

Chief Minister and Treasurer
ACT Legislative Assembly
GPO Box 158
Canberra City ACT 2601

via email to: budgetconsultation@act.gov.au

Dear Chief Minister and Treasurer,

Winnunga Nimmityjah Aboriginal Health and Community Services (Winnunga AHCS) is the primary health and community services provider for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in Canberra, with more than thirty years of continuous service in the ACT.

Winnunga AHCS is committed to improving the health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, offering 'whole-of-life' health solutions to clients with a focus on the physical, social, emotional and cultural wellbeing of an individual and the whole community. Winnunga AHCS is also one of the key advocacy organisations on Indigenous issues in the Territory.

To find out more about Winnunga AHCS you can view our 30th Anniversary video, please visit our website at www.winnunga.org.au or follow the below link

<https://www.dropbox.com/sh/o2ddofm88z5sh0l/AAA6za3GffEmcL083KlzJcwWa?dl=0>

A New Health Facility

During the 2016 election the ACT Government provided tri-partisan support for a new purpose built facility for Winnunga AHCS, with promised funding of \$12 million. This commitment was based on Winnunga AHCS's concept planning across the Narrabundah site, and as we understand on costings similar to the ACT Government's Child and Family Centres from over a decade ago.

In 2018, Winnunga AHCS secured the \$12 million funding from the ACT Government for the new health facility. This created the opportunity for the first time for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in Canberra to have access to health services in purpose-built spaces designed for their intended use, in a building that evokes pride within the community.

The Government had previously provided \$1.3 million in 2015 towards remedial capital works. These funds were also rechannelled to the new facility, including for the planning and design for the new building and upgrade of the existing building.

While the existing Government funding has and will continue to go some way to realising the new health facility, Winnunga AHCS seeks additional support to achieve the aspirations of a truly holistic

health and community building, where all existing Winnunga AHCS services may be delivered from with appropriate client flow.

In contrast to a more typical health service, the Winnunga AHCS health facility is designed to combine clinical and community health services provision with broader social health and community programs, policy development, research and advocacy, training and community events.

The facility will be a centre for community gatherings and a place to celebrate Aboriginal contribution and achievement as well as an exemplar in delivery of clinical services, allied health, and social and emotional well-being programs, setting a new benchmark for the delivery of primary health care services.

The architecture and landscape setting of the facility will reflect this holistic approach providing a building that will support, encourage and inspire people in their health and well-being, and allow collaborative and efficient working relationships between health planning units.

The design is for a building of a scale and character that presents itself humbly, welcoming and inviting and integrated into its landscape setting. The building will provide a safe and comfortable environment for staff, clients and visitors.

The building will be located on the Winnunga AHCS existing site at Boolimba Crescent in Narrabundah ACT.



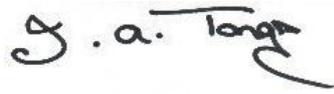
We are pleased to report construction of the new facility commenced in October this year, with completion due late 2020. The Project Team has been engaged with JUDD.Studio as the Architect, BUILT as the Head Contractor and SAFM Solutions as the Project Manager.

Winnunga ACHS seeks support for a further \$4.5million from the ACT Government's 2020-2021 Budget to ensure the new building may be completed in its entirety. At present the shortfall in funding only allows for a cold shell solution on the first floor. This option not only will result in the entire Administration Team, Social Health Team, Research and Dental Clinic to need to remain in the existing unfit for purpose building, but it will have a significant impact on future resourcing to complete the new facility with a further added cost of at minimum \$1million.

We look forward to working with the ACT Government to achieve the best outcomes (equal to mainstream services) for all Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples in this critical community project and thank you for your consideration.

I would be happy to provide any additional information in relation to our submission. The point of contact is Ms Kiki Korpinen on telephone (02) 6284 6208.

Yours sincerely,



Julie Tongs OAM
Chief Executive Officer
30 October 2019

