

Position Paper | May 2021

# Reducing government red tape in Queensland



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
**Housing Queensland**



## Position Paper

# Reducing government red tape in Queensland

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is committed to boosting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing provider productivity and cutting Government red tape. We will support all Government agencies, including regulators, to review and reduce regulatory burden on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland.

# 1. Understanding regulation

Regulation is any rule, endorsed by Government, where there is an expectation of compliance on an individual, business and/or community organisation. Examples of regulation or quasi-legislation include legislation, standards, codes, contracts, forms, records keeping and reporting requirements.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland accepts that effective regulation is an essential part of a well-functioning Government and supports the achievement of economic, social or environmental protections. However, inefficient and poorly designed regulation places unnecessary costs on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland which can negatively impact on productivity.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland understands that it is important for Government to find the right balance, taking account of the associated benefits and risks and encourages a partnership approach.

## Collaboration – The Key to Cutting Government Red Tape in Queensland

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland's deregulation agenda provides an opportunity for Government and our membership to work together to review, update, simplify or remove unnecessary Government red tape.

Consultation with our organisation and our members is key to achieving Government red tape reductions by ensuring effective solutions are identified and prioritised, assumptions are validated, and solutions are appropriate to the risk and issue.

# 2. Deregulation benefits

Deregulation aims to eliminate inefficiencies and unnecessary regulation, ultimately reducing the burden on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland.

## Our recommendations

1. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that the Queensland Government establishes multiple legislation repeal dates per year, to support the removal or amendment of unnecessary legislation.
2. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that no new Queensland Government regulation be imposed without clear analysis of the impacts on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers and that it must be matched by equivalent savings in regulatory activity.

Best practice regulation and cutting Government red tape is in everyone's best interest. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland believes that cutting red tape will have many benefits for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland, including:

- lowering administration costs and eliminating unnecessary forms and paperwork
- reducing time needed for training staff in processes
- freeing up staff to work on core business tasks
- reducing time delays waiting for approvals
- removing requirements to purchase specific or unnecessary equipment or assets and
- reducing the reliance on external expertise such as lawyers, accountants etc.

# 3. Additional considerations

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland has considered additional ways to achieve a planned deregulation agenda and suggests the following:

- a) Undertaking a Department of Housing Regulatory Stocktake
- b) Continuing Meaningful Consultations
- c) Implementation of a New Online Portal for Community Housing Providers
- d) Costing the Burden of Government Regulation
- e) Participating in Ongoing Reform

## a) Undertaking a Department of Housing Regulatory Stocktake

Knowing exactly how many compliance expectations are endorsed by the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services (including the legislation, standards, codes, contracts, forms, records keeping and reporting requirements) on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland would be a good starting point.

## Our recommendations

3. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services undertake a stocktake of the current regulations and processes that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland are required to comply with.
4. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends a review of the National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH) regulatory framework to find out where it is complex and to identify a number of opportunities to modernise and simplify arrangements.

## b) Continuing Meaningful Consultations

Since the establishment of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, the Queensland Government Department of Housing has been in regular consultation with our organisation on a number of housing matters that have an impact on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland. We would like these meaningful consultations to continue.

## Our recommendations

5. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends consultations remain an ongoing activity between the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland to identify and prioritise potential areas for red tape improvement.
6. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services incorporate input from our organisation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland (and other stakeholders) which identifies ways to reduce regulatory burden and also their suggestions on how we can all ensure best practice regulation.



### c) Implementation of a New Online Portal for Community Housing Providers

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland have indicated to our organisation that there is a significant paperwork burden on their organisations.

#### Our recommendations

7. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that an online portal replace a range of paper forms and manual processes required by the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services and NRSCH so that it reduces the burden, costs and delays experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland. This would allow Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers to manage their own information and to access and manage Department and NRSCH information without calling the Department or NRSCH, thereby reducing the waiting times to receive information.

### d) Costing the Burden of Government Regulation

Continued Government red tape for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland will cost time and reduce productivity. To support the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland deregulation agenda, we are seeking a partnership with the Queensland Government.

#### Our recommendations

8. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services undertake an internal review to determine the cost and burden of complying with related regulation. Obtaining feedback and ideas from our organisation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers is the key to best practice regulation.

### e) Participating in Ongoing Reform

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander participation in ongoing reforms can reorientate service delivery, increase their access to services and positively impact the factors instrumental in bringing about housing outcomes and change. Shared goals and clear delineation of responsibilities will achieve quicker change and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is keen to be involved in ongoing reform.

#### Our recommendations

9. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is seeking assurances from the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services that they will consult with our organisation and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers on identified opportunities for reducing red tape.
10. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that a cost benefit analysis be undertaken when the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homelessness Services is reviewing proposed changes, and that steps must be implemented, where appropriate, to remove unnecessary regulation, while ensuring stakeholders are kept informed.

## 4. Summary of our recommendations

**1** Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland recommends that the Queensland Government establishes multiple legislation repeal dates per year, to support the removal or amendment of unnecessary legislation.

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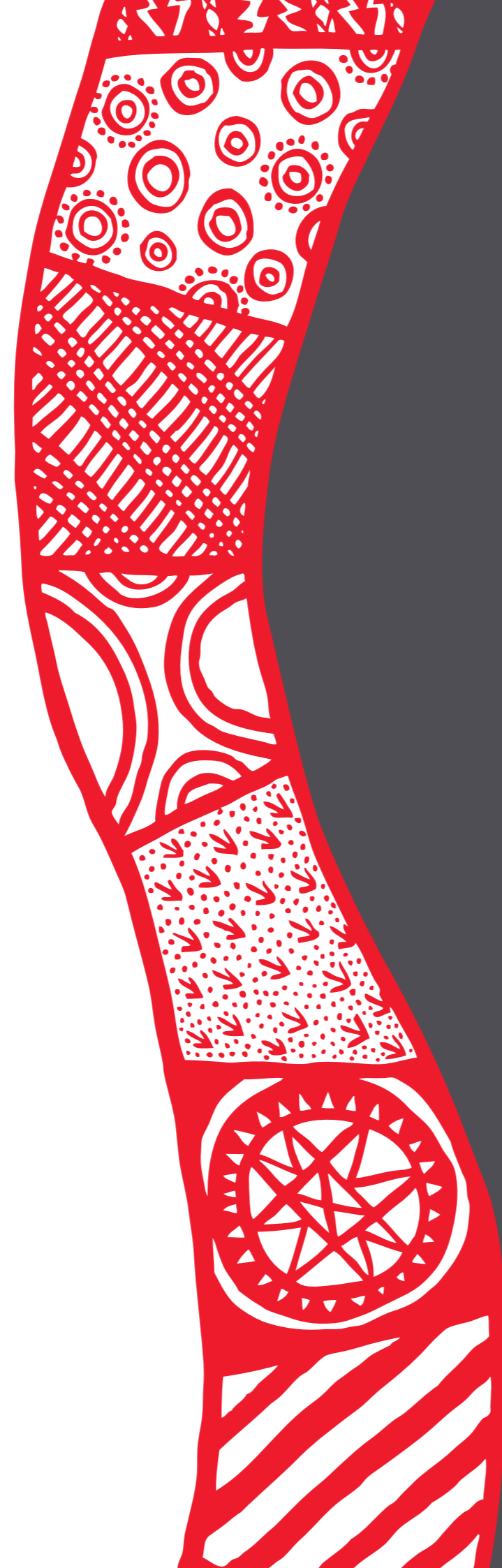
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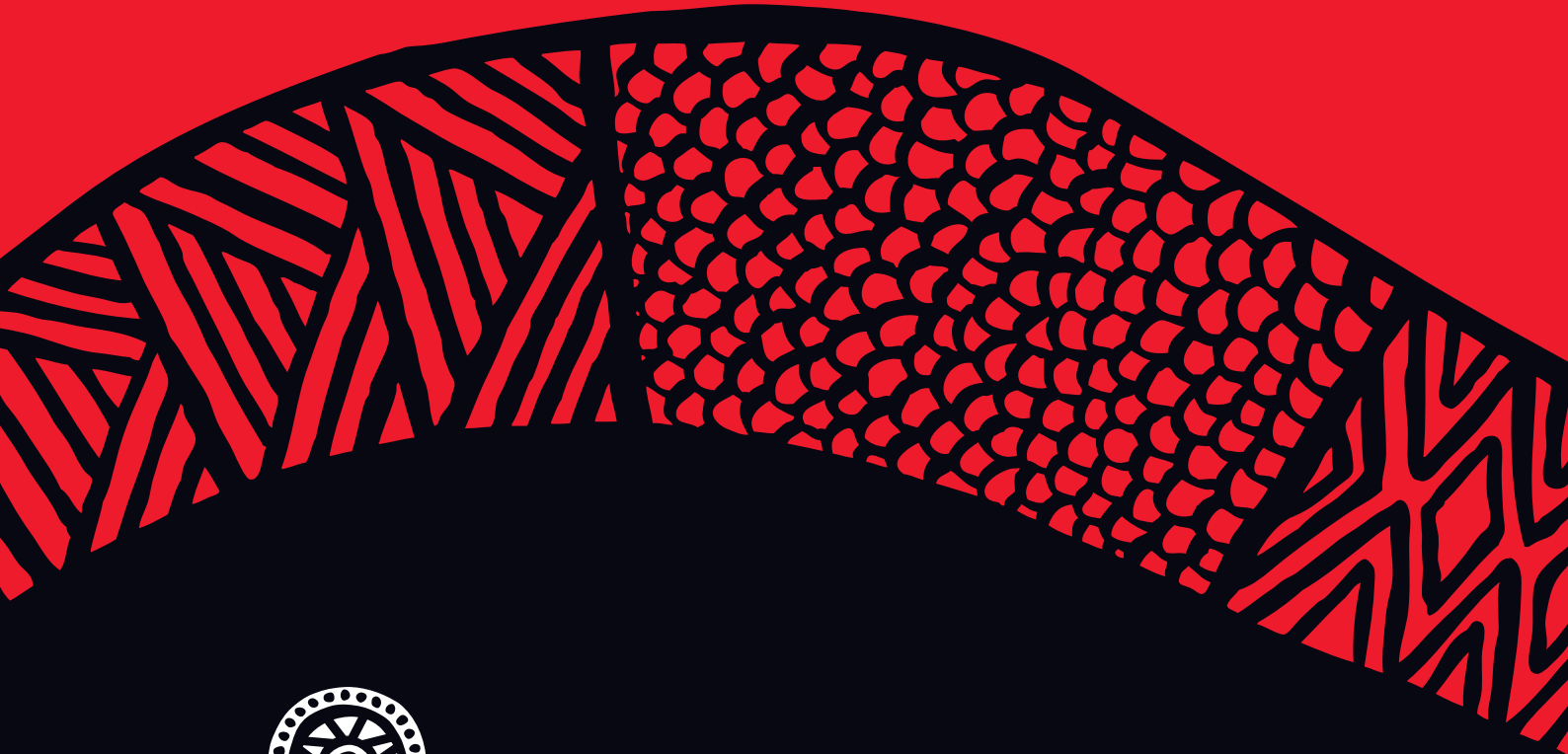
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## 5. Contributing to cutting government red tape

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland can contribute to cutting Government red tape by emailing your ideas and feedback to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland at [admin@housingqueensland.com.au](mailto:admin@housingqueensland.com.au)





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