LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

QoN No. 18

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis MLA (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair), Mr Michael Pettersson MLA

Inquiry into Annual and Financial Reports 2020-2021
ANSWER TO QUESTION ON NOTICE

Elizabeth Kikkert: To ask the Minister for Justice Health

Ref: Justice Health, JACS Annual Report 2020-2021 p156, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation

In relation to: Board of Inquiry

1. As Minister for Justice Health, what benefits do you see in having a board of inquiry investigate the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders involved I in the ACT justice system?

Emma Davidson: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

1. I agree that the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT justice system is a serious problem that requires a serious response. Clearly action is needed, and some community leaders in the ACT have identified a Commission of Inquiry as the beginning to this action. I have some reservations about a Commission of Inquiry. Commissions of Inquiry are lengthy processes with lengthy periods of implementation, and involve great expense on the process, rather than being money going to the communities in need. In addition, many of the solutions have previously been reported on. As such, I am more supportive of an approach to addressing this problem through the fastest and most direct means possible. I am supportive of an audit of prior review recommendations, and implementing other immediate steps to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT justice system.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Signature: Emma Davidson Date: 9 May 2022

By the Minister for Justice Health, Emma Davidson