



Mr David Major
Founding Director
Thirriwirri

Via email: yarramundiproject@act.gov.au

Dear Mr Major

Consultation on the future of the Yarramundi Cultural Centre

The Gulanga Program welcomes the opportunity to provide feedback on the future of the Yarramundi Cultural Centre.

The Gulanga Program has also consulted with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander workers in the community sector through the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Sector Network (ATSIComSec Network). The network is open to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working in, working with and volunteering in the community sector. This feedback is included below.

About the Gulanga Program

The ACTCOSS Gulanga Program is designed to support ACT community sector organisations to develop and improve upon good, culturally appropriate practice standards.

The program employs Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander workers and aims to provide better engagement with Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander peoples and their families to access the services that will best meet their needs.

The program is supported by funding under the National Affordable Housing Agreement (NAHA), which is jointly funded by the ACT and Australian Governments, and the Child, Youth and Family Services Program (CYFSP), an ACT Government funded initiative.

Feedback from the Gulanga Program

It is important that the ACT Government is conducting this consultation to better use the Yarramundi Centre in the future.

The Yarramundi Centre is an important resource and community facility for the Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander community in the ACT and surrounding region.

We also support the Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery as an important centre for emerging and established artists.

ACTCOSS and the Gulanga Program have held and attended various events at the Yarramundi Centre and the Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery.

Last year, during National Reconciliation Week, ACTCOSS and the Gulanga Program worked with the Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery to run art workshops for community sector workers. These events were very successful and enabled community sector workers to meet with members of the Aboriginal community and to learn about, and celebrate, Aboriginal culture and art.

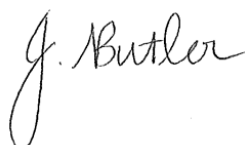
Feedback collected through consultation with the ATSIComSec Network

SUGGESTION	WHY?
No charge for one-off meetings / events for Elders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Elders of Canberra and surrounding regions do not have access to a community centre. It is important for them to connect with others of the same age in a neutral setting.
Regular meetings/events – fees could be negotiated.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> If you book regular events that support Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, there could be a community rate.
Employ 2 people at the centre to oversee bookings and ensure community engagement takes place such as venue management, organizing events on dates of significance, and more.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sustainable Employment. Engagement and learning opportunities for Aboriginal peoples and the wider community.
More restrooms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of restrooms at the centre is inadequate when hosting events, especially during a pandemic.
Improve/re-design the outdoor space between the buildings.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The area is ideal during colder months to do outdoor activities. The concrete could be painted or decking. The space could be used better.
Introduce handmade markets for local arts/crafts/merchandise.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Self-determination. Re-design an area to support this – possibly in the area between the buildings.
Name?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What does Yarramundi mean – some signage.

Upgrade the current theatre.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This space is underused. • Because the gallery is situated within the Burrunju Aboriginal Art Gallery, perhaps a new external entry way might be created. Would be a great space for many events.
Community Garden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Current gardens could incorporate more bush food. Someone like Adam Shipp to design and run events, as he has done at NMA.
Kitchen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIT students to provide bush food dinner/tasting nights as part of their study.
Signage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improve signage.
Transport	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can Transport Canberra provide bus service for all events held at the centre?
Exercise	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meet at the centre for walking groups, cycling.
Art Gallery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide tenant with a functioning kitchen.
Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Venue management should be at the centre.
Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Replace current tables/chairs. They are not user friendly. Setting up and packing up after events is hard work.

The Gulanga Program would welcome the opportunity to discuss this submission further and can be contacted by email at gulanga@actcoss.org.au or by telephone on 02 6202 7200.

Yours sincerely



Julie Butler
Program Officer
Gulanga Program

30 April 2020