



## **Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara**

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### **To all communities Community Housing Update No. 3 2007/2008**

In 2006 the Executive Board asked the Commonwealth for 100 new houses for health reasons. They asked us for 99 year leases but we said no. We found out that our houses were run down because of poor R&M and could not find out what had happened to the rent people were paying. About \$14 million had been allocated for housing by government as far back as 2003/04 but most had not been spent, with about \$10 million still waiting to be spent.

So we asked the Office for Aboriginal Housing (OAH) to fix these problems. This was under a contract (MOU) we could cancel if they did not do the job. OAH put a Senior Officer on the Lands since December 2007 and she has hired two Anangu malpas. They are working well and getting things ready. In March, we went to Canberra to meet Minister Macklin's Advisor and FaHCSIA. \$25 million was still available. We told them that we needed a lot of money to fix the problems with our current houses and needed hundreds of new houses over the next 5 years. They were willing to negotiate.

The State has not told us what their big plan is for the APY Lands. They have told us they want 50 year leases over all of our houses not just the new ones. We need a much bigger commitment than \$25 million and OAH need to prove themselves over a longer period of time. Anangu home ownership needs to be possible, if Anangu want it. We need to know what we would get out of giving leases.

APY is talking with the Government through OAH. After our May Executive Board meeting your Executive members and Rex and I will contact communities to see what Anangu want. Nothing will be decided without a special general meeting which will tell the Executive Board what to do. Letters were sent to communities by the government setting out some consultations in communities. The Government has now cancelled those consultations which had nothing to do with APY.

This is an important time for Anangu to be together. This is just a way of dividing us. It was our idea to ask for the new houses in the first place. Anangu know the importance of the houses.

The \$25 million offer is just the tip of the iceberg. There is a much bigger picture which are needed to help us put in place a better life on the Lands.

**Bernard Singer  
Chairperson**