

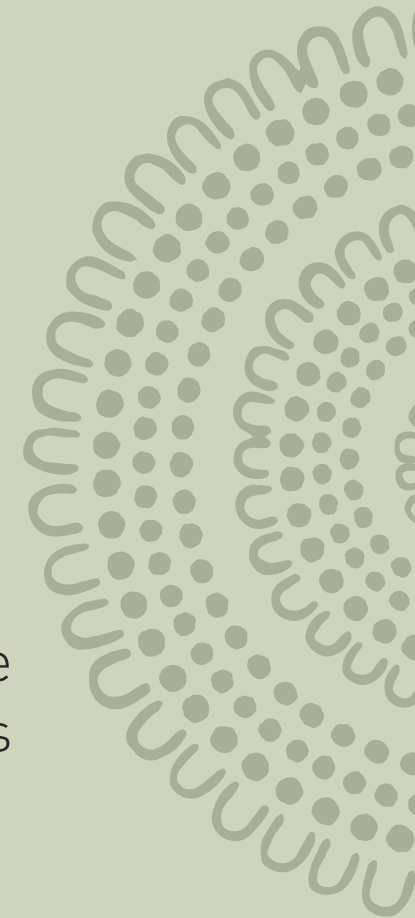


Focus area:

Connecting the Community

QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community members are connected to strong families, and social and support networks building upon the foundation of community leadership.





18. Priority Action: Prioritise funding projects led by and/or for the benefit of LGBTIQ+ ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Capital of Equality Grants Program

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Prioritise funding projects led by and/or for the benefit of LGBTIQ+ ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through the Capital of Equality Grants Program
2. Detailed action description	<p>This action is part of the First Action Plan (2024–26) of the Capital of Equality Strategy (2024-29). Currently, the Capital of Equality Grants Program operates via two streams:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Connection Fund supports projects that foster community, belonging, and togetherness for LGBTIQ+ people. 2. LGBTIQ+ Leadership Stream supports leadership and professional development for new, emerging, and established LGBTIQ+ leaders. <p>The Grants program is run through open competitive applications. Applications led by LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people are prioritised under both streams.</p> <p>The prioritisation of projects led by and/or for the benefit of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ people under the Connection Fund is intentionally included in the grant guidelines to uphold cultural safety. This acknowledges that LGBTIQ+ community-controlled organisations may not automatically be culturally safe for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ people, and that any work within LGBTIQ+ spaces should be self-determined.</p> <p>Cultural safety is treated as a forethought, not an afterthought, and is embedded across all stages of the grants process:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Application stage: A targeted communications approach promotes the grants to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ communities and supports applicants to apply. This includes options like verbal applications, recognising that not all applicants have the capacity to apply online or navigate complex forms, unlike funded organisations with dedicated fundraising staff. > Assessment stage: Applications are assessed through a lens of self-determination, with guidance provided to panel members to ensure they understand culturally safe approaches. For example, if an Aboriginal artist applies, assessors are reminded that cultural expression must be respected in its self-determined form, without imposing biases about what is “appropriate.” The Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs applies a critical lens to applications made by non-Indigenous applicants claiming to benefit Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ people. The application form also requires applicants to demonstrate how they will engage with the communities they aim to support, helping to avoid tokenistic or “tick-box” approaches. The Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs maintains records distinguishing between projects led by and those benefiting these communities. > Project delivery stage: Where requested, the team provides communications support and other advice or help to ensure the success of funded projects. <p>Available funding under the LGBTIQ+ Leadership Stream is capped at \$1,500 per person. Generally, this funding is used for conference attendance, participation in training or mentorship programs. Depending on the applied opportunity, there may be direct benefits for improving economic participation (e.g. through upskilling). Broadly, most immediate outcomes are increased knowledge and/or leadership skills.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs;</p> <p>Supported by: Health and Community Services Directorate Communications branch</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs collaborates with the Communications branch and other Diversity Offices to promote the grants program and ensure visibility among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ communities.





FIELD	DETAILS
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annual allocation of \$100,000 in grant funding prioritising projects led by or benefiting LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. At least 1-2 funded projects per year that identify as led by or benefiting these communities. All funded projects contribute to one or more of the following outcomes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Improved understanding of LGBTIQ+ experiences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Increased participation of LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples Increased capacity and leadership of LGBTIQ+ Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Primary alignment with Focus Area: Connecting the Community. Secondary alignment with Focus Area: Community Leadership (noting that one of the funding streams seek to build leadership capacity of individuals).
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Two: Building the community-controlled sector
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ people are underrepresented in leadership and community initiatives. Prioritising their projects through the grants program addresses systemic exclusion and builds visibility, leadership, and community capacity. This approach supports culturally safe and community-led responses to inequality.
9. Evidence of change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Annual reporting on the number and proportion of funded projects led by or benefiting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander LGBTIQ+ people. Outcome tracking through project acquittals aligned to the grant program outcomes. Internal analysis of project impact and reach, with disaggregated data informing future funding priorities. Feedback from funded recipients and community stakeholders on accessibility and relevance of the grants program.

19. Priority Action: Embed Cultural and Community Ownership in Infrastructure Standards

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Embed Cultural and Community Ownership in Infrastructure Standards
2. Detailed action description	Partner with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to co-design and implement a Caring for Country Infrastructure Standard that mandates the inclusion of cultural protocols, traditional knowledge and community input across capital infrastructure programs and projects, including public housing and the new North Canberra hospital.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: Infrastructure Canberra (iCBR) brings together key development, procurement, delivery, management, housing, leasing and maintenance functions to create sustainable and transformative infrastructure, places and spaces. This positions iCBR as the Territory's leading expert on capital infrastructure, including investment in and implementation of ACT Government infrastructure program and ACT Government property and housing portfolio.





FIELD	DETAILS
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	iCBR will consult with ACT Government partner directorates throughout design, development and implementation of the Standard. This includes Health and Community Services Directorate and the Housing Coordinator General Office within the Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Q1 2026 iCBR, with support of its ACT Government partner directorates, will seek expressions of interest from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to partner with and contribute to co-design of the Caring for Country Infrastructure Standard. Q2 2026 iCBR will launch implementation of the iCBR Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Integrity Framework. Q2 + Q3 2026 iCBR will progress development of the Standard in partnership with community stakeholders identified through the EOI undertaken in Q1. Q4 2026 iCBR will pilot and refine the Standard in partnership with community stakeholders identified through the EOI undertaken in Q1. 2027 iCBR will commence implementation of the Standard.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Areas: Cultural Integrity Target 5 Inclusive Community Target 6, Target 7, Target 8 Community Leadership Target 9, Target 10 Economic Participation Target 16 Housing Target 20</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Target 15a; Target 15b.
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	This action enables all cultural values of Traditional Owners of the ACT (The Ngunnawal Nation, and other people or families with connection to the lands of the ACT and region) and the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities to be reflected in policies and procedures to uphold the integrity of their cultural values within the design, construction and maintenance of public infrastructure within the ACT.
9. Evidence of change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Infrastructure Standard developed and implemented across publicly funded capital infrastructure projects in the ACT. Cultural protocols, traditional knowledge and community input evident across publicly funded capital infrastructure projects in the ACT.

20. Priority Action: Aim to ensure wraparound supports for detainees begin before release and are led by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), with transparent pathways into long-term housing and rehabilitation

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Aim to ensure wraparound supports for detainees begin before release and are led by Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), with transparent pathways into long-term housing and rehabilitation.
2. Detailed action description	The Justice and Community Safety Directorate (JACS) will work to embed recommendations from the JACS Commissioning process, with the aim of enhancing existing transition to release and post release programs; and develop a forward plan for justice and long-term housing.





FIELD	DETAILS
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: JACS Supporting Directorate: Health and Community Services Stakeholders: ACCOs
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	JACS agencies will work collaboratively with HCSD, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, ACCOs, and JACS agencies with the aim of enhancing existing transition to release and post release programs and services particularly in relation to housing.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	Within the 12-month remaining timeframe for Phase 3, the focus will be to enhance existing programs and develop a forward plan for improving housing availability and long-term security for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people exiting the justice system.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: 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	Access to temporary and permanent culturally safe housing will have lasting impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people involved in or existing the justice system.
9. Evidence of change	JACS will measure impact through data in relation to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples on the number accessing housing, 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 embedding recommendations from the JACS Commissioning process (to improve existing programs or expand them by seeking additional funding) – and developing a forward plan for justice and long-term housing, it is likely that the evidence of impact may materialise beyond the end of Phase 3.

21. Priority Action: Support Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to establish and deliver culturally safe services for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability in the ACT.

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Support Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations to establish and deliver culturally safe services for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples with disability in the ACT.
2. Detailed action description	Co-design and implement a program to fund opportunities for ACCOs (existing or new) to deliver projects to increase their capacity and capability, based on the needs and experiences of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability community. The program will include: development of culturally appropriate procurement process; promotion to ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander disability community including ACCOs and disability related organisations; support for organisations to submit strong well-informed proposals developed in consultation with the community, working with successful organisation to support implementation and delivery of their proposals; and provide advice and guidance to assist in the establishment of monitoring and evaluation frameworks to measure effectiveness. This is funded under (action 3.1) of the ACT Disability Strategy First Action Plan 2024-2026.





FIELD	DETAILS
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Nil</p> <p>Responsibilities: Program design, consultation, implementation, evaluation and reporting.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	<p>This is a stand-alone initiative led and delivered by the Health and Community Services Directorate. Strategic Policy is partnering with the Aboriginal Service Development Branch to ensure alignment with similar projects (such as Next Steps for Our Kids initiatives aimed at people with disability) and that development considers lessons learnt from other ACCO programs. The project will be overseen by the Disability Advisory Council and the Minister for Disability and Community Services through annual reporting process on the Act Disability Strategy. HCSD will use the Inter-directorate Working Group on Disability to update other directorates and agencies on progress and ensure any opportunities for cross-government partnerships are identified.</p>
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. End of Q1 2026: Draft and co-design funding guidelines that embed cultural safety, accessibility, inclusion and clear success metrics. 2. End of Q2 2026: Open and communicate procurement process 3. End of Q4 2026: Assessment of responses, allocation of funding to successful organisation. 4. 2027 and beyond: implementation by successful organisations. Ongoing support and reporting provided by HSCD. Evaluation and reporting will depend on type and nature of projects funded.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Area: Connecting the Community.</p> <p>Target: Contribute to an increase in number of ACT government contracts awarded to Aboriginal Community-Controlled and Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander businesses.</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Two - Building the Community Controlled Sector – Government Parties commit to building strong Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled sectors.</p> <p>Target: Impact across all Outcomes and Targets as an ‘enabling action’.</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>Consultation to develop the ACT Disability Strategy identified that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people with disability find it difficult to find culturally safe disability support services. The project will fund projects that build ACCO capability to deliver high-quality, culturally safe and appropriate services. Evaluation will provide an evidence base for future funding to establish long-term service delivery.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<p>Funded organisations will be required to provide annual reporting against agreed outcomes of projects. An annual evaluation report will be produced by HCSD and reported through governance mechanisms outlined above. The project will provide an evidence base for future funding proposals to establish long-terms service delivery for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders with disability in the ACT.</p>

