



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

SELECT COMMITTEE ON ESTIMATES 2022-2023

Mr James Milligan MLA (Chair), Mr Andrew Braddock MLA (Deputy Chair),
Dr Marisa Paterson MLA

**ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
DURING PUBLIC HEARINGS**

Asked by Peter Cain MLA on 1 September 2022: ACT Human Rights President, Dr Helen Watchirs took on notice the following question(s):

[Ref: Hansard Transcript 1 September 2022 [PAGE 1106]]

In relation to:

Q322: Our Booris, Our Way Recommendations - What other recommendations would you like to see action on?

Dr Helen Watchirs: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

The Commission notes the recommendations made in the *Our Booris, Our Way* report, which recognised the breadth and complexity of the concerns raised by the Community in respect of the involvement of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in the ACT child protection system. Further, the Commission recognises the concerns raised, which affirm that out of home care services, placement decisions and other key elements of the ACT child protection system do not adequately reflect the cultural rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT, as provided for by under s27(2) of the *Human Rights Act 2004*.

In the ACT Government's July 2020 response to the recommendations of the *Our Booris, Our Way* Review, the ACT Government either agreed or agreed in principle to all the recommendations in the report and it is therefore the Commission's expectation that they will all be actioned. In particular, the Commission welcomes progress on the establishment of an Aboriginal Children and Young People Commissioner, which will be an essential component of the implementation of these recommendations.

The Commission also notes the implementation of the recommendations continues to be monitored by an Implementation Oversight Committee.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2022-2023

Signature:

Date: 7 September 2022

By the ACT Human Rights President, Dr Helen Watchirs