

Aboriginal housing: capacities and challenges

Tom Slockee
Chairperson, Aboriginal Housing Office
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NSW Aboriginal Housing Office



- The majority of the Aboriginal population live in urban and metropolitan centres;
- Most Aboriginal people live in the rental sector, with one-third in social housing;
- Over 4000 households are experiencing overcrowding and over one quarter of these are in Sydney region;
- Affordability and housing stress are key issues with over one quarter of Aboriginal households in housing poverty.

NSW Aboriginal Housing Office



Priorities

- Sector Reform
- Funding and Planning
- Partnerships
- Community Engagement

Remote Indigenous Housing National Partnership Agreement



- significantly reducing severe overcrowding in remote Aboriginal communities - 310 dwellings over ten years ;
- improving the condition of existing houses in remote Aboriginal
- ensuring that rental houses are well maintained and managed in remote Aboriginal communities.
- significant funding for backlog maintenance and repairs
- improved tenancy and asset management within the Aboriginal community housing sector

Major Challenges

- Over 250 independent Aboriginal Housing Providers (inc LALCs) About 4000 properties
- Major challenge with Local Aboriginal Land Councils
- New regulatory provisions under the NSWALRA Act require NSW Aboriginal Land Council to approve Local Aboriginal Land Councils to operate a Social Housing Scheme. (a majority of LALCs will not get approval)
- NSWALC working with the AHO to develop a Common Assessment System
- Major issues relating to housing on ex Aboriginal Reserves (62 in NSW)

AHO Registered Providers

- New registration process
- Have to meet standards (Regulatory Code)
- A small number of Aboriginal organisations and Regional Housing Services
- Partnership with new mainstream Community Housing (shared services but specialised tenancy services)
- Head Leases (Stability and viability)
- Reporting requirements back to local communities
- Opportunities to manage other support services (Family Support, Youth Support) Project management
- Backlog of R and M
- Growth