



Message from the Chairperson



Dear community, colleagues and friends

Firstly apologies for this late message. I had a little time away to reflect, re-charge and re-focus. However, as usual the Elected Body has been fairly busy and here's a bit of an idea of what's been happening:

- **CEO and Chairpersons Collaboration Event** – As per the community priorities, the ATSIEB hosted another forum to build relationships with other leaders in the community to strengthen collaboration and working together on strategies to improve services and circumstances for our mob. It was a disappointing response from our organisations, but we had a good turnout from other providers. Discussion information will be shared shortly.
- **2015 Elected Body Hearings** – Members have been busy crafting questions for our next Annual Hearings in December. We sought input from community and services to best understand their needs and to focus questions of high importance to decision makers. If you have any concerns or questions about services please contact an Elected Body member or the Secretariat.
- **Elected Body Meeting** – At our last meeting on the 9th October we heard about new approaches for addressing domestic violence and family violence; the upcoming ACT Budget Consultation Process; plus an update from Treasury.
- **Bush Healing Farm** – Members joined UNEC and others to visit the facility, onsite. It is exciting the project is well underway and foundations are down. We look forward to the progress over the coming months.
- **Older Persons' Housing Project** – The members are pleased this project has reached its design stage and you can view the promotional video [here](#).
- **Opposition Leader and Shadow Minister for Indigenous Affairs** – I met again with Mr Jeremy Hansen and Mr Andrew Wall to maintain a dialogue and to better understand their views in terms of commitment and future prospects for our community. I sought full support for the ATSIEB and the honouring of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement and Justice Partnership, plus heard their views on the proposed amendments to the ACT Human Rights Act for cultural rights and the Older Persons' Housing Project.
- **Amendments to the ACT Human Rights Act** – Both Deputy Chair Di Collins and myself appeared as witnesses before the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety for the Human Rights Bill Amendment proposing support for the inclusion of cultural rights. We hope that this is a positive step forward to recognise and affirm the ongoing existing cultural values of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. We look forward to the final outcome and will inform community.

Also

We thank all who have been approached and commented on the **Review of the ATSIEB Act** and our capacity to be more engaging and influential to support families and improve our community. We expect the findings of the review to be shared as soon as possible to give us a sense of the long term prospects for the ATSIEB to effectively represent for the benefit of the whole community.

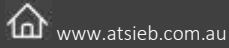
We are grateful to Gugan Gulwan and ACTCOSS for the collaborative work on the development of the **Community Protocols**, a document that gives guidance for engaging with families and clients in culturally respectful ways to enable the likelihood of the best outcomes.

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



PROVIDING A **STRONG**
RESPECTED & **DEMOCRATICALLY**
ELECTED VOICE FOR
ACT ABORIGINAL & TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
PEOPLES