

Response to question on notice

Questions on Notice Paper No 16

03 March 2026

Question No. 911

Mr Thomas Emerson MLA: To ask the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs –

Will the Government consider amending the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young Peoples Commissioner Act 2022* to enable the Commissioner to support young people up to 25 years of age.


SUZANNE ORR MLA - The answer to the Member's question is as follows:

The creation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Children and Young People Commissioner was recommended by the *Our Booris, Our Way Report* and informed by the Jumbunna Institute's community-led co-design process with ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations, families, and young people. The Commissioner's age jurisdiction was considered at the time the role was created.

The Government notes that a proposal to extend the Commissioner's age jurisdiction to include young adults up to 25 years of age would represent a substantial expansion of the Commissioner's remit, including the scope of advocacy, inquiries, and individual case support functions set out in section 11 of the *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children and Young Peoples Commissioner Act 2022* and would potentially have significant resourcing implications for the Commissioner's office. The Commissioner's functions have been designed having regard to the functions of the Public Advocate to ensure complementary oversight of vulnerable cohorts. Any expansion of this jurisdiction would require careful consideration of the interaction between these roles.

The Government acknowledges the Acting Commissioner's views that there may be particular circumstances in which it is appropriate for the Commissioner to provide advocacy and support to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander young adults aged 18 to 25, particularly where those young adults have been in care and are eligible for transitional support or they are still involved with the youth justice system. I have asked JACS to consider these issues and brief me on the matter.

Approved for circulation to the Member and incorporation into Hansard.



Suzanne Orr MLA
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Date: 25/03/26

This response required 1hr to complete, at an approximate cost of \$112.34.