



Inquiry into Appropriation Bill 2026–2027 and Appropriation (Office of the Legislative Assembly) Bill 2026–2027

Answer to question on notice

Asked by: Mr Thomas Emerson MLA

Addressed to: Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity

Reference: Disability policy and reform

Hearing: 3 August 2026

In relation to: Thriving Kids

Question received: 5 August 2026

Answer Due: 18 August 2026

1. What engagement has the ACT Government done with local allied health providers to engage them in the future delivery of Thriving Kids?
 - a. How many people attended, and how was this engagement advertised to allied health providers?
2. Many allied health workers who currently support NDIS participants may experience a significant reduction in work under the proposed reforms. What is being done to ensure these skilled workers are able to be efficiently redeployed to deliver Thriving Kids and Foundational Supports, rather than being lost to other jurisdictions or private practice?
3. Does the ACT Government have a public mailing list that provides regular Thriving Kids updates to subscribers, as exists in NSW?
 - a. If so, when did the mailing list first email subscribers, and where is information about how to subscribe located on the ACT Government website?
 - b. If not, why not?
4. The NSW website includes information about how Aboriginal organisations and communities can get involved in the design and delivery of Thriving Kids. Does the ACT Government have any equivalent information on its website, and if not, why not?
5. During Estimates hearings the Minister and officials repeatedly referred to consultation being led by National Disability Services, but not any specific consultation run by the ACT Government directly with the Canberra community. How has the ACT Government formed its advocacy position when negotiating with the Federal Government, if it hasn't directly sought feedback on how Canberrans want the ACT Government to advocate on their behalf?

6. The Minister has indicated that Thriving Kids will look different in each State and Territory. How is the ACT Government determining what Thriving Kids will look like in the ACT, without having done its own direct and targeted consultation with Canberrans to inform the development of Thriving Kids?
7. The Minister did not attend the NDIS bill inquiry despite being invited to attend. Given the significance of these reforms and the impact on the lives of so many vulnerable and deeply anxious Canberrans, why did she not attend to ensure transparency, accountability, and representation for those Canberrans?

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

1. On 31 March 2026, Minister Orr convened a stakeholder roundtable which ACT service providers, advocacy organisations and representatives from allied health, early childhood and disability sectors were invited to attend.

The ACT Government funded National Disability Services ACT to undertake consultations on behalf of the ACT Government. Approximately 10 Allied Health organisations attended the consultations and made contributions through this work. Findings will be considered in the phased approach to Thriving Kids implementation.

The ACT Government is convening a Thriving Kids information session with Allied Health Associations on 24 August 2026 to understand allied health workforce challenges and opportunities to enhance allied health workforce capability under Thriving Kids.

2. The ACT Government recognises that NDIS reforms and establishment of Thriving Kids may affect allied health providers. The ACT Government notes there is no requirement under National Agreements with the Commonwealth to transition the allied health workforce between systems. However, Thriving Kids will see an increase in the delivery of allied health services, and this will result in some opportunities in the allied health market.
3. No. Any updates on Thriving Kids will be made via the ACT Thriving Kids website or sent through existing ACT Government mailing lists where appropriate.
4. The ACT Government is engaging more directly with the First Nations community in partnership with the Aboriginal Service Development (ASD) Branch, including individual conversations with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations. Recent ASD communications to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community have included information about Thriving Kids and an invitation for community members or organisations to contact the Disability Reform Taskforce to engaged in its rollout in the ACT. On 28 July 2026, the Disability Reform Taskforce also attended an ASD Community Engagement Day to engage directly with community members.

5. The ACT Government funded National Disability Services ACT to undertake consultations on behalf of the ACT Government. In addition, The ACT Government's advocacy and policy positions have been informed ongoing engagement with people with disability, carers, families, community and peak body organisations and other stakeholders in addition to the representative voices of the [ACT Disability Advisory Council](#) (DAC). Their advocacy for priorities and concerns of people with disability in the community have informed the ACT's position in many intergovernmental negotiations, for example strongly advocating for local providers in the ACT that understand local context and service systems. This approach is reflected in the national Thriving Kids model, which enables states and territories to deliver services within their own jurisdictions.
6. The ACT Government consulted with parents, carers and kin through a roundtable convened by Minister Orr on 22 April 2026 to better understand family experiences, service navigation challenges and priorities for future supports. Feedback received through consultation activities is informing implementation planning. The ACT Government also funded National Disability Services ACT to undertake consultations on behalf of the ACT Government.

Community consultation and targeted stakeholder engagement is expected to continue, particularly with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities in the ACT throughout the implementation period as services continue to be designed, delivered and refined over time.

7. State and Territory disability ministers made a joint submission to the inquiry. The ACT Minister has engaged with the Commonwealth through the Disability Reform Ministerial Council.

Approved for circulation to the Select Committee on Estimates 2026–2027

Signature:



Date: 14/08/26

Minister for Disability, Autism and Neurodiversity, Ms Suzanne Orr MLA