



# Barkly Region Accommodation Action Group (BRAAG)

23 MAY 2018

# What we do

▶ BRAAG :

- i. A regular forum for discussing housing infrastructure and service needs affecting affordable housing homelessness, particularly for low income households and those with special needs;
- ii. Provides evidence and insights from regional stakeholders to NT Shelter, NT Department of Housing and other Government entities;
- iii. Acts on priorities identified at meetings;
- iv. Supports policy and operations-based initiatives that provide better outcomes for the community.



# Today

- ▶ An opportunity to share the group's observations, feedback and ideas with Minister McCarthy
  - ▶ Consolidated stakeholder feedback on housing and homelessness issues across the Barkly Region
- ▶ Articulate regional priorities and needs (from the perspective of local stakeholders)
- ▶ Continue to build understanding and a framework for government & community organisation collaboration



# Priority Areas

- ▶ Crisis / Emergency Shelter
- ▶ Short / Medium Term Accommodation
- ▶ Transitional Housing
- ▶ Long Term
- ▶ Youth
- ▶ Post-release



# Crisis / Emergency

- ▶ **Issue** : Lack of crisis shelter / emergency accommodation
- ▶ **Why** : High incidence of overcrowding, domestic violence & AOD abuse
- ▶ **Current Situation** :
  - ▶ Tennant Creek Womens' Refuge - 8 beds, Emergency Relief Funds and support services.
  - ▶ BRADAAG - 20 beds at the Sobering up shelter.



# Crisis / Emergency

- ▶ **What is Needed :**

- ▶ Crisis accommodation for men, youth and children.
- ▶ Exit pathways from crisis accommodation
- ▶ More secure, isolated crisis accommodation for DV victims.
- ▶ Flexibility in type of accommodation provided e.g. dorms or eco-tents.

- ▶ **Challenges :**

- ▶ Cost
- ▶ Building sector capacity / attracting professionals



# Short / Medium Term

- ▶ **Issue** : Visitors to Tennant Creek sleeping rough / overcrowded housing
- ▶ **Why** :
  - ▶ Lack of short / medium term accommodation for visitors from remote communities.
- ▶ **Current Situation:**
  - ▶ PATS for medical visitors
  - ▶ Unofficial camps



# Short / Medium Term

- ▶ **What is Needed :**

- ▶ Infrastructure Investment - Visitor Park.
  - ▶ Rent to be charged( Promote responsible behaviour)
- ▶ Management strategy
  - ▶ Similar model to Alice Springs Visitor Park
  - ▶ Opportunity for ACCO to leverage existing capabilities & resources.

- ▶ **Challenges:**

- ▶ Encourage increased numbers of people coming to town?
- ▶ Wet or dry accommodation facility.





# Transitional

- ▶ **Issue** : No transitional housing program for clients on DHCD waitlist.
  - ▶ Long waitlist, AOD client relapse after exiting transitional housing.
- ▶ **Why** : Lack of funding for and availability of affordable housing for pathway out of transitional housing.
- ▶ **Current Situation:**
  - ▶ BRADAAG's voluntary 13-week transitional housing
  - ▶ Post release transitional housing program (planning stage)



# Transitional

- ▶ **What is Needed :**

- ▶ Options for long term post-transitional housing accommodation.
- ▶ Options for variety of underlying causes of homelessness – AOD, or disability, Domestic and Family Violence, overcrowded homes, low income.

- ▶ **Challenges :**

- ▶ Training and jobs
- ▶ Community involvement.



# Long Term

- ▶ **Issue** : lack of options for those exiting transitional or short term accommodation
- ▶ **Why** :
  - ▶ Shortage of public housing stock and affordable private rental
  - ▶ Vacant DHCD housing
  - ▶ Culturally appropriate housing?
- ▶ **Current Situation:**
  - ▶ Potential for more staff accommodation
  - ▶ Corrections - residential rehabilitation centre



# Long Term

▶ **What is Needed :**

- ▶ Previous estimates - 450 additional houses
- ▶ Further modelling of cost and need

▶ **Challenges :**

- ▶ Training and jobs
- ▶ Community consensus on type of housing
- ▶ Life skills - upkeep of homes and employment.



# Youth

- ▶ **Issue** : Young people, including those in town from remote communities, sleeping rough and at risk, especially after hours
- ▶ **Why** :
  - ▶ Lack of accommodation options and effective exit care plans / transitions
- ▶ **Current Situation** :
  - ▶ Juno Centre training and accommodation
  - ▶ Pink and blue houses pilot program
  - ▶ Julalikari - 16-bed youth accommodation centre



# Youth

- ▶ **What is Needed :**

- ▶ Rooms offered for crisis or short term use when not required for other purposes
  - ▶ Further consultations - PMC & Patta
- ▶ After hours hub / drop-in centre for children and youth

- ▶ **Challenges :**

- ▶ Flexibility use of infrastructure for multiple purposes
- ▶ Engagement with parents and police



# Post Release

- ▶ **Issue** : Entering Homelessness upon release from corrections / AOD program.
- ▶ **Why** :
  - ▶ Lack of rental history
  - ▶ Unemployment and propensity to reoffend
- ▶ **Current Situation:**
  - ▶ BRADAAG proposal for 12 beds under the COMMIT program
  - ▶ Transitional housing - 5 houses beyond economic repair will be worked on by inmates.



# Post Release

- ▶ **What is Needed :**
  - ▶ Increased support services
    - ▶ Thorough case management
    - ▶ Comprehensive exit care plan
- ▶ Challenges :
  - ▶ Bringing in support services
  - ▶ Attracting relevant professionals





# Summary

- ▶ Critical need for increased housing stock across the board
  - ▶ Crisis / short term / medium and longer term
  - ▶ Visitor accommodation
  - ▶ Effective support and options for post release
- ▶ Flexible arrangements for multi-purpose use

