



## ABORIGINAL HOUSING NT (AHNT) STRONGLY OPPOSES HASTY REMOTE RENT REFORM

Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) today reasserts its unequivocal rejection of any untested remote rent model that unfairly and disproportionately impacts remote Aboriginal tenants across the Northern Territory.

As the Aboriginal Community-Controlled peak body for remote housing, AHNT calls on the Northern Territory Government to step back from introducing rushed legislative reform to the *Housing Act 1982* in response to the High Court of Australia's decision of 3 December 2025 confirming the Northern Territory's Remote Rent Framework is invalid.

AHNT calls on the NT Government and Minister Edgington to meet with AHNT as remote housing experts, the four NT Land Councils as the statutory representatives for Aboriginal Territorians, and representatives of the legal and remote housing sectors to work through the significant issues attributed to the previous Remote Rent Framework and avoid repeating the same mistakes of the past by rushing through a repeat of the flawed remote rent model.

The Northern Territory Government's own advice at the time of implementing the Remote Rent Framework was that 68 per cent of households may experience a rent increase of up to 40 per cent under the Remote Rent Framework.

### Leeanne Caton, CEO Aboriginal Housing NT, said:

By rushing through amendments to the *Housing Act 1982* to set remote rents "consistent with the previous Remote Rent Framework", the NT government risks implementing another remote rent model that ostensibly establishes a 2-tiered social housing rent model for the NT – that disproportionately and significantly impacts Aboriginal remote tenants and further entrenches systemic poverty.

Given the poverty levels experienced by many households in remote communities, it was always unrealistic to expect that households would be able to pay the increased rent. More households have found themselves in rental debt as a result.

"The Remote Rent Framework exacerbated the high numbers of rough sleepers and people experiencing homelessness in Darwin, Alice Springs, Katherine and Tennant Creek, as many people in remote communities who are unable to afford the increased rent are effectively forced into seeking alternative accommodation – often in urban centres."

"Public policy reform must never disadvantage remote tenants. The Remote Rent Framework further disadvantaged remote Aboriginal tenants and households who are already experiencing some of the highest costs of living nationally. Aboriginal tenants and households in remote communities are already being forced to pay inconceivably high prices for basic goods, essential groceries, fuel and standard day to day items."

“All Territorians should have access to a safe, healthy and affordable public housing rental model that does not further impoverish nor diminish the well-being of families.”

AHNT calls on the NTG to abandon any approach that rushes legislative amendments and mirrors the previous Remote Rent Framework.

AHNT calls on the NT Government to work with the Sector to develop a new, evidence-backed social housing model that is fair and equitable for all parties.

**ENDS**

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