

HOME

Monthly Magazine
SEPTEMBER 2021
ISSUE 9

MAGAZINE

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for **ABORIGINAL FAMILIES** in **WA**



Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland



ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND
HOME MAGAZINE *ISSUE 9*



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

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Looking Back in History



THIS month, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland begins an exciting phase of our organisations development.

We mentioned in last month's HOME Magazine that Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Queensland was embarking on some significant stakeholder engagement activities to increase our impact on the housing sector. This comes after our organisations hard work over the last ten months to bring the required governance, membership and staffing structures together to form our company and most importantly, provide a strong platform to work with members.

This month, we look forward to reaching out to prospective members to partner with our organisation to help us achieve our vision to, "eliminate the disparities in housing experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in Queensland." Together our voices will help improve the outlook for our sector and provide more voice to ICHO's within the community.

As a reminder, we welcome applications from three types of members: Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled housing organisations; Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander Shire Councils; or Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled organisations that provide housing support.

This month also marks a significant milestone of our first Board meeting. In this meeting, we will set the terms for governance over the next three years and elect both our Chair and Deputy. The date for our Annual General Meeting will also be set and we look forward to engaging with our future members from then on. We look forward to bringing you an update in October's HOME Magazine to share what was covered at our first Board meeting.

MARY DOCTOR AND ANGELINA AKEE

INTERIM CO-CHAIRS

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING QUEENSLAND

Update #9

In a further sign of its evolution, this month ATSIHQ will be moving to a Quarterly Board Meeting format.

MATTERS FOR NOTING

THE FIRST BOARD MEETING THIS MONTH WILL ALSO HOLD EXTRA SIGNIFICANCE FOR ATSIHQ as a Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson will be selected by the initial ATSIHQ Directors that served during the incorporation of our company in May 2021.

THESE ARE THE HOUSING WORKING GROUP MEMBERS: Mary Doctor, General Manager, Umpi Korumba Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Housing, Brisbane; Angelina Akee, Chairperson, A.B.I.S Community Cooperative Society Ltd, Townsville; Gary White, CEO, Goolburri Regional Housing Company, Dalby; Michelle Hooke, CEO, Girudala Community Cooperative Society Ltd, Bowen; Virginia Mayo, Director, Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Corporation for Welfare Services, Mt Isa; Glenis Grogan, CEO, Ngoonbi Cooperative Society Ltd, Kuranda; and Charles Martin, Vice President, Torres Strait Co-Operative Society Ltd, Thursday Island.

IN SEPTEMBER, ATSIHQ WILL ALSO BE RECRUITING for a Company Secretary who will be responsible for administering the affairs of the organisation and managing the business of the board. In October, we hope to have the Company Secretary on board for pivotal board meetings in the future.

AT AN OPERATIONAL LEVEL, our CEO Neil Willmetts and our GM, Communications & Partnerships John Huggins, have been busy participating in stakeholder meetings and developing membership information together to reach and engage with prospective members. We believe that now is the time to gather together from all parts of Queensland to form a collective voice for the future of our Sector.

WITH THREE QUARTERS OF THE YEAR FAST APPROACHING, we have done the required work in setting the strong foundations for this organisation, it is now time for us to join with members to look at a representative group for the Sector.

IN ORDER TO REPRESENT OUR MEMBERS IN THE RIGHT WAY and advance our Sectors interests, we need to recruit more staff at ATSIHQ. In the coming months, ATSIHQ will build the organisation with new faces who come equipped with skills and expertise in areas relevant to housing. We look forward to building our organisation in this way and will have new employees to introduce in coming months.

IT IS NOW TIME FOR US TO JOIN WITH MEMBERS TO LOOK AT A REPRESENTATIVE GROUP FOR THE SECTOR.



News

AFFORDABLE HOUSING STOCK GROWS IN *BUNDABERG*

A NEW social housing unit complex has been completed four months ahead of schedule in Avenell Heights and will soon provide a safe, secure and sustainable home to 16 Queensland households.

Minister for Communities and Housing, Leeanne Enoch said the complex of two-bedroom units was built through a partnership with Regional Housing Limited.

“The Palaszczuk Government has funded the construction of this \$3.96 million project under our Partnering for Growth initiative,” Minister Enoch said.

“Investing in infrastructure is an important part of our COVID-19 recovery plan to support our economy and create jobs.”

“Community housing providers have an important role to play in delivering social and affordable homes at subsidised rates for low to moderate income earners.”

“The Queensland Government looks forward to continuing to work with Regional Housing Limited to provide safe, secure and sustainable housing for Queenslanders who need it most.”

“This project has also supported 13 full-time equivalent jobs in the local building industry, plus many more through the building supply chain.”

Reference: ‘Partnership boosts affordable housing stock in Bundaberg’, Queensland Government, September 2021



MORE than 30,000 Australians relocated to the Sunshine State in 2020, a 15-year high. In the three months to last December, almost 5000 moved north just from Sydney and Melbourne.

With a population of roughly 3.7 million, Queensland’s southeast corner is already the nation’s fastest-growing zone. Forecasts suggest it will top five million by the middle of the next decade.

While the Premier of Queensland cites the rush to escape lockdown as the immediate reason for the influx, real estate experts agree the trend is likely long-term.

Brisbane’s median house price of \$678,000 is less than half of Sydney’s and on par with that for Adelaide and Hobart. Yet by the time the 2032 Olympic Games come to town, the figure is likely to be \$1.5 million.

CoreLogic data shows the city’s annual housing value growth at 18.4 per cent. It ranked third-fastest city nationally for August (2 per cent) behind only much smaller markets in Canberra (2.2 per cent) and Hobart (2.3 per cent).

Reference: ‘Queensland’s long-haul property rush’, AAP, September 2021



CONSTRUCTION has commenced on a new affordable housing project on the Gold Coast, being built in partnership with a registered not-for-profit community housing provider and the Palaszczuk Government.

Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch said more projects like this would be delivered across the state as part of the Palaszczuk Government’s bold new Housing and Homelessness Action Plan 2021-2025, which is placing vulnerable Queenslanders into housing sooner.

The Eugaree Street project will deliver five two-bedroom and two one-bedroom units of affordable housing along with eight car parks and will create an estimated 20 jobs working on the building and many more across the construction industry, delivering on Queensland’s plan for economic recovery from COVID -19.

Minister for Science and Youth Affairs and Member for Gaven Meaghan Scanlon said this exciting new construction will provide a great boost for those in need in the Gold Coast community.

Reference: ‘New affordable housing project on the Gold Coast’, Queensland Government, September 2021

QUEENSLANDERS WAITING for PUBLIC HOUSING

MORE than 2,000 households were added to the social housing register in Queensland last financial year, though demand is stabilising according to the state government.

As of June 2021, there were 27,933 applications for public housing, amounting to 50,301 people.

It’s a jump from June 2020 but less than half the size of the increase the year before – when the register went from 21,242 in June 2019 to 25,853.

Close to 6,000 of the households currently waiting are in the Brisbane City Council area, and more than 3,000 are in the Gold Coast City Council area.

There are around 2,000 households waiting in Moreton Bay, Townsville, Cairns and Logan local government areas and more than 1,700 in the Sunshine Coast.

Of the applications, 20,408 had been classified as “very high need”, which includes people who are homeless, or have inappropriate housing and have multiple, complex factors significantly impacting their ability to access and sustain housing.

Reference: ‘Thousands of Queenslanders waiting for public housing amid ‘crisis’’, ABC News, September 2021

AWARDS for QUEENSLAND PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS

PUBLIC housing tenants across the state, with a passion for gardening, arts, culture, volunteering or their community, are encouraged to enter the popular My Home Awards that recognise tenants’ efforts to improve their homes and communities.

Minister for Communities and Housing Leeanne Enoch said the 2021 My Home Awards – Connections are now open.

“We have thousands of wonderful public housing tenants across the state – people who are making their homes and their communities better places to live,” Minister Enoch said.

“The My Home Awards celebrate their positive contributions and connections to their homes, communities and culture.”

“We know that a home is much more than simply a roof over our heads – it’s where our families grow and where memories are made.”

“Everyday Queenslanders living in public housing demonstrate pride for their homes, and we want to acknowledge them and their efforts.”

Reference: ‘Awards open for public housing tenants with green thumbs and community spirit’, Queensland Government, September 2021



News

160,000 HECTARES RETURNED ON PATH TO RECONCILIATION

MORE than 160,000 hectares of land in Cape York has been handed back to the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people in a historic announcement today by the Palaszczuk Government and Traditional Owners.

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships Minister Craig Crawford and representatives from the Eastern Kuku Yalanji People signed an agreement this morning at a special ceremony in Bloomfield, north of Wujal Wujal.

It will see the handback of four national parks, including the world-famous Daintree National Park, and stretch from north of Port Douglas to south of Cooktown, while a new nature refuge will also be created.

The Daintree, Ngalba-bulal, Kalkajaka and the Hope Islands National Parks (Cape York Peninsula Aboriginal Land) will now be jointly-managed by the Eastern Kuku Yalanji people and Queensland Government.

Minister Scanlon said Australia has an uncomfortable and ugly shared past in this country, and the handback was a key step on the path towards reconciliation.

Reference: '160,000 hectares returned on path to reconciliation', Queensland Government, September 2021



WORLD HERITAGE AREA RENAMED K'GARI

THE World Heritage Area within Great Sandy National Park which is centred on Fraser Island, along with the surrounding waters and parts of the nearby mainland, has been renamed K'gari - the original Butchulla people's name for the island.

The move was celebrated at a ceremony with Butchulla representatives and Elders on K'gari.

The name change was formally adopted at the recent 44th session of the World Heritage Committee and is a major milestone in a long running campaign by the region's traditional owners.

Butchulla Aboriginal Corporation Chairperson Jade Gould said her people welcome the name change of the world heritage area to K'gari.

"The Butchulla people have been campaigning for years to change the name," Ms Gould said.

"The name Fraser Island is a tribute to Eliza Fraser—a woman whose narrative directly lead to the massacre and dispossession of the Butchulla people.

"A word meaning paradise in Butchulla language is a much more fitting name for such an iconic place."

Environment Minister Meaghan Scanlon said the formal adoption of "K'gari (Fraser Island)" for the World Heritage Area was a big milestone and reason to celebrate.

Reference: 'World Heritage Area renamed K'gari after long campaign by Butchulla people', Queensland Government, September 2021

Housing Affordability

According to Australian Institute of Health and Welfare's 'Housing Affordability' Snapshot, in 2017-18, 11.5% of households spent 30% to 50% of gross income on housing costs with another 5.5% spending 50% or more (ABS 2019).

30-50%
OF GROSS INCOME SPENT ON HOUSING COSTS.
2017/18
(ABS 2019)

THESE PROPORTIONS HAVE INCREASED FROM 9.2% AND 4.6% RESPECTIVELY SINCE 1994-95 (TABLE 1).

% OF INCOME SPENT ON HOUSING COSTS

	1994-95 %	2005-06 %	2017-18 %
50 OR MORE (MORE LIKELY TO BE IN FINANCIAL STRESS)	4.6	5.1	5.5
30-50	9.2	11.4	11.5
25-30	5.8	7.0	7.6
25 OR LESS (LESS LIKELY TO BE IN FINANCIAL STRESS)	80.3	76.5	75.3

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THE PROPORTION OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME SPENT ON HOUSING COSTS IN TABLE 1 DOES NOT CONSIDER THAT HIGH-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS MAY CHOOSE TO SPEND MORE THAN 30% OF THEIR HOUSEHOLD INCOME ON HOUSING. THEIR HIGHER INCOME MEANS THEY HAVE SUFFICIENT INCOME AFTER HOUSING COSTS TO AVOID FINANCIAL STRESS.
(AHURI 2018; ROWLEY ET AL. 2015)

\$

BY CONTRAST, LOW-INCOME HOUSEHOLDS (LOWEST 40% OF HOUSEHOLD INCOME DISTRIBUTION) ARE MORE LIKELY TO LACK THE RESOURCES TO DEAL WITH FINANCIAL IMPACTS ARISING FROM CRITICAL LIFE EVENTS AND/OR HOUSING MARKET FACTORS, OFTEN LEADING THEM TO NEED ADDITIONAL HOUSING ASSISTANCE.
(AIHW 2021)

News



COMMITTEE TO ADVISE ON ABORIGINAL HOUSING IN SA

THE South Australian State Government has announced a new committee to advise the South Australian Housing Trust Board on improving housing outcomes for Aboriginal people. It will also advise the Board on a range of housing challenges and help shape outcomes for Aboriginal communities across the state.

It will help achieve a variety of outcomes including increasing the SA Housing Authority's capacity to recruit and retain Aboriginal staff, as well as help shape the State Government's new Housing and Homelessness Strategy. The committee will also advise the Board on the development of an Aboriginal Housing Strategy for South Australia, due by the end of the year.

The appointed members represent are: Shona Reid (Chairperson), South Australian Housing Trust Board member; Dr Roger Thomas, Commissioner for Aboriginal Engagement; Ms April Lawrie, Commissioner for Aboriginal Children and Young People; Ms Olive Bennell, Anglicare; Ms Deb Moyle, Red Cross; Ms Eunice Aston, business owner; Mr Klynton Wanganeen, CEO Narungga Nation Aboriginal Corporation; Mr Wayne Miller, CEO Ceduna Aboriginal Corporation; Mr Zibeon Fielding, Nganampa Health and Mr Kyran Dixon, Ernst & Young.

Reference: 'New committee to advise on Aboriginal Housing', South Australia Government, September 2021

HOME OWNERSHIP FOR ABORIGINAL FAMILIES IN WA

TWO Aboriginal families will enter home ownership for the first time through the Western Australian Government's \$9.7 million Jalbi Jiya housing program.

The program was co-designed and is run in partnership with Nyamba Buru Yawuru (NBY), the operational company of the Yawuru people.

Funded through the Department of Communities North West Aboriginal Housing Fund, the Jalbi Jiya program was established in 2020 and offers culturally safe support services, alongside 25 affordable rental homes. Jalbi Jiya means 'your home' in the language of the Yawuru people, the Traditional Owners of Broome.

Seventeen of the 25 homes are transitional homes which are designed to provide a pathway from renting to home ownership.

Families that occupy these homes are provided a variety of supports, including financial counselling, to assist them on the journey to potential home ownership.

The remaining eight properties are used as long-term rentals to provide stability to families and enable economic participation.

All 25 homes in the program are currently occupied with several more families on the pathway to home ownership.

Reference: 'First family enters home ownership through Jalbi Jiya program', Western Australia Government, September 2021



NT ABORIGINAL BUSINESS ENTERPRISES to provide HOUSING MAINTENANCE

NEARLY \$9 million worth of tenders for housing maintenance services have been awarded this month, covering remote communities in the Big Rivers region, Groote Archipelago and the Tiwi Islands.

The tenders, awarded to four Aboriginal Business Enterprises, will help to build the capacity of some of the Territory's most remote communities.

Remote housing maintenance services tenders have been awarded to: Bathurst Island Housing Association (\$4,370,625); Anindilyakwa Housing Aboriginal Corporation (\$2,362,500); Jawoyn Association Aboriginal Corporation (\$1,523,081); and Alawa Aboriginal Corporation (\$498,750).

Three of the contracts were issued following select tendering in an effort to increase the participation of Aboriginal Business Enterprises in remote housing maintenance services.

Following a review of procedures, the NT Government has combined housing maintenance officer and trade panel functions into one contract for remote communities or community clusters.

For the first time, contractors will triage work requests through community-based maintenance service officers who will engage tradies to undertake repairs.

Reference: 'Remote housing maintenance tenders awarded to Aboriginal Business Enterprises', Northern Territory Government, September 2021

COMING UP IN October 2021



4 OCTOBER
QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY



24 OCTOBER
UNITED NATIONS DAY

This day marks the anniversary of the founding of the United Nations in 1945.



20 OCTOBER
PINK RIBBON DAY

Cancer Council's Pink Ribbon Day helps raise funds in support of the many thousands of Australian women affected by breast and gynaecological cancers.



The purpose of World Homeless Day is to draw attention to homeless people's needs locally and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness.



29 OCTOBER
EKKA HOLIDAY

LOOKING BACK IN History

10 YEARS AGO (SEPTEMBER 2011)
THE FEDERAL COURT RULES THAT ANDREW BOLT has breached the Racial Discrimination Act by challenging the right of people of mixed descent to claim Aboriginal ancestry.

20 YEARS AGO (SEPTEMBER 2001)
ANSETT AUSTRALIA, one of the oldest airlines in the world and the second-largest in Australia goes under administration.

30 YEARS AGO (SEPTEMBER 1991)
THE TRIAL OF FORMER QUEENSLAND PREMIER SIR JOH BJELKE-PETERSEN begins in Brisbane.



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