EXPRESSON OF INTEREST CALLED FOR NEW INDIGENOUS HOUSING AUTHORITY BOARD

Housing Minister, Elliot McAdam, today announced new arrangements for the Board of the Indigenous Housing Authority of the Northern Territory (IHANT).

The most recent IHANT Board lapsed due to the abolition of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC) and the expiry of the Indigenous Housing Agreement between the Australian and Northern Territory Governments on 30 June 2005.

The new IHANT Board will provide high level strategic advice on the delivery of Indigenous housing programs and services in the Northern Territory. It aims to maximise the involvement of Indigenous people and organisations in housing policy development.

The new Board will consist of:

- five Indigenous members will be appointed by the Northern Territory Minister for Housing for a term of up to two years, one of which will be Chair;
- the Chief Executive of the Northern Territory Department of Local Government, Housing and Sport (DLGHS), or his delegate and the Secretary of the Australian Government Department of Family and Community Services (FACS), or his delegate; and
- an ex officio observer role for the Chief Executive of the Northern Territory Department of Planning and Infrastructure (DPI), or her delegate.

“These new arrangements include clearer guidelines and improved secretariat support to assist members of the IHANT Board to better represent the housing needs of Indigenous Territorians and provide good advice to the government,” said Mr McAdam.

“IHANT members will be selected on merit and I encourage Indigenous Territorians with an interest in housing and suitable background to put themselves forward.”

Advertisements inviting expressions of interest for appointment to the new IHANT Board will appear in NT media outlets over the next few weeks. The closing date is Friday 21 October 2005. More information can also be found on the website - www.ihant.org.au

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