



Inquiry into annual and financial reports 2024–2025

Answer to question taken on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Health

In relation to: National Agreement and Closing the Gap Annual Report and CSD Strategic Plan
2018-2028

Hearing: 11 November 2025

Uncorrected Proof Transcript p 28

Transcript provided: 14 November 2025

Answer Due: 21 November 2025

THE CHAIR: Thank you. In relation to the machinery of government changes, what happens to the Community Services Directorate's strategic plan in that annual report I was referring to, being the National Agreement and Closing the Gap Annual Report? It described it as a 2018-28 plan, but I just jumped on the website, and I think it is describing there is a 2023-25. I do not know if that is a subplan or an action plan, something like that. Where is all of that up to, and is that going to continue or be redeveloped?

Ms Arthy: Mr Emerson, I am going to have to take that back to the team. This is my second day on the job, so I am not across all the detail, but if I come back in terms of general. The broad approach for the new directorate is to have one approach to how we deal with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander matters reconciliation planning, and as I mentioned before, still in the very, very early days of working that through. There is a specific element of that in terms of the CSD component. I can get the team to come back on notice with an answer to that specific question. As Ms Hudson said, we want to learn from the best and the worst of both previous directorates and come up with a way forward that works for the entire new directorate.

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

The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) formed on 1 July 2025 through Machinery of Government changes that brought together the ACT Health Directorate and the Community Services Directorate. Each former directorate had in place a strategic plan that was due to cease in 2025.

A priority activity for HCSD is the identification of all plans and commitments made by the former ACT Health and Community Services Directorates that relate to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028.

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From this process HCSD, working through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander subcommittee of the HCSD Executive Board, will review the plans against ongoing commitments and activities for Closing Gap and develop a consolidated approach. This will reflect relevant Phase 3 Action Plans under the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement currently being finalised with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Social Policy

Signature:



Date:

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By the Minister for Health, Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA