

2024

**THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

TENTH ASSEMBLY

**STANDING COMMITTEE ON ECONOMY AND GENDER AND ECONOMIC EQUALITY –
REPORT 10 - INQUIRY INTO ANNUAL AND FINANCIAL REPORTS 2022-23**

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

**Presented by
Andrew Barr MLA
Chief Minister
June 2024**

Introduction

On 11 February 2021, the Legislative Assembly passed an amendment to the 2 December 2020 Resolution of Establishment (clause 3) referring the Annual and Financial Reports to the relevant Standing Committee for inquiry and report by 9 April of the year after the presentation of the report to the Assembly pursuant to the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004*.

The 2022-2023 Annual and Financial Reports were reviewed by the relevant Standing Committees, and each Committee held hearings and reported separately. The below Government Response addresses the recommendations within the report from the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality.

The following Annual and Financial Reports or sections of annual reports, were referred to the Standing Committee on Economy and Gender and Economic Equality:

- Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate;
- Office of the Work Health and Safety Commissioner;
- ACT Long Service Leave Authority;
- ACT Insurance Authority;
- Cultural Facilities Corporation;
- Access Canberra; and
- the Gambling and Racing Commission.

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RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
Recommendation 1 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government ensure that updates to the Wellbeing Dashboard are timed to capture newly available data.	EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY The Wellbeing Dashboard seeks to capture longer-term progress across the domains of the Wellbeing Framework. Consistent with this approach, the Government has committed to updating the dashboard every two years. The dashboard does not seek to provide ‘live feeds’ of all data that may be used in constructing measure outcomes. This would change the purpose of the dashboard. Sources for these data are referenced (and in some cases linked) in the dashboard. In the case of economic data which are frequently updated by the Australian Bureau of Statistics, the dashboard also provides a link to the ACT Treasury’s <i>Economic Indicators for the ACT</i> which pick up the regular reporting.
Recommendation 2 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government update the Annual Reports Directions to ensure that annual reports address recommendations by the Auditor-General in specific, clear and consistent terms, including where there has been no progress.	AGREED The Annual reports (Government Agencies) Directions 2024 have been published and provide the following directions: • Section 8 - Annual reports should include the following ... discuss results against expectations - provide sufficient information and analysis for the Legislative Assembly and community to make a fully informed judgment on the reporting entity’s performance, inclusive of information if no progress occurs; and • Section B1 - a summary of the reporting entity’s performance (inclusive of no progress data) in achieving its objectives and targets.

RECOMMENDATION	GOVERNMENT RESPONSE
Recommendation 3 The Committee recommends that the ACT Government establish a support service for migrant workers.	EXISTING GOVERNMENT POLICY The ACT Government has provided grant funding to increase work health and safety and workplace rights awareness and education. Executed in December 2023, the grant delivers on a 2023-24 Budget initiative for supporting mental health in ACT workplaces and includes as funded activities — promoting and facilitating access to specialist support services, accounting for citizenship status and culturally and linguistically diverse background, amongst other vulnerable worker characteristics.