

WORKING TOGETHER

Indigenous Housing in the Northern Territory

ATSIC and Northern Territory Government

SUMMARY

- **THE PROBLEM**
- **AN OBVIOUS STRATEGY**
- **HOUSING MANAGEMENT**
- **VALUE OF COOPERATION**

THE PROBLEM - History

- **Long term health statistics**
- **History of development**
- **The need**
- **The Stakeholders**

The History

- **Settlements, Stations, Missions**
- **Homelands and Outstations**
- **Mixture of responsibilities**
- **Standard of Housing**

The Need

- **Av. people/house in Australia is 2.7**
- **Av. indigenous people/house 3.7**
- **Av. indigenous people/ house in NT is 5.4**
- **Australia - 2,031 houses with 10 or more**
- **NT = 1,043 - out of 46,000**
- **Current funding will catch us up in 2037**

AN OBVIOUS STRATEGY

- **Identify the Stakeholders**
- **Establish Desired Outcomes**
- **Develop strategies to coordinate activity
to achieve the Outcomes**
- **Implement and Evaluate**

The First Steps

- **The National Commitment**
- **Bilateral Agreement on Housing and Related Infrastructure**
- **Indigenous Housing Authority of the Northern Territory (IHANT)**
- **National Aboriginal Health Strategy**

Bilateral Agreement

- **IHANT - *ATSIC Regional Councils, NTG and Commonwealth***
- **Key Factors**
 - **Decision Makers**
 - **Funds collected**
 - **Shared Accountability**

National Aboriginal Health Strategy

- **NAHS and HIPP established by ATSIC to target environmental health needs**
- **Close Coordination with IHANT**
 - **IHANT recommendations**
 - **Joint Program meetings**
 - **Quarterly inter-Agency meetings**
 - **Many joint projects**
- **NAHS funds capital - NTG Maintains**

HOUSING MANAGEMENT

Why?

- **Not enough money to build them fast enough**
- **\$'s wasted on house construction**
- **People have a right to a safe, healthy and secure place to live**

What is it?

- **Minimum standards have been set**
- **Collection of rent for houses**
- **Accounting for money collected and spent**
- **Repair and maintenance of houses**

Accounting for Money

The community in particular must be able to see:

- the total amount of money received
- the number of people who have paid and haven't
- the steps being taken to recover debts
- what the money has been spent on

Funding Assistance

- **Allocation by IHANT**
- **Formula based on \$1,700 per house**
- **Annual cost of reasonable repairs and maintenance estimated at \$4,400 per year**

If the Rules ARE followed then



- **Councils will decide on housing management policies and practices**
- **Community will be eligible for IHANT grants for new houses**
- **Community will receive funds for housing management**

If they ARE NOT followed

- **No rent to pay for housing management**
- **NOT be eligible for grants for new houses**
- **Housing management funds will be spent
in the community by the Department**

VALUE OF COOPERATION

- **Training and employment strategies**
- **Economies of scale in project delivery**
- **Houses built for people - where they want to live**
- **Consistency from governments**

Specific Initiatives

- **Building Code enhanced by the Environmental Health Standards**
- **Central Program Management with tougher quality control**
- **Annual Environmental Health Surveys - 5000 houses inspected**
- **Maintenance and Management - Formula \$1,700 per house**

Herding Cats

- **Legitimate need of each agency and organisation to pursue their objectives**
- **Suspicion and lack of trust**
- **What's In It For Me**
- **Lack of a shared vision**
- **Downright bloody mindedness**

Principles for Cooperation and Consistency

- **Shared information**
- **Jointly developed strategies**
- **Respect for the positions of each**
- **Transparency of process**

Cultural Difference

- **Differences between**
 - **Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal**
 - **Elected members and bureaucrats**
 - **Urban and rural**
- **Cultural basis for decision making processes of participants**
- **TENSION - JUST MAKES IT MORE INTERESTING**

The End

The Job Continues

ATSIC and Northern Territory Government