

22<sup>nd</sup> Session, New York  
17-28 April, 2023



## United Nations Permanent Forum on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

### **Item 5(a): Dialogue with Indigenous Peoples (closed meeting).**

INTERVENTION by the New South Wales Aboriginal Land Council, delivered by Councillor Grace Toomey for the Central Region, and member of the Wiradjuri people.

#### **Housing**

Thank you Chair,

There is a shortfall in dedicated Aboriginal social and affordable housing. In NSW, we need more social and affordable housing for Aboriginal people and more of it needs to be managed by Aboriginal providers. COVID 19 has highlighted the need for more social and affordable housing in our communities. We seek sector reform that does not starve the community sector of stock and scale and continue a model of co-dependency.

Ongoing evidence and feedback from Aboriginal people acknowledge that service provision by Aboriginal organisations strengthens self-determination and brings benefits, because Aboriginal organisations are better at culturally appropriate service delivery.

The highly fragmented nature of the Aboriginal community housing sector puts all providers at a disadvantage when compared to the non-Aboriginal sector, where consolidation has been supported by Government funding and achieved over more than a decade. We seek a sector reform that works to improve capabilities across the Aboriginal community housing sector, and investment that builds on areas of existing strength and provides a pathway to viability and quality service provision

NSWALC calls for:

- a. Significantly increase funding for the new supply of dedicated Aboriginal social and affordable housing stock



- b. Invest in the Aboriginal community housing sector to support increased opportunities for Aboriginal people to participate in the service delivery, management and governance of social and affordable housing in NSW
- c. Invest in supporting the Land Council Network to leverage existing land assets and other strengths
- d. Government to invest in housing on missions and reserves which were set up to segregate Aboriginal people and now managed by our local Aboriginal Land Councils

**Always was Always will be Aboriginal Land**