



# Principles and Practice Recommendations: Housing

Based on the findings of our community engagement process with the Aboriginal community of Perth, three early childhood development priority areas have been identified (Early childhood education, Child protection/removal, Housing). The Elder/Co-researcher group of the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort (Our Children, Our Heart) Project advocate the following principles and practice recommendations in relation to the Housing priority area.

## Principles

- Recognise the importance of safe, stable and secure living arrangements to Aboriginal children's health, wellbeing and development.
- Recognise that there is very significant lack of appropriate housing for Aboriginal people in Perth (and elsewhere).
- Acknowledge the social determinants of health and the role that housing plays in fostering educational attainment, employment opportunities and health.
- Recognise the housing disadvantage experienced by many urban based Aboriginal families.
- Acknowledge the impact that discriminatory housing policies have on family functioning
- Public and community housing policy settings and service delivery should reflect best practice in cultural appropriateness.

## Practice Recommendations

- Ensure Aboriginal representation and input into the development of WA housing policy to ensure appropriate and fit for purpose housing design and allocation.
- Provide a diversity of dwelling types and tenancy options to meet the needs of Aboriginal families.
- Provide enough social housing to meet the needs of Aboriginal families.
- Provide more opportunities for home ownership for Aboriginal people on their own country.

## Community reflections

*"Stable accommodation for our kids as well, because it is hard when you don't have a house and you are moving from house to house. It does affect your kids." [Participant Mirrabooka Community Forum, 2017]*

*"one of the things that our families need is safe, stable and secure accommodation. It is really hard to work with families when they mightn't have their own home, so you can't do that ongoing support to the family. As soon as they fall behind in their rent or damage is done to the house, you know, they are being evicted by Homeswest. So that has a big impact on our families." [Participant, Armadale Community Forum, 2016]*

For more information on the Ngulluk Koolunga Ngulluk Koort Project please contact Carol Michie  
T: 9489 7760 E: [carol.michie@telethonkids.org.au](mailto:carol.michie@telethonkids.org.au) or visit <https://www.telethonkids.org.au/nknk/>

