



ACT|atsieb

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We are helping pave the way for culturally appropriate, independent housing suitable for our Elders into the future.

Housing design work set to begin this year

- Members of the ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body are committed to lobbying the ACT Government to ensure the needs of Elders in our city are respected and met.
- One of those important needs is, of course, the right kind of housing as they continue to age.
- At the 2013-14 ACT Budget, the ACT Government announced it will fund a project to design culturally appropriate housing that best suits the needs of elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- An initial amount of \$75,000 has been allocated for the design work for the project.
- As part of our consultations with the community members and leaders, the Elected Body identified this need to the Government to pave the way for specific, culturally appropriate, independent housing suitable for the elderly in the community into the future.
- It's a fact that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples live and function as a collective, where all individuals are expected to take on roles and responsibilities that are about the greater good of the community.

Respect and care for Elders and others in the community that require care, is one of those responsibilities that is shared across the community.

- It goes against the cultural norms to place these people in an aged care facility for non-family members to care for them.
- Elderly Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders require the comfort and knowledge of living in a familiar environment with people who understand their needs and requirements to be close to family and have their friends and family nearby.
- The design work will be undertaken in conjunction with the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community and the Elected Body to ensure that it respects Indigenous culture and the concept of family and their collective way of living.

Work on the design for the project is expected to commence in late 2013.