

Elders village badly needed

Set for \$12.7m social housing project

Emily Olle

A \$12.7m new social housing development for at-risk Aboriginal elders is set for construction in the southern suburbs, with the centre to be built and managed by First Nations people.

The Aboriginal Elders Village, named Purrkanaitya – Kurna for “for all elders” – will deliver 40 homes for tenants over 50, who are at risk of homelessness or already living in social housing.

Located near the Living Kurna Cultural Centre at Warriparinga (Bedford Park), the accessibly designed housing will include communal areas and culturally significant fire pits.

The project is a joint effort between the state and federal governments, who will contribute \$4m and \$3m, respectively, with an additional \$5.17m and the 1.5ha site donated by the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC).

Human Services Minister Nat Cook said the develop-



Plans for a new \$12.17m Aboriginal Elders Village.

ment would free up existing housing trust homes for Aboriginal clients seeking public housing and the most urgent at-risk category 1 applicants.

Purrkanaitya would allow elders to live on country in secure and safe housing, she said.

“This new village at Warriparinga, a culturally significant place, will be home to so many and shows what can be achieved when governments work in genuine partnership with Aboriginal people and organisations,” Ms Cook said. “As we move toward the election of South Australia’s First Nations Voice, this new village is an example of the

journey that our whole community is taking together.”

The village is a collaboration between not-for-profit housing provider Aboriginal Community Housing (ACHL), ILSC, Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC), SA Housing Authority and Housing Australia.

KYAC chairman Tim Agius said Aboriginal elders’ needs could not be met at typical aged-care facilities and hoped the village would begin to fill the gap for older First Nations people.

“Our elders have needed a place like this for a long time,” Mr Agius said.

Construction is set to begin in August 2024, with first residents expected to move in by the end of 2025.

The announcement comes after nominations opened for SA’s Voice to Parliament, with six local voices to make up the historic body, which will give First Nations people a direct line of communication with the cabinet, state parliament and government agencies.



Murderer Roger Rogerson. Picture: AAP Image/David Moir

Ex-cop’s secret service

Clementine Cuneo

Convicted killer and ex-cop Roger Rogerson has been cremated at a secret service attended by his two daughters and a handful of his last remaining friends in Sydney.

The strictly private funeral was held on Monday in front of about a dozen people who were only told of the service the day before. Rogerson’s daughters Melinda and Gillian were among the mourners, as well as his brother Owen.

Notably absent from the intimate farewell was Rogerson’s wife Anne. It is understood the couple had not been on speaking terms for several years.

The disgraced former detective, 83, died in the Prince of Wales Hospital on January 21 after suffering a brain aneurysm in Long Bay Jail while serving a life sentence for the 2014 murder of drug dealer Jamie Gao. Rogerson was once a star of the NSW Police Force and its most decorated and powerful detective thanks in part to his knack for being able to extract confessions from crooks.

NEW GAME SHOW

TIPPING POINT AUSTRALIA

WEEKNIGHTS 5.00

9 NOW