

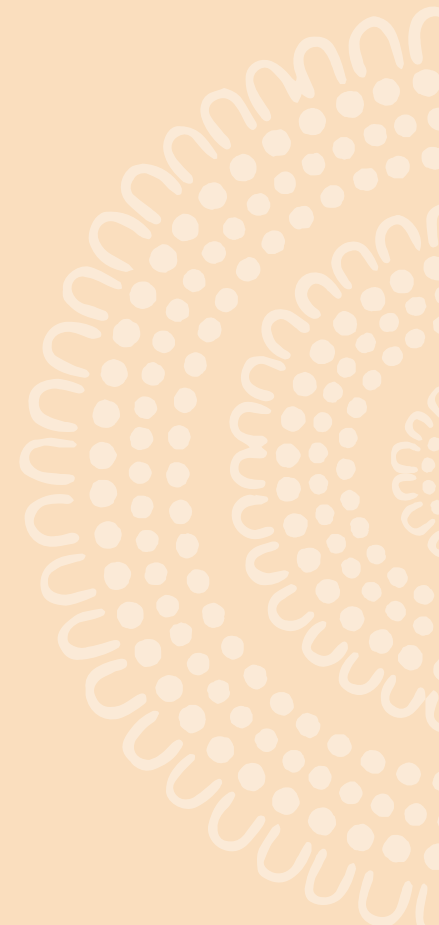


Focus area:

Children and Young People

QUALITY LIFE OUTCOME:

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their families and communities





1. Priority Action: Pilot a culturally safe health and development screening check for 3-year-old children in the ACT

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Pilot a culturally safe health and development screening check for 3-year-old children in the ACT
2. Detailed action description	Design, implement and evaluate a phase 2 pilot program for health and development checks for 3-year-old children. The pilot will utilise culturally safe screening tools and establish clear referral pathways to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are not meeting developmental milestones. The pilot will be part of a broader mainstream initiative aimed at increasing uptake of health and development checks among children in the ACT. Children aged 3 years will be the primary focus of the initiative; however, to enhance access, 4-year-old children may also be included at selected sites where appropriate. This initiative will contribute to addressing Closing the Gap Target 4 to increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track across all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55 per cent by 2031.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate Supporting Directorates: Canberra Health Services and Education Directorate Key Responsibilities: HCSD: Program design, implementation, evaluation, and reporting. CHS: Program design and delivery, Kindy Health Check (KHC) integration. Education: Liaison and partnership building for in-school services.
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The pilot project will be overseen by the Early Years Working Group (EYWG), with operational support from a cross-directorate, cross-sector working group. The working group will be responsible for designing a culturally safe pilot model that facilitates timely and appropriate referrals to early childhood services and programs. This includes strengthening and formalising prioritisation and referral pathways into the Child Development Service, Maternal Child and Family Service, Enhanced Child Health Services and other services and programs. The model will be informed by current best practice, jurisdictional benchmarking, and evaluation findings from relevant ACT Government cross-directorate initiatives such as the Phase One 3-year-old check pilot and the Kindergarten Health Check. The pilot project will be developed in collaboration with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander representatives to ensure culturally safe practice.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none">By Q1 2026: design a child health and development check pilot model in consultation with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community representativesBy Q3 2026: pilot program in identified sites, targeting engagement of children at-risk (e.g. children in the child protection system, children of parents in the corrections system)By Q4 2026: complete a formal evaluation reportBy Q4 2026: 80% of participating families report increased understanding of normal child development milestonesBy Q4 2026: 80% of participating families report increased awareness of where to access early childhood services and supports.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Children and Young People. Target: To increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55 per cent by 2031.





FIELD	DETAILS
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations (deliver services in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, communities and people).</p> <p>Target 4: By 2031, increase the proportion of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children assessed as developmentally on track in all five domains of the Australian Early Development Census (AEDC) to 55 per cent.</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	This action will be designed to support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in environments where they learn and play, embedding pathways within existing early childhood systems to promote equity and access to early supports. By formalising inter-directorate collaboration, this pilot addresses the systemic fragmentation that often hinders holistic support for children at-risk. Proportional investment will be considered through the evaluation process to ensure that resources are targeted effectively to improve early developmental and educational outcomes for the ACT's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, aiming for a measurable reduction in disparities at a critical life stage.
9. Evidence of change	<p>The pilot findings will be presented in an Evaluation Report.</p> <p>The EYWG will assess outcomes from the pilot, and plan and implement the next stages.</p> <p>Improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children will be demonstrated through future AEDC cycles.</p>

2. Priority Action: Embed Aboriginal-led design, governance and delivery across all aspects of the service system that supports families, ensures child safety and provides out of home care

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Embed Aboriginal-led design, governance and delivery across all aspects of the service system that supports families, ensures child safety, and provides out of home care.
2. Detailed action description	<p>We commit to embedding Aboriginal-led design, governance, and delivery across all aspects of the service system that supports families, ensures child safety, and provides out-of-home care.</p> <p>Central to this transformation is the embedding Family-Led Decision-Making frameworks that position families as the primary decision-makers in matters affecting their children. These frameworks are grounded in cultural knowledge, kinship systems, and community strengths, and are implemented in alignment with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle (ATSICPP) ensuring that children remain connected to family, culture, and Country.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Education Directorate</p> <p>Stakeholders: Elected Body representing community under the ATSIEB Act. ACCOs as primary service and support providers, with their governance structures being a cornerstone of self-determination of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients as the beneficiaries of services and outcomes. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff as key stakeholders internally through their functions improving service outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	Existing inter-directorate partnerships are in place between HCSD and Education. These existing partnerships are in place to support the delivery of results for children, youth and families.





FIELD	DETAILS
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>Measurables include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase the number and proportion of Aboriginal-led decision making (including care teams, Family Group Conferencing and other methods) with families across CYF, ACCO's and other NGOs.2. Increase the number and proportion of Aboriginal families referred to support services.3. Transfer 40% of early intervention and family support service functions to Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations by 2027, depending on ACCO capacity and supported by dedicated funding and workforce development.4. Transition up to 100% of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and, young people in Foster Care and Kinship Care arrangements from current to NGO's (based on individual preferences and willingness to transfer) to ACCOs.5. Implementation of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF) by 2027 – The AEEF aims to support new and existing ACT ACCOs to build organisational capacity and capability to improve outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.6. When agreed to by the client, all case planning, placement and review decisions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children to be co-led with ACCOs.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Children and Young People: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their Families and communities.</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform Two: Building the Community Controlled Sector Outcome 12: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are not overrepresented in the child protection system Target 12: By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent.</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>This approach prioritises cultural authority, self-determination, and community leadership, ensuring that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families are supported in ways that are culturally safe, responsive, and empowering.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<p>The Directorate plans to provide evidence of change through data provided for existing reports, including: The Our Booris Our Way Report, Elected Body Hearings Report, SNAICC Family Matters Report, Safe and Supported Framework co-led by SNAICC, Jumbunna report - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Led Review identified Government needs to embed cultural capability measures into funding agreements for non-ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations it has funded to work with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.</p>





3. Priority Action: Implement culturally safe, family-led early intervention and response strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Implement culturally safe, family-led early intervention and response strategies to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.
2. Detailed action description	<p>Implement culturally safe, family-led early intervention and response strategies across Children, Youth and Families (CYF) to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children.</p> <p>CYF will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, ensuring culturally responsive and trauma informed approaches are consistently applied. These efforts will be guided by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principles (ATSICPP), ensuring that children remain connected to family, community, and culture through practices that uphold prevention, partnership, placement, participation, and connection.</p> <p>Placement decisions will be made in accordance with the ATSICPP placement hierarchy, prioritising the child’s placement with family. This hierarchy ensures that cultural identity and community connection are preserved, and that children are supported in environments that reflect their cultural values and lived experiences.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Education Directorate</p> <p>Stakeholders: Elected Body representing community under the ATSIEB Act. Ngunnawal Community. SNAICC. ACCOs and their staff. The Our Booris, Our Way Committee. Children, young people and families (clients).</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	Existing inter-directorate partnerships are in place between HCSD and Education. These existing partnerships are in place to support the delivery of results for children, youth and families
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>Workforce:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of CYF identified positions across the service (with a focus in the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Family Support and Response, and Family Group Conferencing Teams) to build the capability of both Indigenous and non-Indigenous staff to create systems that understand and respect cultural identity, kinship structures, and community values. 2. Increase the proportion of front-line staff who have completed the Foundational Learning Program which includes culturally informed training to support practice and address cultural bias that may impact decision making. <p>Governance:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. Increase the number of Aboriginal-led decision-making forums in CYF (including Care pathways, Case Direction and Discussion Panel, Consultations) <p>Internal Programs and Process data:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. Decrease the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people requiring a statutory response 5. Increase the number of Family Group Conferencing held in the quarter 6. Publish open and transparent data through dashboard reporting on system level change to provide information to the community on diversions from Child Safety, sustaining children and young people at home, entries and exits from care, restoration and family reconnection, completion of cultural plans and others to be agreed with the OBOW Implementation Oversight Committee. Expect that the series of agreed dashboards will be completed by end June 2027. 7. Decrease the number of Aboriginal children and young people in residential care
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Children and Young People - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their Families and communities.





FIELD	DETAILS
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making Outcome: Impact across all Outcomes and Targets as an 'enabling action'
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	CYF will work in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations, ensuring culturally responsive and trauma informed approaches are consistently applied. This includes supporting families to build capability and resilience through inclusive, family-led decision-making processes, and embedding self-determination as a foundational principle of practice.
9. Evidence of change	The Directorate plans to provide evidence of change through data provided for existing reports, including: The Our Booris Our Way Report, the Jumbunna Report, The Productivity Commission Review of the CTG, the ACT Draft Audit Program 2025-26 Publish open and transparent data through dashboard reporting on system level change.

4. Priority Action: Implementation of the Next Steps for our kids 2022-2030

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Implementation of the Next Steps for our Kids 2022-2030 Strategy
2. Detailed action description	The implementation of the Next Steps for our Kids 2022 – 2030 strategy is underway. This strategy aims to ensure children and young people in the ACT are safe, strong, connected, and living their best life through: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Implementing the recommendations of the Our Booris, Our Way report to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the child protection and youth justice systems. 2. Working together to expand our engagement with ACCOs across the ACT to look at all aspects of child and family reform. We are committed to working with ACCOs to deliver culturally safe and appropriate services to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people and carers. 3. Establishing a specific Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander family and kin advocacy service to support family involved across the children, youth and family services system to navigate issues and seek for assistance as required as per agreement with OBOW Implementation Oversight Committee 4. Implementation of more intensive family support, preservation and restoration model 5. Expand delivery of family led decision making processes including Family Group Conferencing, where families come together in a culturally safe way to make a Family Plan to work on the care, wellbeing and safety of children and young people. 6. Establishment ACT Aboriginal Children's Forum will provide oversight and governance of the work of our partner organisations. This will ensure the work being done in the sector improves the experience of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families and carers, who are engaged in the child protection and youth justice systems
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate Stakeholders: Child and Family Reform Ministerial Advisory Council, Our Booris, Our Way Committee, ACT Aboriginal Children's Forum (ACCOs and Service Providers)
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	Nil





FIELD	DETAILS
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>Measurable Changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Increase the number of collaborative Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander partnership and consultation across government and community sectors.2. Increase investment in earlier and targeted family support services, including early support and diversion to keep children safely at home.3. Increase the investment shifted from tertiary interventions to early support via the Children, Young People and Families (CYPF) Panel, established in 2024. This includes continued and expanded investment in earlier and targeted family support services to ensure children and young people can live safely at home.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Area: Children and Young People - Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their Families and communities.</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations Outcome: Impact across all Outcomes and Targets as an 'enabling action'</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>There is a valuable opportunity to continue strengthening relationships across the ACT Public Service (ACTPS), particularly with colleagues in data, policy, the Human Services Registrar, and within the Child and Youth Families (CYF) Division. By working collaboratively, sharing information, and aligning efforts, we can maximise opportunities to meet Closing the Gap targets, improve outcomes, and ensure the success of ongoing reforms.</p> <p>The ACT Aboriginal Children's Forum provides a critical platform for oversight and governance of work led by partner organisations. Through this forum, we can ensure that service delivery is culturally safe, accountable, and responsive to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, young people, families, and carers engaged in the child protection and youth justice systems. This coordinated approach strengthens transparency, builds trust, and supports continuous improvement across the sector.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<p>The Directorate plans to provide evidence of change through data provided for existing reports, including Out of Home Care Snapshot Report, The Our Booris Our Way Report, the ACT Auditor-Generals Performance Audit Report.</p>



5. Priority Action: Full Implementation of all recommendations from the Our Booris Our Way Final Report

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Full implementation of all recommendations from the Our Booris, Our Way Final Report
2. Detailed action description	The Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) continues to work with the Our Booris Our Way Implementation Oversight Committee (OBOWIOC) and other ACT Government directorates to progress the full implementation of the 28 recommendations and 8 sub-recommendations from the Our Booris Our Way Final Report delivered in December 2019 to continue to address the over representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out of home care.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate. Supporting Directorates: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate.
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The Health and Community Services directorate, Justice and Community Safety directorate and Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development directorate work in partnership with the OBOWIOC to implement the recommendations.
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	As of 30 June 2025, 12 recommendations have entered the Monitoring phase, 12 recommendations are classified as Medium Focus, with HCSD continuing to report on their implementation progress and 12 recommendations are designated as High Focus with HCSD working closely with the OBOWIOC through monthly subgroup meetings to address key issues and progress recommendations to the Monitoring phase.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Children and Young People Target: By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people in out-of-home-care by 45% Indicators: 4 – Decreasing number of children and young people in out-of-home-care; 5 – Decreasing number of children and young people entering out-of-home care; 6 – increasing the number of children and young people exiting out-of-home care; 7 – Increasing number/percentage of children and young people supported to stay within or return to their family and kin environment. Measures: 4a – Number of children and young people (0-17 years old) in out-of-home care; 5a – Number of children and young people (0-17 years old) admitted to out-of-home care; 6a – Number of children and young people (0-17 years old) discharged from out-of-home care; 7a – Number of children and young people (0-17 years old) who exited out-of-home care to reunification in the reporting period and did not return to out-of-home care within 12 months; 7b – Percentage of children and young people (0-17 years old) who exited out-of-home care to reunification in the reporting period and did not return to out-of-home care within 12 months; 7c – Number of children and young people (0-17 years old) who were not on a long-term guardianship or custody order and were reunified in the reporting period; 7d – Percentage of children and young people (0-17 years old) who were not on a long-term guardianship or custody order and were reunified in the reporting period.
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	Priority Reform Four: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making, Transforming Mainstream Institutions. Target: By 2031, reduce the rate of over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45 per cent.
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	The recommendations aim to reduce the over-representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in the ACT out-of-home care system, enhance their experiences within the system and actively pursue their restoration to family and community through lasting changes to practice, policy and legislation.
9. Evidence of change	Progress is reported through six-monthly implementation progress updates which are tabled in the Legislative Assembly and uploaded to the Our Booris Our Way website. Progress is also discussed and monitored at quarterly meetings between the OBOWIOC and ACT Government representatives.



6. Priority Action: Address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system.
2. Detailed action description	<p>The ACT Government is currently developing an ACT Youth Justice Strategic Plan. The plan will establish a 5-year roadmap for the ACT's youth justice system, mapping our ongoing commitment to youth justice reform. It aims to improve the wellbeing of young people who are at risk of offending or are already involved in the youth justice system. At its core is a commitment to Closing the Gap, specifically Target 11, which aims to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by at least 30 per cent by 2031.</p> <p>The Strategic Plan will also take into account the findings and recommendations of the Jumbunna Institute's Final Report of its Independent Review into the Over-Representation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People in the ACT and align closely with the existing reforms being undertaken in Children, Youth and Families and build on the important work of Next Steps for Our Kids 2022-2030 to provide earlier and more intensive support for families when problems first appear.</p> <p>The Plan will also include a focus on core actions to address the overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in the youth justice system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> > Raise the Minimum Age of Criminal Responsibility: From 1 July 2025, increase the minimum age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14 years. This reform aligns with evidence-based approaches and aims to prevent early and unnecessary contact with the youth justice system, particularly for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children. > Establish the Therapeutic Support Panel: Create a multidisciplinary Therapeutic Support Panel to provide coordinated, culturally safe, and trauma-informed support for children and young people who may otherwise be at risk of entering the youth justice system. The panel will work closely with families, communities, and service providers to ensure early intervention and holistic care. > Bimberi Youth Justice: The ACT Government is committed to ensuring culturally safe and responsive practices and framework is embedded within Bimberi Youth Justice Centre for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people. We recognise the ongoing impacts of historical disadvantage and are actively working to build trust and connection through meaningful partnerships and culturally informed services.
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Justice and Community Safety (JACS)</p> <p>Stakeholders: Commissioner for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young People</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	Existing inter-directorate partnerships are in place between HCSD and JACS. These existing partnerships are in place to support the delivery of results for children, youth and families
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<p>Measurable Changes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Increase the number of Programs supporting Cultural Connection at Bimberi Youth Justice. 2. Increase the proportion of front-line staff who have completed Cultural Development Program to 100%. 3. Increase the number of young people and families engaged in FFT-YJ program. 4. Design and implement Cultural Framework across Youth Justice Branch by 2027 5. Increase the number and proportion of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander young people supported by the Intensive Adolescent Service (IAS). The IAS delivers voluntary, practical, and intensive support for young people with complex needs or those at risk of entering the criminal justice system, offering tailored assistance to address their unique circumstances and promote positive outcomes.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Children and Young People: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and young people growing up safely in their Families and communities.





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	<p>Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people children and young people are over-represented in the youth justice system, about 10 times as likely as non-Indigenous young people to be under supervision. The ACT's relatively small youth justice population presents a unique opportunity to deliver intensive, consistent, and culturally informed responses for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people across both detention and community settings. With targeted resourcing and strong cultural leadership, services can be tailored to meet individual needs while maintaining cultural safety and continuity of care.</p> <p>There is also significant potential to strengthen collaboration between ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander youth and adult justice services, ensuring seamless transitions, shared knowledge, and more effective use of resources. By aligning initiatives and embedding cultural governance across the justice continuum, the ACT can lead in delivering holistic, community-led justice responses that support healing, reduce recidivism, and improve long-term outcomes for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<p>The Directorate plans to provide evidence of change through data provided for existing reports, including: Bimberi Headline Indicators Report, Jumbunna Report. The Jumbunna Report Rec 3.5 recommends CSD (and JACS) support an ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander -led mechanism for ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Input into decision making around funding priorities in the justice space.</p>

7. Priority Action: Implementation of the Long Yarn Recommendations

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Implement recommendations from The Long Yarn, to address the disproportionate rates of domestic, family and sexual violence (DFSV) which impact the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, in partnership with the community.
2. Detailed action description	<p>Implement the 12 recommendations made by the community-led The Long Yarn report. Some progress has been made against all recommendations, key activities called for in the report to further embed these include:</p> <p>Longer-term funding for DFSV ACCOs (supported through the 2025-2026 Budget)</p> <p>Cultural safety in all services, through enhanced capacity in DFSV ACCOs and contractual requirements for mainstream DFSV providers from 2026</p> <p>Working with men and boys as both victims and perpetrators of family violence, with a trial for Aboriginal fathers through an ACCO commencing in 2025.</p>
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate.</p> <p>Supporting Directorates: Justice and Community Safety Directorate, Education Directorate. The Domestic Violence Prevention Council Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Expert Reference Group (ERG) is expected to continue as the key partnership and advisory body. The Elected Body will also be consulted.</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	The DFSV Inter-directorate Committee is expected to continue oversight of collaborative action to deliver recommendations from The Long Yarn.





FIELD	DETAILS
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Delivering a formal Government response in late 2025 2. In partnership with DFSV ACCOs, design and deliver a 'Violence is not our way' prevention campaign over 2026-2028 3. Renewed contracts with DFSV ACCOs to ensure service delivery from 2026-2029, delivering on the 2025-2026 The Long Yarn ACT Budget commitment 4. Continue to allocate a meaningful proportion of Safer Families Levy funding to ACCOs and Aboriginal-led organisations and consider opportunities to improve data collection over time to support a clear definition of 'meaningful proportion'.
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	Focus Area: Children and young people and Community Leadership
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision Making;</p> <p>Priority reform Two: Building the community-controlled sector</p> <p>Priority reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations</p> <p>Outcome 13: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families and households are safe, Target 13: By 2031, the rate of all forms of family violence and abuse against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women and children is reduced at least by 50%, as progress towards zero</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people experience DFSV at disproportionate rates. This is impacted by structural racism and the ongoing impacts of colonialism and dispossession. Delivering the community-led recommendations is expected to increase culturally safe services available in the ACCO and mainstream services, and provide long-term funding for DFSV ACCOs, supporting self-determination.
9. Evidence of change	In the longer term, a reduction in the rates of DFSV perpetrated against ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In the short term, outcomes are expected to include an increase in the number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients who can access a DFSV ACCO and a meaningful proportion of DFSV funding allocated to ACCOs. The ACT Government will continue to work with the ERG to consider appropriate impact measurements.

8. Priority Action: Transform Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Services through Aboriginal-Led Reform and Transparent Performance Monitoring

FIELD	DETAILS
1. Priority action title	Transform Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Services through Aboriginal-Led Reform and Transparent Performance Monitoring
2. Detailed action description	The ACT Government will continue implementing the five-year Children, Youth and Families (CYF) Reform Program to transform service delivery through improved practice, systems, tools, and a clinical practice framework. This includes transferring a range of functions from CYF to Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to enhance Aboriginal-led decision-making and provide culturally safe service options for families involved in child safety and youth justice. A story board will be developed to communicate reform progress with the community, alongside the establishment of a public-facing SharePoint site that provides transparent access to data and tracks CYF's performance against Closing the Gap targets.





FIELD	DETAILS
3. Accountable Directorate(s) and stakeholders	<p>Lead Directorate: Health and Community Services Directorate (HCSD) Supporting Directorate: Complex Behaviour Support and Work Health and Safety & Engagement and Wellbeing Support Services Responsible Directorate: Education Directorate (EDU) Partners and Stakeholders: ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body, Aboriginal Community-Controlled Organisations (ACCOs), Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander clients and staff</p>
4. Inter-Directorate integration strategy	<p>EDU will work with HCSD to ensure that education services are integrated into the broader CYF reform agenda. This includes aligning school-based supports with culturally safe family services, contributing to data sharing for performance monitoring, and supporting the transition of relevant functions to ACCOs.</p>
5. Key deliverables and outcomes	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Transparent dashboard reporting on system-level change and practice implementation 2. Commensurate funding transferred to ACCOs on the CYF Panel 3. Establishment of the ACT Aboriginal Children’s Forum to influence policy and practice 4. Increased Aboriginal-led decision-making in child and family services 5. Improved outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families in contact with CYF
6. Alignment to the ACT Agreement	<p>Focus Area: Children and Young People and Community Leadership</p>
7. Alignment to the National Agreement on Closing the Gap	<p>Priority Reform One: Formal Partnerships and Shared Decision-Making Priority Reform Two: Building the Community-Controlled Sector Priority Reform Three: Transforming Government Organisations Target 12: Reduce overrepresentation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children in out-of-home care by 45% by 2031 Target 11: Reduce the rate of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young people in detention by 30% by 2031</p>
8. Rationale for systemic impact and proportionality	<p>This action represents a significant structural reform, shifting key functions from government to Aboriginal-led organisations. It addresses systemic racism and institutional barriers by embedding cultural authority and self-determination into CYF services. The investment is proportionate to the scale of transformation required to achieve long-term, sustainable change in outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children and families.</p>
9. Evidence of change	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. CYF performance dashboard data 2. Number and scope of functions transitioned to ACCOs 3. Feedback from the ACT Aboriginal Children’s Forum 4. Community satisfaction and engagement metrics 5. Reduction in statutory interventions and increased family preservation

