



Dear community, colleagues and friends

This is my last message as Chairperson of the Elected Body, but I expect this messaging will continue regularly to ensure you remain informed of activities of the Elected Body.

I was recently elected to Co-Chair of the National Congress of Australia's First Peoples which led me to resign from the Elected Body. This leadership role is a fantastic opportunity to be a stronger voice for Congress members and pursuing rights and justice for Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander peoples nationally.

In recent weeks members -

Met with Minister Berry, government officials and others to ensure focus on implementation of the Agreement is true.	Engaged in discussions on the artsACT policy to enable more support and access.
Engaged in reiterating the need to reduce the numbers of our children in Out of Home Care and more support for strengthening families.	Furthered discussions on a Constitution Recognition forum.
Forged relationships with NSWACT ALS to ensure effective program delivery to Canberra.	Witnessed leadership graduations and opening opportunities for local leadership development.
Celebrated October - Indigenous Business Month at local business Yarning Circle.	Supported the launch of the National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Health Implementation Plan.
Visited Namadji National Park hosted by awesome ACT rangers & Directorate officials to build stronger relationships and improve understandings.	Met briefly with the Prince of Wales.
Attended a roundtable on the review of the ATSIEB Act and capacity of the Elected Body.	Appeared as witnesses to the Select Legislative Committee [check] on the Amendment Bill of the ACT Human Right Act to recognise our cultural rights.
Have been preparing questions for the December 2015 'Hearings' and reporting.	Held discussions on economic opportunities out of the Cultural Centre, including negotiating potential expansion of its boundaries to enable community and visitor engagement activities.

I extend my sincere thanks to you all, especially my supporters. I acknowledge and pay tribute to all members of the Elected Body since 2008 that have courageously stood up to serve community; and I appreciate immensely the support of the Secretariat and other OA&TSIA staff.

The ACT Elected Body has deservedly gained positive reputation locally and across the nation. Of particular interest is our unique 'Hearings' as an accountability practice for monitoring investment and improvements in community.

I am proud of community input identifying their priorities which underpin the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Agreement 2015-2018; and encourage genuine collaboration between all parties to ensure delivery of these priorities.

Likewise, the Justice Partnership also requires energy and investment to reduce the unacceptable rates of our people in the justice system; as does returning Boomanulla Oval to community. Boomanulla is an absolute priority for family participation in sport, recreation and cultural activities and I expect this priority to be realised in the near future with expressions of interest currently being sought.

The recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Rights in the ACT Human Rights Act will be a remarkable achievement for our people and our community.

I hope that the review reinforces the value of the Elected Body to achieve even more for our community. Have your say by forwarding an email to atsieb@act.gov.au or calling the Secretariat on 02 6205 2551.

Best wishes

Rod Little

Chairperson

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body



PROVIDING A **STRONG**
RESPECTED & **DEMOCRATICALLY**
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PEOPLES