

# HOME

Monthly Magazine  
MARCH 2021  
ISSUE 3

# MAGAZINE

**\$200 MILLION**

FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS' WORKS FOR  
*QUEENSLAND PROJECTS*

**NEW** *Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander* TRAINEESHIPS

SUPPLY AND GROWTH  
**CHALLENGES** *in South East Queensland*

QCROSS: **WOMEN WORST HIT**  
BY **COVID-19**

**THE FIGHT for FAIR INSURANCE**  
IN NORTH QUEENSLAND

THE DATA ON *AUSTRALIA'S*  
*HOUSING ASSISTANCE*

MICHELLE HOOKE **CELEBRATES**  
**25** YEARS at **GIRUDALA**

**NEW LEADERSHIP** for SOUTH AUSTRALIA'S  
*ABORIGINAL HOUSING INNOVATIVE*

**INITIATIVES** FOR NATIONAL ABORIGINAL  
AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING ORGANISATIONS



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Housing Queensland





ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND  
HOME MAGAZINE *ISSUE 3*



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](mailto:admin@housingqueensland.com.au)

Previous Home Magazine issues can be viewed online at  
[www.housingqueensland.com.au](http://www.housingqueensland.com.au)

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

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ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

# Update #3

THE HOUSING WORKING GROUP CONFIRMED THAT THE NEXT MEETING WILL BE HELD IN BRISBANE ON WEDNESDAY 24 AND THURSDAY 25 MARCH 2021.

The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland had its second meeting of 2021 on 24 February. The following reveals the key decisions raised, discussed and approved at the meeting. The full communique is available at [www.housingqueensland.com.au](http://www.housingqueensland.com.au)

## DECISIONS

**TERM OF REFERENCE APPROVED** A Terms of Reference (TOR) was reviewed, discussed and approved by both parties to (a) provide strategic direction and leadership to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is established; and (b) provide funding and financial management to ensure that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland is established.

**PEAK BODY LOGO DECIDED** The Housing Working Group approved a final logo design that incorporated both Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander elements by Iscariot Media (an Aboriginal company).

## MATTERS FOR NOTING

**PEAK BODY CONSTITUTION UPDATE** The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland constitution is being drafted by Gadens law firm. A draft constitution will be provided to the Housing Working Group in March 2021 to review before the organisation is incorporated.

**PEAK BODY KEY DOCUMENT DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with an update on the development of key documents for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland that were finalised in February 2021.

**PEAK BODY WEBSITE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with an update on the new Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland website. The website will go live once it is approved by the Housing Working Group.

**PEAK BODY SECTOR DEVELOPMENT RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT UPDATE** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with a comprehensive list of over 50 model policies and procedures; factsheets; guides and advice that will be available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Members.

**PEAK BODY MAGAZINE DEVELOPMENT** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with an update into the development of a publication that will be used to engage with and provide monthly housing related news to stakeholders. The 12-page magazine will be viewable on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland website and be sent to select stakeholders.

**PEAK BODY STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with an overview on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Stakeholder Engagement Strategy. This Stakeholder Engagement strategy will be presented Housing Working Group for their approval at the March 2021 meeting.

**PEAK BODY STRATEGIC PLAN DEVELOPMENT** The CEO provided the Housing Working Group with information on the process to develop the first Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland Strategic Plan. The development of the strategic plan will commence after the incorporation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland.

**A**S we move through the first quarter of 2021, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland has set the right foundations to now be able to move through the next step of our exciting journey.

This next quarter will give our organisation an opportunity to ramp up our sector development activity in order to reach out and get face-to-face with our stakeholders. You will note in Home Magazine that we continue to publish our organisations regular monthly communiques that are designed to give you, the readers, a view on some of our activity and our future direction.

In partnership with our sector development activity, we use Home Magazine to communicate on a consistent basis with our stakeholders about some of the movements locally, throughout Queensland and Australia with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing.

We are happy to see the continued focus and commitment from not only our own State Government on Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing, but from other State Governments in their continued momentum in this space. You will also notice through reading Home Magazine that support has come in many other forms for housing and we can be encouraged by the significant development of this sector.

In addition to this, there are many external factors affecting our industry such as housing demand, development and COVID-19 and the responses from many sections of the housing community and the impacts this could bring you the reader.

Despite all of this, Queensland's tireless peak and community organisations continue to maintain their sustainability and forward momentum in our sector. We're looking forward in this edition to shining the spotlight on one of our leading organisations in Girudala Community Cooperative Society which will celebrate some significant milestones.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland looks forward to engaging with you in our many forms over the coming months.

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

**Queensland Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Working Group Members** L-R Michelle Hooke (Bowen), Gary White (Dalby), Charles Martin (Thursday Island), Glenis Grogan (Kuranda), Virginia Mayo (Mt Isa), Mary Doctor (Brisbane) and Angelina Akee (Townsville).





# News

## \$200 MILLION FOR REGIONAL COUNCILS' WORKS FOR QUEENSLAND PROJECTS

REGIONAL Queensland's economic recovery will shift up a gear thanks to a \$200 million investment into 65 regional councils, part of the Palaszczuk Government's hugely successful Works for Queensland program.

Eligible projects range from roadworks to town beautification, parks and playground upgrades, renewable energy installations, tourism, water and safety.

Premier Anastacia Palaszczuk said the allocations to each of the 65 regional councils would continue a program that local mayors have praised.

"We made a commitment to regional communities during the election that we would continue this fantastic program and we are living up to that commitment," the Premier said.

"The \$200 million fourth round of Works for Queensland means that councils outside the South East corner have now been allocated \$800 million dollars from the program, helping to create local employment opportunities and improve liveability in regional Queensland."

Reference: Another \$200 million for regional councils' Works for Queensland projects, Queensland Government, March 2021



DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNITIES, HOUSING AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

### ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER TRAINEESHIP

THE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship is an opportunity for First Nations Queenslanders under 25 to earn and learn with the Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy.

TRAINEES WILL RECEIVE PAID WORK AT A REAL JOB, A NATIONALLY RECOGNISED QUALIFICATION, HANDS-ON LEARNING TRAINING AND MENTORING.

- The traineeship program received \$2 million in additional funding under the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Action Plan 2019-2023 in 2019.
- The initiative will employ 64 trainees to 2023.
- The traineeship program is delivered by a registered Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander training provider.
- Aboriginal peoples and Torres Strait Islander peoples between 16 and 25 years can apply online at [www.atw.org.au/dhwp-traineeships](http://www.atw.org.au/dhwp-traineeships)

Reference: Department of Communities, Housing and Digital Economy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Traineeship, Queensland Government, March 2021



### Successful recipients from Queensland Aboriginal Shire councils include:

- AURUKUN SHIRE COUNCIL \$2.37 MILLION
- HOPE VALE ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.3 MILLION
- KOWANYAMA ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.7 MILLION
- LOCKHART RIVER ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.21 MILLION
- MAPOON ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.09 MILLION
- NAPRANUM ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.29 MILLION
- PORMPURAAB ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.6 MILLION
- TORRES SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.45 MILLION
- TORRES STRAIT ISLAND REGIONAL COUNCIL \$3.05 MILLION
- WUJAL WUJAL ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.09 MILLION
- YARRABAH ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$3.28 MILLION
- WOORABINDA ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.11 MILLION
- CHERBOURG ABORIGINAL SHIRE COUNCIL \$1.27 MILLION

## LAND SUPPLY AND GROWTH CHALLENGES IN SOUTH EAST QUEENSLAND

ACCORDING to the Queensland Government's report called 'ShapingSEQ' South East Queensland is expected to grow by 1.5 million people by 2041. As a result, the Deputy Premier announced The Growth Areas Team on 3 March 2021. This is a key initiative to address the current pressure on land supply and provide a mechanism for government, councils, developers and the industry to keep up with the increase in demand for land, housing and the supporting infrastructure that comes with it.

The COVID-19 pandemic has caused some disruption to SEQ's growth in the short term, however in the long term it is expected that the region's growth will bounce back.

The migration north from the southern states continues and is influenced by Queensland's success in responding to the impacts of COVID-19. The Brisbane Greater Capital City Area continues to draw people from interstate and recorded the strongest capital city growth nationally in the September 2020 quarter (3000 people), following strong growth in the June 2020 quarter (2300 people).

Reference: Land supply and growth challenges in South East Queensland, Queensland Government, March 2021



“

**NEARLY ONE IN FOUR QUEENSLANDERS LOST EMPLOYMENT OR WORKING HOURS AS A RESULT OF COVID-19**

## NEW DATA SHOWS WOMEN WORST HIT BY COVID-19

NEW data released by Queensland Council of Social Service (QCOSS) shows the full extent of the financial impact COVID-19 has had on Queenslanders.

Nearly one in four Queenslanders lost employment or working hours as a result of COVID-19 while 35 per cent of Queenslanders say they have experienced a reduction in their household income.

Six groups, including women, young adults, renters, casual and part-time employees, the self-employed and those looking for work, stand out as having disproportionately borne the burden of the economic slowdown.

QCOSS CEO Aimee McVeigh said the survey, administered by Deloitte, found women have lost more employment or work hours than men because of COVID-19.

Other key results from the survey revealed that the proportion of renters stating they had lost employment or working hours was nearly double that of mortgage holders. Similarly, nearly double the amount of renters said they'd found household bills difficult to afford, compared to mortgage holders. 41 per cent of casual or part-time employees had lost employment or working hours, compared to only 12 per cent of full-time employees.

Reference: New data shows women worst hit by COVID-19, QCOSS, March 2021

## COUNCILS FIGHT FOR FAIRER INSURANCE in NORTH and FAR NORTH QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND councils have taken their fight for a fairer insurance deal for North and Far North Queensland local communities to the Senate as they continue to push for Federal Government action.

The LGAQ, Townsville Mayor Jenny Hill and other North and Far North Queensland-based mayors are calling for action, including a Federal reinsurance pool, to help bring down

premium costs so residents and businesses can finally afford protections those in other parts of the country take for granted.

Mayor Hill welcomed the decision of the Senate Committee to hold its hearings in the north so it could see first-hand the issues locals were experiencing.

"It is unacceptable that our residents are having to risk being uninsured for disaster season after

disaster season because the cost to protect their homes and businesses is just too high," Mayor Hill said.

Insurance companies are putting in place policies by post code. North Queenslanders should not be disadvantaged by where they live. But the north Queensland city still posted a 12-month increase of 6.2 per cent.

Reference: Queensland councils go to Senate to fight for fairer insurance in North and Far North Qld, LGAQ, March 2021





# News

**MICHELLE HOOKE**

*celebrates*  
AT GIRUDALA

**25**  
*years*



being active members, Michelle as CEO has overseen the evolution of the organisation from its core focus of housing to evolve into medical and aged care.

In terms of numbers, Girudala Community Cooperative Society has grown from 14 to 67 housing properties, a GP Practice and now employs over 30 people.

*"It has been rewarding to see so many local Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people working at Girudala, participating in work that supports our people and contributing to the positive image of the organisation,"*

*"It makes me proud to see how far we've come as an organisation. I've particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet a lot of people and to be able to build relationships in the role,"* Michelle said.

In the last ten years, Michelle has given economic development an elevated priority in a bid to broaden and sustain the organisations financial future. The organisation will be looking towards tourism in the Whitsundays region as an opportunity.

Housing will always be the key priority for Girudala Community Cooperative Society and since joining Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing, Michelle remains excited about the future prospects of the peak body to advance the State's housing situation.

**M**ICHELLE Hooke is the CEO of Bowen's Girudala Community Cooperative Society and this month celebrates 25 years in the role since starting in March 1996.

Michelle was previously a community education officer for five schools in the Bowen district and a Director of Girudala Community Cooperative Society for two years prior to her role as CEO.

Michelle reflects on the early years, *"I've always had a keen interest in community development and while serving as a Director, a board member saw something in me and encouraged me to apply for the vacant CEO role. And I'd been successful in my application."*

Having a long-standing connection to the community and Girudala with her family



*'We have to be the changes we want to see in this world'*

*"We've learnt over the years that we won't achieve anything by working alone, and that collaborating and partnering is the key to effective change,"*

*"I think it's a great opportunity for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing to have some representation and to have a voice nationally. My tag line is 'We have to be the changes we want to see in this world'."*

In addition to Michelle's 25 years at the helm, Girudala Community Cooperative Society celebrates its 47th birthday in July this year. Home Magazine will be there to cover this milestone in June 2021.



# HOUSING ASSISTANCE IN Australia

According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare there were just under 800,000 Australians lived in social housing, living in over 437,000 dwellings across the country in 18-19.

THE GREATEST PROPORTION OF SOCIAL HOUSING DWELLINGS WERE SEPARATE, **3-BEDROOM HOUSES**

The study also uncovered that:

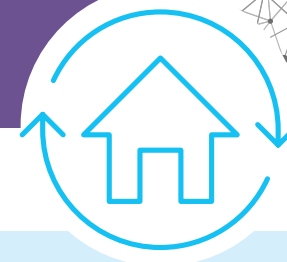
- AT **30 JUNE 2019**, THERE WERE AROUND **437,700 SOCIAL HOUSING DWELLINGS**, SIMILAR TO THE PREVIOUS 12 MONTHS AND A **7% INCREASE SINCE 2006**.
- THE MAJORITY OF SOCIAL HOUSING DWELLINGS WERE **PUBLIC HOUSING STOCK** AT 30 JUNE 2019 (70% OR 305,200 DWELLINGS); **DECREASING FROM 341,400 (84%) IN 2006**.

THE VAST MAJORITY OF SOCIAL HOUSING DWELLINGS WERE

**TENANTABLE & OCCUPIED**



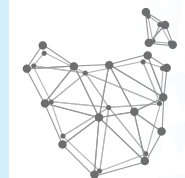
**100,200**  
**COMMUNITY HOUSING DWELLINGS**  
2019



THE NUMBER OF COMMUNITY HOUSING DWELLINGS **MORE THAN TRIPLED** (FROM 32,300 IN 2006, TO 100,200 DWELLINGS IN 2019; A 210% INCREASE OR **67,900** DWELLINGS), **PARTLY DUE TO THE TRANSFER OF OWNERSHIP OR MANAGEMENT OF PUBLIC HOUSING DWELLINGS TO COMMUNITY HOUSING ORGANISATIONS.**



AT 30 JUNE 2019, **NSW** HAD THE LARGEST NUMBER OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HOUSING DWELLINGS (100,600 AND 46,600 DWELLINGS RESPECTIVELY). **FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY HOUSING, QUEENSLAND (5,400) HAD THE MOST DWELLINGS.**





# News

## NEW HEAD TO LEAD SA'S FIRST ABORIGINAL HOUSING STRATEGY

THE Marshall Liberal Government has appointed a new Head of Aboriginal Housing to lead the rollout of South Australia's first-ever stand-alone Aboriginal Housing strategy, with the aim of improving outcomes for Aboriginal people.

Kuyani-Arrernte woman Erin Woolford was appointed to the head role in the SA Housing Authority to spearhead the development and implementation of a new Aboriginal Housing Strategy.

The new strategy will address the specific housing needs of Aboriginal people and is expected to be released in mid-2021.

Minister for Human Services Michelle Lensink said Erin has a wealth of experience working with regional and remote South Australian communities.

Ms Woolford will travel around regional and remote South Australia as part of the latest consultation with Aboriginal communities about the new strategy and is also working closely with the Aboriginal Advisory Committee to draft and implement the strategy.

Delivering a new Aboriginal Housing Strategy is one of 33 actions under the Marshall Liberal Government's once-in-a-generation 10-year strategy Our Housing Future 2020-30.

*Reference: 'New head to lead SA's first stand-alone Aboriginal housing strategy', Premier of South Australia, March 2021*



## VICTORIA LAUNCHES ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY HOME CONNECT

ABORIGINAL Housing Victoria in partnership with the Victoria Aboriginal Child Care Agency, has launched Aboriginal Community Home Connect.

The Aboriginal Community Home Connect program is a new six-month project responsible for delivering welfare and education checks to 1,565 AHV households and 2,754 Aboriginal public housing households through (at least) fortnightly telephone or other forms of internet contact over a six-month period. The project aims to support 10,000 Aboriginal people residing in AHV and public housing.

### SUPPORT INCLUDES:

- RESOURCES AND SUPPORT FOR MOB LIKE EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE AND FOOD.
- SUPPORT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH AT SCHOOL.
- THE LATEST INFORMATION ON COVID-19 AND HOW TO STAY SAFE DURING THE PANDEMIC.
- INFORMATION AND REGULAR FOLLOW-UPS FOR PHYSICAL AND MENTAL HEALTH, FINANCIAL DIFFICULTIES, HOUSING AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES.
- RESOURCES AND ADVICE TO SUPPORT TENANCIES.
- KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH MOB AND TO HAVE A YARN.

It is available only to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants living in social housing in Victoria.

*Reference: Aboriginal Community Home Connect, Aboriginal Housing Victoria, March 2021*

## WESTERN AUSTRALIA RELEASES NEW ABORIGINAL COMMUNITY CONTROLLED ORGANISATION GRANTS

THE Government of Western Australia has established a small grants program to build the capability of the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCO) sector across Western Australia.

The ACCO Capability Building Grants Program is designed to support, develop and empower ACCOs to improve their capacity to procure, lead and deliver more culturally appropriate services for Aboriginal children, families, people and communities.

It focuses exclusively on services provided by Communities.

Funding of up to \$45,454 per project is available for



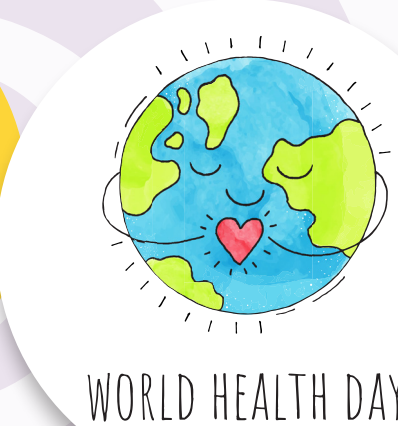
eligible Aboriginal not-for-profit or charitable organisations for capability building activities that provide services to Aboriginal children, families, people and communities within WA.

Grants are available for initiatives that will support ACCOs to improve governance, frontline service delivery, staff skills or provider transition leading to improved services provided to Aboriginal people.

*Reference: Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) Capability Building Grants Program 2021, Government of Western Australia, March 2021*

## COMING UP IN April 2021

- 2 APRIL GOOD FRIDAY
- 4 APRIL EASTER SUNDAY
- 5 APRIL EASTER MONDAY



WORLD HEALTH DAY



25 APRIL ANZAC DAY

26 APRIL ANZAC DAY PUBLIC HOLIDAY

7 APRIL WORLD HEALTH DAY

World Health Day is a commemoration of the founding of the World Health Organisation. It functions as an opportunity to focus on health issues that affect the international community.

**10 YEARS AGO (MARCH 2011)** THE NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM, LONDON, UK ANNOUNCES to return remains to the Torres Strait which it had bought from a dealer in 1884 but could not date. This return would be the largest repatriation of remains to Australia.

**20 YEARS AGO (MARCH 2001)** ADEN RIDGEWAY ADDRESSES THE UNITED NATIONS Special Session on Racism just weeks before he is elected as the Deputy Leader of the Democrats. During his term he was the only Aboriginal member of the Australian Parliament.

**30 YEARS AGO (MARCH 1991)** NATIONAL INQUIRY INTO RACIST VIOLENCE REPORT is presented to the Australian Government. It states "the level of racist violence and harassment presented in evidence to the Inquiry, particularly against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, should be a matter of concern to all Australians".

## 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](mailto:membership@housingqueensland.com.au)