

Thank you for meeting with us today. I want to make something very clear before we begin: we are not here for excuses, delays, or polished statements. We are here because your officers violently harmed an innocent Aboriginal child — our nephew — and we are not going to let this be softened or swept aside. What happened to our nephew was not a mistake. It was not a misunderstanding. It was a gross violation of a child's human rights.

Your officers pointed a gun at him.

Your officers dragged him off a bus.

Your officers slammed him onto the ground.

Your officers pinned him down with their knees.

And even after realising they had the wrong boy, they still searched him — a terrified child who kept saying, "I didn't do anything."

That is not policing. That is abuse.

A child who committed no offence was treated like a criminal, treated like a threat, treated like he was less than human. No Australian law, no ACT policy, no international human rights standard allows that level of force on a child — especially once officers admit they have the wrong person.

This incident is not just about misconduct. It is evidence of a systemic failure — a system that continues to over-police, over-target, and over-harm First Nations children.

And now the consequences fall entirely on our nephew.

He is scared to leave the house.

He refuses to catch the bus.

He jumps at noises.

He lives in fear of police..and that fear was created by your officers.

And you need to understand something else: Our nephew is a child who has already lived through more loss and hardship than any child should.

He has lost his father.

And although he has a mother, she is not present in his life.

He depends on the small circle of family he has left...his grandmother, aunties, uncles, siblings, and cousins who hold him up every day.

He is a child who needed care, protection, and understanding, not guns, force, and terror

This trauma will not disappear. It has changed him. It has changed us.

We are here today as his family, angry, heartbroken, and determined.

We are here because a child's life was altered. We are here because what happened was violent, reckless, and unacceptable.

And we are here because we want answers, we want accountability, and we want real, immediate change to ensure no other First Nations child is ever treated like this again.

We expect honesty.

We expect transparency.

We expect action — not promises.

Because what happened to our nephew can never happen again

Our questions are direct, and we expect direct answers

Why was a gun pointed at an unarmed Aboriginal child who was sitting peacefully on a bus?

Why did your officers use violent force, dragging him, slamming him down, pinning him ..before confirming his identity?

Why did the search continue even after your officers knew they had the wrong child?

What threat did they believe justified this level of force?

Who authorised this operation, and what oversight was in place?

Explain to me What policy allows officers to search a child after establishing they have the wrong person.

Have the officers involved been stood down? If not, why?

What disciplinary action has been taken so far, and what will happen next?

Is racial profiling being investigated as a factor in this incident?

Show me the policy that says it is acceptable to point a firearm at a child in this situation.

If the officers followed your procedures, then your procedures are broken. How are you fixing them?

What is the ACT Policing policy on the use of force on minors, and was it followed?

What protocols exist to verify identity before escalating to weapons and physical force?

When will we receive the full body-worn camera footage?

When will we receive the complete incident report in writing?

How will ACT Policing repair the harm done to this child?

Will you commit to funding ongoing trauma counselling ?

How will you ensure that he is safe and not targeted or retraumatised by police in the future?

Here is what we expect moving forward

- A written and public apology to our nephew.
- Immediate access to the full body-cam footage and incident report.
- Disciplinary action against the involved officers.
- An independent investigation — not police investigating police.
- Long-term trauma counselling for our nephew funded by ACT Policing.
- A full review of use-of-force policies related to minors.
- Cultural safety and de-escalation training for all officers.
- Clear communication with our family at every stage of the process

Before we leave this room today, we want you to understand one thing clearly: this conversation does not end here. Our nephew's trauma does not end when this meeting finishes, and neither does our fight for justice.

Our family refuses to let this become another "internal review," another "training opportunity," or another line in a report that gets buried and forgotten. We are not go

Before we leave this room today, we want you to understand one thing clearly: this conversation does not end here. Our nephew's trauma does not end when this meeting finishes, and neither does our fight for justice.

Our family refuses to let this become another "internal review," another "training opportunity," or another line in a report that gets buried and forgotten. We are not going away

. What happened to our nephew was not an accident, it was a violent breach of duty, a failure of basic humanity, and a direct violation of his human rights.

You terrorised an innocent child.

You searched him after admitting your mistake.

You left him shaking, traumatised, and afraid to walk out his own front door.

And that will sit with us forever.

We expect — not hope, EXPECT — full accountability, transparent investigation, disciplinary action, and meaningful reform. Not words. Not sympathy. Action.

Because every day that our nephew wakes up scared, every day that he flinches at police, every day that he refuses to get on a bus... is another reminder of the violence your officers inflicted.

We will not stop speaking.

We will not stop demanding answers.

We will not let this system swallow the truth.

My nephew deserves justice.

Our families deserve safety.

And First Nations kids deserve to grow up without the fear of being targeted, brutalised, or treated as suspects simply for existing.

So understand this:

We are watching.

The community is watching.

And this time, you will not sweep this under the rug.

We expect your next steps to reflect the seriousness of what happened — because we are prepared to take this as far as it needs to go, legally and publicly, until justice is served

## Our Defence of the police Statement

The media statement has nothing to do with our nephew — and you will not use the actions of an entirely different child to excuse the violence your officers used against him.

1. Wrong child. Wrong identity. Wrong target. The offender in your statement is a 15-year-old who committed robberies and assaults. our nephew is not that boy. He is not 15. He did not match the description. He was not carrying any weapon. He was sitting quietly on a public bus, minding his own business.

You stopped the wrong bus. You grabbed the wrong child. Your officers escalated force against the wrong person.

There is no world where this statement justifies what happened.

2. The statement actually proves your failure, not your defence. Your own words say:

- ♦ you thought the offender was on the Transport Canberra bus, but
- ♦ “he was not able to be located.”

What you have written publicly is: “We couldn’t find him.” But what actually happened is: your officers grabbed an innocent Aboriginal child, pointed a gun at him, dragged him off a bus, slammed him to the ground, and searched him after realising he was not the offender.

Your statement hides that. Your statement leaves out a child having a gun pointed at his face.

And we will not let you hide behind vague wording.

3. Your public statement dismisses a violent incident involving an innocent child. You cannot publish: “He was not located” while leaving out the fact that a completely innocent boy was violently targeted instead.

That is a serious breach of transparency and accountability.

4. The seriousness of the real offender DOES NOT justify brutality against an innocent child. we expect you will say the situation was “high risk.” we expect you will talk about the weapon. we expect you will try to justify your officers’ fear or urgency.

But let us stop you right there:

Your fear does not excuse your actions. Your urgency does not excuse your actions. Your misidentification does not excuse your actions. And the danger posed by another person does not excuse violence against our nephew.

Your officers had a duty to confirm identity before escalating to force — and they failed that duty.

5. We will not allow “context” to overshadow what your officers did. This statement is about another child entirely. It does not explain:

- ♦ Why a gun was pointed at a small, unarmed child.
- ♦ Why three officers dragged him off a bus without confirming who he was.
- ♦ Why he was slammed onto the ground and pinned with knees.
- ♦ Why he was searched even after admitting they had the wrong boy.
- ♦ Why an innocent child is now traumatised, afraid to leave home, and terrified of buses.

Your statement about the real offender makes your mistake even more unacceptable: You were looking for a dangerous offender — so how did your officers fail so badly that they assaulted the wrong kid?

6. This cannot be used as justification. Let me say this plainly:

You do not get to use another child’s crimes to justify the harm done to ours. You do not get to blur the lines between a violent offender and an innocent boy sitting on a bus. You do not get to use a press release as a shield from accountability.

So before anyone in this room mentions that media statement again, we want you to understand: It is not context. It is not justification. It is not mitigation. It is proof of how wrong you got it.