

Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs
Minister for Climate Change, Environment, Energy and Water
Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services
Minister for Seniors and Veterans

Member for Yerrabi

RESPONSE TO QUESTION ON NOTICE**Questions on Notice Paper No 5****Friday, 11 April 2025****Question No. 286**

MS BARRY: To ask the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services —

1. Does the ACT *Commissioning Roadmap 2022–2024* state that in mid-2024 the Government “will start refreshing the commissioning roadmap again to forecast out to 2028”; if so, can the Minister provide a copy of the updated roadmap?
2. Why is the updated roadmap not on the website, and when this will be published.
3. Does the *Commissioning Roadmap 2022–2024* state that “We are actively commissioning or intend to commission by 2024 the following services or programs that are meeting the needs of the growing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Canberra, Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services, Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Corporation, CIT Job Readiness Program, an Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation for Housing, and First Nations Justice Support programs”; if so, can the Minister provide an update on the progress of those commissioning processes.
4. Given that there are few updates on the website about the status of the other commissioning processes since July 2024, when will the Minister be providing public updates on those processes on the website.
5. Can the Minister provide a statement covering all the commissioning processes, advising what stage of the process these are at, what actions are currently underway, and when the Minister anticipates the commissioning process will be complete for each sector.

Suzanne Orr MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

1. ACT Government's Commissioning Roadmap 2022-2024 indicates that it would be refreshed in mid-2024 to extend the forecast period to 2028. While the Government remains committed to commissioning, this refresh has been delayed while being considered alongside other important priorities the Government has regarding community sector reform.
 - a. The Government has committed in this term to evaluate and improve the commissioning approach.
 - b. Feedback from community service organisations will be considered as part of this review. ACT Government is looking at ways to address concerns raised by the community sector, such as aligning process with the scale of the program, greater clarity around funding availability and minimising the impost on participants.
 - c. Commissioning processes that are in progress are continuing.
2. As above.
3. The *Commissioning Roadmap 2022-2024* identifies self-determination as a key tenet and priority for commissioning as a 10-year reform and encourages self-determination by fostering the growth of Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) within the Canberra community.

To achieve this, all commissioning cycles, across all directorates, are encouraged to specifically consider how best to design, invest in, and deliver culturally safe services. To that end, in 2024, Aboriginal Services Development (ASD) Branch, in consultation with stakeholders, developed and published a guide for Commissioners on strengthening how commissioning contributes to greater self-determination for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Canberra. The guide is available on the commissioning website.

There is not a separate commissioning cycle for each ACCO. Rather, the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, and the role that ACCOs can play, is considered within commissioning for each part of the human services system.

To date commissioning is underway for the First Nations Justice Support Programs.

Commissioning for Next Steps for Our Kids has resulted in significant investment flowing to Yerrabi Yurwang Child and Family Corporation. Yerrabi Yurwang now also provides housing support as a result of homelessness system commissioning.

Early commissioning activity identified that the CIT Job Readiness program best sits with CIT and this transition has occurred.

In addition, ACT Government has committed \$3.68 million over 4 years to support (ACCOs)

through the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation Establishment and Expansion Fund (AEEF). The grant application process for this fund is now open.

4. The sectors in progress pages of the commissioning website have recently been updated. Information on the progress of commissioning processes for portfolios within my remit are listed under the response for question 5. I am unable to provide status updates of commissioning processes which are not within my portfolio responsibilities.
5. A brief update on the commissioning cycles for my portfolios as the Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services and Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs are below:

Commissioning sectors/programs	Commissioning status	Further information
Aboriginal Controlled Organisations Commissioning	RE-ALIGNED	ACCOs are not commissioned through a siloed cycle but rather are considered and prioritised as appropriate within cycles under a whole of human service system approach.
Community development program	2025-26 FORECAST	Not yet commenced, awaiting outcomes of the Food Relief Action Plan to inform any commissioning work. Likely need for progress during 2025
Peak Body Funding 1	DELIVER	5-year deeds in place, mid-contract reviews were completed in 2024.
Sector Sustainability Project (Start-up phase)	COMPLETED	Funding for the sector sustainability project ended in December 2024 and is pending further government decision on the next phase of the program. Phase 1 ongoing work to the Sector Sustainability program includes 'full cost pricing tools' under development with UWA.
Seniors Card	DELIVER	A 12-month extension has been obtained to enable the current provider COTA to work with the commissioner to address service design/delivery gaps under the forecasted tight fiscal environment. Feedback from the Commissioner indicates that through commissioning, wider awareness and engagement with the program has been beneficial.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA

Minister for Disability, Carers and Community Services

Date: 10/05/25

This response required 160 minutes to complete, at an approximate cost of 216.60.