

ACHIA

Aboriginal Community Housing
Industry Association NSW



Friday, 14 June 2024 | ACHIA Alert #30

NRSCH Forum in Darwin

The ACHIA NSW team attended the NRSCH Forum in Darwin last week to understand more about the local Aboriginal Housing context.

The forum was created by Aboriginal Housing Northern Territory in partnership with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Housing Queensland. The forum was also attended by the Northern Territory and Queensland Community Housing Registrar's as well as Aboriginal Organisations providing housing across NT and ACHIA NSW's Sector Development Team.

The forum was focussed on the challenges faced by Aboriginal Community Housing Providers working in the NRSCH system and how could NRSCH and the ACHPs work better together. The second day was attended by Minister Selena Uibo, the Minister for Remote Housing and Homelands, who provided insights into the \$4b remote housing commitment from the Federal Labour Government and also detailing the challenges faced by those living in remote areas of NT.

ACHIA NSW is thankful for having the opportunity to present the NSW landscape and challenges and is looking forward to continuing this very important conversation alongside our partner Aboriginal Housing Peaks in QLD and NT.





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.


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



DATE & TIME

 27-28th August 2024

 Kamilaroi/Gamilaroi
Country Tamworth.

<https://communityhousing.org.au/achia/>

ACHIA NSW Cultural Mindfulness Training



ACHIA NSW delivered its first ½ day Cultural Mindfulness Training Workshop on Thursday 30 May 2024. It was held in Ashfield upon the request of a number of agencies. It was great to see and meet so many staff who had migrated to build a life here and see how enthusiastic and deeply committed they were to seeing justice and meaningful support delivered to Aboriginal people, acknowledging the unbroken connection to Culture and Country that is the birthright of First Peoples.

ACHIA's Cultural Mindfulness training has been developed for not for profit community service agencies that work with Aboriginal people around NSW. Why? Because often, people are not just tenants of an ACHP, they are serviced by other mainstream agencies that provide aged care, out of home support, disability support etc. It is ACHIA's resolve to influence and improve the tenant experience with the mainstream service providers that touch their lives. If we can broaden the mainstream sector's understanding of the history of Aboriginal people in Australia and their treatment since colonisation, we can seed and engender amongst them a deep and sincere commitment to working shoulder to shoulder with ACHPs to Closing the Gap in multiple outcome areas.

Get in touch if you'd like to find out more and feel free to recommend us on to others. Contact Paul Douglas, Director Project Development & Implementation on [0400 012 422](tel:0400012422) or paul.d@achiansw.org.au

AHO Info Session – Tamworth

ACHIA NSW attended the AHO Information session in Tamworth on Wednesday, 12 June 2024.

The AHO showcased the following to participants:

- **AHO and IBA Partnership** – AHO led a workshop on the provision of feedback regarding the needs for building organisational capability and supporting the build of a new program. This training will be delivered by IBA and the AHO Sector Development Team going forward.
- **AHO Policy Framework** – Changes are coming to the AHO Policy Framework, and several key policies are not currently available on the AHO website while they are being updated. ACHPs can contact AHO directly to request a policy if they require during this time. Further information will be shared with ACHPs upon release of updated policies.
- **Services Our Way (SOW)** – AHO delivered a presentation on how SOW works in the regions it is currently available. This included perspective sharing on the referral system, wait times in different locations, what to expect when using SOW and the outcomes achieved to date.
- **AHO Home Ownership Program** – This session highlighted how to access the program, current outcomes and an overview of the various ways that the program works. Further information is available here: <https://www.aho.nsw.gov.au/tenants/home-ownership>
- **Transitional Housing** – AHO presented on expanding transitional housing in NSW, including how to leverage local knowledge. If you would like to know more about Transitional Housing, you can contact Andea Randell, AHO at andrea.randell@aho.nsw.gov.au.
- **Tertiary Accommodation Grants (TAG)** – Tertiary Accommodation Grants are for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students who are enrolled in full time studies at university or TAFE NSW. This grant supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students to stay in study and complete their courses. To be eligible for a Tertiary Accommodation Grant students must be completing a Certificate IV and above to apply. Further information is available here: <https://www.aho.nsw.gov.au/news/tertiary-accommodation-grant..>

New Legislation

Coercive Control



Image Source: @doidam10 for Canva Pro

CONTENT WARNING: The following content contains information about domestic and family violence.

Coercive Control Legislation

The Crimes Legislation Amendment (Coercive Control) Bill 2022 (NSW) implemented a new criminal offence for “Coercive Control” which will commence on **1 July 2024**.

The new law establishes a crime for a current or former intimate partner using coercive control (repeated abusive behaviours) over another current or former intimate partner. This includes patterns of psychological, sexual, spiritual, financial, and other forms of abuse that may affect many people but were previously not covered under domestic violence legislation.

Recognising the signs is key. We know you're often the first point of contact when someone's seeking help. Here are some examples of what “Coercive Control” can look like:

- Trying to control when or if you can see your family and friends or attend community events.
- Trying to control where you go and what you can do. They might stop you from leaving by locking you in the house or taking your keys, car, phone, wallet, or ID.

- Bullying you to take your bank card, spend your money or not let you spend it.
- Making unreasonable demands of you or your family, often about money (also known as 'humbugging').
- Watching everything you do, including tracking your phone or going through it without permission.
- Running you, your family, or your mob down.
- Getting others in the community to gang up on you, fight you, or make you shame.
- Separating you from culture, community or Country, or questioning your Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander identity.
- Making you have sex or do sexual things you don't want to do (even if they are your partner or ex-partner).
- Threatening you, your family or friends, threatening to damage your home, or threatening to report you to the police.

The offence of coercive control specifically applies to an adult who repeatedly or continuously uses abusive behaviour against a current or former partner. It does not apply to abusive behaviour against siblings, parents, Elders, other relatives, or friends, as existing criminal offences will continue to apply to that conduct.

A review will take place after three years to determine, among other considerations, whether the scope of relationships should be expanded.

Further information about the Legislation can be found here: [Coercive Control and the Law](#)

Specialist support services are available for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. This includes First Nations Women's Legal Contact Line and Brother to Brother Contact Details. For more information to see what resources are available, click here on the link: [Coercive Control Help for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people](#)

FREE face-to-face Coercive Control Training for the Domestic and Family Violence Sector is provided through The Centre for Community Welfare Training (CCWT) in partnership with the Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ). Spots are limited, so enrol ASAP here: [FREE Coercive Control Training](#)

Immediate Needs Support Package

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Immediate Needs Support Package

First Nations Peoples have been prohibited and excluded from participating in the Australian financial system in varying ways since colonisation. (Key Learning #2 in ASIC's Indigenous Financial Service Framework, which can be accessed here: [ASIC's Indigenous Financial Services Framework](#)).

As Aboriginal community-controlled services, you can do your part by informing victims of domestic and family violence you support about the Immediate Needs Support Package (INSP) which is available to primary victims of domestic violence in NSW.

The INSP is intended to help victims pay for urgent things to ensure the victims safety, health, and well-being due to violent crime, such as:

- Rent Assistance
- Household items

- Clothing & toiletries
- Whitegoods & appliances
- Changing locks at home
- Security cameras
- Security windows & doors
- Alarm system
- Storage
- Removalist

The INSP eligibility will depend on each individual's specific circumstances and needs resulting from the violent crime. Each package has a pre-set financial limit, which can be a combination of things adding up to a maximum of \$5,000.

If an individual has already paid for relocation or security, they can apply for financial assistance for immediate needs and be reimbursed up to \$5,000 for those costs.

For further information on the INSP, follow the link: [Financial Assistance for Immediate Needs](#)



Image Source: @gettysignature for Canva Pro

Roads To Home

Roads to Home is run by the NSW Department of Planning, Housing and Infrastructure (DPHI). It empowers Aboriginal communities to make decisions about construction of powerlines, roads and other infrastructure on Aboriginal-owned, community-controlled land. Roads to Home is a key plank in ensuring that people living in homes on former Missions and Reserves around NSW have access to vital services and facilities.

How does Roads to Home work?

Aboriginal communities prioritise the works they need done to improve quality of life. By working with the community to resurface a main street, for example, Roads to Home has knock-on benefits such as:

- better household waste collection
- more reliable postal delivery
- access for emergency vehicles
- improved community transport.

The program also helps with long-term solutions for maintaining infrastructure in partner communities.

The NSW Government has committed \$109 million to upgrade infrastructure and services for 34 Aboriginal communities across the state.

The program began in July 2019 with 10 communities, with 11 more communities added in 2021 and another 13 communities added in February 2022. To see the full listing of investment in each of the 34 communities, go to this link: <https://www.planning.nsw.gov.au/policy-and-legislation/aboriginal-land-use-planning/roads-to-home>

We know that there are 61 discrete Aboriginal communities around NSW and more of them need this vital investment. And let's acknowledge that many communities that have got some funding need much more. The Roads to Home funding they got was just the tip of the iceberg. We'll be discussing further investment in former Missions and Reserves at the 2024 Aboriginal Housing Caucus. Come along and share your communities' needs, plans and ambitions so we can help amplify your voice to government programs like Roads to Home.



Image Source: <https://images.app.goo.gl/uUv5ic2YuNLbHPtn7>

Changes to the Bail Act 2013



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Changes to the Bail Act 2013

On 6 June 2024, the NSW Government enacted amendments to the Bail Act 2013, tightening restrictions on granting bail to alleged domestic violence offenders. As part of the domestic violence response package, these changes will ensure that magistrates rather than court registrars will now make all bail decisions.

The Government has stated it will invest \$34 million over four years, which will include six additional magistrates being employed and additional costs incurred by NSW Police and Legal Aid.

It also includes specialist training, which has already started in domestic and family violence training for magistrates and court staff, evaluation funding, and capital investment to provide audio-visual link facilities for remote bail hearings. You can read the media release here: [NSW Government Media Release on Changes to the Bail Act 2023](#).

ACHP Grant and Training Opportunities

Sydney Metro West

sydneymetro.info



Build the foundations to your career in construction with on the job learning and development opportunities

First Nations People paving a career in construction

Expressions of interest now open for apprenticeships and traineeships within the construction industry.

Gamuda Australia and Laing O'Rourke Consortium (GLC) has been awarded the contract to deliver nine kilometres of twin metro rail tunnels between Westmead and Sydney Olympic Park, excavation for two new metro stations, a stabling and maintenance facility at Clyde and a precast facility at Eastern Creek.

GLC's subcontracting workforce are looking for 15 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who are interested in starting a career in construction. You will work on Australia's biggest public transport project while completing a Civil Construction apprenticeship or traineeship.

The first step is to complete Sydney Metro's pre-employment program. This program has been developed to give you the skills and hands-on training to kick start your career in the construction industry.



Workers on the Sydney Metro West project

Pre-employment training program Official program dates: 15 July - 26 July 2024

- A two week pre-employment training program with Health & Safety Advisory Service in our training facility at Clyde
- Hands-on training and site familiarisation
- Opportunities to connect with industry mentors to support you through the program.





Successful completion of the pre-employment program will enable you to apply for a Certificate III in Civil Construction apprenticeship or traineeship with your nominated employer.

If you have any questions or would like more information about training and careers please call Eleanor Harrison on **0438 641 629** or email **wfd@glcwtm.com.au**.

For more information about the Sydney Metro West project visit **sydnymetro.info**
Proudly delivered in partnership by GLC and MobReady.

Be part of Australia's biggest public transport project

Pre-employment training program

Program content delivered by Health & Safety Advisory Service

The following units of competency will be covered in the pre-employment program. Successful participants will receive a statement of attainment for the following nationally accredited units:

RIICOM201D Communicate in the workplace

RIISAM203D Use hand and power tools

RIIWH5201D Work safely and follow WHS policies

RIIHAN308F Load and unload plant

and procedures
 Plan and organise work
 Shift materials safely using manual
 handling methods

RIIWH5204E Work safely at heights

RIIBEF201E

RIIRTM203E Work as a safety observer / spotter

TLID0020

Conduct local risk control

RIIRIS201D

To be eligible, participants must be:

- Currently unemployed and registered with a Workforce Australia provider
- Over 18 years of age
- Hold a white card or be willing to obtain one
- Able to pass a drug and alcohol and medical assessment
- Able to travel to the training venue or Parramatta station for site transport
- Identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander



For more information

Contact: Eleanor Harrison
 Senior Workforce Development Advisor
 Mobile: 0438 641 629
 Contact: Ben Montgomery
 Training & Development Manager
 Mobile: 0432 529 009



Translating and interpreting service

If you need help understanding this information, please contact the Translating and Interpreting Service on 131 450 and ask them to call us on 1800 612 173.



Access information in over 100 languages.

Download **Sydney Metro Connect** from the App store or get it on Google Play.

Grant Writing Workshop

Strong Spirit Aboriginal Services would like to invite any Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, Aboriginal businesses and Aboriginal community controlled organisations to attend this free workshop .

The workshop will cover the following topics:

- Types of grants
- The importance of grant guidelines
- Turning your project idea into a project plan
- Project planning
- Developing a strong application
- Writing a budget
- Submitting the application
- Reporting requirements



By participating in this workshop you will gain the skills, knowledge and confidence to secure more funding through grants.

There is one on one grant writing mentoring available to workshop participants post workshop attendance.

When: Wednesday 19th June 2024

Where: The Glen for Women, 253 Yarramalong Road, Wyong Creek.

Time: 10:30am-1:30pm

TO REGISTER VISIT

www.strongspiritervices.com/workshops-1

ANY QUESTIONS CONTACT JESS ON:

0432360664

Jess@strongspiritervices.com



**Regional
NSW**

STRONG SPIRIT
ABORIGINAL SERVICES



Be part of the Aboriginal Legal Career Pathways Program

If you identify as being Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander, live in NSW, and are interested in a career in the Legal profession, this is a great opportunity for you.

TAFE NSW, in collaboration with Macquarie University and Djurali Centre and Legal Aid NSW, is offering a unique training opportunity. We are excited to share this with you to consider and apply by **Friday June 28 2024**.

About this opportunity:

You will be supported to complete the Certificate III in Legal Services (BSB30320-01) . Your training, travel and associated course costs will be covered for you whilst you are supported to complete your studies. If you are not currently employed, this unique program provides you with the opportunity to apply for a 12 weeks paid employment with Legal Aid NSW.

Successful completion of this qualification and others within the Program may provide a pathway to further legal studies and possible employment (eligibility criteria apply).

About the qualification:

Through a combination of weekly online, virtual theory and face to face training, you will gain foundational skills in legal services. Learn legal terminology, explore how the justice system works, provide trustworthy support, and develop the organisational abilities to take your legal services career anywhere.

How to get involved:

If you have any questions or want to have a yarn, please contact Tracey Rose Aboriginal Education and Engagement Coordinator on tracey.rose3@tafensw.edu.au or by phoning 0438 831 759

- Nationally Recognised Training
- This training is fully subsidised by the NSW Government

Location

TAFE NSW Ultimo Campus

Duration

6 Months

Study type

4 x 5 day blocks of time to be delivered in Sydney and weekly virtual sessions.

Start date

July 2024 *

To apply before Friday June 28, please register via this QR code



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

Andrew Broffman is a Principal with The Fulcrum Agency, a Social Enterprise of architects, project managers and grant writers who support First Nations-led projects across Australia.

Andrew leads the Sydney office, reinforcing our national presence and ability to deliver projects in diverse locations. For over a decade, Andrew was Managing Director at Tangentyere Design Architects in Alice Springs, one of Australia's most respected Aboriginal owned, not-for-profit architectural enterprises. To The Fulcrum Agency he brings considerable experience in cross-cultural engagement, strategy, policy making and advocacy. Andrew always works for the benefit of community - sustaining culture first and foremost - whilst delivering award-winning projects.



Andrew Broffman

Principal, Fulcrum Agency

Phone: [0447 842 623](tel:0447842623)

Email: andrew@thefulcrum.agency

Website: www.thefulcrum.agency



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

ACHIA NSW

Suite 5, 619 Elizabeth Street, Redfern
Australia



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