

18/738 Government Response to Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services Inquiry into Libraries

Summary of Impacts
The Cabinet Submission recommends the Government agree to the draft response to the 14 recommendations of the Standing Committee on Environment and Transport and City Services' Inquiry into Libraries (the Inquiry).

Key to impacts: Red – negative, Blue - neutral and Green - positive.

Social

Access to services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inquiry has a number of recommendations that once implemented will improve access to services, for example, upgrades to the website and online catalogue and consideration of after-hours access to libraries. Work on some of these recommendations is already underway.
Access to social networks and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries play an important role in the community in terms of access to social networks and community activities. The recommendations of the Inquiry will continue the positive work underway in this space.
Indigenous and multicultural	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inquiry recommends that the Government design an engagement strategy to guide future community participation in decision making including with children and young people, older people, people with a disability, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with mental illness, people experiencing homelessness, and the LGBTIQ community. The draft Government Response proposes to agree to this recommendation which will increase indigenous and multicultural participation in Libraries ACT and decision making through the Library's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Multicultural Co-ordinators.
Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Inquiry made a number of recommendations in relation to people with a disability including the development of a Disability Action Plan and an engagement strategy to guide future community participation in decision making including with children and young people, older people, people with a disability, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community, culturally and linguistically diverse communities, people with mental illness, people experiencing homelessness, and the LGBTIQ community. The draft Government Response proposes to agree to these recommendations which will increase participation of people with a disability in ACT libraries and decision making.
Justice and rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Libraries are essential to the right for the community to be informed. There is no specific impact on justice and rights from this Inquiry's recommendations.

Economic

ACT Government Budget	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some recommendations of the Inquiry have a budget impact. All recommendations that have a budget impact have been noted and funding will be sought through the budget process.
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Environmental

Nil impact.