



OUR BOORIS
our way

Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith
Minister for Children, Youth and Families
ACT Legislative Assembly, Civic Square, London Circuit
Canberra ACT 2601

Tuesday 24 September 2019

Dear Minister Stephen-Smith,

15: Governance and oversight of implementation of recommendations

The oversight of implementation of recommendations from the Review is of critical importance for the Steering Committee and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and cannot be done from within government. Implementation will continue long after the presentation of the final report to the ACT Government in December 2019. It is imperative that the changes that have been recommended are implemented fully and in a timely manner with a complementary implementation and outcomes framework to ensure that there is a continued reduction of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children entering care, improvement of their experience in care and improved pathways to restoration or exit from care.

Recommendation

An Implementation Oversight Committee of five members be established to meet at least on a quarterly basis to receive updates from the Directorate and other relevant parties to address progress and ascertain whether the implementation has stayed true to the original intent of the recommendations. The members of this Committee should be Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people, with an initial two year appointment, and include:

- one representative from Winnunga Nimmityjah;
- one representative from Gugan Gulwan;
- one representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body;
- two members of the Our Booris, Our Way Steering Committee to ensure continuity with the intent of the Steering Committee, to be nominated by the Steering Committee; and
- have an initial appointment of two years.

The Implementation Oversight Committee must:

- be able to communicate and engage directly with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community and have appropriate time and resource to be able to do so, for example to run information sessions and consultation opportunities;
- engage directly with the Minister;
- be able to involve other Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander members of the community to ensure the voice of the community is heard and understood, including the voice of Elders, young people and carers;

- be able to invite external, independent, expert voices on contemporary child protection practice in the context of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle as necessary; and
- be able to engage and access child protection and allied sections within the ACT Government;
- be presented with quarterly reports and other information as required;
- remunerated for services as per the current remuneration agreement; and
- afforded appropriate secretariat support and a key contact/liaison point with the Community Services Directorate.

The Steering Committee would expect a response to this recommendation in a timely manner to enable a smooth handover between the current Steering Committee and the Implementation Oversight Committee in early December including an opportunity to draft and confirm new Terms of Reference.

Yours sincerely,

Barb Causon
Chair
Our Booris, Our Way