

Memorandum of Understanding

Between

NT Shelter Inc

and

**Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT)
Aboriginal Corporation**

July 2021

PARTIES TO THE AGREEMENT

NT Shelter is the peak body for affordable housing and homelessness in the Northern Territory. NT Shelter advocates for appropriate and affordable housing for all members of the community with an emphasis on disadvantaged groups and those on low incomes. NT Shelter is funded by the NT Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities. NT Shelter advocates for those who are homeless, at risk of homelessness, or on low or low to moderate incomes and who are disadvantaged in a market-based housing system. We are a member-based organisation representing providers of accommodation and support services to those in need.

AHNT was officially launched in August 2019 at the AHURI National Housing Conference in Darwin. AHNT currently sits alongside other NT Aboriginal peaks and is the newest member of the APO NT Alliance. AHNT is the first Aboriginal housing peak body for Aboriginal housing issues in the NT. AHNT has a membership of strong leaders and Aboriginal organisations across the NT that represent Town Camps, Outstations, Homelands and Remote Communities and is the Territory's new leading voice on Aboriginal housing reform. AHNT is supported by Aboriginal organisations, Land Councils and Regional Councils from across the NT.

PURPOSE

As specialist peak bodies, the core business of NT Shelter and AHNT are complementary. Benefits to both parties and ultimately to their members through increased collaboration are envisaged.

This agreement enables NT Shelter and AHNT to work constructively together to tackle the Northern Territory's housing and homelessness challenges. Through collaboration we are stronger than working separately. Our intention is to grow strong, lasting partnerships that result in effective advocacy and the identification of solutions that can address housing need.

Working together, NT Shelter and AHNT will identify areas for building the organisational capacity of the other, identifying priority areas for further research and policy development, influencing government through strong, evidence based advocacy, and creating opportunities to collaborate and consult on what is happening in the housing and homelessness space within the NT and further abroad.

AGREEMENT PROTOCOLS

- Both parties to this MOU acknowledge it is not intended as a legally binding contract.
- Both parties will respect each other's intellectual property.¹
- Both parties will reference the other's work as appropriate.
- Both parties agree not to use each other's branding and advocacy without the other's express permission.
- Both parties agree not to commit the other to a course of action or to make public comment on their behalf without their approval.
- Both parties commit to refraining from any action that, in the view of a reasonable person, could be to the detriment of the other (e.g. result in reduced funding, reduced access to stakeholders etc.).
- Both parties acknowledge there will likely be areas of overlap in respect of advocacy and operational activities. They agree that neither will claim exclusive rights of coverage of an issue or rights of representation except where agreed to by the other party.
- NT Shelter acknowledges the role of AHNT as the peak body for Aboriginal community controlled housing providers and a leading voice on what is needed with Aboriginal housing reform, with a particular focus on remote Aboriginal housing, Outstations, Homelands and Town Camps.
- AHNT acknowledges NT Shelter as the peak body for housing and homelessness in the Northern Territory.
- AHNT respects the right of NT Shelter to comment broadly on the Northern Territory's housing and homelessness challenges, including the need for better housing outcomes for Aboriginal people across the NT. This includes general commentary on matters such as, but not limited to, the social determinants of health and other issues that are well researched and in the public domain (e.g. links between overcrowded housing and poor health outcomes such as RHD).
- NT Shelter will generally not provide public comment or make representations to government on matters relating to specific Aboriginal communities, or issues "on the ground" in a particular community. It will only do so in circumstances where it has discussed the matter beforehand with AHNT, including consideration of whether AHNT or another organisation is better placed to advocate on the matter.
- Both parties agree that advocacy on what Aboriginal community attitudes, aspirations and expectations are in relation to their housing, including progress with housing maintenance, design and build programs, will be led by AHNT.
- Without limiting the above, NT Shelter's primary focus and capabilities relate to urban housing and, to a lesser extent, Town Camps. AHNT's primary focus and capabilities relate to remote Aboriginal housing, Outstations, Homelands and Town Camps.
- When opportunities arise to present at conferences or provide comments to the media, both parties agree to have regard to the other and consider which peak body is best placed to pursue. This will depend on the respective parties' areas of focus and expertise.

¹ Intellectual property (IP) refers to creations of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs; and symbols, names and images used in commerce.

KEY ACTIONS

Both parties agree to work together to progress key areas of interest in the following ways:

- Where possible, support the submissions of the other on housing, homelessness, and related areas.
- Agree to co-brand where appropriate to add credibility to publications or submissions.
- Encourage staff from both organisations to participate in policy development and key message development, recognising the right of both organisations to have differences in this area.
- Support each other's social media on agreed positions and matters of relevance to both parties.
- Support each other's grant funding applications through letters of support, testimonials and other means where they align to the other's mission and values.
- Identify opportunities to host and co-facilitate events, conferences, seminars
- While respecting the other's intellectual property, provide each other with research, data and other evidence to enhance submissions and policy development.
- Consider the views of the other in the development of any pre-budget submissions to government.
- Provide opportunities to cross-promote the other in publications, newsletters and other material.
- Identify opportunities to ensure both organisation's skills-based boards can be kept apprised of relevant key issues and developments.
- Meet twice a year at Executive Officer level to discuss opportunities for sector capacity building, key initiatives and other opportunities to collaborate.
- Meet once a year at Board level to discuss progress and share information and ideas.
- Where it is beneficial to do so, provide access to shared resources e.g. publications, subscriptions – to reduce costs and prevent unnecessary duplication
- Identifying other in-kind and financial opportunities.

GRIEVANCES

Where a disagreement arises, the Executive Officers of each organisation will make every effort to resolve the dispute respectfully and expeditiously. Where an issue is unable to be resolved at that level, either or both parties can elect to elevate the matter to board level for direction and advice on how to proceed. If the matter is still unresolved, the parties can agree to a process of mediation or, otherwise, terminate the agreement.

CONFIDENTIALITY

Any and all information relating to the operation of the parties that is not in the public domain is held to be confidential. Such information is not to be used or disclosed by either party without the specific prior approval of the others.

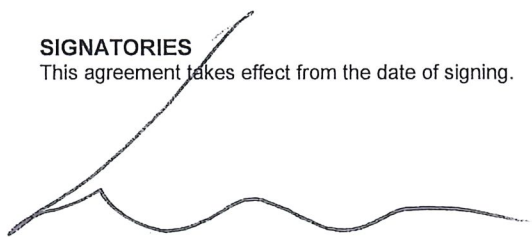
REVIEW

This agreement will nominally exist for 3 years from the date of signing with an annual review conducted by the Executive Officers on the anniversary date.

Where either party wishes to dissolve the agreement for whatever reason, they are free to do so. Written notice to the other organisation should be provided as soon as possible.

SIGNATORIES

This agreement takes effect from the date of signing.



Lawson Broad

President

NT Shelter

Date: 13.7.21



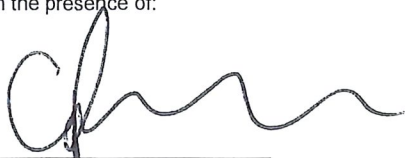
Leeanne Caton

Chairperson

Aboriginal Housing NT (AHNT) Aboriginal Corporation

Date: 13/7/21

In the presence of:



The Hon Chansey Paech MLA

Minister for Remote Housing and Town Camps