

Aboriginal Housing
Northern Territory

Aboriginal Housing NT STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2029



Closing the Gap statement

Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory is committed to deliver on the principles and priorities set out and agreed to in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Acknowledgements

Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory works with deep respect for country and its rightful owners, ancestors and elders, past and present.

We recognise the continuing connection to lands and waters and extend our respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

Message from the Chair

As Chair of the board of Directors, it is my privilege to present the Strategic Plan 2026–29 for Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory (AHNT). It embodies our collective vision, values and aspirations in relation to transforming the housing sector for Aboriginal people in the Northern Territory.

Our vision is clear, we want 'Aboriginal housing in Aboriginal hands.' In doing so, we give decision making power back to Aboriginal controlled organisations and provide housing that meets the needs of our people. To achieve our vision, we will focus our efforts over 5 areas to:

- 1 SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS.**
- 2 DEVELOP AND SHARE KNOWLEDGE.**
- 3 EMBED GOOD GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT.**
- 4 GROW RESPECTFUL & EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS.**
- 5 ADVOCATE AND INFLUENCE.**

We acknowledge the work of Elders, leaders, and Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT in establishing AHNT. We are grateful for the tireless efforts of our members and acknowledge the significant contribution of the AHNT Committee that set us on this path in 2015 to revitalise Aboriginal controlled housing and homelands.

This plan sets a clear course for us to support Aboriginal organisations to provide housing that is fit for culture and country, and services that enable residents to thrive.

It is an ambitious plan. We know that to achieve our goals we will rely on our friends in the land councils, governments and the broader community. We thank you for your partnership.

Alan Mole, Chair
June 2025



Message from the CEO



I am excited to present our new Strategic Plan that will drive us forward to 2029.

AHNT, as the Aboriginal controlled peak body for Aboriginal housing and homelands in the Northern Territory, has an inspiring plan that sets out the focus areas and actions for how we can best represent and support Aboriginal controlled housing organisations. In doing so, we work towards a future where Aboriginal people have housing that is safe, secure and reflective of our diverse cultures and knowledges.

In the Territory, there are too few houses, and many of them are very run-down, and no good culturally or environmentally. Far more people are homeless here than the rest of Australia and most homeless people are Aboriginal.

All those factors combine to limit health, education and employment prospects. For example, preventable diseases like trachoma and rheumatic heart disease persist in Aboriginal populations. Their prevalence is directly linked to poor housing including overcrowding.

At every stage – from design and construction through to maintenance and tenancy support – Aboriginal people lead the decision-making. We want appropriate and affordable housing for Aboriginal people – managed by Aboriginal-controlled organisations.

To approach this goal, we work closely with our members and the sector, including land councils, three-tiers of government, universities, industry bodies and philanthropists to influence the design of policies and programs to ensure housing is safe and secure and to strive for housing that is right for culture and climate.

We have an incredible responsibility – and privilege – to help bring about long-lasting, meaningful change for Aboriginal people, who will benefit from a strong and prosperous Aboriginal housing and homelands sector.

Leeanne Caton, CEO
June 2025

Our Members



Anindilyakwa Housing
Aboriginal Corporation



Anindilyakwa
Land Council



The Arnhem Land Progress
Aboriginal Corporation



Atyehenge Atherre
Aboriginal Corporation



Barkly Alliance
Aboriginal Corporation



Bawinanga
Aboriginal Corporation



Central
Land Council



Community Housing
Central Australia



Demed
Aboriginal Corporation



Ingkerreke Services
Aboriginal Corporation



Jawoyn Association
Aboriginal Corporation



Kalano Community
Association



Laynhapuy Homelands
Aboriginal Corporation



Mabunji Aboriginal Resource
Indigenous Corporation



Ngaliwuru-Wuli
Aboriginal Corporation



Northern
Land Council



Tangentyere Council
Aboriginal Corporation



Tiwi
Land Council



Thamurrurr
Aboriginal Corporation



Tjuwanpa Outstation
Resource Centre



Urapuntja
Aboriginal
Corporation



Warnbi
Aboriginal
Corporation
Kakadu



Wilya Ajul Janta
Aboriginal Corporation



Yapa-Kurlangu Ngurrara
Aboriginal Corporation



Yilli Rreung
Housing Aboriginal
Corporation

Our Partners & Associates



Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander
Housing Queensland



Aboriginal Peak
Organisations NT



Aboriginal Community
Housing Industry Association



Aboriginal Medical Services
Alliance Northern Territory



Australian Government



Coalition of Peaks



Menzies School of
Health Research



North Australian
Aboriginal Justice
Agency



Northern Territory
Government



Northern Territory
Indigenous Business
Network

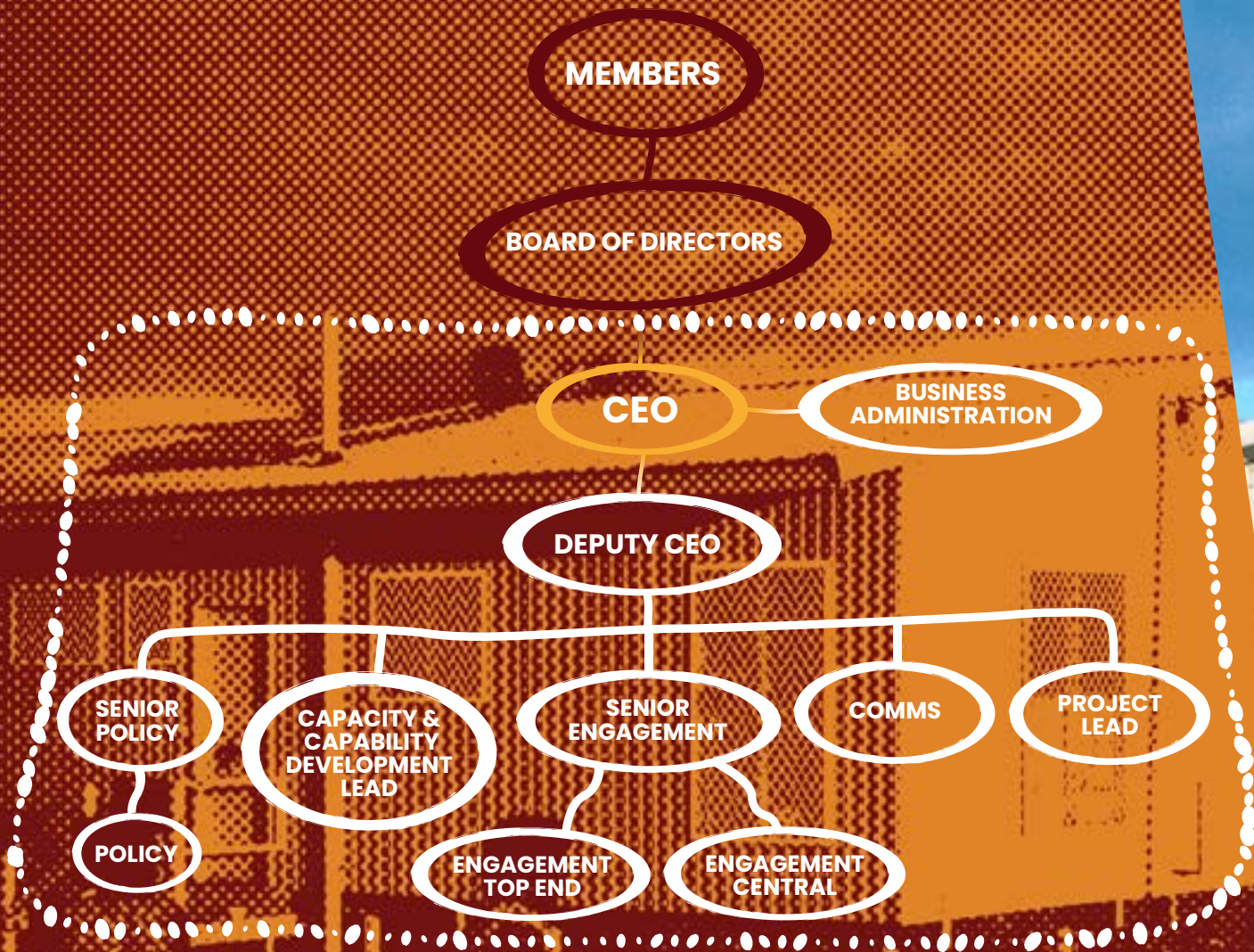


Northern Territory
Council of Social Service



NT Shelter

Our Structure





Members are all Aboriginal controlled housing or service providers.

They set the rules for the corporation and elect the directors



Directors are all Aboriginal people. They set the strategic direction



Chief Executive Officer is Leeanne Caton a highly passionate and proud Kalkadoon/Waanyi Woman



AHNT currently have 10 staff > 5 are Aboriginal



Vision Forms

At the Aboriginal Peak Organisations NT (APO NT) Aboriginal Housing Forum, Aboriginal elders and leaders resolved to regain control over Aboriginal housing development, design, construction and property and tenancy management.

2015

Committee

AHNT grows as a committee of APO NT, advocating, advising, and contributing as needed to proposals, discussion papers, strategies and reviews.

2015-2018

AHNT Funded

NT Government agrees to fund AHNT for 5 years.

2021

2018

Becoming a Peak

Delegates to the second APO NT Aboriginal Housing Forum resolve to incorporate AHNT as a peak body.

2019

Incorporation

Incorporation under the Corporations (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander) Act 2006.

MoU with NT Shelter

Signing of a memorandum of understanding with NT Shelter.

Our Story

2021

CEO

First chief executive officer, Skye Thompson, starts.

2021

Homelands Forum

AHNT hosts inaugural Homelands Service Provider Forum in Garramilla.

2023

Inaugural Conference

First Remote Housing and Homelands annual conference.

2025

2023

A Seat on the JSC

AHNT becomes a member of the Joint Steering Committee for NT Remote Housing, which negotiates long-term funding agreements.

2024

10-Year Agreement

AHNT co-signs \$4 billion, 10-year funding agreements for remote housing in the NT, alongside NT and Australian government and four Land Councils.

Signing of the MoU

Signed with Menzies School of Health Research.

2024

NRSCH Forum

AHNT holds first National Regulatory System for Community Housing (NRSCH) forum in Garramilla.

2024



**We advocate for fair resourcing
for the Aboriginal community
controlled housing sector.**

COLLABORATIVE

Build and maintain
respectful relationships
with all stakeholders.

LEADERSHIP

We are trustworthy
reliable and talk
straight.

CULTURALLY DIVERSE

We are community-led; and acknowledge and respect the diversity of Aboriginal cultures and languages in our work.

TWO-WAYS

We are grounded in our culture, which enables us to drive positive change.

OUR PURPOSE

We advocate for fair resourcing for the Aboriginal community controlled housing sector - including town camps, community living areas, homelands and communities, to enhance the living conditions of Aboriginal Territorians.

STRONG

We continuously improve by drawing on others individual expertise and cultural knowledge and skills.

Our Values

Our Focus Areas – A plan that sets out our goals & objectives over the next 3 years.

To support our vision, this plan sets out our goals and objectives over the next 3 years under 5 focus areas.

1 SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

We strengthen Aboriginal controlled organisations across the Northern Territory.

2 DEVELOP & SHARE KNOWLEDGE

We amplify our member and community voices to broaden awareness and deepen understanding of the sector's circumstances, challenges and solutions.

3 EMBED GOOD GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

We work to ensure AHNT is a sustainable, transparent and well-governed organisation.

4 GROW RESPECTFUL PARTNERSHIPS

We develop and maintain impactful partnerships to build capacity, grow the sector and generate lasting outcomes.

5 ADVOCATE & INFLUENCE

We advocate to strengthen Aboriginal controlled organisations and influence policy design to support effective and resilient housing and homelands.

1 SUPPORT OUR MEMBERS

GOALS

1.1 Advocate for appropriate resourcing for the sector, in line with consumer price index (CPI), to achieve their goals

1.2 Attract new members to AHNT

1.3 explore alternative options to NRSCH that is more applicable to the NT sector

1.4 Develop a communications strategy to inform and engage members

1.5 Share housing knowledge and good practice with members

STEPS

1.1.1 Support management and governance training for members

1.1.2 Support workforce attraction, retention and development for members

1.1.3 Explore potential of back-office services to members

1.1.4 Work with the sector, government and land councils to establish a homelands industry development plan

1.2.1 Develop a marketing strategy to attract new members

1.3.1 Support members to gain and maintain registration

1.3.2 Produce resources to assist members with registration, policies, and implementing national standards

1.4.1 Communicate NTG reforms and other information to members

1.4.2 Establish a member/stakeholder feedback channels

1.4.3 Produce regular newsletters about current activities and progress

1.5.1 Develop sector forums to provide support to members, share knowledge and good practice

1.5.2 Encourage members to engage in relevant government initiatives

1.5.3 Encourage members to provide housing services that promote safety and embed the 9 healthy living practices

2 DEVELOP & SHARE KNOWLEDGE

GOALS

2.1 Develop AHNT's capacity to engage with communities to inform research and policy development

2.2 Develop research partnerships and joint research initiatives on priority matters for Aboriginal housing

2.3 Promote best practice, social policy positions, and provide advice for the sector and government

2.4 Influence and share knowledge nationally

STEPS

2.1.1 Identify the needs, ideas and aspirations of our members and communities to inform policy

2.1.2 Gather and analyse qualitative and quantitative data about housing, town camps, community living areas, homelands and communities

2.2.1 Work with Menzies School of Health Research to investigate options for Aboriginal-controlled governance of remote housing in the NT

2.2.2 Research and document Aboriginal-led solutions in Aboriginal communities

2.3.1 Contribute as equal partners to models and policy for Aboriginal housing

2.3.2 Collect and analyse data to influence and strengthen Aboriginal housing policy

2.4.1 Communicate policy positions and insights at conferences and forums

2.4.2 Distribute the AHNT newsletter to national partners

2.4.3 Share information and build our audience and reach on social media



3 EMBED GOOD GOVERNANCE & MANAGEMENT

GOALS

3.1 Strengthen AHNT policies, risk management and record keeping

3.2 Ensure good governance practices are reviewed annually

3.3 Implement staff support, development, and review processes

3.4 Ensure long-term financial sustainability for AHNT

STEPS

3.1.1 Review and implement internal policies and procedures

3.1.2 Develop, implement and monitor an internal risk management framework

3.1.3 Develop and implement a records management system

3.2.1 Governing documents and strategic plan are available online

3.2.2 Review and refresh the rule book

3.2.3 Complete all actions from the ORIC Healthy Corporations Checklist

3.3.1 Develop a staff development and career pathways plan

3.3.2 Encourage staff feedback through informal and formal channels

3.3.3 Address staff retention, recruitment timeframes and increase Aboriginal employment

3.4.1 Develop AHNT's financial plan in line with funding cycles

3.4.2 Ensure overall compliance with funding obligations

3.4.3 Explore funding opportunities to purchase a head office for AHNT

3.4.4 Develop AHNT's prospectus to attract philanthropic funding

4 GROW RESPECTFUL & EFFECTIVE PARTNERSHIPS

GOALS

4.1 Actively participate in strong partnerships with all tiers of governments

4.2 Strengthen relationships with land councils and associate members

4.3 Maintain partnerships key peak organisations

STEPS

4.1.1 Actively participate and contribute to the Joint Steering Committee for the Remote Housing Northern Territory (JSC-RHNT)

4.2.1 Develop an MOU with land councils

4.3.1 Invest in meaningful partnerships with relevant stakeholders

5 ADVOCATE & INFLUENCE

GOALS

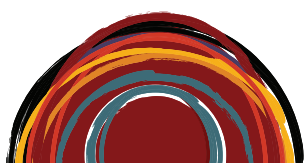
- 5.1 Develop and implement a communications plan**
- 5.2 Develop a suite of policy positions**
- 5.3 Advocate for individual members as needed**
- 5.4 Actively contribute to the Joint Steering Committee Northern Territory and Commonwealth governments working groups**

STEPS

- 5.1.1 Design and develop a communications plan**
- 5.2.1 Develop a clear policy position in relation to various topics including governance of the Aboriginal housing system, water, Aboriginal employment and workforce development, good design and construction**
- 5.3.1 Respond and act on member concerns as needed**
- 5.4.1 Be present and contribute to all working groups**



We advocate to strengthen Aboriginal controlled organisations and influence policy design to support effective and resilient housing and homelands.



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Northern Territory

Aboriginal Housing NT

STRATEGIC PLAN 2026–2028

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