

## MEDIA RELEASE

27 May 2020

### One year on – CHL making progress on its Reconciliation journey

Australia's largest not-for-profit community housing provider, Community Housing Limited (CHL), today commemorates the one-year anniversary of their REFLECT Reconciliation Action Plan at the start of the National Reconciliation Week 2020.

CHL has not only been providing affordable housing to vulnerable and at-risk groups across the nation for the last 26 years but has been committed towards enabling Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to determine their own housing future and live in accordance with cultural values and customs through Aboriginal Community Housing Limited (ACHL).

With this long-term commitment at the forefront of the organisation, CHL has spent the past twelve months providing Aboriginal cultural awareness trainings to staff, reviewing current practices, policies, service delivery and procurement of services and making appropriate changes to them.

Founder and Managing Director of CHL, Steve Bevington, says the introduction of the organisation's RAP has shaped the way CHL thinks to find innovative and sustainable housing solutions for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples to ensure their needs are prioritised.

"In just one year we've seen many improvements in not only our understanding of First Nations issues and history in Australia across all our business units, but also the ways in which business units work and interact with each other in adopting practice and processes that are culturally appropriate for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander Peoples," Mr Bevington said.

"We have seen and received a fabulous response from our staff across Australia who have participated in face-to-face localised Aboriginal cultural awareness learning sessions and the increased awareness this has brought to their daily working lives when engaging with our customers and their communities."

"One of the most significant initiatives was the reconstituting of Aboriginal Community Housing Ltd which is focused on the provision of affordable long-term housing suited to the needs of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities. It is now constituted as company with membership made up of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations that are focused on housing their communities and has a Board with a minimum 75% proportion of directors with an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander background. We have received a lot of interest by other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisations to partner at various stages of discussions."

Embarking on the development of an INNOVATE Reconciliation Plan in the months ahead, CHL is finalising its report to Reconciliation Australia on their journey to date.

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**About Community Housing Limited (CHL):** CHL is a national not for profit provider of community and affordable housing to those on low incomes and disadvantaged in the private rental market. In Australia, the Group manages over 11,000 properties across six states through its extensive network of 22 offices. It also develops affordable housing overseas and has offices in Timor Leste, Chile, PNG, Rwanda, Peru, Indonesia and India. [www.chl.org.au](http://www.chl.org.au)  
**For media enquiries contact:** Preeti Daga | 0430555241 | [Preeti.daga@chl.org.au](mailto:Preeti.daga@chl.org.au)