



Australian Government



Northern  
Territory  
Government

# A New Remote Housing System

Better Houses, Healthy Homes

## A New Look for Tenancy Management

The Australian and Northern Territory Governments are working together on a new housing system for remote communities, so people can live in healthier and safer homes.

This will mean changes to the way that houses in many Indigenous communities across the Northern Territory are managed and improvements to tenancy management services. Improved tenancy services will mean better living conditions, fairer waiting lists and more access to tenancy support services. There will also be new job and training opportunities in remote communities for local Indigenous people.

The new tenancy management system will see Territory Housing responsible for all tenancy management services in remote communities. In some communities housing will be managed through a local community housing provider or the new Shire Councils, who will act as Territory Housing's agents. In other communities, Territory Housing will directly manage housing.

While management arrangements will vary across communities, there will be consistency in the level of tenancy management services provided, including:

- Fair level of rent for all remote housing tenants.
- Tenancy agreements signed by all remote housing tenants.
- Fairer housing waiting lists and allocation.
- Access to a range of support services that will help tenants meet their responsibilities, including how to look after the house, effective budgeting, reporting faults and requesting repairs and maintenance.
- Tenancy management services in remote communities will be strongly supported by regionally based Territory Housing staff.
- Training and job opportunities, where people living in remote communities can develop skills and gain employment in tenancy management.



Territory Housing has offered Shire Councils a continuation of grant arrangements to deliver tenancy management in remote communities on their behalf. This transitional arrangement will allow more time to establish formal agent arrangements with the Shire Councils.

The Shire Council arrangements will only affect remote communities impacted by the new local government changes or where the Australian Government holds five year land leases in remote communities. Housing in the following communities, Tara, Binjari, Acacia Larrakia, Belyuen, Robinson River, Amanbidji, Bulla and Kybrook Farm, will be managed by Outstation Resource Centres or Urban Community Living Area (UCLA) organisations under a separate grant program for the 2008/09 financial year.

Consultation with communities will continue to be an important element of the new remote housing system and all remote communities were visited by Territory Housing before the new tenancy management arrangements came into effect. There will be ongoing consultation to make sure that people understand the changes and what they mean for their community.

There will be a stronger Territory Housing presence in remote communities. Territory Housing staff will be the link with communities for all areas of remote housing, such as tenancy management, repairs and maintenance, land leasing and construction.

If you would like more information on the changes to tenancy management in remote communities, please telephone 1800 104 076 and ask to speak with Russel Wills or Shaun Cox.



**Russel Wills** is the Business Development Manager with Remote Housing Reform. He is taking a lead role in the establishment, development and training of regional staff who will be engaged to facilitate housing tenancy and support services to be delivered in communities.



**Shaun Cox** is the Operational Policy, Legal and Legislation Officer in the Strategic Planning area. He is currently drafting remote public housing operational policy and other tenancy documentation.

