

NGULLUK KOOLUNGA NGULLUK KOORT ELDERS

HOUSING ADVOCACY

The Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder Co-Researchers have undertaken significant advocacy in their Housing/Homelessness research priority area, including working in partnership with Shelter WA to facilitate metropolitan housing forums in 2018, that sought to actively engage Aboriginal leaders in workshop discussions regarding the supply of safe, affordable and accessible housing for Aboriginal families in the Perth metropolitan area.

FORUMS KEY OBJECTIVE

To bring together the Aboriginal community, to harness the opportunity, and people's energy, concerns and experiences to influence public policy around the supply of social and affordable for Aboriginal people in Perth.

KEY DISCUSSION TOPIC AREAS

- ❖ Community housing projects, processes and advocacy for Aboriginal housing in the metropolitan area
- ❖ State Government future directions

IDENTIFIED KEY ISSUES

1. A lack of culturally appropriate housing policy
2. Insufficient affordable, suitable and culturally appropriate housing supply
3. Poor housing quality and maintenance
4. Challenges for Aboriginal families maintaining and sustaining tenancies
5. Racism and systemic policies and the impact on housing outcomes for Aboriginal peoples and families

SUMMARY AND OUTCOMES

There is a requirement for the Department of Communities to undertake a cultural audit of Housing's policies and practices. A review of the negative impact of employment outcomes on social housing eligibility is required, and the development of affordable and secure transition housing options is required. A policy to ensure that safe and stable housing and support is provided for people being released from government institutions (i.e., prisons).

Housing quality is poor, and time for undertaking maintenance on public housing properties is unacceptable. There is insufficient affordable public housing, and it does not meet the cultural needs of families, it does not consider the impact on grandparents, families and children, or consider cultural obligation of Aboriginal families and kinship systems.

There are a lack of options for renting and purchasing housing. The expense of private market, systemic racism and lack of rental certainty is a challenge for Aboriginal people to gain housing.

Maintaining tenancies is not adequately supported with Aboriginal families and children are being evicted into homelessness at high numbers. This is seen as a direct impact of the 'three strikes' policy, with the effects of eviction being ignored (trauma, mental health, drug use, suicide).

There is a lack of Aboriginal Housing staff and poor relationships between Aboriginal peoples and Government, that has a negative impact on ongoing relations and the ability to resolve issues.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Shelter WA in partnership with the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Elder Co-Researchers and the Aboriginal community will develop a working group as a platform for an Aboriginal voice into housing policy and to develop an Aboriginal housing policy and framework to measure implementation and progress.

Shelter WA to support the development of a Noongar Community Housing Strategy with key housing stakeholders and facilitate opportunities for Aboriginal advocates to support people and liaise with the Department of Communities on housing issues.

