

ABORIGINAL HOUSING NT

MEDIA RELEASE

23 March 2016

Independent Aboriginal Housing Body calls for Urgent New Approach

Independent housing body, Aboriginal Housing NT, met last week to discuss the continued Aboriginal housing crisis in the NT. AHNT is calling on the Chief Minister to support AHNT as a new peak body, and work together to achieve major reforms to the failing housing system. “This is an exciting opportunity to harness community concerns and achieve real change”, said AHNT Co-Chair, Barb Shaw.

Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) is an independent body comprising Aboriginal individuals and organisations who are working to create a new Aboriginal housing system which is diverse and flexible, allows for local control over services, generates local employment and suits the needs of our people.

“Consistent with achieving COAG Closing the Gap measures, we believe that both the Northern Territory and Australian Governments need to start a genuine conversation with Indigenous people to improve the state of housing in our communities”, said AHNT Co-Chair Barb Shaw.

“The conditions of our houses are getting worse. We still live under the impact of the Intervention and Stronger Futures and limited funding is injected into our houses.”

“Elliot “the forgotten town” is a prime example of the appalling state of Aboriginal housing and there appears to be no clear plans to address this situation, because no-one wants to take responsibility for this situation. A one off payment of \$3million from the NT Government is going to Elliot, which is welcomed, but is unlikely to fix the systemic problems plaguing Aboriginal housing in Elliot and other Aboriginal communities, outstations and town camps.

“Housing is at a devastating point in the Northern Territory. Housing is the foundation of health and education. How can we achieve quality education when our children don’t have a house, or somewhere safe to sleep?”

AHNT is calling for real engagement with the Northern Territory Government to enter into negotiations about the terms for community control of NT remote housing and building the resources and capacity to carry out that responsibility.

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