



Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

The Triple Bottom Line Assessment is required to be published in accordance with Part 4, section 23 (1)(b) of the Freedom of Information Act 2016

20/347 Government Response to Interim Report 2 of the Select Committee on the COVID-19 Pandemic Response

Summary of impacts:

- The initiatives the ACT Government is undertaking as part of its response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which are identified in the Government's response, are having, or will have, a positive impact on health outcomes, access to services, human rights and supporting the cost of living.

Level of impact	Positive	Negative	Neutral
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Neutral	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing measures identified in the Government's response are gender neutral and are not designed to support the specific needs of any particular gender cohort.
Positive	Health (Community and mental health)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response refers to the ACT Government's COVID-19 Easing of Restrictions Roadmap. It identifies that the ACT is continuing its approach to further easing of restrictions and that the ACT progressed to Step 2.2 from midday Friday 19 June 2020.
Positive	Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Education Directorate is already considering the remote learning period to ensure any lessons are taken into account for future planning, as well as the ongoing response to the current COVID-19 pandemic. The response outlines the changes implemented across Government to continue to deliver services to the ACT community during the COVID-19 pandemic, some of these are ongoing. ACT public schools moved to remote and online learning at the beginning of term 2 in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Teachers designed and implemented programs to support remote learning which matched the school year and abilities of their students. The Education Directorate Network Student Engagement Team (NSET) and school psychologists also continued to provide services at Safe and Supervised

		<p>Sites during the remote learning period, and a new “telehealth” service was provided so students learning from home could continue to access appointments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Government has also developed and distributed a range of information sources to support various community groups in their understanding of the COVID-19 pandemic and supports available. This includes children and young people, their families and carers, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families, and health resources translated into 13 languages to support people from multicultural backgrounds.
Positive	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response outlines how the Government response to the COVID-19 pandemic has engaged with human rights legislation in the ACT. Where delegated legislation made in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency has significantly engaged human rights, and it had been warranted and feasible to undertake detailed human rights analysis in the context of a fast moving public health emergency, this analysis has been undertaken and made publicly available. The Government intends to continue this practice, and to assess the engagement of human rights by delegated legislation on a case-by case-basis. Ensuring delegated legislation complies with human rights is routine and is the way the ACT Government operates. This approach has not changed in the current environment. The Government will continue to deal with human rights issues that arise in its decision-making on a day to day basis, and it fully intends to ensure that the delegated legislation it makes in response to the COVID-19 public health emergency is compatible with human rights.
Positive	Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response outlines how the ACT Government has developed practice guidance for staff to equip them with the required information, skills and tips for talking with children and young people about what is happening and how they can access support. Children, Youth and Families division in the Community Services Directorate has also developed factsheets for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families (about Child and Youth Protection Services) operations during COVID-19.
Positive	Multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response outlines how the Community Services Directorate is working with ACT Health and SBS to translate health advice, information on restrictions and what is required of Canberrans as well as information on support services available to people into 13 languages. The translated resources support young people from multicultural backgrounds with limited English.
Positive	Impacts on different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The ACT Government has provided information to children and young people to assist their understanding of COVID-19. This includes directly, and

		<p>for the workers supporting children and young people via practice guides, factsheets, providing linkages to age-appropriate resources and mail outs. The information has been provided in a range of formats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The ACT Government is working strongly with community sector partners, particularly in the Out of Home Care Sector to ensure that children and young people have information about COVID-19 and are appropriately skilled and resourced to access further information, if required. • ACT public schools have provided information to students and their families to support their understanding of the impacts of COVID-19. Teaching staff have adapted their teaching methods to assist with managing student concerns with a strong focus on student wellbeing.
Positive	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response outlines how the Government has supported children with special needs. • The existing four specialist schools remained available during the remote learning period and special needs transport to these schools continued. • Students who usually attend a Learning Support Centre or Learning Support Unit at a mainstream school were supported to engage in learning by their usual teachers. • The Education Directorate Network Student Engagement Team (NSET) and school psychologists also continued to provide services at Safe and Supervised Sites during the remote learning period, and a new “telehealth” service was provided so students learning from home could continue to access appointments. • The Education Directorate will consider the experiences of students with additional needs during the period of remote learning and use lessons from this time for future planning and in the ongoing response to the COVID-19 pandemic.
Neutral	Justice and Crime	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The response outlines the COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Program that consists of the COVID-19 Emergency Response Act 2020 (passed in April 2020), the COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Amendment Act 2020 (passed in May 2020), and the COVID-19 Emergency Response Legislation Amendment Bill 2020 (No 2). • The response notes the compliance activities undertaken by ACT Policing, ACT Health and Access Canberra in response to public health emergency directions. This includes capturing data relating to the number of infringement notices or formal cautions issued, and the number of compliance checks conducted. • Bimberi Youth Justice Centre is providing all young people in custody with information about COVID-19 including what symptoms to look out for and how to avoid the spread of COVID-19. Information is posted

		throughout the centre on good hygiene practices and all young people are screened on induction by Justice Health. In response to COVID-19, all measures undertaken at Bimberi Youth Justice Centre are consistent with the current health advice. Hand sanitiser is available throughout the centre and regular cleaning is conducted.
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Economic		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Neutral	ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Government's response does not have a budget impact and does not seek Cabinet's agreement to provide appropriation and/or to reduce forecast revenue. Responses to recommendations that are noted or agreed in principle are contingent on future Government funding decisions.
Positive	Skills	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response outlines how the Government is supporting staff in the Community Services Directorate including by developing practice guidance for staff to equip them with the required information, skills and tips for talking with children and young people about what is happening with COVID-19 and how they can access support.
Positive	Cost of living	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The response outlines that internet access was facilitated for families of public school students who did not have access. Where requested, access was made available through provision of a dongle or prepaid SIM.

Environmental	Nil
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