

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROCUREMENT POLICY - WORKSHOP

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROCUREMENT POLICY

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy (the Policy) supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander owned businesses in the ACT to compete for government work, and removes barriers to their participation in government procurement.

The Policy is part of the ACT Government's commitment to achieving the outcomes of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2019–28.

The Policy aims to provide more opportunities for the ACT Government to engage with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses in the ACT.

This Policy is about supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander businesses to compete with mainstream businesses for government work.



THE CONVERSATION

We held an interactive Deliberative Workshop with representatives of local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises on 15 February 2019. The workshop was held at the Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies.

We also held a conversation online from 30 January to 15 February 2019 where the community was invited to provide submissions on the draft policy.

WHO ENGAGED

Seven representatives from six local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises took part through the course of the workshop.

The workshop was designed and run by independent facilitators, with input and participation from senior executives from Procurement ACT and a presentation on related topics at the Federal level from the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Four online submissions were received from the community.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROCUREMENT POLICY - WORKSHOP

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



Key insights from the community

Accreditation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander enterprises

1. There was strong support from the participants for the idea of multiple accreditation organisations that offered choice to enterprises about how to be registered.
2. Accreditation is simple in concept, but there are different levels or categories that could be relevant to consider beyond a 'minimum criterion' for being considered an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander enterprise.
3. Enterprises would like the option to demonstrate their eligibility directly to the Territory if possible.
4. Joint ventures need to be considered differently to other types of business structure.

Expected impact of the Policy

5. Participants could see a range of potential benefits of the Policy –to their enterprises (especially growth and sustainability) and to the wider community.
6. The main concerns identified were about benefits enterprises received from the Policy not flowing through to the community.

Indicators the Policy was or was not working

7. In the short term, feedback received was that the best indicator the Policy is working will be through demonstrated examples of things being done differently –'proof-of-concept' that the Policy could have an impact.
8. In the medium term, good indicators would be quality relationships between the Territory and the enterprises becoming the norm, Policy targets being met, and benefits flowing through to the community.
9. In the longer term, feedback outlined that we would ideally be able to show success stories attributable to the Policy, and that the ACT should be known as a preferred place to start and run an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander enterprise.

Implementation

10. Actively managing the first applications of the Policy will be a key factor for it to succeed and meet the desired outcomes for both the Territory and for the enterprises involved.

WHAT'S NEXT?

A detailed final report, including the government's final decision on the policy direction will be published on YourSay in April 2019. Our goal is to commence implementing the Policy later this year.

You can register to receive project updates at: <https://www.yoursay.act.gov.au/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-procurement-policy>

To find out more about the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Procurement Policy and other initiatives, policies and projects in Canberra, visit www.yoursay.act.gov.au.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PROCUREMENT POLICY - WORKSHOP

REPORT ON WHAT WE HEARD



Key Timings

18 October – 23 November 2018 – Direct consultations with peak bodies

30 January – 17 February 2019 – Online consultation

15 February 2019 – Workshop

March 2019 – What We Heard Report

April 2019 – Consultation Report

July 2019 – Policy implementation

THANK YOU FOR YOUR FEEDBACK

150

We reached over 150 people
via YourSay

4

We four written submissions

7

We delivered this workshop
to 7 people

100%

Workshop attendees
surveyed were supportive of
the workshop engagement
process