



Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara

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87 new houses and major upgrades for the APY Lands !!

As a result of meetings with FaHCSIA and the State in Adelaide last week, the Executive Board of APY is very pleased to announce that in addition to the 11 new houses at Amata, an **additional 76 new houses and upgraded houses** will be included in the housing to be constructed over the next 3 years on the Lands. This is a total of 87 new houses or major upgrades, a lot better than just 11. It is expected the new housing will go to tender in February 2009 and we have asked that Anangu be represented on the tender selection panel.

While in Adelaide, the Executive also had a half day workshop with the State Housing Officers to develop an amended Housing MOU and the Anangu public housing model. This will focus on things like allocation, rent policy and Anangu employment and training.

The Executive took the first steps in putting into place a Public Housing Model on the APY Lands in partnership with the State Government in November 2007 through an initial MOU. This was followed by a visit to Canberra in March 2008 to see if the \$25 million dollar package was still available and then ground lease negotiations were finalized in October 2008.

Through this hard work, the Executive has negotiated better housing on the ground for Anangu and on terms which provide the best deal for Anangu. We are expecting the new housing will be the beginning of a **much larger allocation of new and upgraded housing** for the APY Lands over the next 10 years in partnership with the State and Federal Governments.

A Housing Advisory Committee established under Section 12A of the *APY Land Rights Act* will have a leading and substantial role in guiding the implementation of the Anangu Housing model. It is envisaged the Committee will have its first meeting in **February 2009**. At its first meeting, the Committee will decide upon its rules and procedures. Initial and ongoing training and support will be provided.

Anangu are now invited to nominate for the Housing Advisory Committee.

At this stage we are planning to have a Housing and Business Fair in early 2009.

Bernard Singer, Chairperson