



ACT|atsieb

ACT | Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander
Elected Body

Select Committee on Estimates 2015-2016
ACT Legislative Assembly
PO Box 1020
Canberra ACT 2601

Dear Committee Chairperson

ACT Budget Consultation 2015-2016

I am writing to you on behalf of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Elected Body) regarding the ACT Budget Consultation

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (ATSIEB) is pleased to provide the ACT Government with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community's perspectives on future directions for the ACT Budget.

ATSIEB was established through legislation by the ACT Government to provide a representative voice for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, and support the development of government policies to meet community needs and priorities.

ATSIEB's strategic plan seeks to focus ACT Government policy and services under the COAG Indigenous Reform Agenda framework's strategic areas for action:

- Health
- Schooling
- Safe communities
- Governance and leadership
- Economic participation
- Healthy homes

Through ATSIEB's community consultation processes, community priorities have been made clear and have been well-documented in reports tabled in the Assembly. The community's priorities remain to increase access to services such as health and education; establish or expand dedicated services; improve economic outcomes; and reduce participation in the justice, and youth and child protection systems; and provide more support for families and individuals when they do find themselves in these systems.

In response to the Government's invitation to comment on how ACT Government resources and services should be prioritised and delivered effectively for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community ATSIEB recommends the ACT Government commit to:

1. Implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Whole of Government Agreement 2015-2018
2. Implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Partnership 2015-2018.
3. The establishment of an independent, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled child support organisation that will be both a service delivery agency, as well as undertake an advocacy role in relation to children coming into the foster care and protection environment. A shared funding arrangement between the ACT and NSW Governments to fund this organisation as a service hub for the surrounding region should be examined as part of this process.

4. Prioritising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment and economic development strategies, along with social procurement strategies already in place:
 - a. ACT Public Service Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander employment strategy improve recruitment, retention and development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff across the ACT public service, including an increase of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples into senior management roles;
 - b. Engaging with local and national Indigenous businesses, particularly where this will increase local Indigenous employment and skills and entrepreneurial development. The ACT Government to actively promote and report on its use of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses that qualify as a certified supplier of Supply Nation (formerly the Australian Indigenous Minority Supplier Council [AIMSC]), including the level of businesses that are utilised to procure goods or services for the ACT Government.
 - c. Identifying a construction project to train and employ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, including those with a record, to enable their participation in Canberra's economy and grow their own wealth and families; for example, the construction healing farm and the aged care facilities.
 - d. Assisting with five year planning and consideration of future capital investment for Boomanulla oval.

As the peak consultative body for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities of the ACT, the Elected Body looks forward to increasing partnership with Government in the annual budget process. We particularly seek the opportunity to have meaningful input into the development of new budget initiatives and policy proposals that will impact on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

Yours sincerely



Rod Little
Chairperson
ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body
1 June 2015