

# STRONG FAMILY, STRONG COMMUNITIES

## FACT SHEET - 2018

### **We have heard about Strong Family, Strong Communities, can you tell us what it is?**

Strong Family, Strong Communities is the AHO's new strategic framework for Aboriginal social housing. The framework is a ten-year plan to support improvements to the health and well-being of Aboriginal people in NSW.

We will do this through focussing on housing and tenant support services in areas such as health, justice, education and employment. We want to provide housing and tailored housing support programs to meet the needs of Aboriginal tenants and families across NSW.

We will focus on strengthening Aboriginal Community Housing Providers through regulation under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing and NSW Local Scheme and organisational capacity building activities.

### **Why do we need a new framework?**

Since 2008 the AHO has delivered a program of repairs and maintenance and supply of social housing in NSW under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH). In 2010 the AHO launched the Build and Grow Aboriginal Community Housing Strategy to support the implementation of NPARIH funded projects and the achievement of targets. Commonwealth funding for remote Indigenous housing has now ceased. Build and Grow ended in 2018. The AHO now needs a new strategic framework for the next 10 years.

### **What are the goals of Strong Family, Strong Communities?**

Strong Family, Strong Communities is underpinned by four strategic pillars:

1.

Deliver housing solutions with Aboriginal people informed by evidence of demand for social and affordable housing.

2.

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

3.

Strengthen and grow Aboriginal Community Housing Providers through capacity building, 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.

**The strategic pillars were endorsed by stakeholders at the Minister's Roundtable on Aboriginal Housing in October 2017. The Roundtable was attended by ACHPs, NSWALC, Legal Aid, NSW Health, Education, Aboriginal Affairs, Justice, Dtarawarra, NSW Federation of Housing Associations, Shelter NSW, Aboriginal Legal Service, Legal Aid and the AHO Board.**

The pillars were then approved by the Social Policy Committee of the NSW Cabinet in December 2017.

### **How will the programs under Strong Family, Strong Communities be developed?**

The AHO intends to engage with Aboriginal communities to co-develop programs in the second half of 2018. Face to face engagement activity will be conducted with tenants, community groups, ACHPs and other stakeholders across NSW. These will be facilitated by an Aboriginal person and we will be working with an Aboriginal communications and change company to develop the sessions.

We are also seeking formal written submissions. Information about how stakeholders can make a submission is available at <https://www.aho.nsw.gov.au/news>

To support the engagement we have developed Your Story Starts at Home, our engagement guide which outlines our approach and includes key questions.

Throughout 2019, the AHO will be undertaking a co-design process with communities to design and implement the endorsed tenant-focussed initiatives and programs.

Capacity strengthening initiatives will be co-created with the Aboriginal community housing sector. We will be actively keeping the community informed throughout the process.

### **How and when can stakeholders participate in engagement activities to develop the policies and programs?**

The AHO is in the process of engaging an Aboriginal communications organisation to develop and deliver engagement sessions with our stakeholders. The AHO expects to finalise the dates and locations of engagement activities in September, with forums and workshops in locations across NSW to be completed by no later than the end of January.

### **How can I find out more?**

Please send an email with your questions to the Aboriginal Housing Strategy inbox - [AboriginalHousingStrategy@fac.nsw.gov.au](mailto:AboriginalHousingStrategy@fac.nsw.gov.au) -

**CONTACT: [www.aho.nsw.gov.au](http://www.aho.nsw.gov.au)**

