



ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE

Developing the Aboriginal Housing Strategy –
key activity and engagement



Family &
Community
Services



Aboriginal
Housing
Office

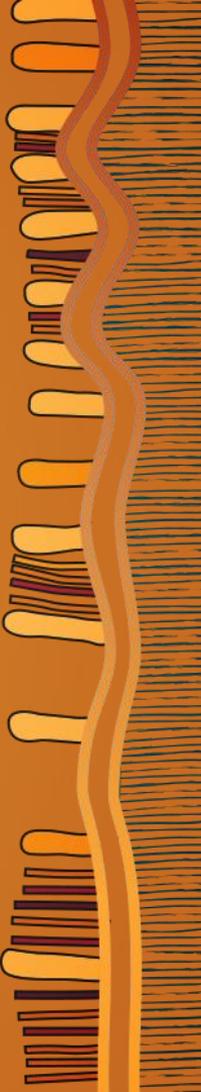
The Aboriginal Housing Office

- The AHO is a Legislative Authority for the housing needs of Aboriginal people in NSW, enabled by the *Aboriginal Housing Act 1998*. The AHO owns, funds and finances the delivery of Aboriginal social and affordable housing in NSW to be managed by Aboriginal community housing providers (ACHPs)
- The AHO owns 5,827 houses and supports a sector owning and managing a further 4,860 houses, the AHO goal is to transfer management of all houses to the ACHP sector
- The AHO's remit extends to ensuring that all Aboriginal people have access and choice in affordable housing, and providing advice to the Minister regarding the complete housing needs of Aboriginal people in NSW
- The AHO also works in partnership with the broader NSW social and affordable housing sector to ensure the housing needs of Aboriginal people are always considered



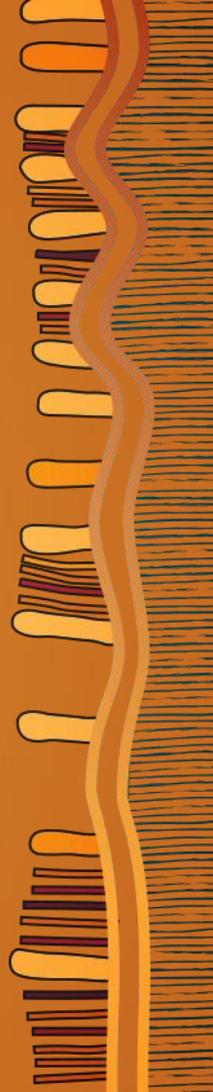
Moving from one reform to another

- The AHO is coming to the end of the Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy, primarily funded through the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. This reform focussed on investment in Aboriginal community funded housing not owned by the AHO
- The Build and Grow Strategy evaluation is in draft with some essential lessons to inform the next 10 year strategy to be developed in 2019.
- Build and Grow resulted in about half of the ACHP sector working with AHO (current sector organisations described as ACHPs approx 200)
- With around 40 engaging in performance based regulation (delivered by the Office of the Registrar Community Housing)



In 2017 we asked the sector, who know our clients best, what they need from us to deliver better outcomes for their communities?

- The AHO should be a strong leader and advocate, with responsibilities for capacity building and training the sector
- A new strategy is needed to set future direction and should be co-developed with the sector
- Reforms and programs need to be locally tailored and flexible, and co-designed with the community
- A successful provider has sound governance structures and an integrated service approach to tenant management
- While there are successful programs, services and organisations, the lack of quality data, and therefore evaluation, make it difficult to rigorously identify best-practice



Four Pillars were developed endorsed by the NSW Government and our stakeholders to inform the development of a new 10 year strategy

1. Deliver housing solutions for Aboriginal people informed by evidence based demand for social and affordable housing

2. Achieve better outcomes for Aboriginal tenants by facilitating partnerships with human services agencies, Aboriginal organisations and through creating opportunities for economic participation

3. Strengthen and grow Aboriginal Community Housing Providers through capacity building, change in regulation and transfer of housing and asset management

4. Enhance data collection, evaluation and analysis functions to ensure planning is robust and resources are targeted where they are needed most

AHO Engagement Framework to inform the next 4 years of the strategy



CULTURE

respect and trust

listen and yarn

act and deliver

partner and prosper

Sector Focused Initiatives next two years

- **Funding the development of ACHIA (2 years funding from FACS)**
- **A Diverse sector – reduced number of Providers through NRSCH – how can growth be achieved?**
- **IT Grants**
- **Extension of Interim Subsidy Policy – getting ready for a future subsidy**
- **Targeted Capacity Building – Assets/Maintenance/Governance**
- **Business Case for further longer term sector support**
- **Policy Advice from ACHIA – solving some of the challenges of the sector**
- **Listening and communicating well**

A Strong Sector – an essential partner what are the challenges?

- Changes in regulation and a new Registration Policy
- Developing a strong evidence base and ongoing case for change
- Changing the language – is it really about Capacity Building?
- Managing expectation – is there enough growth and opportunity for everyone?
- A longer term plan and vision in partnership with ACHIA
- What should sector support look like?



What's Next in 2019?

- **July** – Minister announces AHO Strategy funding – launch of the public information document (Strong Family Strong Communities) and consultation framework (Your Story Starts at Home)– multi platform feedback process on documents
- Needs analysis to understand client need and areas of focus
- **From October** - Stakeholder and client consultation – finalising the Strategic and Program Framework for publication