



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

**QUESTION
ON NOTICE**

ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA: To ask the Minister for Families and Community Services

Ref: Budget Statement G, pp. 2, 20 (Community Services Directorate)

In relation to: Our Booris, Our Way Implementation

Date (Question Lodged by Member): 29/08/2022

Date (Question Sent to DLO): 31/08/2022

1. It was said in the hearing that the government struggles to explain its progress in implementing Our Booris, Our Way recommendations and that its progress may not be well understood. Can the minister please provide specific examples of progress achieved that the government has struggled to communicate to the Our Booris, Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee as well as progress that has not been understood by the committee?
2. It was said in the hearing that steps had been taken over the last few weeks to 'reset' the Our Booris, Our Way implementation process and get it 'back on track'. Can the minister please describe this reset in detail? What has changed? What is being done differently?
3. In the hearing, the minister said that there was some disagreement on what it means for a recommendation to be 'fully implemented'. Which Our Booris, Our Way recommendations does the government believe have been fully implemented?
4. Which recommendations are current priorities for implementation, and how is priority determined?

29 August 2022

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows: –

1. and 2. The Community Services Directorate (CSD) reports quarterly on the progress of each recommendation, with key work items and deliverables being presented regularly, including data, policy documents and procedures that aim to respond to the intent of the OBOW recommendations. There is significant complexity in measuring the impact of the ongoing changes as a result of the Directorate's work on the recommendations.

Changes to the child protection and out of home care systems may not be immediately reflected in data on the children, young people and families engaging with child and youth protection and out of home care services. Additionally, the outcomes of some OBOW recommendations may not be captured in quantitative data but will contribute to a better experience and better outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and families who interact with the system.

In addition, the reporting process requires ongoing data improvement. CSD has recently revised reporting templates to better show change and progress over time. As CSD's case management system, CYRIS, continues to be improved, it will support the provision of higher quality data that better reflects outcomes against the intent of the recommendations.

There have been significant staffing changes in the past quarter which have caused a disruption both for the Directorate and the OBOW Implementation Oversight Committee. CSD continues to work with the Committee to ensure they are provided with adequate secretariat support, timely information and accurate and consistent data reporting to support their ongoing advocacy and oversight. CSD is supporting the Committee to undertake a recruitment process to fill the vacant positions.

I acknowledge the frustrations of the OBOW Implementation Oversight Committee in our progress against the OBOW recommendations. The Government is continuing to work with the committee to improve the ongoing implementation work.

3. A number of recommendations will require multiple actions or steps to implement, and some will be ongoing. The Directorate continues to work with the OBOW Implementation Oversight Committee to determine what the completion criteria are for each recommendation.
4. All recommendations are considered priority for the Directorate as outlined in the *Next Steps for Our Kids* Strategy. CSD and other lead agencies continue to progress the recommendations with each recommendation allocated to a lead officer to progress and report on quarterly.

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

Signature:



Date: 6/9/22

By Minister Stephen-Smith MLA, Minister for Families and Community Services