

ACHIA

Aboriginal Community Housing
Industry Association NSW



Friday, 28 June 2024 | ACHIA Alert #31

CEO MESSAGE

2024-25 NSW Budget Updates

The housing announcements in NSW's 2024-25 budget mark a crucial stride in tackling our housing crisis, with over 9,000 households currently waiting for priority social housing.

Our challenge is substantial!

As mentioned in a range of recent budget announcements, long-term plans and investments, coupled with collaboration between the government and the community housing sector, are essential to enhance the delivery of social and affordable housing. This allows community housing providers to construct more homes, offering relief to NSW's most vulnerable families.

The highlight of this budget is the \$6.6b investment in housing and homelessness services over the next four years – the single biggest investment by a NSW state government since the end of WWII. Further, a commitment from Homes NSW to work with the state peaks on co-designing ways and means to spend that money to achieve the top-level targets set most effectively. Additionally,

- \$202.6m over four years to the Aboriginal Housing Office to support critical capital maintenance on First Nations social homes, in addition to the repair of 3,500 AHO homes.
- support for ACCOs to meet funding and wage gaps so they can continue to deliver critical services and grow the provision of culturally safe responses to Aboriginal people experiencing homelessness.
- \$5.1b over four years for new social housing, including constructing 8,400 new homes, of which 2,200 will be replacement dwellings.
- the first tranche of recurring, dedicated funding for critical maintenance and minor works (\$810m), including to support the upgrade of 30,000 homes.
- \$527.6m over four years to reform temporary accommodation, build back specialist homelessness services, and establish the Homelessness Innovation Fund (HIF) to leverage the skills and capacity of the housing and homelessness sector.

Over the next several weeks, I will provide further insights into how the budget affects the Aboriginal housing sector and Aboriginal Community Housing Providers (ACHPs) more specifically. The ACHIA NSW team will also continue to use the fortnightly CEO forums to ensure we hear directly from you about how to resolve housing

and homelessness challenges with localised, community-driven solutions so we can continue to elevate your voices and advocate to the government.

If you haven't already, please contact Simon Wade at Simon.W@achiansw.org.au to register your attendance for upcoming CEO Forums.

Lisa Sampson

CEO

Vital Statistics Project

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 Shane Todd, Director – Closing the Gap, Policy and Communications at Shane.T@achiansw.org.au

Expressions of Interest for participation closes at 5pm on Friday, 5 July 2024.

FAQ

2024 Aboriginal Community Housing NSW Awards

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

To be eligible, nominations must be:

- to recognise housing achievements in NSW; and
- for an individual that has significantly impacted Aboriginal housing in their community; or
- a registered ACHP.

Completed Nomination Forms should be returned to comms@achiansw.org.au by 5pm on 15 July 2024.

Each nomination makes you eligible for 1 entry into the draw to win a personally commissioned Aboriginal artwork.

Please contact Shane Todd, Manager - Policy and Partnerships at Shane.T@achiansw.org.au or on [0498 441 218](tel:0498441218) if you have any questions.

Nomination Form

Criteria and Guidelines

National Governance Training

Are you a current or aspiring Board member that would like to enhance your skills in governance?

ACHIA is partnering with NATSIHA to deliver a National Governance Training Project focused on enhancing governance practices in ACHPs.

The training is free of charge, includes travel and accommodation, and is targeted at current and aspiring board members.

The one-day training course has two available dates: Tuesday, 30 July, and Wednesday, 31 July.

Further information, including how to register, will be sent via email next week. Please contact Shane Todd, Manager Policy and Partnerships Shane.T@achiansw.org.au if you have any questions or would like to discuss further.



Service NSW Kangaroo Service

Government is improving access to NSW government services for people living in rural and remote locations.

Service NSW's new 'Kangaroo Service' Mobile Service Centre will be visiting more than 40 Aboriginal communities over 10 weeks, starting on Tuesday, 18 June 2024, offering a wide range of services including:

- driver licence and photo card applications and renewals
- Driver Knowledge Tests
- Working With Children Check applications
- Vehicle registration – renewals or checking a registration only
- NSW Seniors or Seniors Savers Card applications
- MyServiceNSW Account transactions
- Birth, death and marriage certificate applications
- Help accessing more than 70 government rebates and vouchers through the Savings Finder program.

An onboard **Business Concierge** will also be available from 18 June to 22 August to provide businesses with free, one-on-one guidance to navigate government, apply for licences, and access other business services.

Find Out More

“Empower You” App

CONTENT WARNING:

The following content contains information about domestic and family violence.

You may or may not be aware of “The Empower You App,” developed less than 12 months ago. It may be useful for clients escaping domestic and family violence.

Victims of domestic and family violence in NSW can have access to an innovative, recently developed mobile phone app designed to document abuse and provide better access to support services discreetly.

NSW Police Domestic and Family Violence Portfolio Owner, Assistant Commissioner Stuart Smith, unveiled the ‘Empower You’ app on Sunday, July 23, 2023. The app was developed as part of the state's commitment to

ensuring better outcomes for victims of domestic and family violence.

Assistant Commissioner Smith said, “The ‘Empower You’ app was designed to be user-friendly, intuitive, and interactive while still providing the best safety features for user privacy and discretion.”

“It has built-in features to keep it private on any mobile device, including passcodes and quick lock, and a modest-looking icon designed not to alert perpetrators.”

“The diary feature allows a victim to collect their thoughts—including photos of injuries and property damage and screenshots of emails or messages—and document an incident when it happens, no matter how minor, whether they report it to the police at that time.”

“This is especially important in terms of coercive control, where we know a victim often feels helpless, so with ‘Empower You’, the abuse is clearly demonstrated, and the power comes back to the victim.”

For more information and links to the Apple and Android App’s [Click Here](#)

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Expression Of Interest: Heritage Council of NSW

Heritage NSW is currently advertising for Expressions of Interest for membership of the Heritage Council of NSW.

There are 3 positions that are required to be filled during the process.

Heritage NSW are seeking professional experience in any of the following areas:

- Aboriginal heritage.
- Archaeology.
- Architecture.
- The [building, development](#) and property industries.
- [Conservation](#) of the [environmental heritage](#).
- Engineering.
- New South Wales or Australian history.
- Local government.
- Moveable heritage.
- Natural heritage.
- Planning.
- Property, planning or environmental law.
- Property economics.
- Rural interests; and
- Cultural [landscapes](#).

As part of these three (3) appointments, one (1) position will be appointed as Chairperson, and one (1) position is specifically related to Aboriginal Heritage with an interest in being the Heritage Council nominated representative on the Aboriginal Cultural Heritage Advisory Committee.

Attached are the:

1. Advertisement for Expressions of Interest.
2. Information Pack; and
3. Application Form.

Applications should be submitted to: HeritageCouncil.Secretariat@environment.nsw.gov.au.

The **closing date for applications is 11.59 pm on 4 August 2024.**

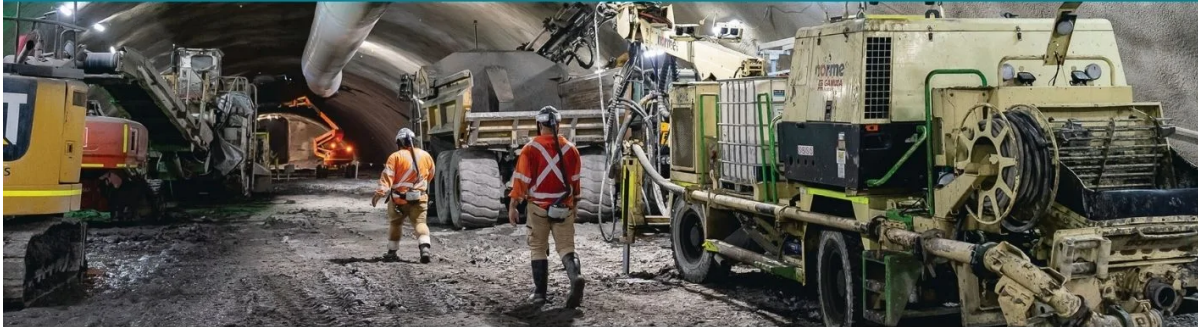
For further information, please contact the Secretariat Unit, Heritage NSW via HeritageCouncil.Secretariat@environment.nsw.gov.au or click [here](#) to visit their website for more information.

EOI Advertisement

Information Pack

Application Form

ACHP Grant and Training Opportunities



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

RIIHAN308F Load and unload plant

RIIBEF201E
TLID0020
 Conduct local risk control

RIIWH5204E Work safely at heights

RIIRTM203E Work as a safety observer / spotter

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.



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SME Highlight

Safety Day Workshops with The Mindful Risk Group

Understanding and managing risk is crucial to achieving your business goals.

The Mindful Risk Group offers a wide range of services aimed at reducing your risk exposure and helping you maximise the value of your risk management efforts. The Mindful Risk Group Indigenous Services are one of Australia's leading risk, governance and safety consulting, research & advisory firms, providing focused and personalised solutions to highly regulated sectors.

The Mindful Risk Group can support your organisation to build internal capability with contemporary frameworks, processes, and resources, reducing complexity on topics that at times can appear overwhelming.

If you or your organisation are interested in connecting with The Mindful Risk Group about Safety Day Workshops, please contact Paul Douglas at Paul.D@achiansw.org.au



The Mindful Risk Group
Indigenous Services



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

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Australia



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