



**SUZANNE ORR MLA**

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Mr Andrew Barr  
Chief Minister  
ACT Legislative Assembly

By email: [Barr@act.gov.au](mailto:Barr@act.gov.au)  
cc: [gentleman@act.gov.au](mailto:gentleman@act.gov.au)

8 February 2022

Dear Chief Minister,

*Andrew,*

On the 18<sup>th</sup> of January, myself and several community organisations and service providers active in the Gungahlin Community held a forum to discuss the Gungahlin Community Centre which was committed to by ACT Labor at the 2020 ACT election and agreed as a priority for this term in the Parliamentary and Governing Agreement.

With feedback from this forum and along with our community sector partners we have developed a stakeholder design brief for the centre to inform the design process as it progresses.

The feedback provided represents the views of those stakeholders and organisations which have the most comprehensive knowledge of the needs of the area. This brief provides insight which will achieve the best outcomes for this development, best support the needs of the Gungahlin Community and have the best positive impact into the future.

Several representatives from stakeholder organisations who attended the forum have endorsed the brief, which you will find attached.

Yours sincerely,

Suzanne Orr MLA  
Member for Yerrabi  
Government Whip





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# Gungahlin Youth, Community and Arts Centre

## Stakeholder Design Brief

18 January 2022

At the 2020 ACT Election ACT Labor committed to build a new Community Centre in the Gungahlin Town Centre to provide facilities that support greater service provision in the region and better meet the needs of the growing community.

The following design brief has been compiled following input from a range of service providers with years of experience in the Canberra and Gungahlin regions.

The design brief will be presented to the relevant Minister and inform the final site selection and design elements of the Community Centre.

### Vision for the Centre

A Community Centre which welcomes and supports the diverse and growing community within the Gungahlin Region that enlivens the town centre and strengthens the community.

To achieve this vision, we recommend the following ambitions need to be prioritised in the Community Centre Design to create a place where our diverse community groups can come and feel welcome by creating a space where:

- Youth can come to meet and is safe and free of charge;
- Arts groups can flourish and grow;
- Opportunities for social enterprise/training spaces;
- Aboriginal and Torres Straight Islander and Cultural And Linguistically Diverse groups are fostered and encouraged to practise, express, connect with their traditional cultures.
- Community service partners can base themselves to coordinate and run a range of services across the Gungahlin Region; and that
- has room to grow in the future and adapt and change; and
- interacts with the surroundings and community.

We recommend the following elements/features be incorporated into the design of the community Centre to respond to the identified needs of the community:

- Youth drop in specific areas;
- Large and adaptable meeting spaces to cater for a range of community functions and include Audio Visual facilities;
- Smaller meeting/interview rooms to support local community groups, tele-health and other tele-appointments and crisis support services;
- A sensory space to provide an area of calm within the building;

- Kitchen facilities that can support a wide range of cuisines and group sizes;
- Laundry and shower facilities to support centre services;
- “Dirty” spaces for arts workshops;
- Exhibition space to support local arts displays;
- Office spaces for service providers to coordinate a range of services;
- Storage spaces to support the groups and services using the centre;
- Spaces that can open out for mixed indoor/outdoor use;
- An outdoor grassed area and market type space with a small auditorium space and barbecues;
- Discreet access and egress from private/office areas with multiple entry points;
- Public transport interface and safe access (lighting for example);
- Good ventilation and openable windows with sustainable construction features;
- A Smart tech interface to facilitate after hours access.
- Access to IT facilities for those who need them including charging facilities;
- An accessible building with best practise design standards and disability access.
- A space that can be adapted to provide relief for vulnerable people during extreme weather;

To support a coordinated and collaborative approach to the operation of the centre to best meet the needs of the diverse community and draw upon the specialised skills and expertise of a range of service providers we recommend the community centre:

- Be coordinated and directed by a committee and in collaboration with a range of community service partners and Government;
- Has fair and equitable access for community groups including free or heavily subsidised hiring costs;
- Includes a system that can help to support and nurture “start up”, new and emerging, community groups;
- Has a dedicated community development liaison and coordination function to manage relationships and networks as well as the physical facilities and administration;
- To progress the preferred operation model and centre design a working group made up of the endorsers of this brief, representatives from the Community Services Directorate, representatives from the Environment, Planning and Sustainable Development directorate and other relevant stakeholders be established to further refine the operating model and have this reflected in the site selection and design of the Community Centre.