



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2025–2026 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2025–2026

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Shane Rattenbury MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Reference: JACS - Estimates

Hearing: 29/07/2025

In relation to: Complaint to Ombudsman

Question received: 05/08/2025

Answer Due: 13/08/2025

(1) Are you aware of what happened to the complaint by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner referred to the Ombudsman last year in relation to footage showing three ACT Police Officers in a watch house taunting a young Aboriginal man with one asking if he wanted to 'neck' himself?

(2) How satisfied are you with how it has been investigated?

(3) In light of this matter, what needs to change around police transparency in their investigations?

Ms Suzanne Orr MLA: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. I am advised the complaint made by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People Commissioner to the Ombudsman was referred to the Australian Federal Police under Part V of the AFP Act 1979 (as ACT Police are part of the AFP) for investigation.
2. I am advised the complaint is being investigated by the Australian Federal Police and remains an ongoing Professional Standards (PRS) investigation. I note the AFP are unable to provide further information on the investigation as it is an active matter, however I am advised that the AFP is prioritising this investigation.

3. I am advised that due to legislated restrictions in relation to PRS investigations, and to protect the integrity and process of ongoing investigations, AFP PRS is unable to provide specifics on active code of conduct matters being investigated.

Please note some matters and processes raised in this QoN sit outside my portfolio areas and I have consulted with other relevant Ministers and officials in answering the questions.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2025–2026

Signature:

Date: 04/09/25

By the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA