



Message from the Chairperson



Dear community, colleagues and friends

Wow what a wonderful 2015 NAIDOC Week. It was pleasing to see lots of families and community enjoy themselves with pride to be ***Standing on truly Sacred Ground every day of our lives!***

Some the activities attended over the last couple of weeks include:

- **AMC NAIDOC Family Day** – Another fantastic family day at AMC, love to see families enjoying NAIDOC outside next year. Thanks to organisers.
- **Yarramundi Markets** – Unfortunately I couldn't be with you but congratulations to all involved on a successful day, families enjoyed it!
- **Wajari Arts Exhibition** – It was wonderful to have Yamatji artists from my country share their works at Hotel Hotel on the Peninsula. A heartfelt reminder of home and country.
- **Older Persons Accommodation** – A site has been identified and design plans drafted for 5 residential units and awaiting the development application process to be completed and building contracts to commence. We hope to see this project completed by May 2016.
- **Support & Services Seminar** – This forum was a timely initiative to remind us of the quality services required to support and improve the lives of our families. We aim to work with our key service organisations and other providers to ensure community benefit from services.
- **Boomanulla** – The advisory members are currently examining survey responses and will be sharing information and consulting with community for a way forward for re-opening Boomanulla.
- **Restorative communities** – Interesting approaches for growing relationships, improving decisions for the benefits of the entire community including Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander families. Our participation and views must be a part of this process.
- **Out of Home Care** – It was great to visit and we saw some good work being done by committed and caring people. Together we can reduce the numbers of our kids in care. I look forward to a follow up visit at the West Belconnen Family Centre.

Also

Justice Partnership – Another significant arrangement has been signed between the Elected Body and the ACT Government. The members and I look forward to much more collaboration and achievement of better outcomes for families and individuals in contact with the Justice System as victims or offenders.

Review of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body Act 2008 – I am pleased Ms Terri Janke has been engaged to carry out this review. I think we have a good opportunity through the review to strengthen the only legislated jurisdiction representative model in the country. Community consultation will commence soon please share your views.

I welcome **Mr Richie Allan** and **Mr Tony McCulloch** to the Elected Body who will have a lead responsibility for Territory and Municipal Services Directorate and Environment and Planning Directorate respectively.

Tomorrow I will be attending the Commonwealth Ombudsman forum, discussing Complaints and Processes and understand more of the processes available to our peoples.

On behalf of the members, I would like to hear your feedback by forwarding an email to atsieb@act.gov.au or calling the Secretariat on 02 6205 2551.

Rod Little

Chairperson

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body



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