

8 November 2018

# Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing Forum

## Summary Report



**Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort**  
(Our Children, Our Heart) Project



## **Recognising Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People**

Shelter WA acknowledges the unique culture and heritage of Aboriginal peoples and the contributions Aboriginal peoples have made and continue to make to Western Australian society. For the purposes of this publication, the term 'Aboriginal' is intended to encompass the diverse cultures and identities of the First Peoples of Western Australia and also recognize people of Torres Strait Islander descent who call Western Australia home.

Noongar is 'a person of the south-west of Western Australia,' or the name for the 'original inhabitants of the south-west of Western Australia.' Noongar boodja (country) covers the entire south-western portion of Western Australia. The boundary commences on the west coast at a point north of Jurien Bay, proceeds roughly easterly to a point approximately north of Moora and then roughly south-east to a point on the southern coast between Bremer Bay and Esperance.

Shelter WA would like to acknowledge that this forum was held on the Whadjuk country of the Noongar nation.

### **Suggested citation**

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## Purpose of the Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing Forum

The Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing forum was held on 8 November 2018 at Burswood on Swan, in Perth. It was a one-day community forum to provide an opportunity to actively engage Aboriginal leaders in workshop discussions regarding the supply of safe, affordable and accessible housing for Aboriginal people in the metropolitan Perth area.

Shelter WA is an independent peak body, based in Perth, Western Australia, that advocates for social and affordable housing and ending homelessness. Shelter WA has had a long and active interest in the positive outcomes that housing provides.

Housing has been articulated as a key concern in virtually all community consultations around the Noongar Native Title Settlement process and in a major research project being undertaken by the Telethon Kids Institute.

There has been considerable focus on housing for Aboriginal people living in remote areas. However over 70 per cent of Aboriginal in WA people live in non-remote areas. The focus on remote housing, whilst important, has diverted attention of governments and policy makers away from the housing needs and issues of Aboriginal people in non-remote WA.

Originally planned to coincide with Homelessness Week (August 2018) the forum was deferred until November. With Lotterywest sponsorship, Shelter WA convened the Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing Forum with the support of the Telethon Kids Institute.

The key objective explored at the Metropolitan Aboriginal Housing Forum was how to harness the current opportunity and people's energy, concerns and experience to influence public policy around the supply of social and affordable housing for Aboriginal people in metropolitan Perth.

Reverend Sealin Garlett gave a beautiful  
Welcome to Country to attendees.  
Reverend Garlett is a Ballardong Whadjuk Noongar.



## Introduction

**Carol Innes, Reconciliation WA Co-chair**, and forum facilitator, opened the forum by reiterating the importance and beauty of acknowledging the Elders. Ms. Innes talked about the importance of agencies involved in Aboriginal housing keeping in touch with the wider community, the keen interest of the outcome of the forum by other parties and the effects of the housing problems being pushed into an economic space rather than a social space on Aboriginal people.

Ms. Innes urged participants to observe the day as an opportunity to feed into the process of going forward in the housing sphere, not focusing on but learning from the past.

**Michelle Mackenzie, Shelter WA CEO**, acknowledged the Elders and introduced and thanked Liza McGuire from RedSpear for her assistance in organizing the forum. She explained how the information they received at the forum would assist Shelter WA in their advocacy in partnership with Aboriginal organisations, to increase safe, secure and accessible housing for Aboriginal people.

Ms. Mackenzie outlined Shelter WA's vision that all people in WA have housing that enables them to thrive. She explained that the WA housing system is broken with limited access to appropriate, affordable and safe housing for many Western Australians. She outlined the current challenges of housing for many people: more of people's incomes are being spent on housing costs; a lack of affordable and appropriate housing is contributing to overcrowding and homelessness; and the negative effects of poor housing on people's health and employment opportunities. Ms. Mackenzie concluded with the observation that current structural policies in place are not delivering the housing needed by people and contributing to ongoing poverty and disadvantage.

Ms. Mackenzie reiterated the forum aims to harness the expertise of Aboriginal people to drive policy and influence government and community organisations. The conversation should think broader than delivering housing stock, but consider how housing construction, property management and maintenance could facilitate ongoing training, employment and business opportunities, and broader social and economic development opportunities.

## **PANEL 1 – Discussion of community housing projects, processes and advocacy for Aboriginal housing in the metropolitan area.**

This panel consisted of Stephen Hall, Glenn Pearson and Gordon Cole.

### **Stephen Hall – Housing Consultant**

Mr Hall acknowledged the Noongar people asking the question: How can Shelter WA include the Noongar Voice into what they are doing? Mr Hall also acknowledged and stressed the importance of Noongar sovereignty and observed that Noongar sovereignty signals a new relationship for Noongar people.

Mr Hall gave an historical overview of Aboriginal housing policy which included people living on reserves to self-determination to mainstreaming and the shift to individualisation.

Mr Hall questioned the ideology of home ownership and stated that people wanted a house, not necessarily home ownership. He acknowledged the problems of sustaining tenancies and questioned how we can do things differently. He discussed the approach New South Wales has implemented: an approach which sees acts of parliament that include government and organisations working together and includes things like training and heading back towards self-determination and away from welfare approach.

*“A policy of Aboriginal procurement hasn’t hit the Aboriginal housing space yet: is it an option?”*

Mr Hall concluded by commenting on the Noongar Native Title Settlement. He observed that it was a new opportunity and reclassified the relationship between Noongar community and the WA government. Mr Hall said it was an opportunity which could include negotiation, collaboration and working together as well as it being an important space that seems to be a genuine relationship.

## **Glenn Pearson – Telethon Kids Institute Research Focus Area Head, Aboriginal Health**

Mr Pearson explained the effects of having non-Aboriginal people here on Whadjuk Country - for 189 years and their policies. He discussed The Telethon Kids Institute's commitment to Aboriginal family programs and outlined 3 key focus areas:

- Families – examining the role of men and women in raising children
- Young People – as the future (a very young population!); the large number of children being born at below average birth weight rates; Chronic health issues and early death issues; Wanting access to support in a respectful way.
- Essentials for Life – clean water, safety, good food, having a home.

Mr Pearson talked about Elders working together - in addressing the issues of supporting their young people in their early years, and suggested a 2 point focus:

- Identifying our strengths.
- Identifying our challenges.

Mr Pearson observed child protection as a major issue and asked how can we support our children in having access to education? Is early prevention the answer? Mr Pearson suggested that observing the current strengths in the housing sector is the direction to head to in order to create better opportunities for Aboriginal families in the metropolitan area.

## **Gordon Cole – Chairperson Noongar Mia Mia**

Mr Cole acknowledged Elder Sealin Garlett as a national treasure and thanked the Elders for their work and their vision over the years as it has had a tremendous impact on the lives of Aboriginal people.

Mr Cole talked about Noongar Mia Mia, a housing sector organisation established in 2000. While there has not been a lot of promotion over the 18 years some of the highlights include having passed 18 audits, providing homes for 400 + people every night in metropolitan area and 60+ people in Esperance. Noongar Mia Mia manages and owns 76 houses. In alignment with the UN Declarations on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Noongar Mia Mia is well placed in assisting the catering of housing for Aboriginal people for Perth with 3 staff servicing the Perth metropolitan area.

Mr Cole discussed the challenges for Aboriginal people and described the crisis accommodation market as saturated with demand and that Aboriginal people are suffering in the housing space. Mr Cole explored the need to become more sustainable as a community and recognising the universal Aboriginal value of families needing to be enshrined. He encouraged the incorporation of Noongar tradespeople and supply train and the powering of Aboriginal people to come work with the Aboriginal housing community.

Mr Cole explained that bad housing wasn't good enough and that substandard housing needs to be improved with an aggressive approach towards improvement.

Mr Cole concluded by talking about the need to enrich the Aboriginal voice and getting the Elders to set the standards of how Aboriginal people live in Aboriginal housing. He stressed the importance of making sure people listen to the Elders about these standards.

*“Let’s draw a line in the sand today for the quality of housing for our people.”*

### **Panel 1 Q & A summary**

A diverse range of comments and questions were directed to the panel. Comments covered included ongoing concern about the number of children in care, the lack of support for kinship carers and the role of Elders in negotiating with government departments. There was also discussion about Noongar Mia Mia’s future strategic direction in regard to current housing stock, the push out of the city of a housing market (houses replaced with boutiques businesses) and the lack of collaboration with Government planning departments.

*“We have to get over the legacy but respect it. We are not victims and we are not disadvantaged. We need to become an economic power.*

*Guided by Elders and the principles of our culture we need to run with it.*

*To improve the housing space we should become economic powerhouses.*

*Other clans around the country are looking at us. We need to be collaborating.*

*What is our vision about Noongar housing in the next 50 or 100 years.”*



## Group Discussion 1: What would we like the housing system to look like now and into the future?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down their vision for the provision of safe and accessible housing for metropolitan Aboriginal people, and what that entails. Each table nominated a speaker to relate back to the rest of the forum the top priorities they identified. These are contained in Appendix 2. Below are the top priorities identified by each table:

### Table 1

- Advocacy – for young people – especially with bureaucratic jargon etc. Young people – homeless but have a place to stay (with grandparents etc.). Young people facing discrimination in rental market.
- Homeswest to collaborate with Aboriginal Housing organisations
- Renters of Homeswest for more than 20 years options – option to negotiate for living in home forever and use rent as equity for deposit

### Table 2

- Get into cultural authority with Elders to provide guidelines
- Need affordable and suitable housing. Must be habitable.
- People to sit down and talk to us (govt) - Real engagement.

### Table 3

- Common purpose and one vision. One organisation for the whole of the South West - Aiming big. Expand Noongar Mia Mia
- Homeswest – transfer of assets. Land as part of Native title settlement transfer. Leverage for growth.
- Economically viable

#### Table 4

- Need to reduce barriers
- Need to create better access
- Qualify value of housing through audits.
- Establishment of economic base in housing as basis of Noongar Nation

#### Table 5

- Addressing the 3-strike policy and remove it
- Rid of fixed term leases
- Financial support
- 2nd home buyers due to divorce etc.
- Building on economic capital
- Aboriginal – one stop shop
- Tiny House movement

#### Table 6

- Change of policies to reflect lifestyle and cultural obligations
- Size of housing – create larger homes to reflect cultural obligations
- Fast tracking
- Home ownership
- 3 strike policy needs to go
- Prisoners - housing
- Maintenance support programs
- University accommodation

#### Table 7

- Community controlled housing
- Ownership as an option
- Appropriate living arrangements

#### Table 8

- Housing system that is simple, secure, flexible, responsive, timely
- Aboriginal controlled space – empowering Elders to be part of Tenancy agreements/arrangements

#### Table 9

- Affordable housing for low income. More variety. Schemes for home ownership
- Look long-term
- Prison populations – homeless after incarcerations
- Disability support for domestic violence, mental health, suicide etc
- Make use of existing resources
- Aboriginal autonomy and control.



## Special Presentation:

### Honourable Ken Wyatt AM, MP

The Honourable Ken Wyatt AM, MP presented funding to Shelter WA to undertake a project on Aboriginal and Housing and Health. Shelter WA Chairperson, Mark Glasson, spoke about the importance of addressing substandard housing for Aboriginal people.

Mark Glasson commented that Shelter WA advocates for an effective housing system in WA which allows all people to thrive. He thanked the forum participants for working with Shelter WA to progress this issue and said

Shelter WA was thrilled to receive the grant from Ken Wyatt. Shelter WA will establish a strong, national, governance process for this project which ensures that it is Aboriginal led. Also, a formal academic reference group.

The Honourable Ken Wyatt talked about being honoured to attend the forum. Since 1978 there had only been three housing forums and the same issues of housing quality was always an issue. He discussed the effects on not only health, but also social and mental determinants and that while housing is a constant issue there is not a 'one size fits all' solution strategy. Housing policy is a key element of closing the health and longevity gap we have in society.

Minister Wyatt recalled some instances of poor housing, highlighting problems with sewage systems, air quality and poor food preparation areas. He discussed the aged Aboriginal population and their association of aged care facilities with memories of times of being institutionalised. They want to sleep at night without having feelings of being watched over. Young people need the right conditions and environments to be trained to be able to maintain Aboriginal housing stock and portfolio, and to ensure that standard of living is raised and maintained.



## **PANEL 2 – South West Settlement Housing proposal and State Government future directions.**

**Panel 2 consisted of Wayne Nannup, Angela Elder and Stuart Clark.**

**Angela Elder – Manager, Recognition and Partnership Projects, Aboriginal Policy and Co-ordination Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet (DPC)**

Ms Elder presented a summary of the South West Native Title Settlement how implementation of the trust and regional corporations with the Government;

- Native title settlement an agreement between the Government and six Noongar native title groups and SWALSC – 6 ILUAs registered in October 2018
- Under the Noongar Housing Program, the Housing Authority will transfer 121 properties –Includes blocks and houses.
- On transfer the Housing Authority will provide a building condition assessment for each property recommending works to be done – the State will provide up to \$10M for maintenance and upgrades
- DPC, Housing and SWALSC have commenced work on location, demand and value of the houses
- Capacity to explore potential joint ventures between the Trust, Regional Corporations and the Housing Authority.

**Stuart Clark – Director Social Housing Policy, Housing and Homelessness, Department of Communities**

Mr Clarke spoke of the new Department of Communities as a result of the WA Government's 2017 Machinery of Government changes. The purpose of the Department of Communities includes collaborating and creating pathways to enable individual family and community wellbeing. Mr Clark talked about asset management with an outcome focus of providing children with safe homes, strong families and kin and empowering people.

Mr Clark summarised the negative impact of the housing situation in the Aboriginal communities and touched on the lessons that can be learnt. He then discussed the new direction for Housing

– focusing on need and capacity, prevention and appropriate response and co-design solutions. Mr Clark said the department was listening intently and with heart and had developed some new programs: Thrive, (early tenant support), Aboriginal employment targets, Aboriginal loan programs and an Aboriginal Procurement Policy – providing opportunities for Aboriginal businesses.

Mr Clark mentioned a new State 10 year strategy to end homelessness, and a new Community Housing Study and reviewing where community housing fits in the housing system. A Housing Strategy 2020-2030 will be developed by government. He encouraged engagement by the Aboriginal community with these strategies, including a with a focus on sustainability, accountability and equity.

### **Wayne Nannup, CEO South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council**

Mr Nannup began by noting the remarkable journey for Indigenous people as far as land agreements have progressed and mentioned the original Native Title Tribunal submissions.

Mr Nannup wants to make Noongar people front and central to taking up opportunities and talked about the development opportunities in the land being held in the Noongar Boodja Trust.

He discussed the importance of having a safe household and would like to see a Noongar specific home owner strategy developed.

Mr Nannup talked about making children safe and believes that the question has to be ingrained in everything we do. He reiterated that children should not be at risk and is personally motivated to making a positive impact on those kids at risk.

He also talked about transitional trauma and the healing process: not only the consequences of the Stolen Generation but also colonisation. He believes that if we can address our healing it will help our children and that too many Aboriginal families are in unfortunate welfare. Mr Nannup believes that the idea of home ownership is not owned by a lot of Aboriginal people.

Mr Nannup believes the settlement is a great opportunity for Noongar people to assist in the administration of the biggest settlement in Australian history. He also expressed a desire to grow the current asset portfolio and investigate redevelopment opportunities as well as consider the commercial aspect of opportunities.

## Q & A summary

Comments and questions in this session focussed on the role of the South West Native Title Settlement and the strategy for the allocated funding in the Settlement package. There was discussion about how the SWNT Settlement was dividing the Aboriginal community and it was noted that this disharmony is not helpful in building a better future. People with concerns about the transparency of the SWNT Settlement were urged to contact SWALSC and to see the opportunities for the future and focus on the positives. Advocacy needs to be increased to influence government policy development and a focus on the 3 pillars of Noongar Nation was reiterated: Unity, Empowerment and Future Generations.



## Group Discussion 2: What are the obstacles to achieving our goals and how can we get there?

Participants were asked to discuss and write down the obstacles faced by metropolitan Aboriginal people in accessing safe and accessible housing, as well as capture any suggestions in working towards attaining positive outcomes. Each table nominated a speaker to relate back to the rest of the forum the top priorities they identified. There are identified in Appendix 3. Below are the top priorities:

### Table 1

- Diversity of opinions re Settlement
- No more consultation – negotiation only

### Table 2

- Racism – empower young people about discrimination
- Prices are too high. Out of reach.
- 3 strikes – needs to go. No consultation. Not helpful.

### Table 3

- Undervaluing the capacity and strength of self-determination
- Relationships are still parent/child with service providers. Not mature.
- Still feels paternalistic.

### Table 4

- Government doesn't listen or respect us.
- Too many processes.
- Funding streams to Aboriginal organisations aren't clear and too much competition between service providers.

Table 5

- Lack of investment in growing and developing Noongar capability.
- Unity amongst Noongar people.
- Long term vision for housing (50-100 years).

Table 6

- If we don't understand we need to find someone explain it.
- Internal division within community.
- Need to speak in the right forums.

Table 7

- Non-existent government policy on urban Aboriginal housing.
- Own the space – write the policy.
- Understand the opportunities around SW settlement.
- Regular turnover of Government departments and personnel.



## The future: Closing remarks

Where to from here?

Carol Innes addressed the closing remarks and thanked everyone for their participation asking the question: What are you going to do to reinforce the improvement of Aboriginal housing?

Ms Innes read aloud a newspaper article from 1970 about Aboriginal housing and commented that that was 48 years ago and we're still having these conversations. This was her parent's story. Ms Innes went onto say that

*"We can't wait another 50 years. We need to see this shift and change. We can't just keep looking forward to it otherwise we will miss the boat."*

*"A voice for the voiceless – for the people who aren't here"*

*"Housing is a human rights and social justice issue – how are we going to grow and nurture young people without having a home"*

*"We need to stop talking about the past and talk about the future. The past will bring us down. The future needs a vision."*

*"Critical that we get it right, the health of our community is at stake."*

*"A step forward has been taken today. Health needs of our people are becoming more and more crucial everyday. Our houses and homes are so important"*

## Forum Feedback

The key issues identified by participants can be grouped as:

### **Lack of culturally appropriate housing policy**

There is a need for greater Aboriginal:

- Cultural authority
- Autonomy and control
- Participation in decision-making
- Non-discrimination and equity
- Long term housing policy

### **Not enough affordable, suitable and culturally appropriate housing supply**

- Not enough affordable, suitable housing to meet need
- Housing is not in the right locations
- Housing is not the right type to meet cultural needs
- Cultural obligations and the impact on housing is not considered
- The impact on grandparents of housing families and children is not considered

### **Housing quality and maintenance**

- The quality of houses is poor
- Maintenance issues – time taken / quality

### **Maintaining and sustaining tenancies**

- Maintaining tenancies is not adequately supported
- Evictions into homelessness continues
- The negative impact of the 3 strikes policy

- People are being released from institutions (i.e. prisons) without access to secure housing or support

### **Lack of options for renting and purchasing**

- There is an affordable housing gap for people who gain employment – i.e. not eligible for social housing / don't qualify for a home loan/can't access private rental properties
- The expense of private market, systemic racism and lack of rental certainty means that this is not an option for many people

### **Impact of ongoing, systemic policies on housing outcomes**

- Trauma, mental health, drugs, suicide, - the effects of eviction is not considered
- Income security, poverty, unemployment impacts on housing affordability
- Systemic racism
- Lack of Aboriginal liaison staff and strong relationships with government has a negative impact on ongoing relations and resolving issues



## Next steps

- Shelter WA in partnership with Telethon Kids Institute develop a working group with the Elders as a platform for an Aboriginal voice into Noongar housing policy and to develop an Aboriginal housing policy and framework to measure progress
- Shelter WA to discuss with Noongar Mia Mia, the development of a Noongar Community Housing Strategy to build on the value proposition of Noongar managed housing, to address the lack of safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing supply and to capitalise on new opportunities.
- Shelter WA to develop, in partnership with Noongar Mia Mia, other agencies as appropriate and the Department of Communities, new models for affordable home ownership schemes – i.e. rent to buy option with long term rental payments to become shared equity in ownership.
- Shelter WA to ensure Aboriginal people are central to the review of the *Residential Tenancies Act 1987*.
- Shelter WA in partnership with the Aboriginal community, increase advocacy for:
  - The abolishment of the 3 strikes policy
  - Aboriginal advocates to support people and liaise with the Department of Communities on housing issues.
  - The Department of Communities to simplify housing jargon.
  - The Department of Communities to undertake a cultural audit of current government housing policies and practice.
  - A review of the negative impact of employment outcomes on social housing eligibility and the development of affordable and secure housing transition options.
  - A policy to ensure that safe and stable housing and support is provided immediately for people being released from government institutions.

## Artwork from the event

Artist Jade Dolman was commissioned to create an artwork during the forum. This beautiful work of the Swan River is below. Jade is a Whadjuk/Balladong Nyoongar (Mother's side), Eastern Arrernte (Father's side) woman from Perth. She is a visual artist and a cultural educator. Jade remains connected to her culture through painting and family. She has a passion for making a change for Indigenous Australians especially youth through different forms of art whether it be painting or dance. In December 2017 she graduated from the University of Western Australia. Her degree is a Bachelor of Arts majoring in Indigenous Knowledge, History & Heritage and Fine Arts.



## Videos from the event

Dr. Glen Stasiuk and BlackRussian Productions, were commissioned to create a video record of the forum. Four vignettes were created around the following themes:

1. Health - How important housing is to the health of Indigenous people
2. Economy - Home ownership and the building of an asset base
3. Wellbeing - The value of having a safe home
4. Solutions - Attendees ideas for fixing the housing problem

For information on the videos please contact Shelter WA.

## Appendices

Appendix One: Speakers biographies

Appendix Two: Photos of attendees' notes: visions for the future of Housing

Appendix Three: Photos of attendees' notes: obstacles and strategies

Appendix Four: Attendee list

## Appendix One – Speaker Biographies

### **Carol Innes – Co-chair, Reconciliation WA**

Carol Innes has a strong commitment to work with Reconciliation WA to make a difference in our community to build stronger and meaningful relationships across our community to appreciate each other in all sectors. Carol Innes currently holds the position of Manager Aboriginal Cultural Heritage & Arts at the Metropolitan Redevelopment Authority. This is a relatively new role to the organisation concentrating on Aboriginal engagement in the urban development projects that the organisation delivers. Carol has been in this role since May 2015. Prior to this Carol was employed at the SWALSC since 2006 and has worked on project development which maintained Noongar involvement in many areas through native title. Previous to this, Carol worked for 11 years in the arts sector in the area of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander arts. Carol is experienced in government at both State and Federal levels and in the community arts sector. Carol is a mother and grandmother and is a very strong advocate for raising the profile of Noongar people in Western Australia.

### **Stuart Clarke, Director Social Housing Policy, Housing and Homelessness, Department of Communities**

Stuart Clarke has over 25 years of experience working on innovative projects in various Western Australian Government departments as an economist, business analyst, policy officer and senior manager. For example, at the Department of Agriculture and Food he led the creation of a new finance arrangement - the Cooperative Loans Scheme - and the local food promotion program called Buy West, Eat Best. More recently as Director of Social Housing Policy at the Department of Communities, Stuart has been part of the team aiming to reform the social housing system to deliver better social outcomes.

### **Stephen Hall, Housing Consultant**

Stephen has: established a youth homelessness service: managed a tenancy legal service, and more recently worked in housing policy - this included high level advocacy around funding for remote housing and working toward the establishment of a national peak body for Aboriginal housing. Stephen has also served on a range of Boards, including: Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation (ANTaR): National Sorry Day Committee: WA Deaths in Custody WATCH Committee (foundational member): and WA No Interest Loans Scheme (Inaugural Chair). Stephen is published in the area of Aboriginal police relations, the role the churches in Aboriginal child removal.

### **Wayne Nannup, CEO, South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council**

Wayne is a proud Aboriginal man with family connections to the South West, Pilbara, Goldfields and Kimberly regions of Western Australia. Wayne had over ten years' experience in the construction industry having worked as a building contractor before deciding to study law. After completing a Bachelor of Law Degree in 2009 at Murdoch University in Western Australia, Wayne completed his legal training at the Aboriginal Legal Service WA and was admitted to practice in 2010. Wayne joined the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council in September 2012 as Director of Operations and was appointed as Chief Executive Officer in May 2016. Wayne considers it a privilege to work for the South West Aboriginal Land and Sea Council helping Noongar people to achieve the desired result of implementing the Indigenous Land Use Agreements.

### **Angela Elder. Manager Recognition and Partnership Projects, Aboriginal Policy and Co-ordination Unit, Department of the Premier and Cabinet**

Angela Elder has almost 20 years' experience in native title and Aboriginal Affairs, working in both the research and policy areas of native title, prior to commencing work on the South West Native Title Settlement in July 2013. Her role as Manager of the South West Native Title Settlement Unit commenced in the last 18 months of negotiations over the content of the Settlement package and the 6 Indigenous Land Use Agreements (ILUAs). Angela and her team are now responsible for implementation of the ILUAs on behalf of the WA Government. Previously Angela worked as an Indigenous Affairs Policy Advisor to the State Government Minister for Indigenous Affairs and the Aboriginal Lands Trust at the Department of Aboriginal Affairs. Her career in native title began as a Research Historian at the State Solicitor's Office in the late 1990s.

### **Gordon Cole, Chairperson Noongar Mia Mia**

Gordon Cole is a Noongar leader and business operator with a passion for helping Noongar people succeed. A former chairperson of the Perth Noongar Regional Council, Gordon has an extensive career in business and government, with time spent across several State and Federal Government agencies before starting his own business, specialising in Indigenous services, coaching, mentoring, and leadership. He also runs a workwear supply business and is moving into the Digital Technology space along with his many community roles. Gordon is the Chairperson of Noongar Mia Mia Pty Ltd (NMM), he was the inaugural Chairperson and has been a Director with NMM since its inception 18 years ago. He has represented Housing at State, National and International levels.

### **Glenn Pearson, Research Focus Area Head, Aboriginal Health, Telethon Kids Institute**

Glenn Pearson is Head of Aboriginal Research at the Telethon Kids Institute in Western Australia joining the Institute in 2005. As an accomplished educator, advocate and policy advisor, he currently leads five strategic projects that will see Aboriginal health integrated as core business of the Institute's research program. Additionally, he has a state-wide directive is to ensure the Institute's work reflects the needs of Aboriginal families and is conducted in accordance with ethical and cultural protocols and brings to this role 15 years of working in senior positions within the State and Australian Governments with experience in health, education and child protection as well as an Executive Policy Advisor for the WA ATSI State Policy Office. Glenn currently sits on several boards in a continued commitment to make a positive difference in the lives of Aboriginal children and their families including Deputy Chair for the WA State Government's Ministerial Council for Suicide Prevention, member of the UWA Centre of Best Practice in Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Suicide Prevention, a Director on the ANUs National Indigenous Genomics Centre and Chair of the Sister Kates Home Kids Corporation Board.

### **Michelle Mackenzie, CEO Shelter WA**

Michelle Mackenzie became Shelter WA's CEO at the beginning of 2018. She has a passion for social justice, human rights and working with people, communities and institutions to advocate and deliver more affordable and diverse housing choice. Michelle understands that championing more affordable housing choice in this State, will lead to better outcomes for people experiencing homelessness and those seeking housing security. She is passionate about working collaboratively, facilitating the alignment of government, industry, researchers and the community sector to design and deliver an affordable housing system. Prior to working at Shelter WA, Michelle was an Executive Director at the Department of Regional Development, led the regional community relations team at Rio Tinto, and was an Executive Manager at the WA Local Government Association (WALGA). Originally from Melbourne, Michelle has worked on remote Kimberley Aboriginal communities and in the Pilbara, where she managed the Town of Port Hedland's community services and development functions. Michelle has a Master of Arts in Public Policy and a Bachelor of Music/Arts (hons). She is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Management, Leadership WA and graduated with an Order of Merit from the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course.

Appendix Two: Photos of attendees' notes on vision for the future of Aboriginal housing.

Elder table | What would you like to see? in housing

1. Amount of young homeless people who are not considered homeless as living with grandpa/grp.
2. grandparents - if dis children become homeless
3. Don't ask for help - fear of being taken away
4. All parents with children shall have a home.
5. Wait list - 10/15 years - too long -

- Politicians listen - to come.

1

- Abi people be a priority for housing + waitlist
- No more Aboriginal housing - have to compete -
- Churches - do Abi. people access these?
- Homes under old Abi Housing board - not for Abi people - a In. people
- Landlords who rent cheaply - run down + demolish - just getting the \$.
- Home people in same area if they need to move due to repairs.

2

- Decent housing - not sub standard ie brick + tile not something old.
- Demolish old houses + rebuild for maintenance too slow dark.
- section 54 evicted - no chance for appeal - left with debt - work + walk along people - ie debt.
- Assum managers - 60 days - evictions
- Mint needs to be addressed quickly - ie plumbing/drain - take 24 hrs.
- \* Working group with elder to look at the policies -
- Discrimination
- Gov. workers - tipped off gov - no shame

3

- \* For young people - a block of flats - [ie people doing business]
- If unemployed when apply for housing - if got a job - level of earnings - out on street - those level out
- Look at how keep house - regular level of earnings - have rubbish in garden - then have to leave.
- \* Advocate to support people talk to housing -
- Information not shared across housing areas - different approvals.

4

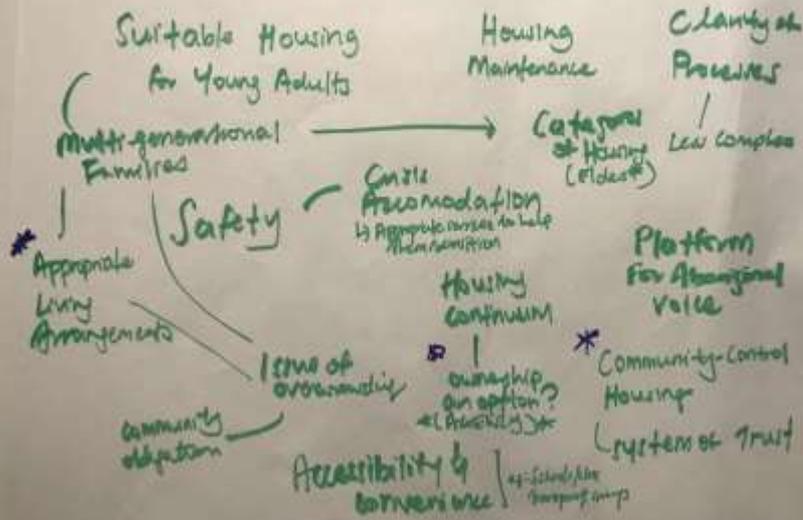
- Simply the jargon -  
 - All gov agencies form partnerships with Aboriginal MIA -  
 - Help people get into them  
 - Support if people are buying a house + have the issues - short term  
 - To cut off point with MIA  
 - Purchase opportunities → payments high  
 - Aboriginal Development Corp? → new way to support ownership  
 - Issue of income → could afford costs

If people live in a H/W that lasts for many years - 20 years - you should own it -  
 your home - should have to own.  
 Priorities  
 1) Young people, buybacks - look - housing for them.  
 2) Advocacy for young people / families - buybacks.  
 3) H/W that work with Noongar MIA - Philip  
 4) Own home (H/W) 20 years  
 Equity when you rent - Buy 6

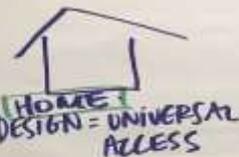
- Simple, flexible, responsive, timely - on speed  
 - Significant increase in capacity  
 - Allocation of current capacity?  
 - Diversity of options.  
 - Security of arrangement  
 - Improved connectivity between services  
 - Housing system is more connected especially.  
 - Dedicated housing stock.  
 - Engagement with elders  
 - Aboriginal controlled grace (source: ...)  
 - Equitable access. stay continuous  
 - Separation of wealth creation and loans

**NOW & IN THE FUTURE**  
**IDEAS**  
 1) ABORIGINAL AFFORDABLE HOUSING VENTURES → BUYING SCHEMES (of interest) LIKE YOU USED TO HAVE IN PLACE  
 LOOK AT LONG TERM SOLUTIONS.  
 LOOK AT PRISON POPULATION → NEED HOUSING ON RELEASE  
 Low income households  
**SHIFTS**  
 MORE FLEXIBILITY  
 - ACKNOWLEDGE CULTURAL OBLIGATION  
 FAMILY STAYEDG  
 - CHANGE POLICY BLM WORK + SOCIAL HOUSING  
 3 STRIKES, NEW WAYS OF WORKING

What would we like the housing system to look like now into the future?



NEED ....



AFFORDABLE SUITABLE.

\* Removal to's missing housing initiatives Ballandry, Alpink, Army.

THINGS THAT HAVE WORKED

RENT TO BUY  
SUPPORT WHEN THERE ARE 'MESS UPS'

③ LOOK AT DV, MH DISABILITIES  
SUPPORT FOR FAMILIES  
CAREING FOR OTHERS  
REGULAR SUPPORT  
MORE SERVICES - ABORIGINAL RUN.

THINGS THAT HAVEN'T WORKED

STRIKES POLICY.  
NOT RECOGNISING CULTURAL OBLIGATIONS.  
STRUCTURAL RACISM.

NEED

PLACES FOR COMMUNITY BARS TO STAY WITH METAL WHEELS NEEDED

PATHWAYS FROM INSTITUTIONS.  
MAKE MOST OF INFRASTRUCTURE - PLACES THAT ARE THERE - ABORIGINAL HOUSING UNIT DEN SUPPORT, ABORIGINAL DIRECTORATES, AUTONOMY + CONTROL.

What would we like to see in the future

- \* We want aboriginal run, aboriginal focussed crisis accommodation
- \* Aboriginal housing should be provided by Aboriginal Comm. Housing with appropriate support (M/H/AOD / SST) ie Ngooona Mia Mia
- funding given through '10c' capanty
- Don't own the land - this should be transferred over in time. Should not be owned by gov. or trust
- Need to look at the structural components the houses are built with
- Benevolent housing - try housing mobility

- Address the 3 strike policy REMOVE IT!!!!
- Look at the tenancy agreement types aboriginal ~~residents~~ are put on get rid of fixed term leases.
- there is a gap where not eligible for 'homeswest' and don't qualify for loans to buy their own home. - need support to make it work. - financial advice, extra grants or support to make the leap
- if lost a previous house due to financial issues or relationship break down need support similar to 1<sup>st</sup> home owners grant where help with taxes or other in going fees - can get up to \$20,000
- BIG PICTURE - we should buy back the land
- Given the land + just have to pay for the house

Change in policies - HOMESWEST to accommodate the reality of our lifestyle, cultural/family obligations etc \* Income examples: home ownership, 3 strike policy

Tenancy education/information

Increased housing - Prisoners released

Student housing - support study

Maintenance support - Elder/Single Partnering Sharing families Disability

30+ rents - give house to! Easier access to home ownership

② Buy management of properties not the Asset - Leverage grants from state - Active Resilience.

↳ Homeswest transitions property into private management.

- Identify stages of housing/homeless

- Have resources at every stage - crisis care / pathways to homelessness

① - Common Purpose - One Vision

- Where do different groups join in?

- How do we do it?

- one overarching Aim Buy

- one organization - Group work?

③ - Economically Viable housing management system + Policy (Community)

## What would we like the housing system to look like in the future?

- \* Change in govt attitudes - still too colonial mindset
- \* Real consultation needed to <sup>3</sup> Noongar People
- \* 'White Australia Policy' needs to be abolished - Royal Commission needed
- \* Need some 'real truth'
- \* Too much rhetoric in govt.
- \* Sustainable housing needed - <sup>3</sup> habitable, not old, more space

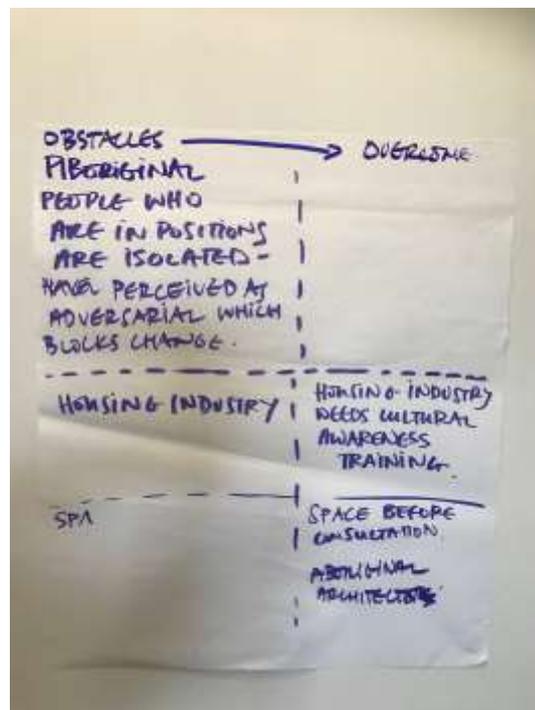
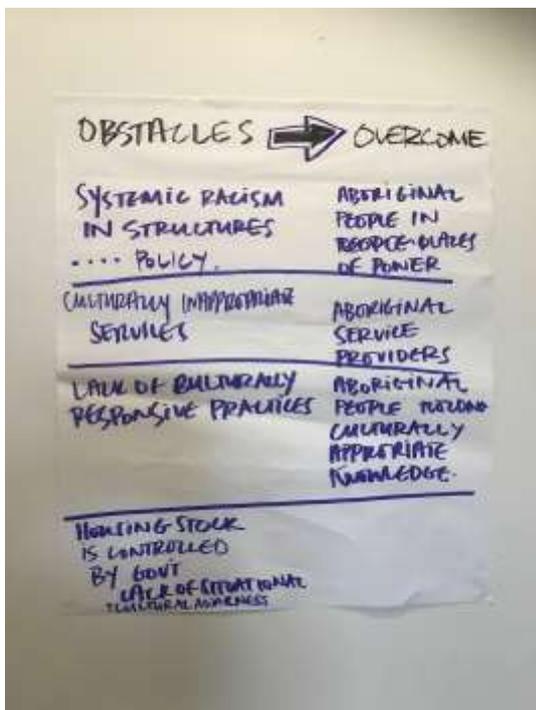
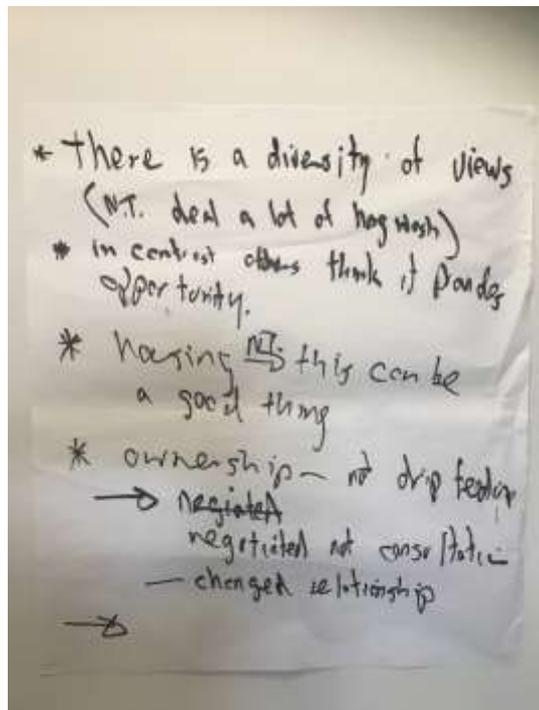
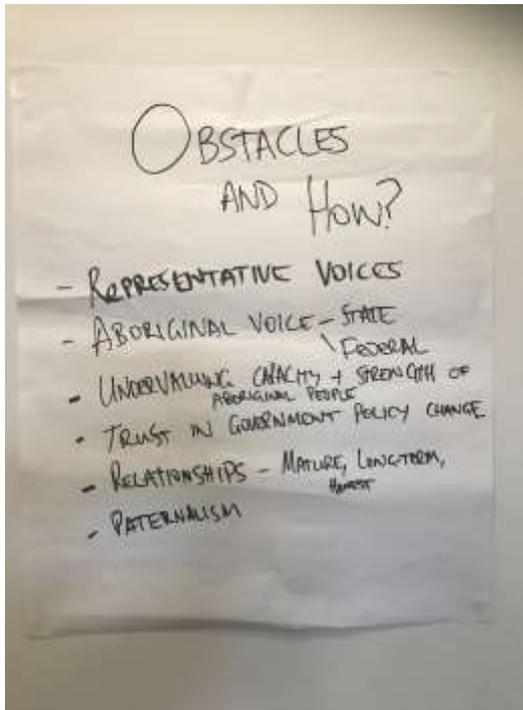
- \* Aboriginal people need to be on the same page together
- \* Cultural authority must come back + taking responsibility
- \* Control of Noongar People
- \* Research

\* RAP type approach to ensure cultural context taken into account.

- \* 'Sit down + talk to us' <sup>5</sup>
- \* Make housing affordable <sup>1</sup>
- \* Elders need to set the guidelines for behaviour + housing <sup>1</sup>
- \* Taking the power away
- \* We need to get back our <sup>1</sup> culture
- \* Need to speak to <sup>3</sup> Noongar people

1. Reducing Barriers
2. Creating better areas for vulnerable people.
3. Audit of Housing Stock (Aboriginal)
4. What Housing was built with Aboriginal <sup>community</sup>
5. Noongar Housing System needs to be established as the fundamental element of our economic base in Noongar Nation.

Appendix Three: Photos of attendees' notes on the obstacles and subsequent strategy suggestions.



## Barriers

① Gov don't listen and respect  
Our mob, Lack of unity, Leadership understanding

② Too many gov & non gov processes

③ Integrated Consortia funding streams  
Lack of houses, appropriate locations, distribution  
Historical issues

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More respected leaders for Aboriginal orgs  
Improved co design

## OBSTACLES

① OURSELVES

- THE WAY WE THINK
- THE WAY WE BEHAVE

- STRUCTURES - "ROUND peg square hole"

- TOO MANY 'TRUSTS'
- NOT ENOUGH FREEDOM

② INVESTMENT - LACK OF

- 50-100 YEAR VISION
- PLANNING FOR NEXT GEN

## \* Obstacles \*

- Negotiation etc needed!
- Already too much division among Nyungar Community on how to move forward → need to come together.
- Our people have a lot to say but are not talking in the right groups/forums
- Lack of information or miss information being shared.
- The people need to feel its fair if they don't then it will be a huge obstacle
- Are everyone supported to understand it.

Foreplanning - before we cross the line - shouldn't be done (closed door deals are costly deals)

- Non-Existent Govt. policy on Urban Aboriginal housing
- Understand the opportunity - Southwest Settlement.
- Regular turnover of Govt depart.
- Not enough specific Advocacy groups
- Own the space. Write your own policy



## Appendix Four - Attendee List

Name	Attended
Mrs May McGuire	✓
Mr Peter Phillips	✓
Mrs Millie Penny	✓
Mrs Doris Hill	✓
Mrs Charmaine Pell	✓
Mrs Kerry Hunt	✓
Mrs Oriel Green	✓
Mrs Muriel Bowie	✓
Mr Allan Kickett	✓
Mr Albert McNamara	✓
Rev Sealin Garlett	✓
Ms Nicole Ilich	✓
Hon. Ken Wyatt AM	✓
Mark Glasson	✓
Dr John Byrne	✓
Stephen Hall	✓
Carol Innes	✓
Liza McGuire	✓
Michelle Mackenzie	✓
Klaudia Mierswa	✓
Lisa Kazalac	✓
Royceton Hardey	✓
Andrea Griffin	✓
Nurul Khoiriyah Zainal	✓
Brad Farrant	✓
Clair Scrine	✓
Glenn Pearson	✓
Angela Elder	✓
Barry McGuire	✓
Bob Jones	✓
Cheryle Michael	✓
Cherylee Wallam	✓
Claire Ellis	✓
Claire Levido	✓
Farley Garlett	✓
Patricia Mwiragua	✓



Name	Attended
Geoff Alger	✓
Glen Stasiuk	✓
Gloria Miller	✓
Gordon Cole	✓
Graham Edmunds	✓
Heidi Mippy	✓
Hope Ryder	✓
Jade Dolman	✓
James Butterworth	✓
Jo Abraham	✓
Josh Cunniffee	✓
Jenny Bedford	✓
Jillian Keefe	✓
John Mogridge	✓
Jonny Ford	✓
Katie Stubley	✓
Laurel Sellers	✓
Malcolm Firth	✓
Melissa McGuire	✓
Minyulo Bartlett	✓
Oral McGuire	✓
Paul Willaway	✓
Reg Little	✓
Robert Gough	✓
Sarah Brown	✓
Sharon Hill	✓

Shaun Wyn-Jones	✓
Sherry McLaughlin	✓
Stuart Clarke	✓
Taliah Payne	✓
Terese Miller	
Tina Picket	✓
Vanessa Corunna	✓
Vanessa Elliot	✓
Wayne Nannup	✓
Zeta Morgan	✓