



ACT|atsieb

3 July 2013

The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body continue to lobby the ACT Government for improved services and programs. A major boost to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services across Canberra with additional funding through 2013 ACT Budget.

\$1.8 million extra

The ACT Government has allocated an additional \$1.8 million for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander programs and services in the 2013 ACT Budget.

These initiatives include:

- \$400,000 over four years for the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship Support Program to aid people looking to study or gain further qualifications, as well as providing further support to meet the day-to-day costs associated with studying.
- \$100,000 over four years to help Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students in Years 11 and 12 to pursue a career in health.
- \$800,000 for continued funding of the Community Helping Aboriginal (Australians) to negotiate Choices Leading to Employment and Success (CHANCES), building on the success of the program which was first piloted in 2012. CHANCES provides nationally accredited training to members of the local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community. With the extension of the program, the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body has agreed to be involved in the assessment process.
- \$75,000 for the design work on a public housing community for elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants. The ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body lobbied the ACT Government for this particular project, as it will be of benefit to the many Elders who call Canberra home.
- \$404,000 for two years to continue the implementation of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tobacco Control Strategy. This funding is solely for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to assist them to stop smoking.
- \$356,000 each year, over the next four years for the expansion of the Official Visitors Scheme.
- \$100,000 for the implementation of a Microcredit Program and Advice Service which will provide interest and fee free loans for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and newly arrived migrants who would like to start a new business.