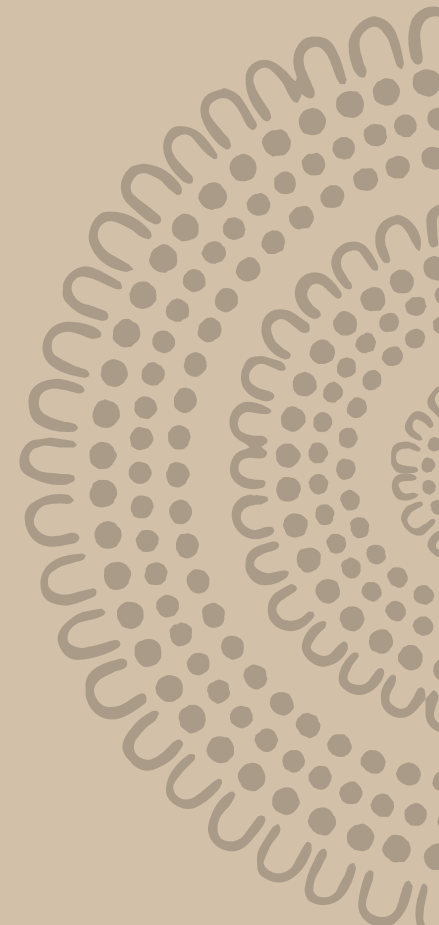


Focus area:

Justice

QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

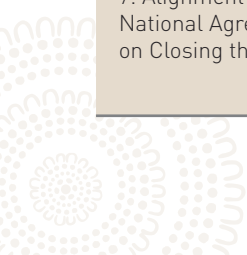
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention, and diversion programs.





44. Priority Action: Embed the Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People (TSP) as a core early intervention mechanism

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Embed the Therapeutic Support Panel for Children and Young People (TSP) as a core early intervention mechanism
2. Detailed action description	<p>Continue to embed the TSP as an early intervention model to provide holistic and culturally safe therapeutic supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged up to 17 who are engaged in or at risk of engaging in harmful behaviour.</p> <p>Embed the TSP within community and ACCO codesigned pathways for culturally safe therapeutic services and pro-social supports.</p> <p>Ensure appropriate, ongoing funding for the TSP and its brokerage funds, with success measured by service access, engagement, reduced risk, improved wellbeing, and decreased youth justice contact and detention of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people initially referred to the TSP under the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) (14 years).</p> <p>Whilst there is no baseline data at this stage, efforts are underway to establish robust data and evaluation frameworks and systems. A dedicated data and evaluation group has been established, led by the Human and Community Services Directorate and including senior officers from the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Policing, and the Therapeutic Support Panel Chair. The group is currently focused on identifying key indicators to monitor impacts and outcomes, establishing baseline data to enable meaningful comparisons over time, and identifying short-term direct impacts in areas such as referral rates and service provision.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD)</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: JACS</p> <p>Key Responsibilities: HCSD: Supporting TSP operations; managing brokerage funds; referral pathways; governance; data collection, reporting and sharing; community codesign; and commissioning. JACS: legislative review, restorative justice, victim support.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The MACR Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG) is made up of senior officers from the HCSD, JACS and Education Directorates, ACT Policing, and Canberra Health Services. Its purpose is to collaborate to develop coordinated services responses across government directorates and sectors to ensure the objectives of the MACR reform are achieved.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end 2025: Develop therapy and therapeutic support plans for all referred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. By end 2026: Increase referrals from TSP to ACCO and Aboriginal-led services providing culturally safe therapeutic services and pro-social supports. By end 2026: Establish a cross-directorate framework for data collection, monitoring, and reporting to track TSP impact on outcomes for referred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. 2026-27: The 2023-24 Budget provisioned \$200,000 in 2026-27 for an independent review of the MACR service system and outcomes of raising the MACR. This review is expected to include an evaluation of the Panel's operations, including outcomes for all referred children and young people, including but not limited to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people. By end 2029: Demonstrate reduced youth justice contact and detention rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people initially referred to the TSP under the MACR (i.e. 13 and under).
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Area: Justice.</p> <p>Target: To decrease the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in youth justice detention.</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations Outcome 11: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Target 11: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent.</p>





FIELD	DETAILS
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	Continuing to embed the TSP as an early intervention model for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged up to 17 years that provides holistic and culturally safe therapeutic supports ensures that support is not delivered in isolation, but as part of a coordinated, culturally safe service ecosystem. This approach delivers systemic impact by shifting from reactive interventions to early, coordinated, and culturally grounded interventions and support that is proportionate to the complexity and scale of need.
9. Evidence of change	Track referrals, service uptake, individual and family / kin satisfaction surveys and ACCO and Aboriginal-led service participation; schedule regular internal summary reviews and independent evaluations.

45. Priority Action: Operationalise the Minimum age of Criminal Responsibility (MACR) reform through coordinated, Community-led systems

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Operationalise the minimum age of criminal responsibility (MACR) reform through coordinated, Community-led systems.
2. Detailed action description	<p>Deliver a coordinated cross-agency Therapeutic Support Panel (TSP) referral pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people aged up to 17 years, with community and ACCO-led services as primary intervention providers.</p> <p>Whilst there is no baseline data at this stage, efforts are underway to establish robust data and evaluation frameworks and systems. A dedicated data and evaluation group has been established, led by the Human and Community Services Directorate and including senior officers from the Justice and Community Safety Directorate, ACT Policing, and the Therapeutic Support Panel Chair. The group is currently focused on identifying key indicators to monitor impacts and outcomes, establishing baseline data to enable meaningful comparisons over time, and identifying short-term direct impacts in areas such as referral rates and service provision.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Key Responsibilities: Supporting TSP operations; managing brokerage funds; referral pathways; governance; data collection, reporting and sharing; community codesign; and commissioning.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The MACR Senior Officers Working Group (SOWG) is made up of senior officers from the HCSD, JACS and Education Directorates, ACT Policing, and Canberra Health Services. Their purpose is to collaborate to develop coordinated services responses across government directorates and sectors to ensure the objectives of the MACR reform are achieved.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> By end 2025: Deliver therapy and therapeutic support plans for all referred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. By end 2026: Increase referrals to ACCO and Aboriginal-led services providing culturally safe therapeutic services and pro-social supports for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children with efforts to align this service approach with proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children accessing supports. By end 2026: Establish a cross-directorate framework for data collection, monitoring, and reporting to track TSP impact on outcomes for referred Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. By end 2029: Demonstrate reduced youth justice contact and detention rates among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people initially referred to the TSP under the MACR (i.e. 13 and under).
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Area: Justice.</p> <p>Target: To decrease the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in youth justice detention.</p>





FIELD	DETAILS
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations Outcome 11: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people are not overrepresented in the criminal justice system.</p> <p>Target 11: By 2031, reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people (10-17 years) in detention by at least 30 per cent.</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	Delivering a coordinated, cross-agency TSP pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people, anchored in community and ACCO-led services, ensures that early intervention is prioritised, culturally safe and locally responsive. This approach delivers systemic impact by shifting from reactive, late-stage interventions to proactive, coordinated care that reflects the lived realities of children and young people and their families and kin. It is proportionate to the complexity and scale of need, recognising that sustained outcomes require integrated, culturally grounded support across multiple domains.
9. Evidence of change	Track referrals, service uptake, individual and family / kin satisfaction surveys and ACCO and Aboriginal-led service participation; schedule regular internal summary reviews and independent evaluations.

46. Priority Action: Aim to increase the number of formally recognised prevention and diversion programs across the justice system

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Aim to increase the number of formally recognised prevention and diversion programs across the justice system
2. Detailed action description	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) will aim to increase the number of formally recognised prevention and diversion programs across the justice system. This action, which would be subject to funding, links with existing work as part of the JACS Commissioning project Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Justice Programs – Commissioning and the Reducing Recidivism RR25b by 2025 and beyond strategy Justice reinvestment strategy - Open Government Information
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: JACS</p> <p>Supporting Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate and Education Directorate</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	JACS will engage with Education Directorate and HCSD youth justice teams to collaborate on the development of new diversion programs for young people, exploring innovative funding models. JACS will also engage with HCSD in relation to development of diversion programs targeting adult substance abuse. Targeted Working Groups will aim to utilise shared data platforms currently under development to inform this collaborative work.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	Within the 12-month remaining timeframe for Phase 3, the focus will be on seeking funding to expand existing programs that work, embedding suggestions for program improvement from the Commissioning process, and assessing available evidence (especially from the inter directorate work) for additional programs that could be submitted for budget consideration.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Justice - ACT Agreement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Targets 10 and 11





FIELD	DETAILS
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	This action aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the criminal justice system by providing culturally safe alternatives to, and diversion from, incarceration. These programs will support early intervention, improve wellbeing outcomes, and strengthen connections to culture, while also reducing recidivism and improving long-term outcomes for individuals.
9. Evidence of change	JACS will measure impact through data on reduction in incarceration rates over time, the number of people diverted from entering the justice system, improved wellbeing outcomes for individuals, improved connection with culture and, reduced recidivism of both adults and young people 14-18 yrs. As the first 12 months will be spent expanding or improving existing programs and seeking funding for additional programs, it is likely that the evidence of impact may materialise beyond the end of Phase 3.

47. Priority Action: Deliver culturally safe restorative justice and increase engagement of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Deliver culturally safe restorative justice and increase engagement of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.
2. Detailed action description	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) will deliver culturally safe restorative justice and increase engagement of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. This includes improving referral pathways, enhancing participation in restorative justice processes, and ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people feel culturally safe and supported throughout.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: JACS Supporting Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The Restorative Justice Unit in JACS will work with relevant referring entities regarding this priority (such as ACT Policing) and also relevant directorates such as HCSD.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	Key deliverables include delivery of culturally safe restorative justice services, strengthened referral pathways and enhanced participation in restorative justice processes. The Restorative Justice Unit reports on the number of referrals of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to restorative justice, the number of conferences and participant satisfaction.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Justice - ACT Agreement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Targets 10 and 11
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	This initiative contributes to reducing the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the mainstream criminal justice system.

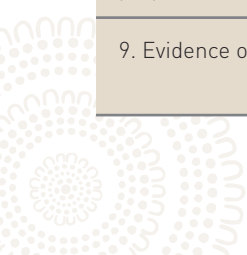




FIELD	DETAILS
9. Evidence of change	JACS will measure impact through data in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the number of referrals overall, successful engagement in restorative justice processes and participant satisfaction with restorative justice experience.

48. Priority Action: Establish governance arrangements to ensure that the recommendations made by the independent review into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation in the criminal justice system can be delivered in partnership with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Establish governance arrangements to ensure that the recommendations made by the Independent Review into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Overrepresentation in the Criminal Justice System can be delivered in partnership with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.
2. Detailed action description	Jumbunna's Final Report, released in July 2025, provides findings from extensive consultation with community organisations, legal services, government agencies and individuals with lived experience and makes 99 recommendations relating primarily to reducing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander overrepresentation in the ACT criminal justice system. Importantly, the Final Report recommends key actions as a priority to provide a strong foundation on which to develop and implement responses to the remaining recommendations. As outlined in the ACT Government's Interim Response to the Final Report, the Government will establish an interim oversight body.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: JACS Supporting Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	JACS will work collaboratively with relevant directorates with responsibility for recommendations to inform the establishment of governance arrangements.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	The interim Government response committed to an update in March 2026 and an annual update to report on progress and implementation of the recommendations. Coordinated and funded Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led governance arrangements are established.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Justice - ACT Agreement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform One and Three: Targets 10 and 11
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	The Jumbunna Report provides (at p xi) that a key part of its approach and overall argument is that both specific and systemic (or structural) issues need attention in order to reduce over-representation. Some matters sit neatly inside the criminal justice system. However, there are many others outside the criminal justice system that entrench disadvantage, and which are deeply connected to over-representation.
9. Evidence of change	The update in March 2026 as committed to in the interim Government response. Governance arrangements established consistent with the intent of the recommendations in the Independent Review supported by funding.





49. Priority Action: Commence development of a strategy to address overrepresentation on remand that includes actions to reduce breaches of bail and increases bail compliance and outcomes

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Commence development of a strategy to address over-representation on remand that includes actions to reduce breaches of bail and increases bail compliance and outcomes.
2. Detailed action description	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) will commence development of a strategy to address overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on remand. This includes actions to reduce breaches of bail and improve bail compliance and outcomes. The strategy will be informed by lived experience, truth-telling, and cross-directorate collaboration.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: JACS Supporting Directorate: Health and Community Services
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	JACS agencies will work collaboratively to examine underlying data relating to bail and remand utilising a working group model. Working Groups will utilise shared data platforms currently under development to inform development of the strategy.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	Within the 12-month remaining timeframe for Phase 3, the focus will be to identify actions or changes that could support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (adults and youth) on bail to prevent breaches through analysis of remand data for the purpose of identifying underlying causes of proportionally high rates of remand.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Justice - ACT Agreement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Targets 10 and 11
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	This action aims to identify reforms that could address systemic barriers within the justice system and support culturally safe, community-led approaches to justice.
9. Evidence of change	JACS will measure impact through data in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the reduction in incarceration rates over time, the number of people diverted from entering or re-entering the criminal justice system, increased connection with culture, and reduced recidivism. As the first 12 months will be spent identifying potential reforms (with implementation beyond the end of Phase 3), it is likely that the evidence of impact may also materialise beyond the end of Phase 3.





50. Priority Action: Establish an advisory framework supporting the Independent Board of Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Establish an advisory framework supporting the Independent Board of Inquiry into Aboriginal Deaths in Custody.
2. Detailed action description	On 7 May 2025, the ACT Government committed to forming a Board of Inquiry into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander deaths in the AMC with the right support systems in place for the community and families.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: JACS
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	JACS will access ACT Government networks to distribute the Expression of Interest for the Community Advisory Committee out to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community as broadly as possible. The actual Board of Inquiry will be independent of government.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	Within the 12-month remaining timeframe for Phase 3, the government will invite Expressions of Interest from members of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to participate in an Advisory Committee for the Board of Inquiry, to inform Government on key aspects including the scope of the Terms of Reference and the appointment of members of the board.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Justice - ACT Agreement: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, their families and communities thrive in a safe environment and have equitable access to justice and culturally safe restorative justice, prevention and diversion programs.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Three: Target 10
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	The Board of Inquiry will be established by the ACT Government to investigate a range of issues related to the treatment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander detainees at the Alexandar Maconochie Centre.
9. Evidence of change	JACS will measure impact of the Advisory Committee through the level of engagement by Community and Community's satisfaction with that process.

