

THE AUSTRALASIAN HOUSING INSTITUTE AND  
THE ABORIGINAL HOUSING OFFICE NSW  
PRESENT THE

# ABORIGINAL HOUSING MASTER CLASS

SUPPORTING A SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SECTOR  
FOR ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

8-9 SEPTEMBER 2016, SYDNEY



Australasian Housing Institute  
Supporting Housing Professionals



Family &  
Community Services  
Aboriginal Housing Office

## PROGRAM AT A GLANCE

### THURSDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER

#### KEY NOTE SPEAKER ADDRESS

Warren Mundine AO | Managing Director |  
NyunggaBlack

#### PRESENTATIONS

**'IT'S HOME NOW TO ME' – THE MURDI PAAKI  
EXPERIENCE OF FRAMING CULTURALLY NORMATIVE  
SOCIAL HOUSING POLICY AND PRACTICE**

Sam Jeffries | Chairperson | Murdi Paaki Regional  
Assembly

**OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN  
REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES**

Steve Bevington | Managing Director | Community  
Housing Limited

**THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE - POLITICS MAKES IT  
COMPLICATED**

Sally Langton | Chief Executive Officer and

John McBryde | Operations Manager | Central  
Australian Affordable Housing Company

**THE FUTURE OF ABORIGINAL HOUSING FROM AN  
ABORIGINAL HOUSING PROVIDERS PERSPECTIVE**

Jane Bender | Chief Executive Officer | Gunida Gunya  
Aboriginal Corporation

#### PANEL DISCUSSION:

**ABORIGINAL HOUSING – NOW AND BEYOND 2018**

#### DINNER

**GUEST SPEAKER:** Dr Colin Dillon AM APM | Former  
QLD Police Inspector

### FRIDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER

#### PRESENTATIONS

**PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH – ABORIGINAL  
HOUSING PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE**

Suzanne Naden | Chief Executive Officer | Bungree  
Aboriginal Association Inc

**SGCH - GROWING OUR STORY WITH ABORIGINAL  
PEOPLE**

Bruce Woodhouse | Projects Manager - Group Business  
Initiatives | SGCH

**THE IMPORTANCE OF ABORIGINAL HOUSING IN THE  
HANDS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**

Darren Smith | Director Strategy And Performance |  
Aboriginal Housing Victoria

#### WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLES

- The key issues
- Prioritising the key issues
- What is the desired future position?
- How can we work toward the future desired position?

#### ACTION PLANNING

Supporting a better quality and sustainable housing  
sector for the Aboriginal people.

#### CELEBRATORY RECEPTION

Seminar Silver Sponsors:





**Thursday, 8th September**

**9:00 AM | INTRODUCTION**

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY**     **Uncle Allen Madden** | Gadigal Elder | Metropolitan Land Council

**WELCOME**     **Andrew Davis** | President | AHI

**PREFACE**     **Shane Hamilton** | Chief Executive & Executive Director | Aboriginal Housing Office NSW

**PREVIEW**     **Donella Roberts** | Manager, Training & Event | AHI

**9:35 AM | KEY NOTE SPEAKER ADDRESS**

**WARREN MUNDINE AO | MANAGING DIRECTOR | NYUNGGABLACK**



**10:20 AM | MORNING TEA**

**PRESENTATIONS**

**10:45 am | 'IT'S HOME NOW TO ME' – THE MURDI PAAKI EXPERIENCE OF FRAMING CULTURALLY NORMATIVE SOCIAL HOUSING POLICY AND PRACTICE**

The delivery of social housing in regional and remote Aboriginal communities is a challenging activity undertaken against a policy discourse which increasingly produces consumption of housing as an activity ideally situated within the private sector. Yet, as policy has moved in this direction, Aboriginal people in the Murdi Paaki region in far-western and north-western NSW, through representative bodies Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly and its predecessor ATSIC Regional Council, have succeeded in framing culturally normative social housing policy and practice. Government funded capital works programmes in the mid-1990s catalysed development of community-based governance structures for decision-making around project design and delivery. Over the intervening period, these Community Working Parties have become the peak representative bodies in their communities. In parallel with governance initiatives, a process of technical development took place to frame and deliver training programmes, establish community-owned building and housing management entities, and develop geographically-specific building standards. The pathway to sustainability has not, however, been straightforward. Now, the Region is poised to undertake a major strategic initiative, with work commencing on a Regional Housing Strategy. This paper critically reflects on the Murdi Paaki experience to date and the way of the future in culturally and geographically specific social housing provision.



**PRESENTER:**  
**SAM JEFFRIES**  
CHAIRPERSON |  
MURDI PAAKI  
REGIONAL  
ASSEMBLY



Thursday, 8th September

## PRESENTATIONS

### 11:35 am | OPPORTUNITIES FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT IN REMOTE ABORIGINAL COMMUNITIES

This session focusses on how community development strategies can be deployed to support culture, community sustainability and wellbeing in remote communities. The session will identify how CHL has a tier one provider under the National Registration System can support greater community sustainability through:

- Facilitating training and supporting governance and leadership;
- Advocating land reform, planning and housing tenure to ensure the housing system is more sustainable and responsive to remote community living and culture;
- Pursuing local delivery of services by facilitating training and employment in the delivery of maintenance and construction of housing;
- Introducing participative design and low cost construction technologies to ensure more housing delivery;
- Enabling the introduction of social inclusion programs to promote economic development, recreation and wellbeing in remote communities.



**PRESENTER:**  
**STEVE BEVINGTON**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR | COMMUNITY HOUSING LIMITED

## 12:20 PM | LUNCH

### 1:15 pm | THE SOLUTION IS SIMPLE - POLITICS MAKES IT COMPLICATED

What happens when two Whitefella Community Housing people leave behind their lives and homes in Adelaide and Sydney and arrive in Alice Springs to manage Town Camp housing under a public housing model?

Sally Langton and John McBryde share their journey, from their rather confusing touchdown in Planet Alice to the present day; eighteen months after their arrival in the Northern Territory. The Territory political landscape throws up surprises, shocks and disbelief. Not just from just the elected Territory politicians; but the bureaucrats, NGO's, private sector and the Commonwealth.

At a time where Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in the Territory seem to be on the same page about how to manage their housing; too many other interests are trying to deflect the wisdom of the communities and keep a hold on the system. Is it because of the money, power, control, pessimism, arrogance or because they believe they know best?

Sally and John tell their story and the story of the Alice Springs Town Camps; then venture into the outcomes caused by policy voids and populist politics. How do you exert influence and be an agent of change when the people who make decisions ignore you? What strategies do you need to employ so you can walk alongside and empower people who are affected every day by poor policy and its outcomes? How do we use the wisdom and experience and the voice of the people who live in some of the most appalling housing conditions in the world?



**PRESENTERS:**  
**SALLY LANGTON**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER



**JOHN MCBRYDE**  
OPERATIONS MANAGER  
  
CENTRAL AUSTRALIAN AFFORDABLE HOUSING COMPANY





**Thursday, 8th September**

## PRESENTATIONS

### 2:30 pm | THE FUTURE OF ABORIGINAL HOUSING FROM AN ABORIGINAL HOUSING PROVIDERS PERSPECTIVE

In order to reassess the future viability of Aboriginal Housing Gunida Gunyah have re visited the past to ensure that we are not sitting on the wheel of turnaround. After many years of research we developed a “different “approach to tenancy management, this model is a holistic approach looking into the barriers and issues surrounding tenancy sustainability and developing local solutions. Our innovative approach to tenancy management has been very successful in sustaining tenancies and genuine engagement of our Aboriginal clientele. The concept of rewarding positive behaviours has had a huge impact on our Organisation and our client wellbeing.

In order for us to move into the future we need to think about the financial viability and sustainability of Organisations like ours, one of the ways for us to achieve this is to deliver a tiered tenancy system which will include social housing, affordable housing and private housing to a wide range of clientele. Ensuring a sound financial future, that enables us to continue to deliver a high standard of tenancy management and community engagement.



**PRESENTER:**  
**JANE BENDER**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER |  
GUNIDA GUNYA  
ABORIGINAL CORPORATION

## 3:15 PM | AFTERNOON TEA

## PANEL DISCUSSION

### 3:40 pm | ABORIGINAL HOUSING – NOW AND BEYOND 2018

Led by Shane Hamilton the Chief Executive & Executive Director of Aboriginal Housing Office NSW, the discussion panel format will enable a frank exchange of ideas, giving our expert panel and delegates the chance to consider and deliberate the current state of play for aboriginal housing and look beyond the expiry of NPARIH in 2018.

#### PANELISTS:

- **Leah Armstrong** | Chairperson | Aboriginal Housing Office NSW
- **Suzanne Naden** | Chief Executive Officer | Bungree Aboriginal Association Inc
- **Darren Smith** | Director Executive Coordination | Aboriginal Housing Victoria
- **Jane Bender** | Chief Executive Officer | Gunida Gunya Aboriginal Corporation

## 4:50 PM | WRAP UP AND CLOSE

## 6:30 PM | DINNER

**GUEST SPEAKER: DR COLIN DILLON AM APM** | Former Qld Police Inspector

Dinner Sponsor:  **BloomingHR**



**Friday, 9th September**

## PRESENTATIONS

### 9:00 am | PREPARING FOR FUTURE GROWTH – ABORIGINAL HOUSING PROVIDER PERSPECTIVE

On the 4th May 2015 Bungree became a registered Community Housing Provider under the National Regulatory System – Community Housing (NRSCH) as a Tier 3 provider. Bungree will provide our thoughts on the process and the importance for Aboriginal Housing Providers to consider registration under the NRSCH.

Bungree is currently the only Aboriginal Community Housing Provider registered under the NRSCH and we would like to encourage and assist our Aboriginal Housing Providers to follow this pathway for future growth and development in line with Government funding and programs services available to NRSCH registered Housing Providers.

Bungree is committed to working with our community housing partners and government agencies to improve the access of housing to ensure the quality of life for our people and to achieve stable accommodation.



**PRESENTER:**  
**SUZANNE NADEN**  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER | BUNGREE ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION INC

### 9:45 am | SGCH - GROWING OUR STORY WITH ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

SGCH is a large community housing provider in Sydney. In 2014 we signed up to the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) led Community Housing for Aboriginal People (CHAP) strategy, and have since made a number of changes to our work and culture. This presentation will detail the stages and actions that have brought significant rethinking to our role and commitment to our Aboriginal tenants. Three key themes will be shared; our work culture, our management of tenants and applicants, and our employment capability.

The SGCH story has been intentionally open to guidance from Aboriginal people who helped design our Statement of Commitment through an effective reference group. We have also conducted research through in-depth interviews with Aboriginal households to better inform our decision making. Through this work SGCH has grown in our cultural capacity and commitment. We are continuing to develop and introduce sustainable innovations into the business.

In this session we will share our journey, outcomes, research and changing culture. We will also include a short segment for participants to share innovations that can make all our services more inclusive and respectful for Aboriginal people.



**PRESENTER:**  
**BRUCE WOODHOUSE**  
PROJECTS MANAGER - GROUP BUSINESS INITIATIVES | SGCH

## 10:30 AM | MORNING TEA





Friday, 9th September

## PRESENTATIONS

### 10:50 am | THE IMPORTANCE OF ABORIGINAL HOUSING IN THE HANDS OF ABORIGINAL PEOPLE

Aboriginal Housing Victoria has been on a forty year journey of self-determination. Aboriginal Housing Victoria (AHV) was born out of frustration in the mid 1970s that many Aboriginal people in Victoria still lived in humpies on river banks and were denied basic housing services. Aboriginal leaders were angry and offended at the storm of controversy regarding rental arrears, evictions and poorly maintained housing engulfing the fortunate few Aboriginal Ministry of Housing tenants. Aboriginal leaders and Elders saw self determination, Aboriginal ownership and control of social housing for Aboriginal people, as the solution to these problems.

AHV began as the communities' voice advocating for better treatment of Aboriginal tenants and influencing Ministry of Housing policy. It matured and became a registered housing provider taking on tenancy management responsibilities in 2008 and then maintenance and repair responsibilities in 2013. Today AHV is a registered Housing Association on the precipice of achieving the aspiration of founding members to own and control the Aboriginal social housing properties.

The significance of ownership and control of the housing stock is not lost on the Board and senior management. The final act of self determination imparts great responsibility but also many opportunities to deliver benefits to tenants and their families.



**PRESENTER:**  
**DARREN SMITH**  
DIRECTOR,  
STRATEGY AND  
PERFORMANCE |  
ABORIGINAL  
HOUSING  
VICTORIA

## WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLES

The intent of the workshop roundtable sessions is to challenge existing policies and practices where they fall short in supporting a better quality and sustainable housing sector for the Aboriginal and seek in developing solutions to work toward a desired future position.

### 11:40 am | WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLE 1.1: THE KEY ISSUES

## 12:30 PM | LUNCH

## WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLES

### 1:20 pm | WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLE 1.2: PRIORITISING THE KEY ISSUES

### 1:35 pm | WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLE 2.1: WHAT IS THE DESIRED FUTURE POSITION?

### 2:15 pm | WORKSHOP ROUNDTABLE 2.2: HOW CAN WE WORK TOWARD THE FUTURE DESIRED POSITION?





**Friday, 9th September**

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**3:10 PM | AFTERNOON TEA**

**3:30 PM | ACTION PLANNING**

**SUPPORTING A BETTER QUALITY AND SUSTAINABLE HOUSING SECTOR FOR THE ABORIGINAL PEOPLE**

Delegates will condense and present to the master class generally key action required in the short to medium term to support a better quality and sustainable housing sector for the Aboriginal people.

**4:20 PM | CLOSING REMARKS**

**4:30 PM | CELEBRATORY RECEPTION**





## PRESENTERS

### Jane Bender | Chief Executive Officer | Gunida Gunya Aboriginal Corporation



Jane's family originates from Wiradjuri country but have lived on Gomeroi land for over 100 years. She commenced her career in the Aboriginal Education and Employment sector in 1994 after her youngest child commenced school. She has worked in the Aboriginal Housing sector for over 15 years and is currently the Chief Executive Officer of Gunida Gunyah Aboriginal Corporation whom currently manages over 370 Aboriginal specific Housing properties across the Northern, Northern Tablelands and Northwest regions of NSW.

Over the fifteen years working in the sector she has gained extensive qualifications and knowledge around Aboriginal Social Housing and Community services. She works in partnership with the Aboriginal Housing Office, Land Councils, NSWALC and other stakeholders towards the sustainability of the Aboriginal Housing Sector and the vision of strengthening communities and families and enabling self-sufficiency.

### Steve Bevington | Managing Director | Community Housing Limited



Steve Bevington has been involved in the development and management of affordable and community housing for over 30 years including development of cooperative housing in London, chairmanship of London Borough of Camden Council Housing Authority, Housing Cooperative Programs- Victorian Ministry of Housing & Construction in the 1980s, Managing Director of Community Housing Ltd Group of Companies (CHL) since 1994 to the present day which develops, designs, constructs and manages community housing.

Steve Bevington is one of Australia's leading experts on housing affordability. He is a registered builder and holds a Diploma of Senior Management from Melbourne Business School. He is on the board of Community Housing Federation of Australia, Australia's peak body for community housing and is a key contributor to policy advocacy influencing government housing policies and initiatives. Steve Bevington has lead CHL from a one worker organisation in one State in Australia to business operations into three of the four regions of the world which harbour extreme poverty including establishing a presence in Timor Leste, Chile and India. In Australia the property portfolio of the company has been increasing significantly each year and it currently manages more than 4300 properties in Australia across all six Australian States.

### Dr Colin Dillon AM APM

Dr Dillon is an Indigenous Australian and a descendent of the "Kumbumerri" people of the Yugambeh nation whose traditional country covers all of Queensland's Gold Coast and its environs. He commenced his training as a probationary constable in the Queensland Police Force in January 1965 two years before the 1967 Referendum. He was the first ever of his race to join a police force anywhere in the nation. On 31 March 1965 after completion of his training he was inducted into the Queensland Police Force. He served a distinguished thirty-six career working in both plain clothes and uniform. In January 1991 he was promoted to the rank of Inspector of Police.

In January 1992 in the Honours and Awards he was awarded the Australian Police Medal (APM) with the citation "For distinguished service to the Queensland Police Force". In February 2000 he was admitted to and awarded an honorary award of Doctor of the University by the Queensland University of Technology (QUT). In 2013 he was made a Member of The Order of Australia (AM) for his services to the Indigenous community.

He is the current President and Chairperson of the Brisbane Indigenous Media Association (BIMA) and radio station 98.9FM and has held this position since 2011.



### **Sam Jeffries | Chairperson | Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly**



Sam Jeffries is a proud Mooraworri man. Born and raised in Brewarrina NSW, he has lived in north-western NSW for much of his life and has been involved in Aboriginal Affairs since leaving school. His long-term leadership has been fundamental to the evolution of sustainable, authentically Aboriginal regional and local governance models through the ATSIC Murdi Paaki Regional Council and, later, Murdi Paaki Regional Assembly; and to ongoing negotiation of partnerships with the NSW and Commonwealth Governments. He has co-authored two Indigenous policy journals and presented many conference papers on public policy matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. As a Director of the Indigenous Land Corporation, Sam played a significant role in major investments for Aboriginal education, training, employment and business. Recently, he has achieved recognition of the regional governance structure that he leads as a vehicle for Local Decision Making LDM under the NSW Aboriginal Affairs policy OCHRE. This will impact significantly on the way state government service delivery in Western NSW, by re-aligning resources to match community priorities. Sam has held a range of other senior positions, directorships and adjunct academic appointments and is currently Chairperson, National Centre for Cultural Competence at Sydney University.

### **Sally Langton | Chief Executive Officer | Central Australian Affordable Housing Company**



Sally has worked in social housing, community development, homelessness, mental health and crisis intervention for over 30 years. She has spent the last 13 years in Executive Management roles in housing and homelessness; including Common Ground Adelaide and Unity Housing in South Australia. Sally is now working in Alice Springs as CEO of the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company; an organisation which provides housing for Aboriginal people via Community, Social and Affordable Housing. Sally has a particular passion for ensuring Aboriginal Australians have access to secure, affordable and healthy housing and supports the 'housing first' model as a way forward in delivering economic, health and positive social outcomes for homeless Aboriginal people.

### **John McBryde | Operations Manager | Central Australian Affordable Housing Company**



John is a housing professional with 20 years experience across various property related sectors including community housing, corporate real estate and residential real estate. John's passion lies in business and project management, innovation and training. He has a broad pallet of experience working with small to large community housing providers from NSW and the Northern Territory. In Feb 2015 John relocated to Alice Springs to take up the role of Operations Manager at the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company, the NT's first and only registered community housing provider. This journey has seen John 'dip his toe' into the complexity of remote and indigenous housing and this is where his passion lies today. Outside of work John enjoys spending time in the outback with his young family, writing, performing comedy and mountain biking.



### **Warren Mundine AO | Managing Director | NyunggaBlack**



Mr Mundine AO is a highly respected and influential businessman, political strategist and Indigenous advocate for empowering Indigenous Australia to build a sustained Indigenous economy. His life and career have been shaped by a personal commitment to community, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, and he has more than 26 years' experience working in the public, private and community sectors.

Mr Mundine is the Managing Director of NyunggaBlack, and more recently was the CEO and Executive Chairman of GenerationOne. Prior to this he was the CEO of NTSCorp Ltd. for nine years. Other previous roles include National President of the Australian Labor Party (ALP), National Convenor of the ALP National Indigenous Labor Network and as Chair of the ALP (NSW) Indigenous People and Reconciliation Policy Committee. He has Honorary Life Membership of the NSW Local Government Aboriginal Network and has been awarded the Centenary Medal for services to the community and local government and the Bennelong Medal for Leadership in Indigenous Affairs. In June 2016, Mr Mundine was named an Officer in the General Division of the Order of Australia as part of the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours. He is a Doctor of the University (honoris causa) from the Southern Cross University for services to the community, business and local government.

### **Suzanne Naden | Chief Executive Officer | Bungree Aboriginal Association Inc**



Suzanne Naden has been the CEO of Bungree since 6th January 2014, and a previous Board Member since Bungree's inception.

Bungree Aboriginal Association is a Multi Service Agency based on the Central Coast of NSW, Bungree has been a registered non for profit organisation since 7th July 1995. Bungree delivers over twenty eight (28) funded programs and services across the Central Coast Local Government Area.

The purpose of Bungree is to provide a wide range of funded programs and services that assist many of our vulnerable and isolated people and families such as our elderly, Frailled aged, disable, homelessness, children, youth and families. Bungree aims to ensure that all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people residing on the Central Coast of NSW have access to the provision of high quality and effective services. Bungree has three operating sections including our Housing Section that directly focus on assisting our community.

Bungree Housing has a mission to provide secure and affordable housing to the Aboriginal community on the Central Coast. It also seeks to support youth and families who reside on the Central Coast or in transit and are homeless or at risk of being homeless to family breakdown, in accessing services such as crisis, accommodation, health or advocacy.

### **Darren Smith | Director, Strategy and Performance | Aboriginal Housing Victoria**



Darren Smith is a Palawa man from the Trawlwoolway and Plairmairrenner clans of the Pyemairrenner from North-East Tasmania. Darren has been at Aboriginal Housing Victoria for two and a half years and is responsible for leading policy and strategy development, regulatory compliance and delivery of asset management services in his role as Director Strategy and Performance. He has over 10 years' public service experience in a range of policy roles for the Victorian Government. His most recent positions include managing policy teams in Building Policy

for the Department of Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure and in the former Aboriginal Affairs Victoria and various policy and program roles in the Department of Human Services. With qualifications in Law, Engineering and Public Policy, Darren's experience in policy development and executive support of statutory boards and Ministerial Advisory Committees, complement AHV's governance requirements; as does his experience in the building regulatory environment, in support of our strategies and regulatory demands.



## **Bruce Woodhouse | Projects Manager - Group Business Initiatives | SGCH**



Bruce Woodhouse is currently a project manager for the Group Business Initiatives team in SGCH. Bruce has worked in social service provision for 30 years including youth work, senior's work and neighbourhood centres. In 1995 Bruce gained a social work degree to specialise in community development. His experience includes a decade with Housing NSW working in homelessness, strategic planning and community renewal in the Airds Estate in Campbelltown.

Over the past three years with SGCH Bruce has coordinated Aboriginal projects for the business, built capacity in project management and social impact measurement, expanded a longitudinal research program and delivered projects to address homelessness for young people.

He is committed to evaluation and strategic planning in order to drive more effective business outcomes. Bruce's background has also involved a wide range of field work across many contexts. Bruce is committed to engaging with people to better understand how to deliver more effective services.

