islander people.
Recommendation 12: Invest further in Aboriginal led research and evaluation that is aimed at improving Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victims of family violence access to justice and access to service.	Agree	As part of supporting growth and sustainability for ACCOs providing DFSV programs, the ACT Government is working towards an approach to embed culturally responsive evaluation into further funding arrangements, in order to better understand how they are working well and if there are opportunities to further strengthen the services. An independent, Aboriginal-led evaluation of Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Aboriginal Corporation's NaraGanaWali Strengthening Families Program was funded in the 2024-25 ACT Budget to be undertaken in the 2025-26 financial year. This evaluation is intended to be a strengths-based, transparent, solution-oriented process identifying ways the ACT Government can further strengthen and support the growth of successful programs. The evaluation will also inform policy development and policy reform. Through the Victim Survivor Voices Project (recommendation 2 response), Sisters in Spirit Aboriginal Corporation is leading work with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors to provide their views and insights to inform key ACT Government DFSV policy responses. The ACT Government commissioned the Jumbunna Institute for Indigenous Education and Research to undertake an Independent Review into the Over-Representation of First Nations People in the ACT Criminal Justice System (Jumbunna Report), which is expected to make recommendations aimed at improving access to justice, including for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander victim-survivors of DFSV.

