

Aboriginal Housing in Tasmania

Newsletter Issue 2 - May 2011

The newsletter provides an update on what's happening in Aboriginal Housing in Tasmania.

Remote Indigenous Housing – Excellent progress!

There has been a great deal of progress on work under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing (NPARIH).

The most obvious is the two new homes constructed on Cape Barren Island last year, and 12 refurbishments on Cape Barren and Flinders Islands.

These were the first stage of a huge amount of capital works.

With the invaluable support of the Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (CBIAAI) and Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Incorporated (FIAAI) we will see the following additional works completed by December this year:

- four new homes on Flinders Island
- twenty four refurbishments on Flinders Island
- two new homes on Cape Barren Island, and
- fifteen refurbishments on Cape Barren Island.

A key component for the capital works program this year is about getting local Aboriginal people employed to do the capital works. There is a target of 20 per cent of employees to be local Aboriginal people; early indications from CBIAAI and FIAAI are that this will be easily met.

These are the visible achievements changes but there has also been significant work on changes to policies and procedures and other reforms under the NPARIH.

Aboriginal Housing Reform - Update

The way that national and state Aboriginal housing policies and programs are provided has changed.

This includes a fundamental alteration in the funding stream which is now through the National Affordable Housing Agreement not the Commonwealth State Housing Agreement

This impacts on the way Aboriginal housing is provided by Housing Tasmania (previously called the Aboriginal Housing Services Tasmania). It is time to reconsider the way that the program operates and a review is underway.

Although the funding is now untied, Housing Tasmania still maintains a specific Aboriginal housing program for Aboriginal people. While this is happening the ATAPs are still working as they did and tenants should contact region their regional office with any tenant enquiries. Tenants can use the 1800 PALAWA (1800 725 292) as this will direct them to their regional office.

There have been preliminary discussions with the Aboriginal community about the future direction of Aboriginal housing and these will be progressed further this year.

There is also a clear role for the Aboriginal Tenancy Allocation Panels (ATAPs) to participate in the discussions. This will be a key point for discussion at the statewide ATAP meeting which is planned for May.

Further updates will be provided in future editions of the newsletter.

Aboriginal Housing in Tasmania

Newsletter Issue 2 - May 2011

Community Housing Profiles

Cape Barren Island Aboriginal Association Inc (CBIAAI)

Cape Barren Island is located in the Furneaux Group of Islands and is the second largest in the group. The island has a population of about 75 people with the vast majority being Aboriginal.

CBIAAI manages 23 homes. This includes two new three bedroom homes that were constructed in 2009-2010. The homes vary in size from small one - bedroom units to large four-bedroom houses.

In addition to the building program in 2009-2010 there were upgrade works on the waste water management system and electricity grid which improved the quality of infrastructure on the Island.

There will be two more new new homes built in 2010-2011. These are located over the road from the current houses and CBIAAI have agreed on the same designs as those built in 2009-2010.

Construction is well underway and should be completed mid 2011.



Above: Two new homes currently under construction on Thunder and Lightning Bay Road.

The construction of the new homes and refurbishment of the remaining houses on Cape Barren Island also offers employment opportunities for local community members.

Some of the jobs undertaken by the community include site preparation, road and infrastructure works.

Flinders Island Aboriginal Association Inc (FIAAI)

Flinders Island is also located within the Furneaux Group of Islands and is the largest in the group. There are approximately 150 Aboriginal people living on Flinders Island which makes up about 20 per cent of the total population of the island.

FIAAI has 32 homes which vary from one to four bedroom properties which are disbursed across the Island.

The Aboriginal community is spread across the island with most people living in the two major centres being Whitemark and Lady Barron



Above: Luke Green, local Aboriginal community member working on the three constructions in Munro Place, Whitemark.

As with Cape Barren Island, there are many opportunities for local community members to get employment during the construction and refurbishment works program.

More Information

Housing Reforms Website

http://www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/housing/about_housing_innovations_unit/national_housing_reforms

Contact

Glenn Shaw, Housing Tasmania

Email: glenn.shaw@dhhs.tas.gov.au

Telephone: (03) 6233 8847