



# Jon Stanhope MLA

CHIEF MINISTER

TREASURER MINISTER FOR BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

MINISTER FOR INDIGENOUS AFFAIRS MINISTER FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, WATER AND CLIMATE CHANGE

MINISTER FOR THE ARTS

MEMBER FOR GINNINDERRA

Dr Geoffrey Bird  
Executive Director  
COTA Over 50s Ltd  
PO Box 3508  
MANUKA ACT 2603

Dear Dr Bird

I understand you met with staff from my Department on Wednesday, 26 March 2008 to detail your Community Connectivity project proposal and to seek support for the project to be trialled within the ACT.

It is important that people residing in aged care facilities have access to a range of opportunities to ensure they are stimulated and engaged. Remaining connected to the community, and more importantly family and close friends, has enormous benefits to the individual as well as the broader community.

The Community Connectivity Project Proposal has the potential to provide benefits to those living and working in the aged care facilities. In addition, access to a data base on the availability of aged care beds and facilities has the capacity to mitigate considerable angst which families encounter in rehousing their family members to aged care facilities.

The ACT Government supports COTA's Community Connectivity project proposal and the conduct of the trial within the ACT. I understand that your preliminary discussions with ACT residential aged care managers indicate there would be a strong demand for Community Connectivity project to be implemented.

I wish you every success in progressing to the next stage of implementing the Community Connectivity proposal. Please continue to liaise with Ms Penny Farnsworth on the progress of your project. Ms Farnsworth can be contacted on (02) 6207 6140.

Yours sincerely

Jon Stanhope MLA  
Chief Minister

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