



MEDIA RELEASE

27 May 2021

ELDERS TO “AGE IN PLACE” IN SOUTH AUSTRALIAN FIRST INDEPENDENT LIVING CULTURAL VILLAGE

Aboriginal elders will be able to “age in place” in a new culturally appropriate, independent living village in a South Australian first.

“The Elders Village”, a \$10 million project will be built south of Adelaide, close to “Warriparinga” a culturally significant site near the Sturt River. The project is a partnership between the State Government, national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not for profit housing provider Aboriginal Community Housing Limited (ACHL), the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) and the Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation. The State Government is providing \$4million to the project.

The ILSC will grant the land 13 km south of the CBD to the Kaurna Pangkarra Property Trust, a subsidiary of native title holders Kaurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC). ACHL will oversee construction and provide tenancy management services once the village, consisting of 40 independent homes, is built.

Minister for Human Services Michelle Lensink said the village would provide a culturally welcoming place for elders to age comfortably while living independently.

“This village concept has been designed in partnership with Aboriginal people about what was important to them in terms of how culture could be included as part of the design of the village,” Ms Lensink said.

“The result is culturally safe place, a village that includes a number of outdoor spaces for gathering together, including a fire pit near the Sturt River, and accessibility to the Kurna Cultural Heritage precinct and the Living Kurna Cultural Centre, supporting a positive lifestyle.”

Warriparinga remains an important ancestral creation and law-giving site for the Kurna people. This stretch of the river and associated floodplain form waterways linking the hills to the sea and were important camping and ceremonial places prior to colonisation. Oral accounts indicate the area was used traditionally by Aboriginal people until well into the 20th Century. Warriparinga is now used to describe the the cultural precinct on the eastern side of Sturt River, incorporating the Living Kurna Cultural Centre.

ACHL Chair Maureen O’Meara said the village’s unique design features incorporating the importance of people gathering together, would provide elders cultural comfort as well as housing certainty.

“ACHL is proud to be a part of this unique and much needed project as it will provide a secure, stable, affordable, accessible, supportive and culturally appropriate ‘ageing in place’ opportunity for the older Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Adelaide,” Ms O’Meara said.

Informed by the feedback from the Aboriginal community, Adelaide Firm C4 Architects included disability friendly units with kitchen, dining, living, separate bedroom and bathroom to promote independent living of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elders.

Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation CEO Joe Morrison said the organisation was proud to play a pivotal role in providing a culturally appropriate independent living solution for Aboriginal people in South Australia.

“The ILSC believes the joint approach between native title holders, the state government, community organisations and a federal government entity is the key to successfully delivering a project which will provide long term social and cultural benefits for Aboriginal elders on Kurna country,” Mr Morrison said.

“As the current landowner, ILSC is working in partnership with Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation to further unlock the potential of the site to enable them to acquire assets that will generate significant benefits for the broader Kurna community.”

Kurna Nation Pangkarra Property Trust Chair Garth Agius said the Aboriginal Elders Village is a welcome opportunity for both the Pangkarra Trust and the Kurna Nation.

“Adelaide has been our home for thousands of years,” Mr Agius said. “This is still our traditional lands, our Yarta, our country Pangkarra, but as the traditional owners we still do not own our own homes,” Mr Agius said.

Geoffrey Newchurch, Chair of Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC) said, “KYAC is appreciative for the support shown from all the funding partners to allow the Aboriginal Elders Village to proceed. The cultural safety of our Elders and their wellbeing is our highest priority and is well supported by the tailor- made design on land of cultural significance to the Kurna people. It is with tears of joy that KYAC will see Elders well cared for into the future.”

Construction of the village is set to commence in early 2022.

ENDS

About Aboriginal Community Housing Limited (ACHL)

ACHL is the first independent national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander led and managed provider of long-term affordable housing, and property and tenancy management for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and communities. It is a Tier 2 community housing provider with a majority Aboriginal Board.

It provides meaningful leadership and influence in undertaking the management of existing portfolios, the development of new housing initiatives, and providing support to Aboriginal housing organisations across the country.

ACHL manages properties around Australia including in the East Kimberley and Goldfields in WA, on the North Coast and in Kempsey in NSW, within Gippsland in Victoria and in various locations in South Australia. ACHL is part of the Community Housing Ltd Group.

www.achl.org.au | www.chl.org.au

For media enquiries contact the CHL Group Communications Team at comms@chl.org.au