

Tom Duncan  
Clerk  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
London Circuit  
CANBERRA ACT 2601  
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Dear Mr Duncan 

Thank you for referring petition number 044-25, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 25 September 2025 by Mr Thomas Emerson MLA, regarding support for Mr Emerson's Private Member's Bill titled the Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025 (the Bill).

The Bill proposes to amend the *Annual Reports (Government Agencies) Act 2004* (Annual Reports Act) and *Public Sector Management Act 1994* (PSMA) to legislate mechanisms to support the ACT Government's commitments under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap (National Agreement) and specifically, to implement Essential Actions 3.5 and 4.3 of the Productivity Commission's 2024 Review of the National Agreement on Closing the Gap – Study report Volume 1 (the Productivity Commission Report).

#### Response to the Petition

The petition called for the following action:

*That all Members of the Legislative Assembly vote in support of the Public Sector (Closing the Gap) Legislation Amendment Bill 2025.*

While this is explicitly a matter for the Assembly, I am pleased to advise that the Government is continuing to work with stakeholders, including Mr Emerson, to support the passage of the Bill with the necessary amendments in place to continue the delivery of meaningful progress against the Government's commitments under the National Agreement.

As previously indicated, the Government supports the intent of the Bill, which aligns with the Government's pre-existing commitment to implement Essential Actions 3.5 and 4.3 of the Productivity Commission Report.

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The Government provided a submission to the Standing Committee on Public Accounts and Administration to inform its inquiry into the Bill. In that submission, the Government stated that it considers some amendments are essential to implement Essential Actions 3.5 and 4.3 in an effective and appropriate way for the ACTPS. Work is currently underway to settle these amendments in consultation with Mr Emerson and the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body.

The Government continues to take other actions to implement its commitments under the National Agreement. The Cultural Transformation Branch in the Office of Industrial Relations and Workforce Strategy, Chief Minister, Treasury and Economic Development Directorate is currently in the process of developing pilot Cultural Care Plans for directorates and is working to uplift the cultural capability of the Senior Executive Service.

Should the Bill be agreed by the Legislative Assembly, the Government will develop an implementation plan to address training, assessments, reporting and evaluation to ensure it delivers effective systemic change, transparency and accountability.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Barr', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Andrew Barr MLA  
Chief Minister

27 November 2025