



SHELTER
because housing matters

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Prime Minister must not walk away from indigenous housing

Withdrawal of funding by the Commonwealth for the National Partnership on Remote Housing (NPRH) (a ten-year partnership to build and refurbish housing in some of the most disadvantaged communities across Australia) will have major detrimental consequences to the economic, social welfare, education, and health of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in these communities.

Queensland's peak body for the housing and homelessness sector, Q Shelter, is growing increasingly alarmed that no further funding is on the table when NPRH winds up in June this year.

Q Shelter's Executive Director, Leone Crayden, said that that state and Commonwealth governments had made significant in-roads in reducing overcrowding and improving the quality of housing for people living in remote communities.

"We know that this is not only a housing issue, if people do not have safe secure affordable housing and employment we cannot begin to work on the issues affecting Aboriginal and Islander communities." Ms Crayden said.

"Commonwealth and state governments committed \$5.4 billion over ten years to build and refurbish thousands of homes across Australia."

"The Prime Minister's own report into the program last year praised state governments for exceeding their targets in delivering new homes, refurbishing older houses, and providing employment opportunities for local communities."

Ms Crayden stressed that despite this success, the job was far from over in addressing housing need in remote communities.

"In Queensland, we've almost halved overcrowding but there's still severe housing need across remote areas of the state." Ms Crayden said.

"We know that research by the Baker Heart and Diabetes Institute show that all Aboriginal people suffer from significant health problems."

"Poor physical health affects mental health - you cannot treat mental and physical health without having a home."

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Ms Crayden said that NPRH also provided employment to young people in remote communities through a training and skills program, and was contributing to local economies.

“If this is not a key component of closing the Gap then we are seriously missing the holistic nature to addressing the issues faced by remote communities.” Ms Crayden said.

“Right now, all we need is a commitment from the Commonwealth that they’re willing to provide another ten years of funding at current levels, or better still, an increase.”

Ms Crayden said that without ongoing funding and support, the \$5.4 billion that’s been invested through NPRH could be all for nothing.

When the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing Intergovernmental Agreements was signed in 2008, it stated that ‘housing investment for the benefit of Indigenous communities is a central plank to achieving the targets for “Closing the Gap” on Indigenous disadvantage.’

“We could see all the hard work that’s been put into these communities deteriorate through lack of maintenance and skilled workers to look after these properties.” Ms Crayden added.

Q Shelter has published a position paper that calls on the Commonwealth to renew its commitment to invest in remote Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities.

[You can read the position paper here](#)

Q Shelter are using #DontWalkAway for this campaign

ENDS

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Queensland Shelter

Queensland Shelter is the state’s peak body for the housing and homelessness sector. Founded over thirty years ago, Queensland Shelter is a member-based organisation funded by the Queensland Government.

They work with both the state government and housing and homelessness sector to reform, grow, engage, and build the capacity of the housing and homelessness sector.

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