

Dear Panel,

I write in support of Arts Capital / Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centre's application for Arts Organisation Investment Funding 2023 – 2027, and to confirm Meridian's on-going contribution for the continued presentation of LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club in Canberra in 2023.

Meridian is a community-controlled, peer-led organisation that provides health and social support services to our community in the ACT and greater region. We celebrate diversity, strengthen community and empower individuals to live their best lives. Community, health and action are the core of Meridian and how we work. We have a strong and long-standing reputation in our community and have built and nurtured a lasting relationship with Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres.


Meridian has used the Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centre venues for multiple flagship events including Fair Day and AIDS Candlelight Memorial. We are proud to continue to partner with Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres because of our shared values to create safe and welcoming spaces for community members to be themselves, have fun and feel connected and a sense of belonging.

The LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club (Dance Club) is a valuable and impactful recurring event, enabling older LGBTIQ+ people to connect with their community. Dance Club provides an opportunity for participants to share their stories and discover ways to enrich their lives beyond Dance Club. Having fun is always a great place to start. Participants gain access to services and supports through Meridian's aged care streams via Meridian staff attending events.

Meridian has contributed \$1000 annually towards the delivery of Dance Club, and in-kind support by way of staff attendance, and marketing support and grass roots community building. We look forward to continuing our significant involvement in this project and the on-going delivery of the LGBTIQ+ Elders Dance Club in the ACT, delivered through an established collaborative partnership between ATQM, Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres, and Meridian.

We strongly encourage you to support the application of Arts Capital in their management of Ainslie and Gorman Arts Centres, and to acknowledge their responsible stewardship in creating access to these facilities for the benefit of marginalised communities.

Sincerely,



Philippa Moss  
Chief Executive Officer

5 September 2022