

# ACT ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER AGREEMENT 2019-2028

## OUTCOME STATEMENT



### RENEWING THE AGREEMENT

Conversations were held with the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community from March 2018 to August 2018 on the renewal of the *ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028* (Agreement).

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Elected Body) in partnership with the ACT Government had conversations with the community to help shape the new Agreement.

The Agreement builds on the strength of the previous Agreement (2015-2018) and sets the long-term direction in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs in the ACT.

It outlines how the ACT Government, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and our community partners will work together to meet the social, cultural and economic needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Self-determination is the underlying principle of the Agreement. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples have distinct cultural rights embedded in legislation and the ACT will support the exercising of those rights.

### THE OUTCOME

The Agreement was signed on 26 February 2019 by Chief Minister (Mr Andrew Barr MLA), Chair of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body (Ms Katrina Fanning), the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs (Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA) and ACT PS Head of Service (Ms Kathy Leigh).

The Agreement includes ten focus areas:

- Four core focus areas – Children and Young People; Cultural Integrity; Inclusive Community and Community Leadership.
- Six significant focus areas – Connecting the Community; Life Long Learning; Economic Participation; Health and Wellbeing; Housing; and Justice.

The Agreement is accompanied by Focus Area Action Plans outlining how we will deliver on the core and significant focus areas of the Agreement. The core focus areas are relevant to all ACT Government Directorates to develop holistic culturally appropriate services, with the significant focus areas specific to the individual Directorate.

A community event was held on 2 March 2019 to launch the Agreement. All ACT Government Directorates attended and showcased to the community the work they are currently progressing/delivering under the Agreement.

The Agreement was tabled on 19 March 2019 in the Legislative Assembly.

[ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019-2028](#)

[Focus Area Action Plans](#)



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### HOW YOUR FEEDBACK MADE A DIFFERENCE

The new Agreement was developed through extensive conversations with the community, including what the community had already provided over the past few years.

The community highlighted children and young people, housing and justice as the top priorities for them and their families. Taking action on these priorities for community is important to Government. The Agreement's [Focus Area Action Plans](#) describe how we will deliver on the focus areas of the Agreement. The Action Plans identify actions across government against all ten focus areas, chosen by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community:

- Children and young people
- Community leadership
- Cultural identity
- Inclusive community
- Connecting the community
- Economic participation
- Life long learning
- Health and wellbeing
- Housing
- Justice

The Elected Body and the ACT Government had a presence at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies community markets in December 2018. The purpose of participating in the event was to validate with the community what we heard during the conversations and how it might look when put into real action.

The Agreement was launched with the community on 2 March 2019. The event was a positive forum for community to come together and see what Government services are available.

Discussion points from the conversations, including comments from the online survey, was consolidated into a report which is available [here](#).

### WHAT'S NEXT?

The Agreement will be for a 10-year period from 2019-2028 and implemented over four phases, coinciding with the Elected Body elections. The phases will include implementation of actions in the [Focus Area Action Plans](#).

This will allow the incoming Elected Body to work with the ACT Government in setting priorities for the next phase.

- Phase 1 - February 2019 to December 2020
- Phase 2 - January 2021 to December 2023
- Phase 3 - January 2024 to December 2026
- Phase 4 - January 2027 to December 2028

### Reporting and Analysis

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Two tiers of reporting will support us in monitoring performance against the Agreement.

- *Outcomes Framework* will track our performance against the core outcomes identified in the Agreement.
- *Focus Area Action Plans* will track the work underway to achieve the targets set in the Outcomes Framework.

More information on the Agreement is available on the [Strong Families](#) website.