

**SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REGIONAL AND REMOTE
INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES**

**QUESTIONS
AND
ANSWERS**

- Q1 Regarding the 40 partnership communities I notice you have gone around and done a whole range of things there. Would you be aware of the numbers of people living in houses in each of those communities?
- Q2 I know you also have the priority communities—22 communities. You have the partnership communities and the priority communities. The question I have, particularly with the priority communities, is: how did you decide which communities were in and out? Was it just simply anything over this number and size? Did you use things like school or levels of amenity? What were the indicators that you used to select the selection criteria?
- Q3 How are the Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines going? How many have you got in so far and can you give me an update? You have talked to me about the 11 Indigenous building companies. Would you be able to tell me how many employment opportunities have been filled?

Answer

Q1

Housing:

- The Aboriginal social housing dwelling needs gap by 2011 will be over 4,830 dwellings, of which around 93 percent will occur in urban areas and 7 percent in remote areas;
- As at 2008, the Aboriginal social housing dwelling gap in NSW is 4022 dwellings comprising 3758 dwellings in urban NSW and 264 dwellings in rural NSW.
- As at 2008, the cost of bridging the Aboriginal social housing dwelling gap is \$910 million, and this cost increases to \$1.105 billion by 2011.
- Overcrowding is a dominant feature of Aboriginal housing in urban areas. 1,898 additional dwellings are required to address urban overcrowding in 2008.

Occupancy in Bourke

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Bourke is 3.7 residents per household which, is 15% greater than Aboriginal

households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 53% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Bourke (2.4 residents)

- Average size of Aboriginal households in Bourke is 53% greater than other households

Occupancy in Brewarrina

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Brewarrina is 3.8 residents per household, which is 20% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 86% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Brewarrina (2.0 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Brewarrina is 69% greater than other households

Occupancy in Cobar

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Cobar is 3.3 residents per household, which is greater than 36% Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 36% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Cobar (2.5 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Cobar is 36% greater than other households

Occupancy in Collarenebri

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Collarenebri is 3.4 residents per household, which is 6% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 18% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Collarenebri (2.7 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Collarenebri is 80% greater than other households

Occupancy in Coonamble

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Coonamble is 3.2 residents per household, which is 2% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 51% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Coonamble (2.1 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Coonamble is 57% greater than other households

Occupancy in Goodooga

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Goodooga is 3.3 residents per household and this approximates the average for Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents), and is 166% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Goodooga (1.3 residents)

Occupancy in Lightning Ridge

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Lightning Ridge is 3.3 residents per household, which is 3% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 68% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Lightning Ridge (2.0 residents)

- Average size of Aboriginal households in Lightning Ridge is greater than 68% other households

Occupancy in Menindee

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Menindee is 2.9 residents per household, which is 8% less than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 79% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Menindee (1.6 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Menindee is 148% greater than other households

Occupancy in Walgett

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Walgett is 3.8 residents per household, which is 18% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) 81% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Walgett (2.1 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Walgett is 71% greater than other households

Occupancy in Wilcannia

- Average occupancy of Aboriginal households in Wilcannia is 4.1 residents per household, which is 29% greater than Aboriginal households across NSW (3.2 residents) and 165% greater than non-Aboriginal households in Wilcannia (1.6 residents)
- Average size of Aboriginal households in Wilcannia is 2.6 times greater than other households

Q2 The selection process for the 22 priority communities was informed by several elements:

- The then Department of Land and Water Conservation 1996-97 survey of water and sewerage needs
- Application of ATSIC processes to rank housing and infrastructure needs across Aboriginal communities
- Development of a cross-agency data base of housing and infrastructure programs
- Prioritising of those communities with documented housing and infrastructure needs and existing project management systems to support implementation of capital works

Q3 The *Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines* have been operating successfully since 2001. The Guidelines were updated and simplified for easier use from January 2007.

Under the 2007 NSW Government State Plan Priority F1, six Government agencies agreed to nominate fifteen construction projects to mandate the employment of Aboriginal people by 30 June 2009.

The participating agencies were:

- Ageing, Disability and Home Care, Department of Human Services
- Housing NSW, Department of Human Services (including RESITECH)
- NSW Health
- Department of Education and Training
- Department of Corrective Services
- Roads and Traffic Authority

A Steering Committee involving the six agencies, coordinated by Aboriginal Affairs NSW and the Department of Commerce, was formed to oversee this work. The Redfern Waterloo Authority (RWA) also joined, bringing their experience in the application of the guidelines.

Most recent figures indicate at least 191 Aboriginal people have been employed or engaged in a traineeship or apprenticeship within the aforementioned construction projects.

A review of the *Aboriginal Participation in Construction Guidelines* will soon be conducted with specific reference to the participating agencies and goal as described in the State Plan. A draft review plan is currently being prepared.

Under the ACDP, over 230 apprenticeships/traineeships were offered, with 110 participants receiving qualifications in construction, office administration, landscaping and horticulture trades for work generated by the program.