

17 November 2016



## Message from the Chairperson



### Dear communities, colleagues and friends

So much has happened since the last Chairperson eMessage in September 2016. I take this opportunity to provide an update on recent developments.

- **ACT Government Election** - The Act Government election was held on 15 October 2016, resulting in the return of the ACT Labor and ACT Greens coalition government. Mr Andrew Barr was reappointed as the Chief Minister and Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith was appointed as the new Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs.
- **ATSIEB Casual Vacancies** - Prior to the ACT Government elections, two casual vacancies occurred by the resignations Ms Diane Collins and Ms Tjanara Goreng Goreng. The ACT Electoral Commission process to fill the vacancies was not successful. As a result, it was given to the previous Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs to make appointments. As part of the process, the Elected Body recommended several community members to the Minister for consideration. Due to the recent ACT Government election, the previous Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs was unable to make any appointments. With the recent appointment of Ms Rachel Stephen-Smith, Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs the Elected Body has written to her to urgently progress this matter.
- **ATSIEB Meeting** - At our last meeting on the 4 November 2016, we discussed the way forward for the remaining 5 months of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Term by focusing on the filling the two casual vacancies; Review into the ATSIEB Act; key ACT Government initiatives such as Throughcare, Light Rail project, working with Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education Consultative Working Group, ongoing health initiatives and Boomanulla Oval; and building our relationships with our community and our community providers. The Elected Body will continue to work on these key priorities and fill the vacant positions.
- **ATSIEB Hearings 2016** – The Hearings scheduled for 7-8 December 2016 has been cancelled and postponed until further notice. Should the community have any questions to be raised at the revised hearings meeting, please send them to the ATSIEB Secretariat email at: [atsieb@act.gov.au](mailto:atsieb@act.gov.au)

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**



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