

IMPROVING ACCESS AND SERVICE DELIVERY FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

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Victoria is a wealthy state but Aboriginal people are:

9 times as likely to use **homelessness services**

8 times as likely to **sleep rough** and Aboriginal rough sleepers are more likely to
have exited an institution, especially prison
be women - 41% compared to 34% general community
be homeless due to family violence - 20% compared to 14%
be under 14 years of age

9 times as likely to live in **Social Housing** - 26% compared to 3%

About half as likely to **own a home**

But overcrowding is apparently reducing - likely due to under-reporting

Why is it so hard to break through disadvantage?

200 years of colonisation has resulted in

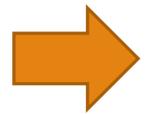
- Early and rapid disconnection and forced removal from land and community
- Forced removal of children
- Loss of language and culture
- Breakdown in traditional values



Today's generation of Aboriginal Victorians:

Experiences persistent and inter generational disadvantage including racism and exclusion

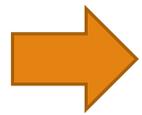
Is more likely to be under 25, partner earlier, start having children earlier, have more children on average, and experience household breakdown at a greater rate than the general population



driving demand for housing from a far younger age

And ...has not benefitted from an inter-generational tradition of private home ownership

- Is less likely to have parents who own a home or have hefty superannuation balances
- Can't draw on the 'bank of mum and dad' to buy their own home



more reliant on a relatively dwindling supply of social housing

.... and in Victoria **public housing** is taking up the growth



Start by thinking about people and rights

- **UN Declaration:** Indigenous people have the right to determine and develop strategies for exercising their rights. In particular the right to be actively involved in developing and determining health, housing and other social and economic programs affecting them and as far as possible administer such programs through their own institutions.
- **Human rights:** respect, protection and promotion and fulfilment of the rights of Aboriginal people
- **Self determination:** is at the heart of Aboriginal housing and homeless policy and practice
- **Client centred** life course approaches shape the design and delivery
- **Capacity building** is part of self determination



**Australia's first-ever
treaty legislation
passed in Victoria**

Choice for Aboriginal people



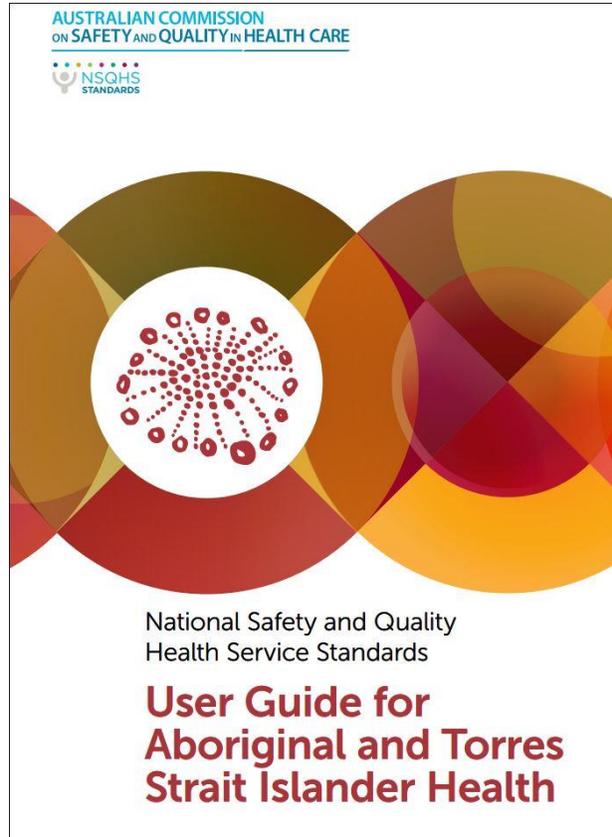
Well designed culturally appropriate Aboriginal housing and homelessness frameworks include:

Regulatory environments that are culturally appropriate and inclusive for Aboriginal service providers and ensure a culturally safe and appropriate mainstream

An Aboriginal housing sector that owns houses and land and has the capacity to support clients with housing and other service needs

Mainstream housing and homelessness providers that are culturally safe

Regulatory and reporting environments



Does the regulatory environment ensure mainstream providers are culturally safe?

NSQHS Standards – exemplar of good practice

Are the regulatory standards appropriate for and consistent with the objectives of Aboriginal housing organisations and people?

Can Aboriginal providers get a foot in the door?

How do we know whether Aboriginal people are included in community housing?

Is there adequate reporting on Aboriginal access?



Aboriginal housing sector

Strengths

Aboriginal ownership, Aboriginal culture, Aboriginal community engagement

Joined up service delivery

Cradle to grave support

Weaknesses

Lack critical mass

Need capacity building and support

Multiple and complex Aboriginal disadvantage

Cessation of NPARIH has created real problems

Patchy data sets

Priorities and actions

Partnerships respectful of self determination and Aboriginal strengths

Alliances for aspects of service delivery, back of house support both within the Aboriginal housing sector and with mainstream

Mainstream must know when to exit

Government action to invest in and transfer management and ownership of properties

Government recognition of disadvantage - paying a margin or developing outcome based funding models

It is about consent not just consultation

Culturally safe mainstream providers

Review all of what you do:

- Leadership and governance
- Policy development
- Program and services
- Communications
- Workplace organisation and development

- To achieve

- Partnership,
- Participation and Engagement
- Cultural Safety
- Respect and Recognition
- Duty of Care
- Evaluation and Monitoring
- Accountability, Reporting and Transparency



Actions:

- ➔ Get the regulatory environment right
- ➔ Provide user choice
- ➔ Support Aboriginal providers to thrive
- ➔ Increase Aboriginal ownership of houses and land
- ➔ Ensure that mainstream providers reform practice at all levels to achieve cultural inclusion and safety
- ➔ Commitment by Governments fund comprehensive and cohesive service systems, recognising disadvantage and breaking the inter- generational cycle of disadvantage
- ➔ Build on strengths

Thank you