

Housing and Homelessness Acronyms (What does that stand for?)

Like any sector, the housing and homelessness sectors have their own acronyms and jargon. This fact sheet explains many of these acronyms.

A

AADANT – Association of Alcohol and Drug Agencies of the NT. The peak body representing the alcohol and drug sector across the NT.

AAG – Accommodation Action Group. Regular meetings of stakeholders convened by NT Shelter in Darwin, Katherine, Tennant Creek and Alice Springs for the purposes of consultation, networking, professional development and exploration of the issues confronting the sector and possible solutions.

ACCO – Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation. An independent, not-for-profit organisation, incorporated as, controlled and operated by Aboriginal people.

AHI – Australasian Housing Institute. The professional association for people working and volunteering in the multi-disciplinary social housing industry in Australia and New Zealand.

AHNT – Aboriginal Housing NT. A peak body for Aboriginal housing in the NT, particularly remote community housing, auspiced by APONT (see below).

AHURI – Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute. A national independent research network with a focus on high quality research that influences policy development to improve the housing and urban environments of all Australians. Convenes the National Housing Conference, the National Homelessness Conference and a variety of other professional development conferences for the housing and homelessness sector.

AIHW – Australian Institute of Health and Welfare. Conduct data collection and research on the health and welfare of the Australian population, including data on Specialist Homelessness Services and the people accessing their services.

APONT – the Aboriginal Peak Organisations of the NT. An alliance of the Northern Land Council, Central Land Council and Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance of the NT to provide a

more effective response to key issues affecting Aboriginal people in the NT. Auspices Aboriginal Housing NT (see above).

C

CHIA – Community Housing Industry Association. The national peak body representing housing providers.

CHP – Community Housing Provider. Community Housing Providers are non-profit, non-government organisations providing affordable rental/social housing.

CRA – Commonwealth Rent Assistance. A payment administered by the Federal Department of Social Services (Centrelink) to assist with rent. Available to people receiving income support payments (such as JobSeeker, Disability Support Payments, Pension), who are not living in public housing. CRA is not just for people on JobSeeker, Student, Aged or Disability Pension, it is available for all persons receiving a payment from Dept. of Social Services (DSS) or who get a payment more than the base rate of Family Tax Benefit.

D

DCLS – Darwin Community Legal Service. Community legal service providing free legal advice across a range of areas of law. Operate the Tenants Advice Service in the NT.

DCM – Department of the Chief Minister (NT Government). The NT government department responsible for overseeing and implementing major government strategies, particularly in the areas of early childhood, Royal Commissions and Inquiries, Aboriginal Affairs, renewable energy, economic development, social policy, support to Cabinet and coordinating the NT's participation in National Cabinet.

DFV – Domestic and Family Violence. Domestic and Family Violence is a leading cause of homelessness in Australia.

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H

HASI – Housing Accommodation Support Initiative. An NT Department of Health-led program providing wrap around care to support public housing tenants with mental health diagnoses to maintain their tenancies.

HIA – Housing Industry Association. The national peak body for the home building industry.

HRG – Homelessness Response Group. A pilot program being run by NT Shelter and funded by the NT Government to develop a wrap-around case management model to support people with complex needs out of homelessness.

I

ICHO – Indigenous Community Housing Organisation. An Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation which owns or is responsible for managing Indigenous community housing.

M

MJW – Making Justice Work. A coalition of groups interested in effective responses to crime in the NT.

N

NATO – National Association of Tenant Organisations. The national peak body for tenants associations.

NDIA – National Disability Insurance Agency. Independent statutory body whose role is to implement the National Disability Insurance Scheme

NDIS – National Disability Insurance Scheme. A federal insurance scheme providing support to Australians under the age of 65 with a permanent and significant disability.

NDS – National Disability Services. The peak body for disability service providers in Australia.

NHFIC – National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation. A Federal Government-owned corporation with the mission to improve housing outcomes for all Australians. Operates the National Housing Infrastructure Facility and the Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator.

NHHA – National Housing and Homelessness Agreement. From 2018-19, the agreement under which funding is provided by the Commonwealth to states and territories to address housing and homelessness.

NPRH – National Partnership on Remote Housing. A two year funding agreement between the Federal Government, NT, WA, SA and Qld to address critical need in remote housing. Expired 30 June 2018. The NT has struck a subsequent five year agreement with the Federal Government to support additional work on remote housing; which will expire in 2023.

NRAS – National Rental Affordability Scheme. A Federal Government scheme providing financial incentives to housing providers to provide rental properties at at least 20% below market rates over a period of up to 10 years. The scheme will conclude in 2026, with incentives due to progressively expire over the next five years.

NRSCH – National Regulatory System for Community Housing. A voluntary system to regulate community housing providers, with a vision for a well governed, well managed and viable national community housing sector.

NTCOSS – Northern Territory Council of Social Service. The peak body for the community services sector in the Northern Territory.

NTMHC – Northern Territory Mental Health Coalition. The peak body for mental health service providers in the Northern Territory.

P

PHSO – Public Housing Safety Officer. Trained TFHC staff appointed to help resolve and reduce anti-social behaviour in public housing, patrol public housing and act on complaints of anti-social behaviour in and around public housing.

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R

REINT – The Real Estate Institute of the Northern Territory. The professional body representing the real estate profession in the NT.

RTA – the Residential Tenancies Act. The NT legislation governing residential tenancies.

S

SDA – Specialist Disability Accommodation. Accommodation for people with high needs disabilities who need specialist housing solutions.

SHS – Specialist Homelessness Service. An SHS provides specialist support services for people experiencing homelessness.

SHSC – Specialist Homelessness Services Collection. Data collection on Specialist Homelessness Services and their clientele, undertaken by the AIHW.

T

TAP – Transitional Accommodation Program. A program providing transitional housing for tenants awaiting longer term housing.

TAS – Tenants Advice Service. A service providing information, legal advice and advocacy for residential tenants. The NT service is operated by Darwin Community Legal Service.

TFHC – Department of Territory Families, Housing and Communities (NT Government). The NT government department responsible for the provision, maintenance and management of public housing in the Northern Territory, as well as homelessness strategy, local government, cemeteries, homelands and remote communities, child protection and translator and interpreter services.

TILA – Transition to Independent Living Allowance. A Centrelink payment of up to \$1500 to help eligible young people cover some basic costs as they leave out-of-home care.

U

UDIA – Urban Development Institute of Australia. The national peak body for the property development industry.