

13 September 2016



## Message from the Chairperson



### **Dear communities, colleagues and friends**

So much has happened since the last Chairperson eMessage in May 2016.

- Ms Diane Collins and Ms Tjanara Goreng Goreng both resigned in July 2016.
- As a result of the two resignations it created two casual vacancies. ACT Electoral Commission went through the process of filling vacancies however the process was not successful in filling those vacancies. So it is now over to the Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to appoint two people to the vacancies. This process is underway and the Elected Body has contributed by recommending several community members to the Minister for consideration.
- On 26 August a new ATSIEB Chairperson was elected in Mr Ross Fowler.
- A new service for the ACT - 'A Step Up For Kids' - Jaanimili Aboriginal Services and Development Unit is an arm of Uniting Care and are currently contracted under this program (formerly known as the 'Strengthening High Risk Families') with the OCYPS. The program provides an integrated family preservation and reunification service to assist in the prevention of ACT children from entering care or to bring them home from care. The program is a voluntary service with referrals from the OCYPS. Their offices are located at 15 Barry Drive Woden.
- On 1 September 2016 ATSIEB hosted a very successful Justice Community Forum, approximately 30 community members attended. There was discussion around the Aboriginal Justice Partnership, Justice Reinvestment and a new Justice Services Delivery Model. Those in attendance were very clear that the community wanted to see a community controlled entity to undertake

- the role of service delivery of Justice Services. The Justice and Community Safety Directorate will now look at reviewing the justice services delivered in the ACT and working with an advisory group and caucus will circulate the options paper and develop a service delivery model for consideration.
- On 7 September 2016, the Elected Body, along with Minister Berry opened the *Mura Gunya – Pathway to Home*, housing complex for older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The Elected Body was joined by the community and other guests on the day, including potential tenants for the complex. The Elected Body sees this as an initial start to providing suitable housing specifically targeted for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the ACT.
- The Way Forward – With 9 months remaining of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term of the Elected Body, we will be looking to focus our efforts on seeking commitment from the ACT Government to further fund the additional 5 bedrooms for the Older Persons accommodation; complete the Review into the Elected Body functions; explore relationships with universities; continue to drive our key documents such as our community priorities, strategic plan, justice partnership and the whole of government agreement; and to build on our relationships with our community and our community providers. The Elected Body will also continue to work on our key documents which drive our operations and to fill those vacant positions.

**Next ATSIEB Meeting** – Scheduled for Monday 12 September 2017

I would like to hear your feedback by forwarding an email to [atsieb@act.gov.au](mailto:atsieb@act.gov.au) or calling the Secretariat on 02 6205 2551.

**Ross Fowler**

*Chairperson*

*ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body*



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