



26 June 2026

## **ABORIGINAL HOUSING NORTHERN TERRITORY (AHNT) MEETS WITH SENIOR GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS IN CANBERRA TO PROGRESS CRITICAL HOMELANDS FUNDING DISCUSSIONS**

Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) welcomed the opportunity to meet directly with the senior ministers in Canberra this week to discuss the urgent need for sustained Commonwealth investment in Northern Territory homelands.

The meetings held across two days, were led by Independent Member for Mulka and senior Liya-Dhālinymirr Djambarrpuyŋu leader Yingiya Guyula MLA. The delegation brought together AHNT Chief Executive Officer Leeanne Caton, AHNT Directors and Traditional Owners representing homelands from across north-east Arnhem Land, west Arnhem Land and Urapuntja (Utopia) homelands in Central Australia.

The delegation travelled to Canberra to advocate strongly for homeland residents and to ensure the critical importance of homelands is heard and understood at the highest level of government. The delegation highlighted the critical importance of long-term funding to support sustainable housing, infrastructure and essential services on homelands and the Aboriginal community-controlled sector's lead role in service delivery.

Homelands are home to thousands of Aboriginal people across the Northern Territory and play a vital role in maintaining culture, language, identity and connection to Country. Within the Northern Territory, there are more than 500 recognised homelands with approximately 394 currently receiving funding for municipal and essential services. Evidence consistently shows that living on Country supports improved health, wellbeing, education outcomes and self-determination.

As Yingiya Guyula MLA describes it, “our connection to country is our umbilical cord.”

Despite their importance, homelands have experienced decades of declining underinvestment. Northern Territory homelands communities are living with ageing infrastructure, severely overcrowded homes and significantly unmet housing demand.

AHNT has welcomed the Australian Government's investment of \$220 million over 5 years to deliver urgent repairs and infrastructure upgrades in NT homelands, but is deeply concerned that this investment will expire at 30 June 2027.

While the Northern Territory Government has continued to provide funding Municipal and Essential services for homelands, this funding has seen a steady decline with no commitments to continue beyond 30 June 2027.

Leeanne Caton stated, “The future of Northern Territory homelands is at risk and needs certainty beyond 2027. We cannot continue to fund critical housing work and essential infrastructure with short-term arrangements. We need to recognise homelands as critical components of the NT's housing continuum, as equal and legitimate housing geographies with vast capacity.”

AHNT calls on the Australian Government and Northern Territory Government to move beyond short-term funding cycles for homelands.

AHNT calls on both Governments to establish a long-term investment program that supports enabling infrastructure to grow remote economies, delivers new and replacement housing, builds in planned and cyclical repairs and maintenance and invests in the Aboriginal community-controlled sector to support thriving homeland communities for generations to come.

**ENDS**

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