

23 November 2020



Term 4, ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body

Dear Community members

This is the first message after the recent ACT Government Elections. The Elected Body congratulates the re-elected ACT Labor and ACT Greens Government. Both parties have made strong commitments to our Community and the Elected Body will be working hard to see these delivered as soon as possible. Since my last message there has been further relaxation of the COVID-19 restrictions and we are starting to get back to moving around and catching up with each other. I would like to again to express my support and gratitude for how our Community has worked hard in keeping us all healthy and safe.

ACT Agreement between the Labor Party and the ACT Greens.

During the recent elections ACT Labor and the ACT Greens produced a list of commitments to our Community. The Elected Body will be working with Government to formalise these commitments in the coming few months.

Some of the pledges included:

- Delivering a purpose-built facility for Gugan Gulwan
- A 10-year \$20 million Healing and Reconciliation Fund
- Support for the development of sustainable Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in areas such as child and family services, housing, disability, and justice.
- Undertake discussions on Treaty with Traditional owners
- Raising the minimum age of criminal responsibility (from 10 to 14 years)
- Return Yarramundi (ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Cultural Centre) Boomanulla Oval and the Ngunnawal Bush Healing farm to community control.

Boomanulla Upgrades

In response to the impacts of COVID-19 the Federal Government announced a range of economic stimulus projects. The Elected Body has been working with the ACT Government on allocating some of that funding for further works at Boomanulla Oval. This money will be used resurface the driveway from the oval to the rose bushes to enable safer footing especially for those with disabilities, upgrade the change rooms to be female friendly and upgrade the water pit to a safer standard. We are hopeful of further upgrades being undertaken over the next 12 months.

Canberra Hospital Redevelopment - Employment Opportunities

Recently a global construction company, Multiplex, was selected by the ACT Government to deliver the new emergency, surgical and critical healthcare building as the centrepiece of the Canberra Hospital Expansion. The construction work is the largest healthcare infrastructure project ever undertaken by the ACT Government and will increase capacity across Canberra Hospital's adult intensive care, paediatric intensive care, surgical, coronary care and emergency services. The project is valued at \$450 million.

As part of the planning process, the Elected Body has been talking with Multiplex about meeting a 10% target of jobs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. So, stay tuned over the coming months for further information on potential employment opportunities.

2020-21 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants Program is open

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants Program consists of three (3) areas -Cultural, Leadership and Scholarship. Individuals can apply for up to \$5,000.00 (GST exclusive) and organisations can apply for up to \$10,000.00 (GST exclusive).

The Grants Program can support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and community that have been impacted by the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency. Individuals and community organisations who propose to undertake activities which support community wellbeing and connection to culture as we enter the recovery period are encouraged to apply. Cultural Grants can support families with a Sorry Business supplement that may include venue hire and video streaming to non-attending family members, cost of repatriation, transport costs where necessary.

There will be three application periods whilst the grants are open (1 September 2020 – 15 February 2021).

How to submit an application

All applications must be submitted via the online 2020-2021 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Grants Program Application Form at:

<https://dhcs.smartygrants.com.au/1920ATSI>

If you are having any difficulty in accessing the Application Form, please contact Service Funding Support on (02) 6205 5313 during business hours or email

CSDServiceFundingSupport@act.gov.au

For more information about the Program including the grant criteria can be found at www.strongfamilies.act.gov.au

COVID 19 Support Information

Please do not forget that community members and organisations are still eligible and able to access the breadth of COVID 19 support available across Canberra. Several of these are being delivered in collaboration with our organisations such as the Canberra Relief Network through Gugan Gulwan.

If you have issues linked to COVID-19 that we haven't covered there is also the ACT Government Helpline on 02 62077244, between the hours of 8 am and 8 pm (7 days a week), or go to the ACT Government COVID-19 website www.covid19.act.gov.au.

Take care of yourselves and each other over the coming weeks, if you have any topics that you need more information on please send them through to atsieb@act.gov.au so that we can find out more and provide you with the updated information.

Katrina Fanning
Chairperson

ACT Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Elected Body