

Australian Government

Department of Health, Disability and Ageing

Designing Culturally Safe Aged Care



Designing Culturally Safe Aged Care

Webinar Series: Home Matters - Rethinking Aged Care Design

Acknowledgment of Country

We would like to show our respect and acknowledge the traditional custodians of these lands. We extend this respect to Elders past and present, and to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today.



Artist: Brittney Angus

Content warning

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people should be aware that this webinar may contain images or names of people who have passed away.

- Please be advised this session may discuss sensitive topics around trauma and Sorry Business.

Housekeeping



Q&A



Participant
Audio/Video



Copy of Slides

Overview of Today's Session

- Designing culturally safe aged care homes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people
- Culturally safe, trauma-aware and healing informed design
- Strategies for community engagement



Host



Nick Seemann

Environments Specialist

Speakers



Aunty Becky Thomson OAM

Chairperson
Winnam Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation



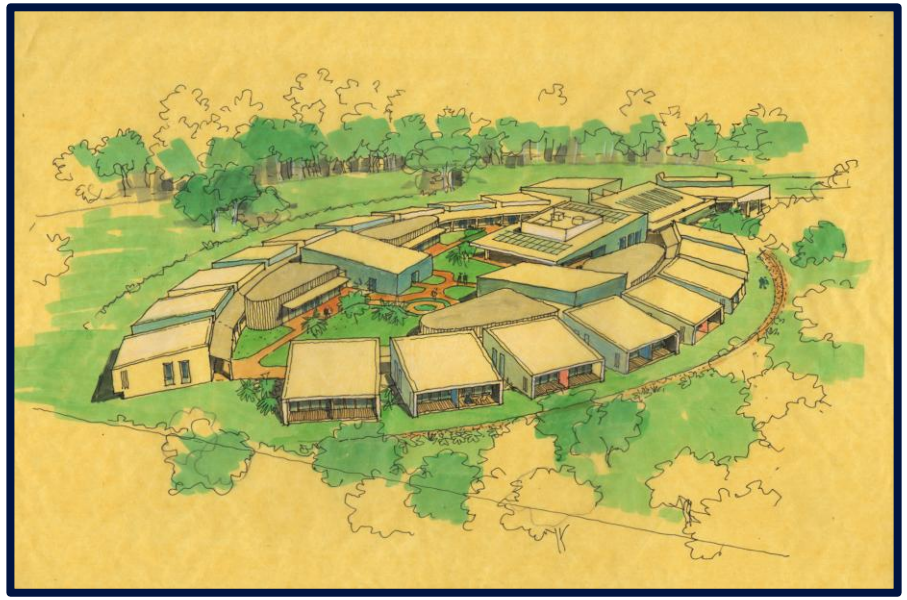
David Kaunitz

Director and Co-Founder
Kaunitz Yeung Architecture


winnam
Keeping our people together
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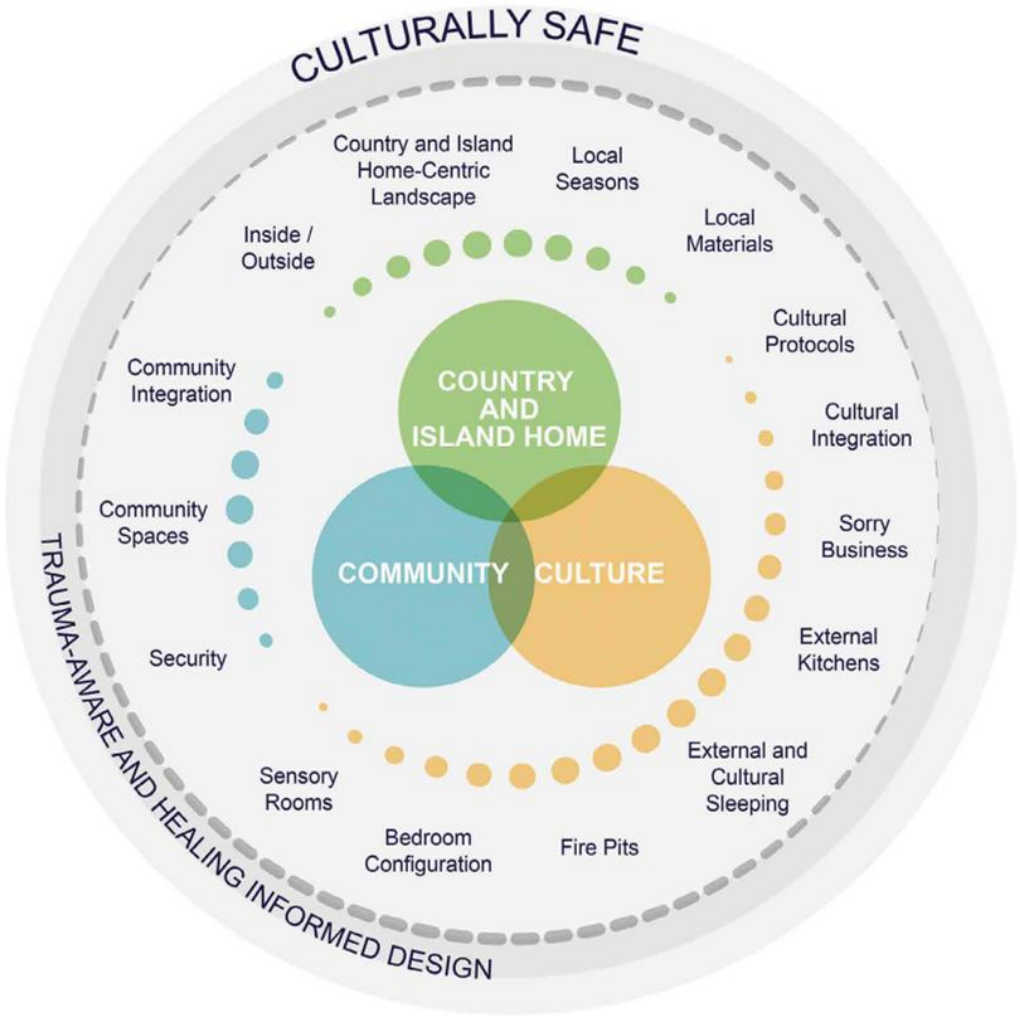


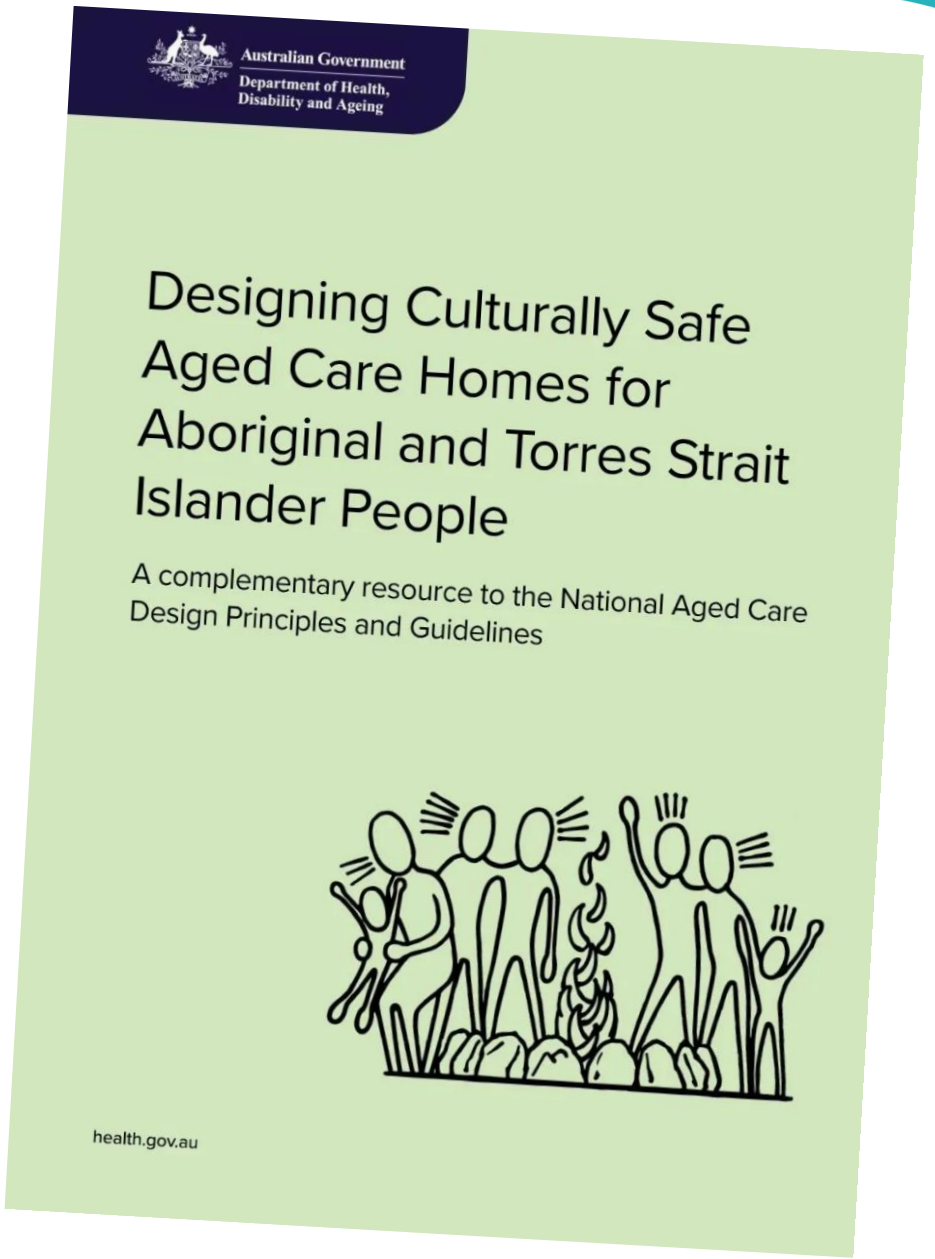









CULTURALLY SAFE
Country and Island Home-Centric Landscape
Local Seasons
Local Materials
Cultural Protocols
Cultural Integration
Sorry Business
External Kitchens
External and Cultural Sleeping
Fire Pits
Bedroom Configuration
Sensory Rooms
Security
Community Spaces
Community Integration
Inside / Outside
COUNTRY AND ISLAND HOME
COMMUNITY
CULTURE
TRAUMA-AWARE AND HEALING INFORMED DESIGN


Australian Government
Department of Health, Disability and Ageing
Designing Culturally Safe Aged Care Homes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People
A complementary resource to the National Aged Care Design Principles and Guidelines
health.gov.au

Design Principle 1:

Country and Island Home



Principle 1 – Guidelines

Principle 1 – Country and Island Home



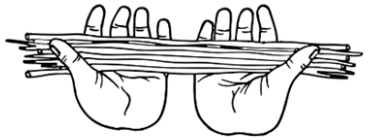
1.1 Inside/Outside



1.2 Country and Island Home-Centric Landscape



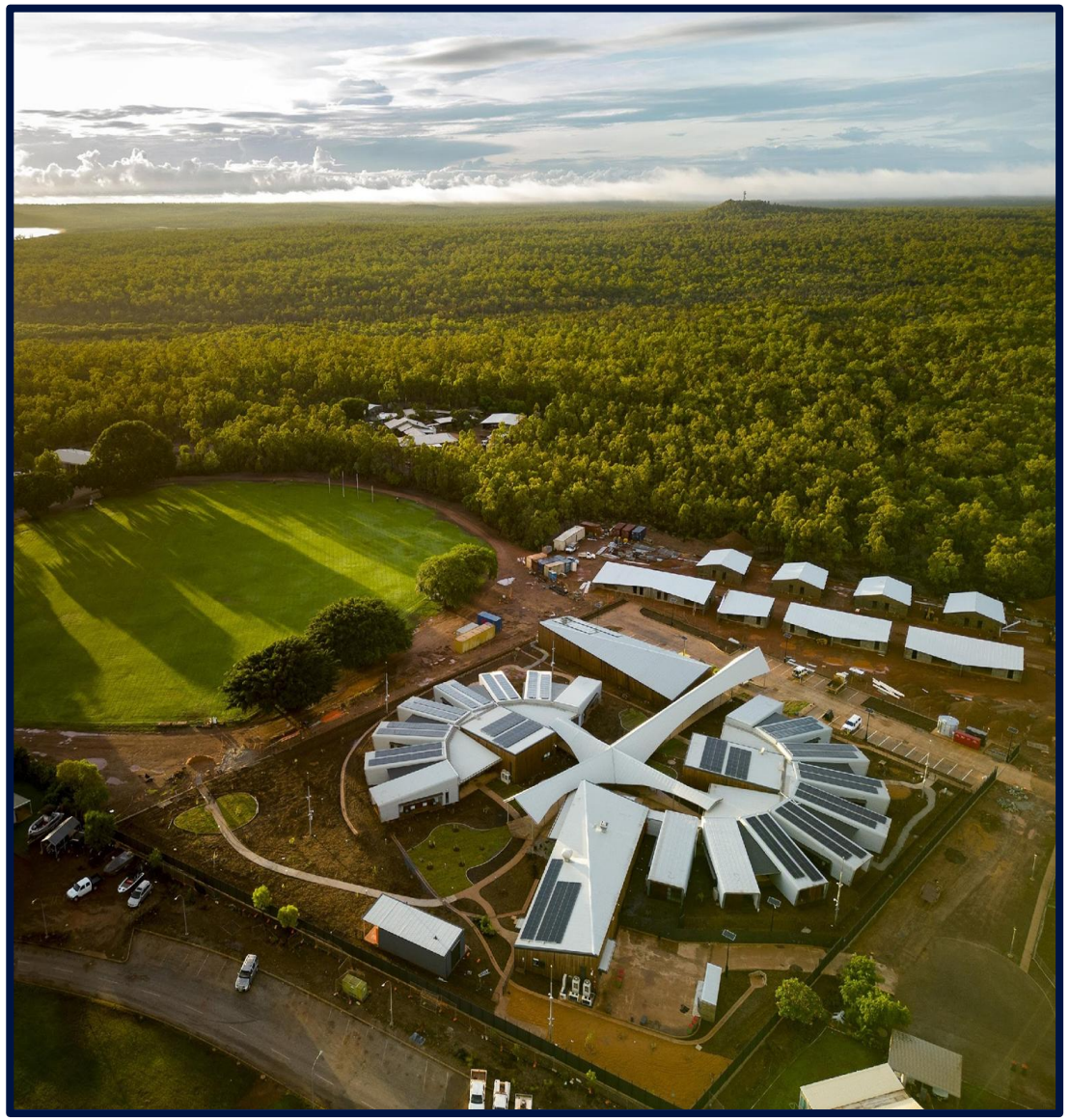
1.3 Local Seasons



1.4 Local Materials











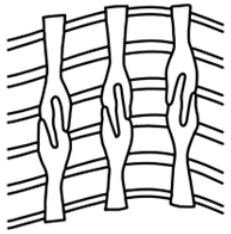
Design Principle 2:

Culture



Principle 2 Guidelines

Principle 2 – Culture



2.1 Cultural Protocols



2.2 Cultural Integration



2.3 Sorry Business



2.4 External Kitchens



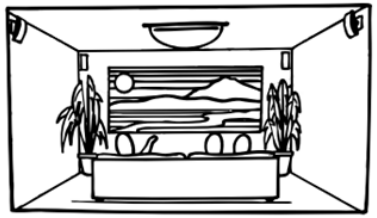
2.5 External and Cultural Sleeping



2.6 Fire Pits



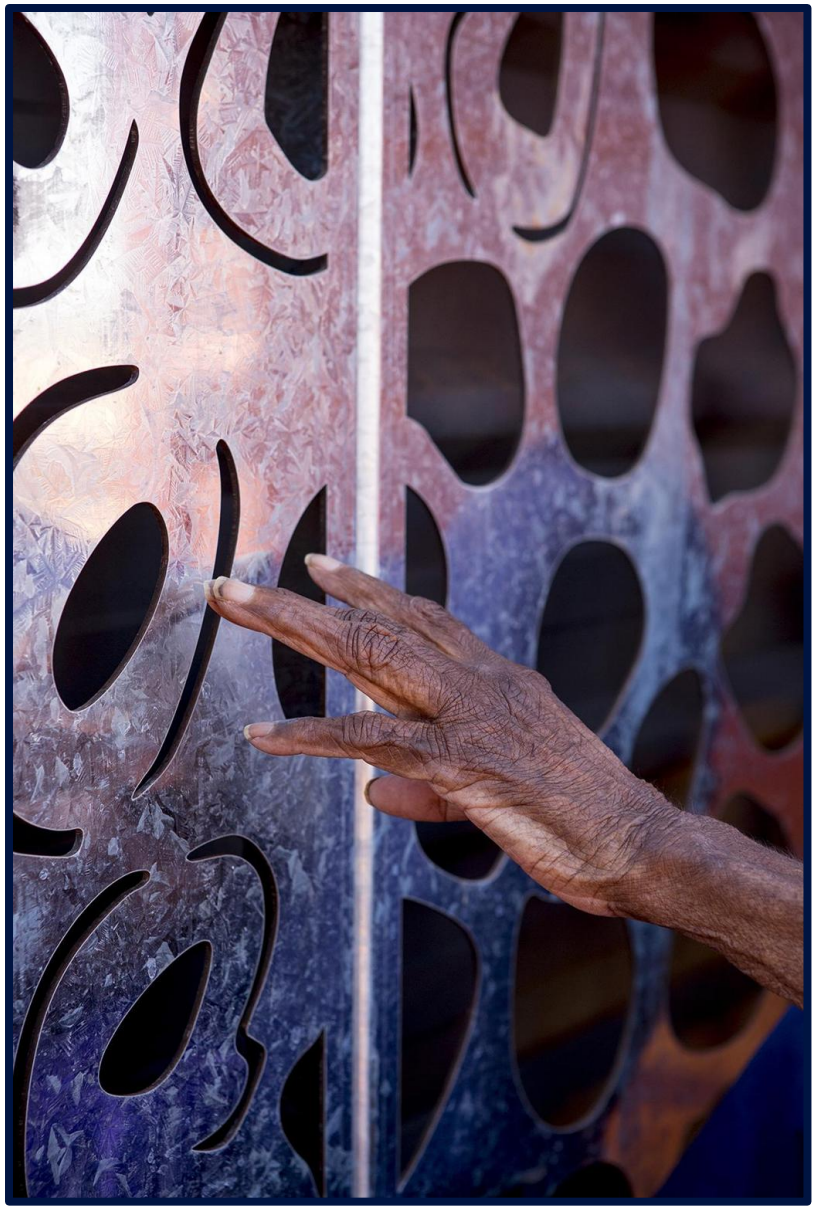
2.7 Bedroom Configuration



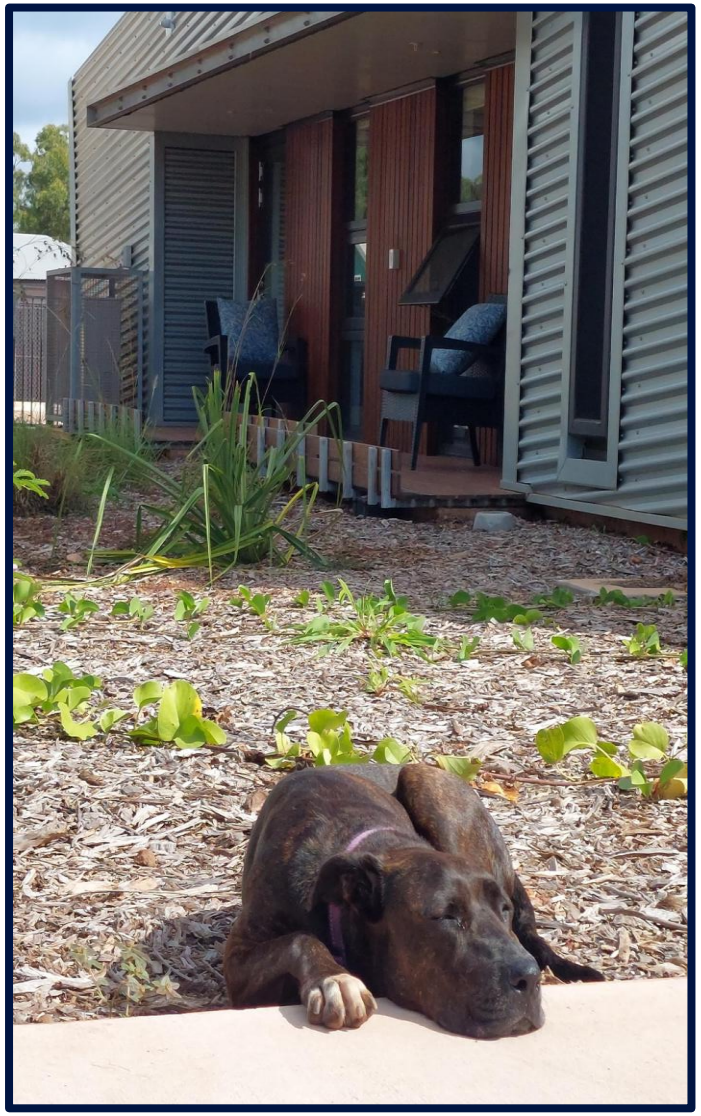
2.8 Sensory Rooms

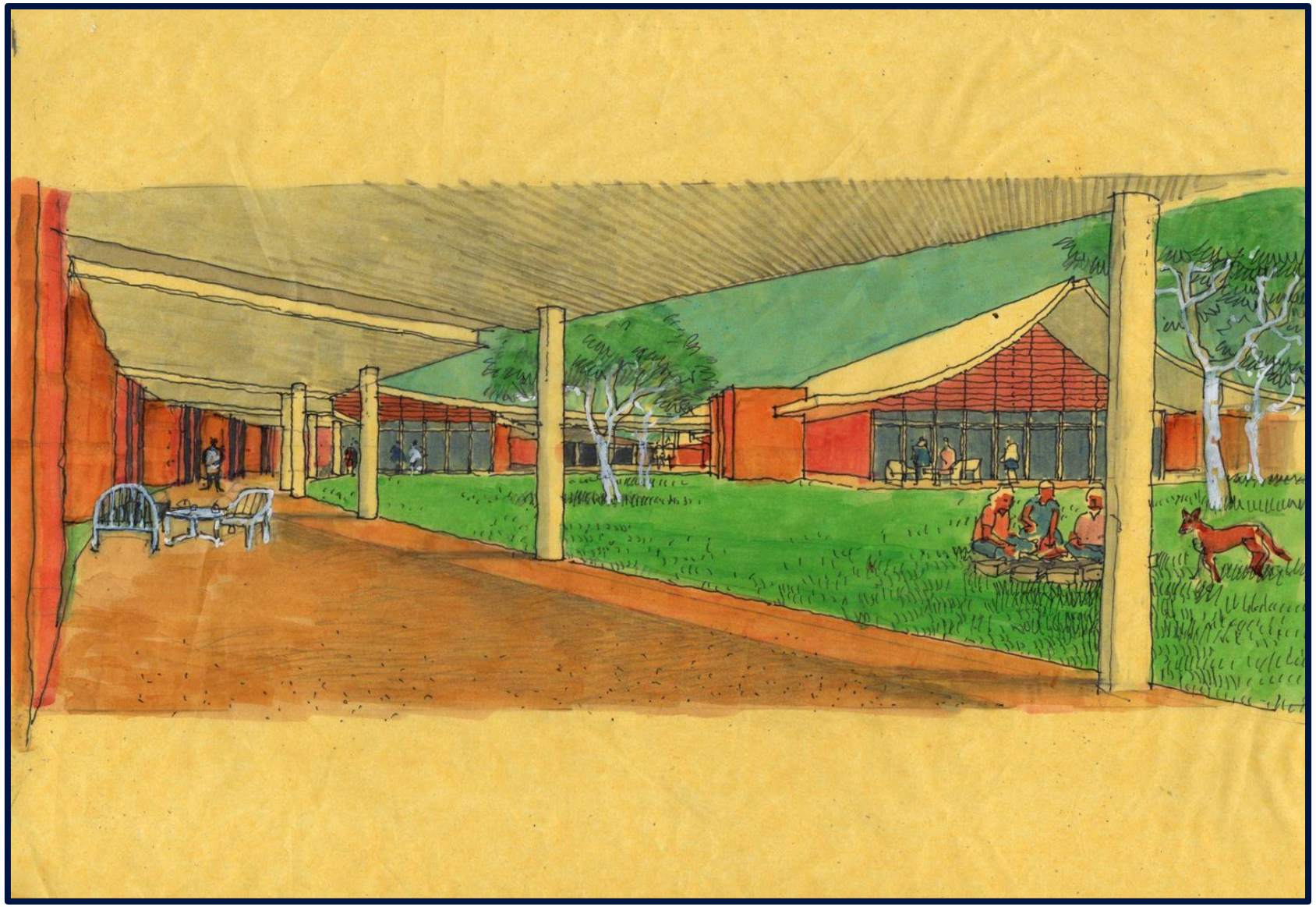






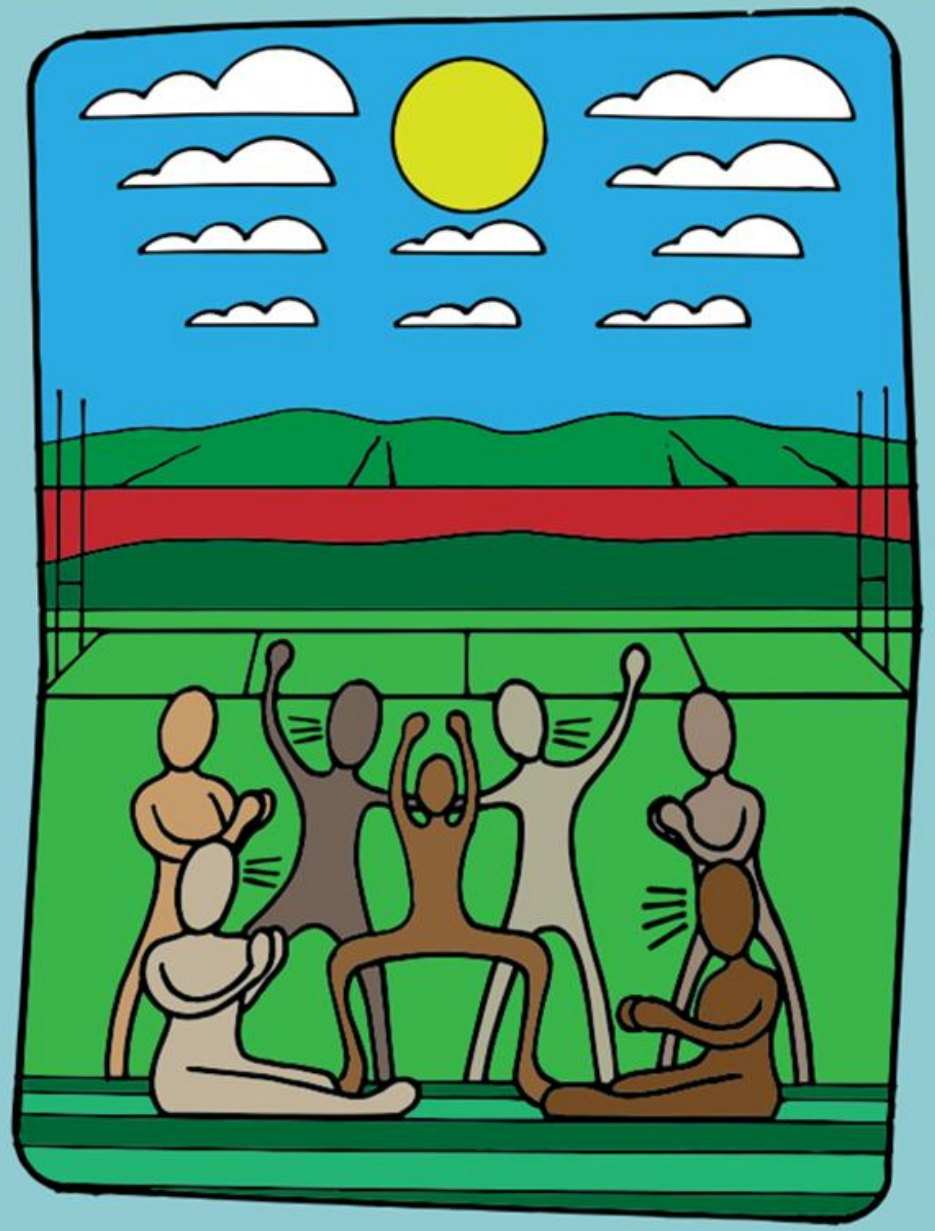






Design Principle 3:

Community

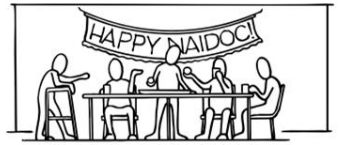


Principle 3 Guidelines

Principle 3 – Community



3.1 Community Integration



3.2 Community Spaces



3.3 Security





Rumbalara Elders Facility, Shepparton VIC

1. Culturally appropriate natural materials to provide a softer finish.
2. Entries designed to feel welcoming and not imposing.
3. Changes in form and setbacks to reduce visual bulk.
4. Natural light.
5. Integration with landscape areas.
6. Multipurpose communal areas that are divisible.
7. Natural materials.
8. Consider fireplaces where appropriate.



Rumbalara Elders Facility, Shepparton VIC

9. Locally milled timber screening using natural materials that create a warmer and more welcoming environment, with the building envelope forming the security line.



Yutjuwala Djiwarr Flexible Aged Care, Nhulunbuy NT

Kaunitz Yeung Architecture (2026) Designing Culturally Safe Aged Care Homes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People: A Complementary Resource to the National Aged Care Design Principles, Commonwealth of Australia, Department of Health, Disability and Ageing.

Environments Hub



Q&A Discussion

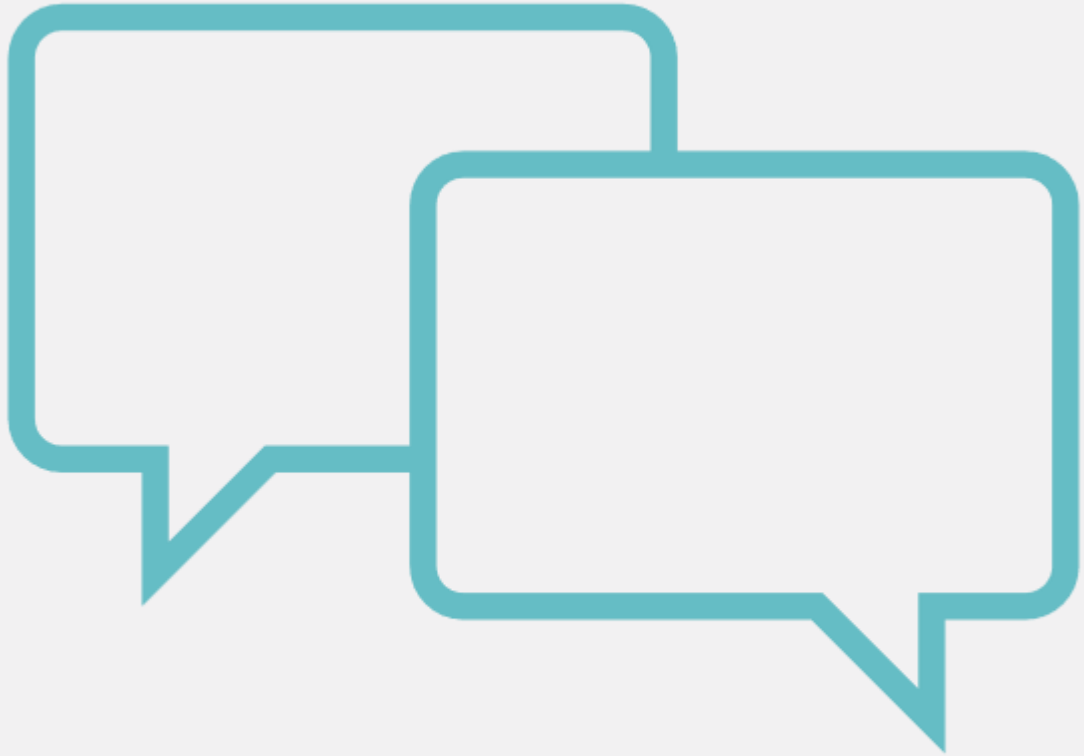


Photo Credits

All photos provided by Kaunitz Yeung Architecture

1. Winnam Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation (slides 8-10)
2. Australian Regional & Remote Community Services (ARRCS):
    - Yutjuwala Djiwarr Flexible Aged Care, Nhulunbuy (slides 14, 17-18)
    - Tjilpi Pampaku Ngura Flexible Aged Care, Kaltukatjara (Docker River) (slide 19)
3. Puntukurnu Aboriginal Medical Service (PAMS) Healthcare Hub, Newman (slide 21)



health.gov.au/aged-care-reforms

Phone **1800 200 422**
(My Aged Care's free call phone line)