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**Communities@Work**

## **NEW STYLE COMMUNITY GARDEN FOR ERINDALE**

On Thursday 23 October, a new style community garden at Erindale Centre will be officially opened by Maureen Cane, Chief Executive Officer Communities@Work.

The garden – which used to be just dirt with two gum trees - has been built with the assistance of ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services. It features a variety of water-wise plants, ample seating for people to take a break and a wonderful array of artworks designed and created by students from Erindale College and youth from Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation. The artworks have not only improved the look of the site but have also enabled the young people to participate and become active members of their community. Their focus was to create artworks that reflect what is important to them.

Community gardens are traditionally a space for people to grow their own food in plots. This new style community garden has brought together communities and organisations working collaboratively to improve the local landscape and environment and create a great social outdoor space for people to enjoy.

Communities@Work CEO Maureen Cane says *“This project has provided a wonderful opportunity for students to show their creativity and to have their artworks displayed in a permanent and public setting. Erindale Centre is a unique hub of retail, community, recreational, child care and educational services all co-located. One of the best outcomes from a project such as this is the goodwill and relationships that develop as a result of working together to create a resource for all the community’s enjoyment and benefit”*

The garden has been coordinated by Communities@Work in partnership with Erindale College, Erindale Shopping Centre, ACT Department of Territory and Municipal Services, and Gugan Gulwan Youth Aboriginal Corporation, and is situated between the college and the shops.

For more information contact Karen Jesson Community Development Officer at Communities@Work on 6293 6500.

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