

ABORIGINAL HOUSEHOLDS (GENERALISED)

"PEOPLE ARE LIVING IN THE MARGINS - STUCK IN THE POVERTY TRAP"



Waitlist shows need for 3 - 4 bedroom homes



Dorrigo LALC manage 5 small bedsits for AHO



Tightening rental market - more challenges and discrimination

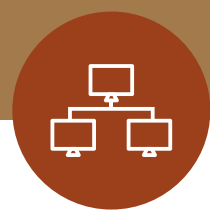
IT'S ALL INTER-RELATED...

"It all links together - we have young people impacted by overcrowding, no space to study, lack of support and role models who live locally, elders displaced and living in other locations. We need secure housing to engage in opportunities."



EDUCATION & EMPLOYMENT

- Need secure housing to engage in educational and employment opportunities
- Need better engagement with schools to strengthen Yr 10 & Yr 12 retention rates



POVERTY TRAP

- People are stuck 'living in the margins' - issues of incarceration, intergenerational trauma, overcrowding etc keeps people in the poverty trap
- It's all inter-related - but secure housing is a good place to start



TIGHTENING RENTAL MARKET

- As the rental market continues to get more competitive, the challenges and discrimination being experienced by Indigenous people also increases



DORRIGO LALC

- Would like to do more with housing - constrained by capacity
- Manage 5 small bedsits for Aboriginal Housing Office
- Need family sized homes



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DISCUSSION WITH DORRIGO LOCAL ABORIGINAL LAND COUNCIL

Rather than ask individual households to share their experiences, HMAG spoke with Cathy, CEO of Dorrigo LALC. HMAG recognises the difficulty and complexity of talking about housing issues given that we are on unceded Aboriginal land and the structural barriers Aboriginal people have and continue to experience in relation to housing.

LET'S TALK ABOUT HOUSING...

The discussion with Cathy from Dorrigo LALC highlighted the inter-related issues impacting the local Aboriginal community and the central role that housing plays in being an enabling factor for other things such as education, employment and connection to others.

There is a need for both refuge and permanent housing in the community. Housing needs to be culturally appropriate and have space for extended family and kinship care so that young people can be supported by and care for their elders.

Cathy spoke of housing providing a base for employment and educational opportunities as well as strengthening the local community connections and support networks.

When there is a lack of the above, it is especially detrimental for young people who need elders around who care and guide them.

Dorrigo LALC is the third poorest LALC in NSW and has limited capacity to develop assets but they are focused on helping where possible (e.g. caravan for local young person experiencing overcrowding at home). They can see the potential of models such as the Community Land Trust when connected with local jobs and community involvement

"As a teacher I have seen many students suffering through homelessness, unsuitable housing and having to leave the area, it's heartbreaking..."

COMMENT FROM WORKFORCE IMPACT SURVEY (MAY 2022)

WHAT WOULD MAKE A DIFFERENCE...

- Need culturally appropriate housing especially given that the extended family has such an important role in raising children
- Connection with community so that 'opportunity can meet preparedness'
- Jobs and training are ongoing issues - taking advantage of opportunities such as the National Park Wildlife Service project to secure real opportunities for local community and also ensuring that development is done in ways that works for local community
- Building better engagement with schools and training institutes to strengthen school retention - especially Yr 10 and Yr 12 rates
- Secure housing so that people can engage in the jobs and training opportunities that are developed

BELLINGEN SHIRE STATISTICS

- 564 people (or 4.3% of population) identify as Aboriginal &/or Torres Strait Islander
- The median house rent is \$478pw
- The median house sale price is \$902,5000
- The median household income is \$1133pw
- 577 households (or 9.7% of households) are in housing stress

Source: housing.id.com.au/bellingen

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Housing Matters
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