

## HOME OWNERSHIP POLICY STATEMENT

### OUR VISION

To ensure every Aboriginal person in NSW has equal access to, and choice in, affordable housing.

### OUR COMMITMENT TO HOME OWNERSHIP

The Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO) is committed to providing home ownership options for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tenants of AHO housing. The AHO recognises the positive outcomes associated with home ownership and acknowledges that home ownership often leads to improved health, educational attainment and employment opportunities as well as greater economic prosperity for Aboriginal tenants and their families<sup>1</sup>.

There is currently a significant gap between the home ownership rates of Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal peoples. As of 2016, just over a third of Aboriginal people in NSW owned their homes compared to just over two thirds of non-Aboriginal people<sup>2</sup>. Despite this disparity, the AHO acknowledges that home ownership is a goal that many Aboriginal tenants and their families hope to realise.

As a provider of social and affordable housing to Aboriginal people in NSW, the AHO is in a unique position to facilitate and support home ownership options for Aboriginal people to pursue.

In seeking to assist Aboriginal tenants and their families to meet their home ownership goals, the AHO commits to:

- facilitating home ownership pathways for Aboriginal people in NSW through partnerships with government and non-government agencies which provide home ownership programs and services
- working with government agencies and the private sector to provide support, education and financial literacy skills for tenants to enable pathways to home ownership
- influencing the debate on home ownership options for Aboriginal people and communities

Understanding the housing aspirations of Aboriginal people in NSW requires consultation, acknowledging there are different motivations for home ownership based on location, age and individual choice.

To ensure that home ownership initiatives are appropriate for Aboriginal people, consultations will be undertaken with existing tenants, representatives of NSW Aboriginal Alliances, Aboriginal Community Housing Providers, with organisations such as Indigenous Business Australia and with Regional Aboriginal Housing Committees.

### CONTACT

For existing tenants who would like to discuss home ownership options with the AHO or for general information please contact the Aboriginal Housing Office by email [homeownership@aho.nsw.gov.au](mailto:homeownership@aho.nsw.gov.au) and visit [aho.nsw.gov.au/tenants/home-ownership](http://aho.nsw.gov.au/tenants/home-ownership)

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<sup>1</sup> Ware V-A (2013). *Housing strategies that improve Indigenous health outcomes*. Resource sheet no. 25. Produced for the Closing the Gap Clearinghouse. Canberra: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare & Melbourne

<sup>2</sup> Australian Bureau of Statistics: National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Survey 2016.