



Resilient Families; Strong Communities

North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund

What is the North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund?

The North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund is a major initiative of the State Government's regional services reform to improve the lives of Aboriginal people in regional and remote Western Australia. It is one of 10 priority actions in the 'Resilient Families; Strong Communities' roadmap.

The fund aims to create pathways towards social and economic independence and wellbeing for Aboriginal people in the Pilbara and Kimberley. The fund will invest in projects that will increase affordable, suitable and stable housing options, increase opportunities for educational attainment and job stability and empower Aboriginal people and communities. The fund will support hundreds of Aboriginal people to move into transitional housing, private rental accommodation or home ownership.

How is the fund being implemented?

The fund recognises the importance of developing genuine and strong partnerships with local Aboriginal organisations, service providers and other community partners to ensure projects are designed to meet the needs and aspirations of local Aboriginal people. Projects supported through the fund will be community driven, collaborative, flexible and based on genuine dialogue. Our approach will be strength-based and will focus on addressing systemic barriers and building local capacity.

The fund has expanded on the State Government's successful transitional housing model, developed in partnership with Wunan Foundation, which is operating in several Kimberley towns. This model helps Aboriginal participants to set life management goals, manage personal finances and access community support networks.

The first investment delivered through the fund is an expansion of the Transitional Housing Program in the East Kimberley. Construction of 50 more transitional housing dwellings began in 2018. This project is being co-designed with Binarri-binyja yarrowoo Aboriginal Corporation, the backbone organisation of Empowered Communities in the East Kimberley.

The transitional housing model is also being expanded into the Pilbara. The Hedland Transitional Housing Project will see 40 government-owned houses repurposed as transitional housing, with eligible participants likely to move into the properties in 2019. Support services and housing design principles for the 40 Hedland houses will also be co-designed with local Aboriginal organisations.

What else is being implemented?

The fund would like to support potential partners to put forward and develop ideas that will contribute to the further achievement of Fund outcomes in the North-West. To initiate this, an Expression of Interest process will be launched in April 2019.

What will the fund achieve?

Over five years, the fund is expected to achieve:

- increased school attendance for at least 600 Aboriginal children
- participation in jobs and training by at least 300 adults
- apprenticeships for 30 young people
- eventual home ownership for at least 15 families
- about \$25 million in services and construction contracts for Aboriginal organisations

How will the fund help provide jobs for local Aboriginal people?

All projects under the fund are required to achieve Aboriginal employment targets and where possible facilitate local Aboriginal apprenticeships and traineeships.

The Aboriginal employment targets for construction delivered through the fund have been set at 40 per cent in the Kimberley and 20 per cent in the Pilbara, with the exception of the project to construct 50 transitional housing dwellings in the Kimberley which requires a 45 per cent Aboriginal workforce.

Contracts for the construction of the first 50 houses have been awarded to Aboriginal-owned businesses.

Why does the fund have a focus on housing?

Access to a choice of appropriate and affordable housing helps families to attain and maintain good health, family, education and employment outcomes.

The model of transitional housing has been successful in helping Aboriginal individuals and families achieve greater economic independence and increased participation in education.

What is the lifespan of the fund?

Five years – from 2017/18 to 2021/22

Why is the fund only for Aboriginal families in the North-West?

The majority of Aboriginal households in the North-West are in social housing - more than 70 per cent of Aboriginal households in the Kimberley and more than 50 per cent in the Pilbara.

Compared with non-Aboriginal residents, Aboriginal people in the Kimberley and Pilbara regions are far:

- less likely to have completed Year 12
- less likely to have a post-secondary qualification
- less likely to have a job
- more likely to have a personal weekly income of less than \$400
- more likely to live in an overcrowded house
- less likely to own their own home

How much money has been invested in the fund?

The fund has a value of \$200 million, which comprises \$175 million from the State Government and a \$25 million commitment from the Australian Government.



The North-West Aboriginal Housing Fund is a State Government initiative proudly supported by Royalties for Regions and the Australian Government.