

HOME

Monthly Magazine
JUNE 2021
ISSUE 6

MAGAZINE

**ABORIGINAL AND
TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER
HOUSING QUEENSLAND**

Launch Edition

A WRAP-UP of the **PEAK BODY
LAUNCH** from QUEENSLAND'S
PARLIAMENT HOUSE

**Queensland Government EXAMINES SAFE
HOUSING SOLUTIONS**

*ABIS builds LOCAL CAPACITY
in North Queensland*

\$250 Million for NSW Aboriginal Housing

New \$10m Village to SUPPORT
ELDERS in SOUTH AUSTRALIA

**INMATES BUILD HOUSING, KITCHENS
for ABORIGINAL FAMILIES IN NSW**



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland



OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND
HOME MAGAZINE *ISSUE 6*



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

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Launch Edition



IT'S with enormous pride that we can now say that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is officially launched. On May 26 (Sorry Day), our launch was held on the lawns of Queensland's Parliament House with guests and stakeholders who were instrumental in the establishment of our organisation, the majority of which were ICHO's who travelled across Queensland to help us celebrate.

The combination of great weather, approximately 100 attendees and the message of optimism for the future of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland helped make it a memorable occasion. In this month's edition of Home Magazine, we bring you the wrap-up and images from the day.

On the same week of the launch, we also opened our new premises not too far away at 41 George Street in the Brisbane CBD. If you're in Brisbane, we encourage you to drop in and say hello to the team.

With a physical, digital and staffing presence now locked in and continuing to grow, our work to build the Sector and advocate for our Sector's interests only just begins. We look forward to making contact with you in coming months to tell you more about our organisation and how you can get involved.

In this month's Home Magazine, we cover our launch in depth and celebrate some milestones both Queensland-wide and with the ICHO's. As usual, Home Magazine will also cover the many great developments happening around Australia in regards to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing.

MARY DOCTOR AND ANGELINA AKEE
INTERIM CO-CHAIRS
ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

Update #6

The Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Working Group (Housing Working Group) held their fifth 2021 meeting on Wednesday 26 and Thursday 27 May 2021 in Brisbane.

DECISIONS

INTERNAL WORK LEVEL STANDARDS APPROVED

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on internal Work Level Standards. The internal Work Level Standards provide our organisation with a solution to control unintended salary variations. This six-level internal classification system will create a professional organisation that will provides greater job clarity, salary integrity and fairness in the workplace. It will assign a salary category against each level that are supported by a job description. The Housing Working Group reviewed and discussed the internal Work Level Standards and approved their use.

DRAFT STRATEGIC PLAN APPROVED FOR EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER FEEDBACK

The Housing Working Group reviewed, discussed and provided feedback on the draft Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Strategic Plan 2021 – 2024. The draft strategic plan was then approved to be sent out to potential members and other external stakeholders for their feedback and comments.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

2021 QUEENSLAND ICHO FORUM

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with a comprehensive update on the 2021 Queensland ICHO Forum that was conducted in Brisbane in partnership with the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy - Housing and Homeless Services on 25 May 2021. It was noted by the HWG that this event went well and that it was attended by approximately 70 participants.

STATE BODY LAUNCH

Day 1 of May 2021 meeting included the launch of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland. Our organisation was officially launched by Hon. Leeanne Enoch. Minister for the Queensland Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy, Mary Doctor and Angelina Akee at Queensland Parliament House. It was noted by the HWG that this event went well and that the launch was attended by approximately 100 people that included ICHO's, ministers and government leaders.

THE NEXT HOUSING
WORKING GROUP
MEETING IS SCHEDULED
FOR **WEDNESDAY 23
JUNE 2021**.

THIS WILL BE A
**TELECONFERENCE
MEETING**.

COMPANY INCORPORATION

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland was officially incorporated with ASIC on 13 May 2021. The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with copies of the Certificate of Incorporation during this meeting.

MEMBER SITE VISITS

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on regional visits to meet with Queensland ICHO's. It was noted by the HWG that the ICHO site visits would commence in June 2021 and be conducted for the rest of the year.

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on the ICHO membership drive. It was noted by the HWG that the CEO will make contact with Queensland ICHO's from June 2021 regarding membership.

TORRES STRAIT ISLANDS VISIT

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on a possible trip to the Torres Strait to meet with leaders to discuss their housing priorities. It was noted by the HWG that the CEO will write to Torres Strait Island Regional Council (TSIRC) and Torres Strait Regional Authority (TSRA) seeking a meeting with our organisation in the second half of 2021.





Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch and First Nations Housing Advisor Mick Gooda with Interim-Directors of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland L-R Greg Whittaker, Charles Martin, Glenis Grogan, Angelina Akee, Mary Doctor, Michelle Hooke and Gary White

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEAK HOUSING BODY

Launched in Queensland

In a historic move for the state, Queensland has established an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peak housing body that will be a guiding force to help advocate for First Nations peoples.

Making the announcement on National Sorry Day, Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch said the establishment of the peak body is a critical step in ensuring First Nations peoples are at the forefront of decision making.

“While the Federal Government has walked away from its responsibility to fund remote Indigenous housing, the Palaszczuk Government is continuing to work alongside First Nations people to address housing outcomes,” Minister Enoch said.

“As a peak body, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland will advocate for the sector and work with government to improve outcomes for First Nations people’s housing.

“The new peak body will represent the Indigenous housing sector’s interests, providing advocacy and connection to government.

“Their extensive knowledge and geographically diverse backgrounds will provide unique insights into the housing challenges and opportunities for communities across Queensland.



Interim Co-Chairs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland, Mary Doctor and Angelina Akee

“This new organisation will work with the sector to deliver a program of work including workforce development initiatives and building organisational capacity.”

In 2018, when the Federal Government refused to continue the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing, the Palaszczuk Government stepped in and announced a \$40 million Remote Interim Capital program.

“The Federal Government has vacated this space,” Minister Enoch said.

“But, we are taking action. Under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023, we are investing \$5.5 million to establish this (peak) housing body to deliver improved housing outcomes for people in urban, regional and remote communities across Queensland.”

Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Craig Crawford said the new housing body would represent the housing concerns of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and provide advocacy and a direct connection to government.

“This new organisation will work with the sector to deliver a program of work including workforce development initiatives and building organisational capacity,” Minister Crawford said.

“They will also be a valuable channel for conversations between First Nations peoples, communities and government.



Minister for Communities and Housing, Leeanne Enoch



CEO of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Neil Willmet, Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch, Interim Co-Chairs for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Mary Doctor and Angelina Akee, Interim Directors of Aboriginal And Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Gary White and Charles Martin

“Today, everyone wins. The Queensland Government wins because they will have a trusted partner and importantly, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community wins because we will fight to address their housing needs”.

CEO, Neil Willmet, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland



First Nations Housing Advisor Mick Gooda and Director of Umpi Korumba Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders Corporation for Housing, Trevor Robinson

“As we head into Reconciliation Week, this announcement earmarks another opportunity for our state to work towards a path to treaty or treaties,” Mr Crawford said.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland CEO Neil Willmet said housing providers now have a peak body that will advocate for them in Brisbane and Canberra.

“Today, everyone wins. The Queensland Government wins because they will have a trusted partner and importantly, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community wins because we will fight to address their housing needs,” Mr Willmet said

“By working in partnership with others our organisation seeks to find new solutions and set new standards in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community housing in Queensland.

“We understand that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing challenges are complex and that they cannot be solved by a single organisation and will partner with like-minded organisations to have a common goal and make the best use of collective expertise.”

Reference: ‘Historic First Nations peak housing body launched in Queensland’, Queensland Government, May 2021

News

QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT EXAMINES SAFE HOUSING SOLUTIONS



THE Palaszczuk Government held its first Housing and Domestic and Family Violence Roundtable in June 2021 – a new initiative to ensure Queensland women and children have access to safe and affordable housing.

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice, Minister for Women and for the Prevention of Domestic and Family Violence, Shannon Fentiman said the Roundtable was a great opportunity to investigate long-term housing solutions for those experiencing violence committed against them.

“Women and children impacted by domestic and family violence are often in unsafe or unstable housing situations and when combined with income insecurity they face the added danger of

homelessness,” Minister Fentiman said.

“We need to look at what more we can do to ensure women and families escaping violence not only have the support to leave a dangerous situation, but also have access to safe and secure housing.

Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch said the Roundtable was an important step in the collaborative approach to improving housing outcomes for Queensland women and children experiencing domestic and family violence.

“For families escaping domestic violence, having a safe place to go is vital,” Minister Enoch said.

Reference: ‘Government roundtable examines safe housing solutions for domestic and family violence victims’, Queensland Government, June 2021



TOWNSVILLE-based ABIS Community Co-operative Society has successfully completed an innovative new construction and employment initiative called the ‘Building Our Futures’ Project.

The 10-week project is in partnership between the Department of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships (DATSIP) and TAFE North Queensland and provides training and employment to 16 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged between 15-24.

For the duration of the program, participants gained on-the-job experience in the repairs and maintenance of housing projects in Townsville. By participating in the culturally-safe and hands-on learning environment, participants have already been able to utilise their skills for various employment opportunities in the wider Townsville region.

The program has the participants starting their course at the TAFE Training Centre to obtain training for their construction white card before resuming with TAFE on a vacant house which requires refurbishment before reletting.

Jan Pool, Chief Executive Officer of ABIS said. “We had great outcomes from the first program with five getting apprenticeships, one a traineeship and the remaining either retail or construction work,”

Having successfully completed this second iteration of the project, ABIS Community Co-operative Society remains optimistic about rolling-out another ‘Building Our Futures’ project in late June 2021, in partnership again with and DATSIP, TAFE North Queensland and Construction Skills Queensland.

ABIS COMMUNITY CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY building the future



News



NSW TO SPEND \$250 MILLION ON Aboriginal Housing

MORE than \$259 million will be spent to build 250 new homes and renovate a further 7000 for Indigenous families as part of commitments to be made in the upcoming NSW budget.

Indigenous community housing groups have been pushing for more social and affordable housing for Aboriginal people, particularly in inner Sydney, and warning that development and rising property prices are aggravating a shortage of affordable housing.

“The government is investing in a range of services to reach more Aboriginal people, families, and communities to disrupt the cycle of inter-generational disadvantage, which benefits everyone,” Water, Property and Housing minister Melinda Pavey said.

The Aboriginal Housing Office will deliver the new housing over four years.

Drainage, roads and footpaths in 10 Aboriginal reserves are to be upgraded at a cost of \$34.1 million over three years under the Roads to Home program.

Treasurer Dominic Perrottet said a total of \$351 million had been allocated to improve Aboriginal services in 2021-22.

Reference: ‘NSW to spend \$250 million building and upgrading Aboriginal housing’, Sydney Morning Herald, June 2021

INMATES BUILD HOUSING, KITCHENS for ABORIGINAL FAMILIES in NSW

STAFF and inmates from Glen Innes and South Coast correctional centres are working to build modular houses and new kitchens for Aboriginal families in rural areas. The partnership between Corrective Services Industries and the Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) also gives inmates valuable work skills and qualifications.

Minister for Counter Terrorism and Corrections Anthony Roberts said the construction of a four-bedroom modular home was managed by two trade-overseers and built by 40 inmates at Glen Innes in six months.

The program offers skills and qualifications in working at heights,



crane and dogging, operating a forklift, reading plans and specifications, basic labour skills and a Certificate II in Construction Pathways traineeship.

Aboriginal Housing Office Chief Executive, Jody Broun said skills development is key to sustaining Aboriginal families and communities. “Ensuring inmates undertake practical skills training increases employment opportunities and in turn supports and strengthens broader Aboriginal communities, which is an empowering outcome,” she said.

Inmates working at the South Coast Correctional Centre at Nowra, are gaining joinery and cabinetry skills by pre-fabricating kitchens for other Aboriginal Housing Office projects.

Reference: ‘Inmates build housing, kitchens for Aboriginal families’, NSW Government, May 2021

NEW \$10M VILLAGE TO SUPPORT ELDERS in SOUTH AUSTRALIA

A NEW \$10 million village where Aboriginal elders can live independently in affordable, long-term, culturally appropriate housing will be built south of Adelaide, backed by a \$4 million Marshall Liberal Government commitment.

“The Elders Village” will be built close to “Warriparinga” – a culturally significant site – near the Sturt River in Bedford Park.

The development is a partnership between the Marshall Liberal Government, national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander not for profit housing provider Aboriginal Community Housing Limited (ACHL), the Indigenous Land and Sea Corporation (ILSC) and the Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation.

Culturally inclusive features include an outdoor fire pit and homes feature mobility aides, allowing residents to remain in their homes as they age.

The ILSC will grant the land, about 13km south of the CBD, to the Kurna Pangkarra Property Trust, a subsidiary of native title holders Kurna Yerta Aboriginal Corporation (KYAC). ACHL will oversee construction and provide tenancy management services once the village, consisting of 40 independent homes, is built.

Reference: ‘New \$10m Village to support Elders “age in place”’, Premier of South Australia, May 2021

COMING UP IN July 2021

1 JULY

IN 1871, MISSIONARIES OF THE LONDON MISSIONARY SOCIETY

arrive in the Torres Strait at Erub Island, introducing Christianity to the region. This year is the 150th year anniversary. The Coming of the Light Festival marks this important day for Torres Strait Islanders who celebrate the day with cultural and religious activities.



11 – 17 JULY

NATIONAL DIABETES WEEK

encourages conversations about the real impact diabetes can have on a person’s mental and emotional wellbeing.



4 – 11 JULY

NAIDOC WEEK 2021 has a theme of ‘*Heal Country!*’ which calls for all of us to continue to seek greater protections for our lands, our waters, our sacred sites and our cultural heritage from exploitation, desecration, and destruction.

12 JULY

THE AUSTRALIAN ABORIGINAL FLAG

was designed by artist Harold Thomas was flown for the first time in Adelaide, South Australia, on National Aborigines Day, 12 July 1971.

JULY

DRY JULY is a national fundraiser, run by Dry July Foundation, that encourages people to go alcohol-free in July and raise funds for people affected by cancer.



Image: National Archives of Australia

10 YEARS AGO (JULY 2011)

THE NATIONAL CONGRESS OF AUSTRALIA’S FIRST PEOPLES gets the first elected board, giving Aboriginal people the first elected national representative body since the abolition of ATSIC.

20 YEARS AGO (JULY 2001)

PRIME MINISTER JOHN HOWARD rejects the suggestion by the new Anglican Archbishop of Sydney that he is out of step with God regarding his views on reconciliation.

30 YEARS AGO (JULY 1991)

PAUL KEATING makes his first challenge against Bob Hawke for the Australian Labor Party leadership. Hawke wins 66–44, and Keating resigns as Treasurer the same day.

LOOKING BACK IN

History





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