

# HOME

Monthly Magazine  
NOVEMBER 2021  
ISSUE 11

# MAGAZINE

## QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT

CALLS FOR *First Nations voices*

DARLING DOWNS benefits from  
*record investment* IN SOCIAL HOUSING

*Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre*

OPENS IN **NEW** *community precinct*

**First home buyers settle for less**  
in **QUEENSLAND**

Brisbane house price *growth*  
**OUTSTRIPS** *nation*

*Kuuku Ya'u AND Utaalnganu*  
GET NATIVE TITLE

*Remote Indigenous housing*

UNABLE TO **WITHSTAND** warming climate

Clean energy *network* for **INDIGENOUS**  
**COMMUNITIES**



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander  
Housing Queensland





# November 2021



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

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**A**S Chair and Deputy Chair, both of us are now, in an officially incorporated capacity, leading the organization into a new era of governance. We are happy to report that all of our fellow board members and ATSIHQ staff are adjusting well to the new structures with a Company Secretary to be appointed this month. We're sure that all of this will allow us to continue our hard work this year and contribute to a well-functioning peak housing body that will deliver the outcomes we were designed to provide.

To maximise our impact in the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing sector, ATSIHQ is ramping up efforts to recruit members to our organisation. If you are either an Indigenous Community Housing Organisation or an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Regional Council you are eligible to be Full Members. If you are an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisation that provides housing support you can become Associate Members. If you have any questions on membership, please don't hesitate to get in touch with us.

November is another big month for ATSIHQ as we prepare for our second Board Meeting and our first Annual General Meeting. ATSIHQ looks forward to not only presenting our Members with some of our achievements this year, but more importantly we are all keen to engage as an entire organisation with our Members.

As is the case with HOME Magazine, we are dedicated to keeping our Members and Stakeholders across all of our work and the work in a regular and timely way, so quite a few updates will be the theme as we round out the year.

In the November issue of HOME Magazine, you will also see that the momentum from the Queensland Housing Strategy rolls on with projects continuing to be delivered in regional Queensland. It's also interesting to note in national news, some of the challenges surrounding climate change but also some possible solutions developed by mob for mob - which is one of the great outcomes of self-determination efforts.

#### MARY DOCTOR AND ANGELINA AKEE

CHAIRPERSON AND DEPUTY CHAIRPERSON

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

## Update #11

The ATSIHQ Board did not hold a meeting in October 2021. The following provides an update into the activity of ATSIHQ in October 2021.

#### RETROSPECTIVE REVIEW ON CAIRNS & YARRABAH COVID LOCKDOWN

In October, ATSIHQ participated in the Queensland Government DCHDE retrospective review on the Cairns and Yarrabah Covid Lockdowns. The purpose of this review was to gain an understanding of how to improve support to vulnerable people during lockdowns. Service providers provided valuable information which will inform future lock-down processes and housing support.

#### COMMUNITY HOUSING PROVIDER DISCUSSION ON NEW MASTER AGREEMENT

ATSIHQ, together with QShelter and CHIA Queensland, have been invited by the Queensland Government to form the new Queensland Community Housing Steering Committee. The new steering committee met several times during October to discuss the new master agreement that will be used by the Queensland Government DCHDE in 2022. The work on the new master agreement has taken over 2 years to finalise and is almost ready for use.

#### HOUSING SECTOR STRENGTHENING PLAN WORKING GROUP

ATSIHQ has been busy working with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing stakeholders and the Queensland and Australian Governments to identify ICHO Sector strengthening activities to increase the stability and success of the ICHO Sector. These national discussions are ongoing with the intent to finalise an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Sector Strengthening Plan by March 2022.

#### RESIDENTIAL TENANCIES AUTHORITY

ATSIHQ has had its first formal meeting with the leadership of the Residential Tenancies Authority on Brisbane. During this meeting, ATSIHQ

and RTA discussed their priorities and agreed to support each other on future projects.

#### NATSIHA MEETINGS

ATSIHQ continues to be involved in national Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing matters. We continued to work closely with the national peak body – the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA) on a range of matters including their priorities, funding and research.

#### COMMUNITY CONTROLLED COVID BRIEFING

In late October, ATSIHQ participated in an important Covid meeting in Brisbane that was organised by the Indigenous Urban Health Institute (IUHI) and supported by the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Sector. The event detailed alarming Covid infection rates if the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population remained unpopulated when the Queensland border opens on 17 December 2021. It was followed by an online appeal to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community to get vaccinated and followed by a press conference.

#### NRSCH WEBINAR

During October, ATSIHQ participated in a National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH) webinar on "How to complete the Financial Performance Reporting" component of compliance. The session went for 1 hour and consisted of 30 minutes of presentation and 30 minutes of question and answers.

The second ATSIHQ Board Meeting and first ATSIHQ AGM is to be conducted on **Wednesday, 17 November 2021.**



# QUEENSLAND GOVERNMENT CALLS for FIRST NATIONS VOICES

INDIGENOUS leaders who want a greater say on the laws, policies and programs that affect their communities are urged to put their hand up to join Queensland’s First Nations Consultative Committee (FNCC).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Craig Crawford today called for applicants to be part of an eight-member committee to lead reforms as part of Indigenous Voice model.

He said the committee will guide the design of Indigenous Voice reforms as part of a state and national agenda.

*“It will reflect the priorities, aspirations and issues that matter most to Queensland’s Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.”*

Mr Crawford said the eight-member committee, including two co-chairs, would

represent geographic regions including the Torres Strait Islands, Cape York Peninsula, Far North Queensland, North Queensland, Central Queensland, South-West Queensland, South-East Queensland, Gulf and West Queensland.

*“Members will demonstrate the leadership, knowledge and expertise needed to advocate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander of all ages, abilities, genders and locations across all levels of government,”* he said.

*“The committee members will be asked to draw upon their traditional or historical connection to their region, experience and community support to develop Queensland’s preferred Indigenous Voice model informed by a diverse range of First Nations views.”*

Reference: ‘Queensland Government calls for First Nations voices’, Queensland Government, November 2021

# DARLING DOWNS BENEFITS FROM RECORD INVESTMENT in SOCIAL HOUSING



THE Darling Downs has received a boost in social housing with the opening of a new 12 Unit complex in Toowoomba.

Minister for Communities, Housing and Digital Economy Leeanne Enoch said the new two storey apartment building located in Harristown has transformed the lives of tenants by providing safe, secure and stable accommodation.

*“The Palaszczuk Government has invested \$3.86 million in the construction of the unit complex which has supported 12 FTE jobs on site and many more through the local building supply chain.”*

*“QuickStarts Qld, a component of the new \$1.9 billion Queensland*

*Housing Growth Initiative (QHIGI), will see construction on an additional 100 new social homes commenced in the Darling Downs region through a \$32.5 million investment over the next four years.*

*“This injection builds on the 65 new social homes already commenced in the Darling Downs under the Queensland Housing Strategy 2017–2027 and the Works for Tradies program.”*

Minister Enoch said the supply of social and affordable housing will increase by almost 10,000 over the first eight years of the Housing Strategy, including 7,400 new homes over the next four years.

Reference: ‘Darling Downs benefits from record investment in social housing’, Queensland Government, November 2021



# Gladstone NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE OPENS in new community PRECINCT

CENTRAL Queensland has a new hub to strengthen the community’s access to services, with the Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre’s new location officially opened today.

Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch opened the new home for the Centre in the Phillip Street Communities and Family Precinct, after relocating from Toolooa Street.

*“The Palaszczuk Government will invest the proceeds from the sale of the centre’s former Toolooa Street location in the Phillip Street Precinct, which is great for the Gladstone community,”* Ms Enoch said.

*“The centre works in conjunction with other non-government organisations and community groups to deliver vital services and events, including the seniors on-line learning program, the School Savvy CQ campaign with Centacare CQ and local schools, and the coordination of volunteers for the Philip Street Precinct and community garden.”*

The centre has also run a number of programs and projects including a financial resilience working group, a roads education program and welcome packs for new Gladstone residents.

Reference: ‘Gladstone Neighbourhood Centre opens in new community precinct’, Queensland Government, November 2021

# FIRST HOME BUYERS SETTLE FOR LESS TO BUY IN QUEENSLAND

QUEENSLAND first home buyers are bucking the national trend by snapping up real estate at the fastest rate in 13 years, the Real Estate Institute of Queensland (REIQ) says.

REIQ chief executive officer Antonia Mercorella said first home buyers were buying around 3,000 homes every month in the Sunshine state.

Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) data said a year ago that figure was down to around 2,000 a month, but sales started to outpace other states early on in the new year.

*“Certainly what we are seeing the market doing nationally is pretty extraordinary and so you can understand why there is a lot of talk around affordability, and that first home buyers are being shut out of the market,”* Ms Mercorella said.

*“But I think when you look at Queensland it is quite a different story and the statistics tell us that actually in Queensland, when we look at first home buyer loans, they are at the highest level we have seen since 2008.”*

Reference: ‘First home buyers settle for less to buy into Queensland’s soaring housing property market’, ABC News, November 2021



# BRISBANE HOUSE PRICE GROWTH OUTSTRIPS NATION

BRISBANE’S housing market was the fastest growing in Australia during October, according to new data from CoreLogic.

Brisbane housing values grew 2.5% during the month, outstripping the national growth rate of 1.5%.

Regional Queensland was the second highest performing market of its kind in Australia, growing at 1.9% – only behind regional New South Wales at 2.1%.

While the national housing market continued to record above average growth, CoreLogic says the market has lost momentum since it reached its peak monthly growth rate of 2.8% in March.

CoreLogic Asia Pacific Research Director Tim Lawless says the conditions are due to worsening housing affordability, rising supply levels and less stimulus. “Housing prices continue to outpace wages by a ratio of about 12:1,” Lawless says.

*“New listings have surged by 47% since the recent low in September and housing-focused stimulus such as HomeBuilder...have now expired. Combining these factors with the subtle tightening of credit assessments set for November 1, and it’s highly likely the housing market will continue to gradually lose momentum.”*

Reference: ‘Brisbane house price growth outstrips nation’, REIQ, November 2021



# News

## KUUKU YA’U and UUTAALNGANU People’s Get Native Title

THE Federal Court in Cairns recognised the Kuuku Ya’u and Uutaalnganu People’s native title rights to more than 210,000 hectares of land in Cape York. It is the first determination of Queensland’s largest ever native title claim.

Resources Minister Scott Stewart congratulated the Kuuku Ya’u People and Uutaalnganu (Night Island) People on reaching the historic milestone.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Craig Crawford said the determinations are the first in the 79,412 square kilometre Cape York United claim – the largest native title claim in Queensland history.

As part of the determinations, the Kuuku Ya’u People are recognised as the native title holders of 120,268 hectares of country around Lockhart River. This is the third successful Kuuku Ya’u native title claim.

The Uutaalnganu People had their native title rights and interests recognised over 98,324 hectares of land south of Lockhart River. Uutaalnganu Traditional Owner and Mayor for Lockhart River Aboriginal Shire Council Wayne Butcher said the determination was justice for his people.

*Reference: ‘Signing of historic FNQ Native Title determination celebrated’, Queensland Government, November 2021*

# FAMILY and CHILD CONNECT FOR QUEENSLANDERS IN NEED

QUEENSLAND families facing family and parenting challenges are encouraged to pick up the phone and call Family and Child Connect for free, confidential advice and support.

Minister for Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs Leanne Linard today launched a new awareness campaign to remind Queensland families that help was always available and Family and Child Connect services have someone ready to listen when times are tough.

Ms Linard said there were 17 Family and Child Connect services located across Queensland, provided by trusted organisations ready to link families with the right service at the right time.

“Every family faces different challenges, but our experienced staff can provide advice and support for a wide range of issues including managing children’s behaviour, building stronger family relationships or addressing violence at home,” she said.

“They can also help with budgeting and managing money, addressing alcohol, drug or gambling problems, and liaising with housing, health care or other community or government services.”

*Reference: ‘Help is just a phone call away for Queensland families in need’, Queensland Government, November 2021*

# Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Social Housing

In September 2021, The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare released its latest findings into Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Social Housing. These findings also formed part of the snapshot, ‘Australia’s welfare 2021’.



TABLE 1: TYPES OF SOCIAL HOUSING AVAILABLE TO ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER PEOPLE

## TYPES OF SOCIAL HOUSING

TYPE	INDIGENOUS SPECIFIC HOUSING	OWNER AND/OR MANAGED
PUBLIC HOUSING	NO	STATE OR TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
COMMUNITY HOUSING	NO	COMMUNITY ORGANISATION
STATE OWNED AND MANAGED INDIGENOUS HOUSING (SOMIH)	YES	STATE OR TERRITORY GOVERNMENT
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITY HOUSING (ICH)	YES	ABORIGINAL OR TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER ORGANISATION

**SOCIAL HOUSING**  
Social housing is affordable rental housing provided by state and territory governments and the community sector. Its purpose is to assist people who are unable to access suitable rental accommodation in the private rental market (Thomas 2018).

- As at 30 June 2020 (AIHW 2021):
- 58,212 Indigenous Australian households were in social housing:
    - 34,824 in public housing
    - 13,822 in SOMIH
    - 9,566 in community housing
  - 17,396 ICH dwellings were managed by funded and unfunded ICH organisations
  - 14% of households in social housing included an Indigenous member (AIHW 2021).



Tenant satisfaction is measured by how the tenant/s rate the condition of their home and the number of its working facilities (see Housing quality). According to the Social Housing Survey, 2018:

- 80% of community housing tenants were satisfied with their housing, compared with 74% of public housing and 66% of SOMIH tenants
- 79% of Indigenous households said that the size of their dwelling met their needs
- Satisfaction with amenities has declined since 2016 among SOMIH tenants in respect to:
  - the number of bedrooms (from 84% to 83%)
  - the privacy of the home (from 88% to 85%)
  - thermal comfort (from 67% to 62%) (AIHW 2019b).



# News

## REMOTE INDIGENOUS HOUSING UNABLE TO WITHSTAND WARMING CLIMATE

INDIGENOUS housing in regional and remote communities in Australia will suffer the impacts of climate change earlier and more disproportionately than most urban Australian settings, new research reveals.

If the sustainability of housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities is not prioritised urgently, they will soon become uninhabitable, with climate migration forcing families away from their traditional lands.

These findings from research released on Thursday by the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute have stressed the need for a national policy to address the need to improve standards across the country.

*“Neither standard nor improved housing designs adequately cater for current and anticipated hygrothermal [heat and moisture] pressures under climate change,”* the report stated.

The research in Sustainable Indigenous housing in regional and remote Australia explored 336 simulations across arid, tropical and hot-warm climate conditions where the majority of Indigenous populations are based in the country.

Using a projection of 1.5C increase in these areas, the findings conclude that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will not be able to live comfortably - even with short-term solutions such as air-conditioning - due to overcrowding.

Reference: ‘Remote Indigenous housing unable to withstand warming climate, report finds’, SBS News, November 2021

## VICTORIAN INDIGENOUS ORGANISATIONS have MORTGAGES REMOVED

THE Victorian Government is supporting self-determination and increasing financial autonomy for Aboriginal organisations by releasing full ownership of five more properties back to the community.

Minister for Aboriginal Affairs Gabrielle Williams today announced that the latest group of properties owned by Aboriginal organisations have had their first mortgages removed as part of the First Mortgage and Community Infrastructure Program.

## Clean energy NETWORK FOR INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES

FIRST Nations groups, unions, industry bodies and academics have launched a new network to build renewable energy projects in Indigenous communities.

The First Nations Clean Energy Network aims to forge partnerships between communities and industry to develop renewable energy projects on Indigenous land to provide reliable power and end energy insecurity.

Karrina Nolan from community group Original Power said the network’s goal was to bring clean, reliable and affordable power to communities with projects that were community owned with huge potential for solar power, especially in the outback.

A recent report from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute found global warming and inadequate housing were putting Indigenous communities in remote and regional areas at risk.

The report called for the construction of housing that could better withstand climate change and be regularly maintained by authorities.

Ms Nolan said poor housing and unreliable electricity contributed to poor health in remote and regional communities, and having access to cheap and reliable power would improve living standards.

Reference: ‘First Nations clean energy network set up to deliver cheap and reliable power to Indigenous communities’, ABC News, November 2021

COMING UP IN

# December 2021

**Closed for the Holiday**

10 DECEMBER

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS DAY**

A day to celebrate the basic rights of all humans, and to remember that many people still have to fight for their human rights.



**WORLD AIDS DAY**

1 DECEMBER

**WORLD AIDS DAY**

World Aids Day raises awareness across the world and in the community about the issues surrounding HIV/AIDS. It is a day for people to show their support for people living with HIV and to commemorate people who have died.



23 DECEMBER

**ATSIHQ OFFICE CLOSURE**

ATSIHQ will close its office for the Christmas and New Year break and will return on Monday, 10 January 2022.

25 DECEMBER

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

26 DECEMBER

**BOXING DAY****10 YEARS AGO** (NOVEMBER 2011)

**NORTHERN TERRITORY ELDERS AND COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES ISSUE** a statement rejecting an extension of the NT intervention legislation. Two weeks later, The Australian Government introduces the Stronger Futures in the Northern Territory Bill 2011 to the Parliament to extend the intervention.

**20 YEARS AGO** (NOVEMBER 2001)

**POPE JOHN PAUL II ISSUES A FORMAL APOLOGY** on behalf of the Vatican to the affected Aboriginal families for the actions of any and all Catholic authorities or organisations in connection with the Stolen Generations.

**30 YEARS AGO** (NOVEMBER 1991)

**JOAN SHELDON SUCCESSFULLY CHALLENGES** Denver Beanland to become leader of the Queensland Liberal Party.

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)