

# ACHIA

Aboriginal Community Housing  
Industry Association NSW



Friday, 17 May 2024 | ACHIA Alert #28

## 2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards

ACHIA NSW is excited to launch the Inaugural 2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards at the upcoming 2024 Aboriginal Housing Caucus at Tamworth in August.

The 2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards seeks to recognise and celebrate individuals and/or Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHPs) committed to making outstanding impacts within the Aboriginal community housing sector.

Nominations for the 2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards must be for housing achievements within NSW. The nominee must be:

- an individual who has significantly influenced Aboriginal housing in their community; or
- a registered ACHP.

All nominations will be presented to the ACHIA NSW Board, who will be responsible for the determination of award winners.

All nominees, including award winners, will be recognised at the ACHIA NSW 2024 Annual Housing Caucus.

**Nomination Forms** can be returned to [admin@achiansw.org.au](mailto:admin@achiansw.org.au).

**Nominations close on Friday, 14 June 2024.**

2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards  
Nomination Form

2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards  
Criteria & Guidelines

# Vital Statistics from the National Indigenous Estate – NSW

ACHIA NSW has been engaged by the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATISHA) to undertake a two-staged project to identify and analyse the potential for land activation within the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation (ACCO) sector - The Vital Statistics from the National Indigenous Estate – NSW project.

The project will empower and elevate ACCOs and ACHPs in NSW by providing power through data. Further, it will shape, strengthen and deliver an accurate picture of the potential contribution of the NSW Aboriginal community housing sector to the development of new housing stock and how this is represented to government and financing bodies.

## The Project

The project will be delivered in two key stages.

### **Stage 1**

To identify and analyse significant and diverse ACCO land holdings in NSW and their 'vital statistics'.

### **Stage 2**

To develop a framework for activating a proportion of the land parcels identified in Stage 1.

## What's Next

For more information about the Vital Statistics from the National Indigenous Estate – NSW project, please see the FAQ below. Alternatively, if your ACCO would like to participate in this project, you can contact Trista Hickey, Director – Closing the Gap, Policy and Communications at [Trista.H@achiansw.org.au](mailto:Trista.H@achiansw.org.au).

Expressions of Interest for participation closes at **5pm on Friday, 24 May 2024**.

## Frequently Asked Questions

# ACHIA NSW 2024 Aboriginal Housing Caucus

 **Save the Date** 

Mark your calendars for the **ACHIA NSW 2024 Aboriginal Housing Caucus!**

Join us for two empowering days at the prestigious Powerhouse Hotel, on Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi Country in the heart of Tamworth.

**When:** Tuesday, 27 August 2024 and Wednesday, 28 August 2024

## What to Expect:

- Over 120 representatives from Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHPs), including and Local Aboriginal Land Councils (LALCs) and other corporate bodies in NSW, as well as state and local government delegates.
- A program packed with speakers, experts and facilitators from all areas of the housing sector.
- Opportunities to connect with housing professionals.

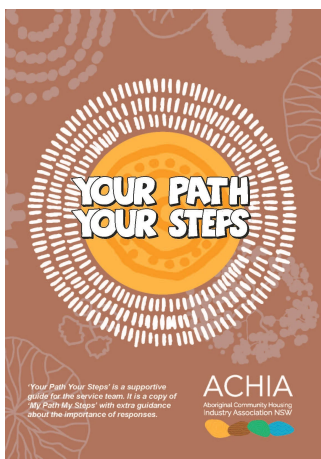
## More Details to Follow

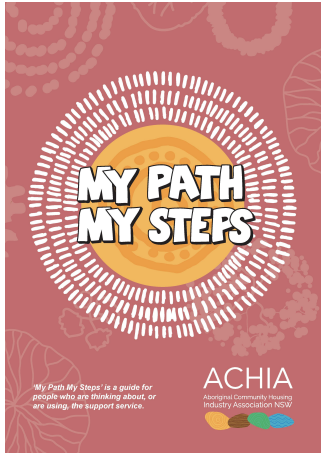
# 3rd Annual Disrupting & Reducing Family Violence Against First Nations Women and Children Summit

Last week, ACHIA NSW Service Development Manager – Domestic and Family Violence Services, Eleanor McCall presented at the 3rd Annual Disrupting & Reducing Family Violence Against First Nations Women & Children Summit, held on Gadigal country in Sydney.

Eleanor talked about the work ACHIA NSW is doing with Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisations (ACCOs) around capacity and capability building for Aboriginal-led Core & Cluster services and culturally appropriate domestic & family violence resources.

The ACHIA NSW 'Your Path, Your Steps' and 'My Path, My Steps' resources are available via the QR code below. Additionally, you can contact Service Development Manager – Domestic and Family Violence Services, Eleanor McCall to discuss Core and Cluster services at [eleanor.m@achiansw.org.au](mailto:eleanor.m@achiansw.org.au) or [0437 550 981](tel:0437550981).





# AHO Rent Policy & Market Rent

AHO Rent Policy calculations are built into the AHO Rent Calculator. Rent is based on household income and market rent values.

## **Income-based Rent**

Income-based rent is calculated as 25%-35% of household income + 15% of any applicable Family Tax Benefit and 100% of applicable Rent Assistance.

## **Market Rent**

Market Rent is guided by the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) rent tables report.

100% of Market rent is applied as the upper cap for any household rent setting.

The condition of a property will also have a bearing on the overall market rent value, which can be determined by checking same or similar properties in the proximity.

The AHO Rent Policy only applies to AHO-managed properties or when there is agreement to use the policy when managing other organisations' properties.

# NSW Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative

The NSW Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) is steering the NSW Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative in partnership with Homes NSW, including Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC), Aboriginal Housing Office (AHO), and Community Housing Providers (CHPs), under a joint approach to upgrade selected public, community and Aboriginal social housing properties.

The initiative will deliver energy improvements in over 24,000 social housing homes in NSW, including upgrades to solar systems, reverse-cycle air conditioners, heat pump hot water systems, LED lighting, ceiling fans, window shading, insulation and draught proofing.

The initiative is for selected social housing tenants in eligible homes and will run from 2024 to 2027.

An FAQ has been developed to support engagement with the initiative, and CHPs can direct questions to a dedicated team at [Sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au).

## Frequently Asked Questions

# 2024 NSW Street Count

2024 NSW Street Count, the NSW Government's fifth annual rough sleeping street count, was completed between 1 February and 1 March 2024. The annual street counts provide the NSW government and partners with point-in-time data to track street homelessness and target programs aimed at reducing it.

2,037 people were counted sleeping rough during these street counts – a 26% (414 person) increase compared to 2023.

Over 300 local organisations were either consulted and/or partnered with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) to complete street counts in 400 towns and suburbs in 76 local government areas (LGA) across NSW.

These organisations included Specialist Homelessness Services, local councils and Community Housing Providers, as well Aboriginal organisations, local community groups, and Police.

You can access the 2024 NSW Street Count Results at the link below.

[2024 NSW Street Count Results](#)

# Upcoming Conferences

## NSW Housing Summit, Sydney

13 June 2024

The Property Council presents the Housing Summit 2024, a major event aimed at addressing the multi-dimensional housing challenges facing New South Wales. Building upon the success of last year's program, this year's Summit promises an insightful exploration into the progress made since the introduction of the state's major housing reforms and the pathway forward to meet targets ahead of the formal commencement of the National Housing Accord.

### Key Themes:

**Navigating Policy Changes:** Explore the implications of recent changes to the Housing SEPP, introduction of Transport Oriented Development Program, and Low- and Mid-Rise planning adjustments. Learn how these reforms can streamline housing delivery while addressing existing constraints.

**Government Action and Industry Progress:** Gain valuable insights into the operationalisation of planning policies and the changes to the state's planning assessment function.

**Financial Enablement:** Hear from finance sector leaders on strategies to facilitate housing delivery across diverse asset classes. Discover solutions to de-risk investment in residential projects amidst a challenging interest rate environment.

**Activating all Assets:** Examine the barriers and pathway forward for purpose-built student accommodation, seniors housing and other alternate housing options in meeting our National Housing Accord targets.

**Innovations in Housing Delivery:** Gain international insights and explore innovative approaches to new housing delivery methods, from planning and design to construction.

## NSW Housing Summit

# ACHP Grant and Training Opportunities

### Public Interest Disclosure Training for LACLS - NSW Ombudsman

The NSW Ombudsman are offering free, online training sessions for LALCs from **7 to 23 May** on the new *Public Interest Disclosures Act 2022*. Those who should undertake the training include CEOs, managers and supervisors, and disclosure officers within LALCs.

On Tuesday **23 April 2024** they will also host a morning and afternoon online information session for LALCs to help them determine who in their teams needs to attend training and which session they should register for.

**Register:** <https://www.ombo.nsw.gov.au/training-and-events/upcoming-PID...>

### NSW Social Housing Energy Performance Initiative

This new Program will deliver energy improvements in over 24,000 social housing homes across NSW. These energy efficiency upgrades could include solar systems, reverse-cycle air conditioners, heat pump hot water

systems, LED lighting, ceiling fans, window shading, insulation and draught proofing.

The Commonwealth and New South Wales Governments are providing \$175 million total funding over the next 4 years for energy upgrades in social housing. This will help reduce energy bills for tenants and keep their homes cooler in summer and warmer in winter.

There is a limited number of places available, with only 24,000 homes making the cut, so be quick and don't miss out!

**More Information:** [sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au](mailto:sustainability@environment.nsw.gov.au)

### **NSWALC Small Community Grants**

NSWALC will make small grants available to community members and community organisations in each NSWALC region for the following purposes:

- To assist Aboriginal people to participate in arts, crafts, and sporting activities;
- To encourage participation in and the maintenance of contemporary and traditional cultural life of the Aboriginal community;
- For promoting understanding of and respect for Aboriginal culture;
- For supporting personal development opportunities for Aboriginal people; and
- For supporting the health and wellbeing of Aboriginal peoples in NSW.

**Apply:** <https://alc.org.au/scg/>

# **IBA Home Ownership**

Together, lets empower our communities and pave the way for brighter futures. Reach out to us and nominate your interest in a visit from IBA today, because everyone deserves the chance to call a place their own.

If your community would benefit from a visit from IBA to talk everything home ownership, click the link below.

**Schedule a Visit**

## **SME HIGHLIGHT**

Ruby Heard is a versatile and ambitious entrepreneur and engineer with global experience and a penchant for sustainability, with Indigenous heritage originating from the Jaru people of the Kimberley.

Ruby founded Alinga Energy Consulting - a socially conscious engineering consultancy that provides specialist energy services to the commercial, government and NGO sectors within Australia and internationally. Her company has a particular focus on areas where energy accessibility and affordability issues prevent or limit the availability of reliable power.

Over the past 5 years Alinga Energy Consulting has completed energy feasibility studies for 5 Indigenous communities in Western Australia which looked at integrating renewable energy systems to increase reliability, reduce diesel usage and lower generation costs.

Alinga Energy Consulting have developed concepts for 100% renewable energy housing precincts, investigated energy systems for water pumping facilities and Indigenous developments, consulted on energy strategies for the Pacific and delivered dozens of solar system designs. Additionally, they have worked on programs for Indigenous housing energy efficiency upgrades with the WA Government and the Energy Efficiency Council.

Ruby currently sits on RAP committees for Engineers Without Borders and GHD. She is also a founding steering committee member of the First Nations Clean Energy Network – a non-profit which is supporting Indigenous people to participate in, and benefit from the clean energy transition.

In 2020 Ruby became a PhD candidate with the University of Melbourne. Her research centers on energy justice for remote Indigenous communities and using traditional Indigenous values to augment energy service delivery in Australia.



Ruby Heard



Founder, Alinga Energy

Email: [ruby@alingaenergy.com](mailto:ruby@alingaenergy.com)

Website: [www.alingaenergy.com](http://www.alingaenergy.com)



Continue to send us your pictures of "Welcome to Country" signs, acknowledging the beautiful lands in which we live and journey through.

By sending in your pictures, we acknowledge Aboriginal people and lands we call home.

Together, let's weave a visual tapestry that reflects the profound beauty and enduring spirit of our people.

Email: [comms@achiansw.org.au](mailto:comms@achiansw.org.au)

### **ACHIA NSW**

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