

HOME

Monthly Magazine
FEBRUARY 2021
ISSUE 2

MAGAZINE

THE QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S
RAPID HOUSING RESPONSE

Project Trust Accounts **ARE IN**
THE YEAR AHEAD FOR ABORIGINAL
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HOUSING QUEENSLAND

NEW REPORT on Queensland's
HOUSING CRISIS

LGAQ: PROPER COMMUNITY
ENGAGEMENT KEY TO CLOSING THE GAP

RECORD DEMAND FOR
REGIONAL HOUSING

Disaster Assistance for Far North
Queensland Indigenous Councils

Kalwun Builds Housing Portfolio

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HOUSING ORGANISATIONS **WINNERS**
IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA, ACT AND SOUTH
AUSTRALIA



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland

HOW TO CONTACT US

Home Magazine welcomes submissions from our members and partners on the great work that is being undertaken to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing outcomes in Queensland. If you would like to contribute story ideas for consideration or comment on items in Home Magazine, please contact

our Communications Team at
admin@housingqueensland.com.au

Previous Home magazine issues can be viewed online at
www.housingqueensland.com.au

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland
Level 54
111 Eagle Street
Brisbane QLD 4001
Phone: (07) 3012 6349

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

HOME MAGAZINE *ISSUE 2*

February 2021

2 WELCOME**3 PEAK BODY UPDATE**

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland

4 QUEENSLAND HOUSING NEWS

Project Trust Accounts Come In

Queensland Government's Rapid Housing Response

New report on Queensland's housing crisis

5 LGAQ: Proper community engagement key to Closing the Gap

Record demand for regional housing

6 ICHO & COUNCIL NEWS

Kalwun Builds Housing Portfolio to 50 Properties

Disaster Assistance for Far North Queensland Indigenous Councils

Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation becomes registered under ORIC

7 DATA

Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Homelessness

8 NATIONAL HOUSING NEWS

\$6.8 million contract awarded as part of WA's Housing First rollout

ACT Government commits to establishment of community-controlled housing organisation

New accommodation services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students

9 CALENDAR/HISTORY

Looking Back in History



After a successful start to the year, the development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland remains in full swing. Our dedicated 'Housing Working Group' and our management are working hard to get the foundations right for what is set to be a big year ahead.

We want to keep our future Members across our progress in this very important step in the journey to represent Queensland's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing community.

This month, we start by communicating what is going on inside the organisation and some of the key decisions being made about the future direction of the State's peak Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing body. As an example, we will publish our monthly communiques from our monthly meetings, both here and on our website at www.housingqueensland.com.au

We then look broader, beyond our organisation, to key developments in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing issues in Queensland and Australia. This will be a crucial piece to understand the progress being made in other State's and Nationally.

You are bound to see that there is plenty going on around Australia at this time as we also move to coordinate our collective voices to advocate for much needed change in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing.

In keeping with the communication, we encourage your feedback on the magazine and let us know what you would like to see more of in future issues. More information on how you can provide feedback can be found on our inside cover.

This magazine will be an evolving communication tool throughout the year as we and establish the much-needed communication channels between us as you, the reader.

Enjoy reading this month's Home Magazine and we look forward to connecting with you again in March 2021.

MARY DOCTOR AND ANGELINA AKEE

INTERIM CO-CHAIRS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

Update #2

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland had its first meeting of 2021 on 28 & 29 January. The following reveals the key decisions raised, discussed and approved at the meeting. The full communique is available at www.housingqueensland.com.au

DECISIONS

PEAK BODY NAME The Housing Working Group decided that the name of the peak housing body would be: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland.

PEAK BODY LAUNCH DATE The Housing Working Group decided that the launch would take place in Brisbane in May 2021 to give the new organisation sufficient time to establish itself, market the organisation and recruit members. All Indigenous Community Housing Organisations (ICHO's) will be invited to the launch.

PEAK BODY AGM The Housing Working Group noted that the first AGM of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland has to be conducted within six (6) months of incorporation. The Housing Working Group decided that the first AGM should be held in July early in the second part of 2021 during Housing Working Group Meeting 7.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

PEAK BODY CEO APPOINTMENT The Housing Working Group acknowledged the December 2020 recruitment and appointment of Mr Neil Willmetts as the CEO, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland. Neil is the former CEO of the Queensland Aboriginal and Islander Health Council (Queensland's peak Health Body) and a former Department of Housing and Public Works executive.

PEAK BODY GENERAL MANAGER APPOINTMENT The Housing Working Group noted the December 2020 recruitment and appointment of Mr John Huggins as the General Manager, Communications and Partnerships, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland.

PEAK BODY CONSTITUTION WORKSHOP The workshop discussed the purpose of the organisation, and a number of governance and membership matters. It is anticipated that the constitution will be finalised by April 2021.

PEAK BODY REGISTRATION PROCESS The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on the process to register and incorporate Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland. This work is ongoing and it is expected the organisation will be incorporated in April 2021.

PEAK BODY WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with a demonstration of the website which provides detailed information on our purpose, our focus and how to become a member. The website is due to go live in March 2021.

PEAK BODY MEMBERSHIP DRIVE The CEO discussed the need to undertake an initial membership drive to recruit foundation members to the organisation. The Housing Working Group agreed that this should happen between February to April 2021.

PEAK BODY KEY DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with a list of key documents that were being developed for the organisation. Draft documents are based on 'best practice' documents.

EACH MONTH
OUR MAGAZINE
WILL UPDATE OUR
READERS ON
THE WORK OF
ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT
ISLANDER HOUSING
QUEENSLAND.



Working Group Meeting Schedule

It was decided that the Housing Working Group would meet monthly and that every second meeting would be in person.

THESE MEETING DATES ARE AS FOLLOWS:

MEETING 2 **24 February 2021** (Tele-conference)

MEETING 3 **24 & 25 March 2021** (Brisbane)

MEETING 4 **21 April 2021** (Tele-conference)

MEETING 5 **26 & 27 May 2021** (Brisbane)

MEETING 6 **23 June 2021** (Tele-conference)

MEETING 7 **21 & 22 July** (Cairns)

News



PROJECT **TRUST ACCOUNTS** COME IN

Project Trust Accounts (PTA) (formerly known as Project Bank Accounts) will start for state government jobs between \$1 and \$10 million dollars (excluding GST) from 1 March 2021.

A PTA is a trust account where money is paid and held in trust for subcontractors and head contractors until payments are due during a building project. A trust account is a legal arrangement through which money is held by a third party, for example a bank, for the benefit of another party such as a subcontractor or head contractor. Payments from trust accounts can only be made to certain parties under specified circumstances. *A number of requirements apply for Project Trust Accounts.*

If you are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander building organisation and do state government work that is valued between \$1 - \$10 million you can read more about the requirements for Project Trust Accounts on the Housing Industry Association website (hia.com.au)

Reference: Housing Industry Association website, February 2021

NEW REPORT ON QUEENSLAND'S **HOUSING CRISIS**

A new report – COVID-19 Rental Housing and Homelessness Impacts: an initial analysis – from ACOSS and UNSW has found that renters in Queensland are feeling the pinch.

Between March and June quarters in 2020, renters across Australia saw a 5 per cent decrease in their income while their housing costs only decreased by 0.5 per cent, in contrast to mortgage holders' income decreasing by 0.2 per cent while their housing costs decreased by 5 per cent.

Between March and September 2020, median rent decreases were largely confined to housing stock in inner-Brisbane and the Gold Coast, while regional areas of the state saw substantial rent increases.



SHELTER
because housing matters

The report also highlighted a very encouraging outcome from the Queensland Government's COVID emergency accommodation response.

Of the 3,810 people who departed from the State Government's COVID-19 emergency accommodation arrangements up to September last year, 1,774 were housed in social housing (of which 65.7 per cent were former rough sleepers), 1,632 were assisted into a private tenancy agreement (of which 61 per cent former rough sleepers), and 404 people self-discharged.

Reference: 'Alarming new report lays bare Queensland's housing crisis', Queensland Council of Social Services, 18 February 2021

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT'S **RAPID HOUSING RESPONSE**

The Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy has launched the Rapid Housing Response which provides individuals with access to safe, secure accommodation that encourages better health outcomes, while ensuring greater protections against the impact of COVID-19 in the broader community.

In partnership with specialist homelessness service providers, the Queensland Government is moving to house vulnerable people who have experienced homelessness and who

currently reside in crisis accommodation with shared amenities into safe, secure self-contained accommodation.

The Queensland Government is working with 4 specialist service providers who support residents living in properties with shared amenities across 4 locations in inner-Brisbane. These residents will be moved into self-contained supported accommodation located in Toowong.

Reference: 'Rapid Housing Response', Queensland Government, February 2021



LGAQ: PROPER COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT KEY TO CLOSING THE GAP

The Local Government Association of Queensland is calling for the new Closing the Gap agreement to be driven by the country's Indigenous communities. Councils want new targets included to address housing and overcrowding as well as incarceration rates.

Torres Strait Island Regional Council Mayor and LGAQ policy executive member Fred Gela said the only way for the new agreement to succeed was if communities were given a stronger voice and continuously consulted along the way.

"This country is so diverse. In order to be effective in that space, engagement involving key stakeholder groups in regional areas and rural and remote communities is integral. That ground-truthing is the only way to inform and create better policies. Up here in the Torres Strait, there has been nil engagement. They need to be able to engage and it needs to be mandatory that they have to engage." Mayor Gela also said it was crucial housing and incarceration rates were included as targets in the new agreement.

'Proper Community Engagement Key to Closing The Gap', Local Government Association of Queensland, February 2021

**"COMMUNITIES
NEED STRONGER
VOICE AND
CONSULTATION
ALONG THE WAY"**

**HOUSING
SHORTAGE**

RECORD DEMAND FOR REGIONAL HOUSING

Through its 'Monthly Housing & Economic Chart Pack' CoreLogic Research Team released a report outlining the movements in Australia's property market for February 2021. The trend sees a large demand for regional properties while rental markets tighten around the country.

Australian housing values rose 2.8% in the 3 months to January, with every capital city and rest of state region increasing in value.

Regional areas of Australia have seen housing values rise 7.9% annually, which is more than four times the pace of capital city values over the past twelve months.

Rental markets are tightening around most areas of the country, bringing the national increase in rental rates to 2.5% in the year to January.

The amount of property available for sale remains very low. In the 28 days to January 31st, there were 131,657 properties listed nationally, which is -28.3% below the 5 year average for this time of year.

Regional migration trends suggest there was a record movement of Australians from capital cities to regions in the September 2020 quarter, corroborating the increased demand for regional dwellings.

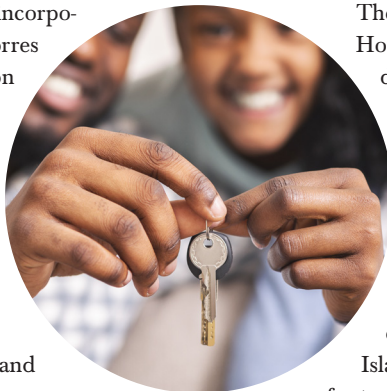
'Monthly Housing and Economic Chart Pack', CoreLogic, February 2021

News

KALWUN BUILDS HOUSING PORTFOLIO TO 50 Properties

Kalwun Development Corporation (Kalwun) was incorporated in 1994. Kalwun is an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisation and provides both health services and an affordable housing program for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander residents of the Gold Coast.

Kalwun now owns 50 residential properties on the Gold Coast with a mixture of units, duplexes and houses with two to five bedrooms. All properties are predominantly located between Tugun, Palm Beach, Varsity Lakes, Robina, Mudgeeraba, Miami, Merrimac, Nerang, Helensvale, Labrador, Chirn Park and Southport.



The CEO of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, Mr Neil Willmetts said “that the diversity and distribution of the Kulwun housing stock takes into consideration the demographics of the area. They understand the community they serve.”

Kalwun does not provide emergency or crisis accommodation and all of the tenancies are either on a medium or long-term basis. To be eligible to go on the Kalwun housing waiting list, clients must be of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander descent and have been a Gold Coast resident for two consecutive years or more.

DISASTER ASSISTANCE FOR FARNORTH QUEENSLAND INDIGENOUS COUNCILS

Disaster assistance is now available for nine local government areas in remote Far North Queensland impacted by flooding brought on by a Tropical Low in late January 2021.

The councils of Aurukun, Lockhart River, Mapoon, Napranum, Northern Peninsula Area, Pormpuraaw, Torres Shire and Torres Strait Island Regional Council are eligible for financial assistance under the jointly funded Commonwealth-State Disaster Recovery Funding Arrangements (DRFA).

Federal Minister for Emergency Management David Littleproud said the Tropical Low had caused a lot of damage to commu-

nities and the repairs have been extensive and expensive.

“These communities have reported impacts from the floods such as uprooted trees, road and bridge damage from swollen rivers and isolation due to flooded access points,” Minister Littleproud said.

Queensland Minister for Fire and Emergency Services Mark Ryan said the severe weather system had seen rivers burst their banks across Cape York and cause damage in the far north.

“Disaster assistance extended to more communities impacted by Ex-Tropical Cyclone Imogen”, Queensland Government, February 2021



NGOONBI COMMUNITY SERVICES INDIGENOUS CORPORATION BECOMES REGISTERED UNDER ORIC



The former Ngoonbi Cooperative Society has changed its name to now be known as the Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation. The name change follows the organisations recent registration under the Office of the Registrar of Indigenous Corporations.

The Ngoonbi Community Services Indigenous Corporation (Ngoonbi) was established in 1975 for the purpose of improving quality of life, health and access to affordable and quality housing to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Ngoonbi’s objective is to eliminate social disadvantage among Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to increase their participation within the community.

The organisation covers Far North Queensland regions of Kuranda, Mt Garnet, Ravenshoe, Atherton and Mareeba.

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER *Homelessness*

The Australian Government agency, the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) released their latest report 'Australia's welfare 2019' which was the AIHW's 14th biennial welfare report. It is a mix of short statistical updates and longer discussions exploring selected topical issues. In this issue, a particular focus is on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Homelessness.



ACCORDING TO 2014–15 NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER SOCIAL SURVEY DATA, **29% OF INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS** AGED 15 AND OVER HAD BEEN HOMELESS AT SOME TIME.

Indigenous Australians continue to be over-represented in both the national homeless population and as users of Specialist Homelessness Services (SHS).

- THEY MAKE UP **3.3% OF THE AUSTRALIAN POPULATION**, YET HAVE **CONSISTENTLY HIGHER RATES OF HOMELESSNESS** AND SERVICE USE THAN NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS (AIHW 2019c).
- BY COMPARISON, DATA FROM THE 2014 GENERAL SOCIAL SURVEY SUGGEST THAT **13% OF NON-INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS** AGED 15 AND OVER HAD EVER EXPERIENCED HOMELESSNESS (AIHW 2017).



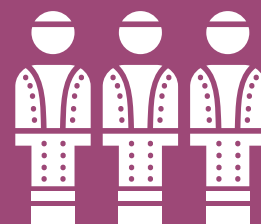
3.3%
OF AUSTRALIAN
POPULATION

65,200

**INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS
ACCESSED SPECIALIST HOMELESS
SERVICES (SHS)**

2017–18

INDIGENOUS AUSTRALIANS MADE UP
**25% OF ALL
SHS CLIENTS**



SHS DATA SHOWS THAT:

In 2017–18, an estimated 65,200 Indigenous Australians accessed SHS.

Indigenous SHS client numbers **INCREASED BY 1%** between 2016–17 and 2017–18, growing at a similar rate to the general SHS population (2% increase)

(AIHW 2019c). 'Indigenous Housing', Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, September 2019

News

\$6.8 MILLION CONTRACT AWARDED AS PART OF WA'S HOUSING FIRST ROLLOUT

Western Australia's McGowan Government has awarded \$6.8 million to Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd to deliver the first Housing First Support Service as part of the \$34.5 million Housing First Homelessness Initiative.

To be delivered by a consortium led by Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd over five years, the contract is the latest to be awarded under the evidence-based Housing First Homelessness Initiative, which will provide stable accommodation to rough sleepers as well as the necessary wraparound supports to keep them in that accommodation long-term.

The ACCO partnership brings together the strengths of Noongar Mia Mia, Wungening Aboriginal Corporation and Ngalla Maya Aboriginal Corporation under one banner, to provide culturally appropriate assertive outreach, case management and after-hours support for individuals and families sleeping rough across the Perth metropolitan area.

The Aboriginal Housing First Support Service called Moorditj Mia, which means 'Strong Home', is a targeted investment that is designed to support individuals and families sleeping rough through a culturally led approach. It will also expand capacity for Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) to deliver services in Western Australia longer-term.

'\$6.8 million contract awarded as part of Housing First rollout', Government of Western Australia, February 2021

NEW ACCOMMODATION SERVICES FOR ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER STUDENTS

At the beginning of this year, not-for-profit South Australian community housing provider Aboriginal Community Housing was awarded the contract to deliver new accommodation services for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students from remote and outer regional communities studying in Adelaide.

Known as Tika Tirka's meaning 'to sit/stay and learn' in local Kaurna language, the 20-bed apartment style facility in the Adelaide CBD was constructed in 2019 with joint funding provided by the South Australian and Federal Governments. SA Housing Authority previously managed the property until Aboriginal Community housing took over in January 2021. During its first year, Tika



ACT GOVERNMENT COMMITS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMUNITY CONTROLLED HOUSING ORGANISATION

Through the 2020-21 Budget, the ACT Government will work with Canberra's local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community to strengthen services and promote healing and reconciliation.

The ACT Government will support the sustainable development of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community-controlled organisations in areas such as child and family services, justice, housing and disability.

Minister for Housing and Suburban Development, Yvette Berry said, "The government will work towards the establishment of an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled housing organisation in the ACT, which is an action under the ACT Housing Strategy."

The ACT Government is committed to ensuring Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples have access to affordable, secure and appropriate housing that suits their needs.

This builds on the ACT Government's commitment to provide dedicated, long-term accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through Gundji Gindilan which opened in December 2020 and Mura Gunya which opened in 2016."



Tirka will accommodate students, with a view to expand to other post-secondary education.

Tika Tirka is centrally located to university campuses, public transport and the hub of the Adelaide CBD and features a mix of flexible common and private living areas with a central courtyard and outdoor rooftop garden. In addition to its innovative layout, a range of personal development programs are available for students, as well as various community programs and events. Tika Tirka provides affordable living with all utilities and Wi-Fi access provided.

COMING UP IN *March 2021*

18 MARCH

NATIONAL CLOSE THE GAP DAY

National Close the Gap Day is an annual event that raises awareness and seeks to close the gap with respect to life expectancy, child mortality, educational and employment outcomes between Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples, and non-Indigenous Australians.

CLOSE THE GAP

21 MARCH HARMONY DAY

Harmony Day started in 1999 and celebrates Australia's cultural diversity. It's about inclusiveness, respect and a sense of belonging for everyone. It coincides the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

1 MARCH DECEMBER QUARTER BAS DUE



21 MARCH FEBRUARY BAS LODGMET

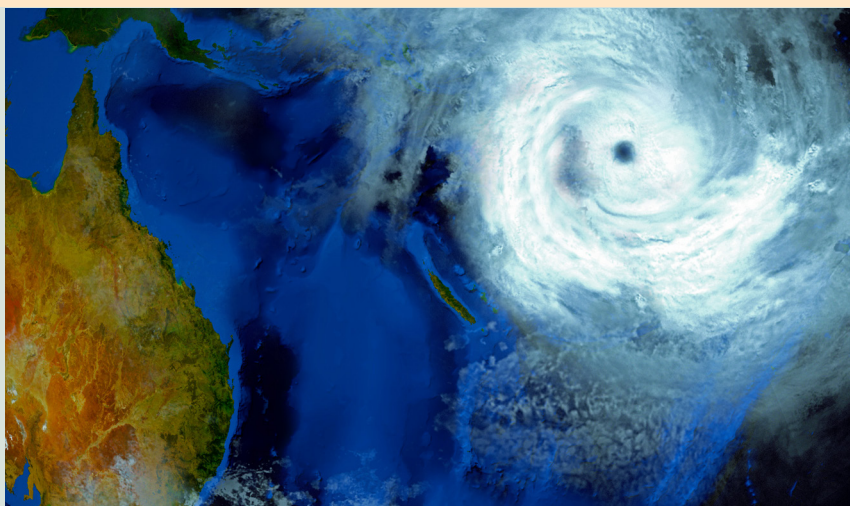
Lodge and pay February 2021 monthly business activity statement.



LOOKING BACK IN *History*

10 YEARS AGO (FEBRUARY 2011)

ON 3 FEBRUARY, SEVERE TROPICAL CYCLONE YASI MAKES LANDFALL NEAR MISSION BEACH, south of Innisfail, Queensland causing major damage to the affected areas. This category 5 cyclone caused an estimated \$3.5 billion in damages.



20 YEARS AGO (FEBRUARY 2001)

THE LABOR GOVERNMENT LED BY PETER BEATTIE IS COMFORTABLY RE-ELECTED FOR A SECOND TERM IN QUEENSLAND. During this election the ALP won 66 seats and the Coalition 15 seats.



30 YEARS AGO (FEBRUARY 1991)

QUEENSLAND PREMIER WAYNE GOSS MEETS WITH LEADERS OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES TO DISCUSS LAND RIGHTS LEGISLATION BEING PREPARED BY HIS DEPARTMENT. Stating in Queensland Parliament that "the issue of land rights has been ignored or neglected for too long...We are concerned to redress that."

Former Queensland Premier Wayne Goss, Queensland State Archives





Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland

A NEW PEAK HOUSING BODY IS HERE

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland was established in early 2021. We are a new not-for-profit organisation that is the professional peak representative body for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing providers in Queensland. We are an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation and our purpose is to improve Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing outcomes in Queensland.

WANT TO BE A MEMBER?

Run an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing
organisation in Queensland?

Or are you an Indigenous Council in Queensland?

THEN YOU BELONG WITH US!

To become a Member of Aboriginal and
Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland
and to enjoy our benefits, please email us at
membership@housingqueensland.com.au