



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Miss Laura Nuttall MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: Voluntary Assisted Dying and Multicultural community engagement on policy

Hearing: 11 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 11

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

MISS NUTTALL: Just on— obviously you set up a process specifically for VAD, but for any number of the small but worthy reforms that come through health. Do you have a similar approach to consulting with various firms of multicultural communities as well?

Ms Stephen-Smith: Yes. It is a bit of a— it depends on the circumstance. This is an issue where we certainly get some feedback, sometimes from the multicultural community, about specific issues and access to services. And I know there has been some recent media commentary about the availability of interpreters as well. I do not know if anyone from the directorate wants to talk about engagement and multicultural community and policy.

We can take on notice— we will take on notice and detail about how that sort of process generally works.

RACHEL STEPHEN-SMITH MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The ACT Government recognises the complex and intersectional nature of our diverse ACT community and works closely with multicultural communities during the development and implementation of policy matters. We take a case-by-case approach to multicultural engagement to ensure it is appropriate, respectful and promotes the best outcomes for the ACT community.

This is consistent with the obligations on all ACT Government directorates under the *Multiculturalism Act 2023* (ACT), including the Charter for multiculturalism which sets out clear principles and responsibilities for supporting diversity, inclusion and belonging, and affirms expectations of the ACT Government to guide the development and implementation of inclusive government policies, programs and services.

OFFICIAL

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'R. Stephen-Smith', written over a horizontal line.

Date:

21/11/25

By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA