

## The Pemulwuy Project set to open opportunities for the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community

**Sydney, 27<sup>th</sup> March 2017** – The Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) unveiled its funding model for the Pemulwuy Project at the community consultation event on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2017. The AHC has emphasized that this model will enable it to fully fund the development of Precincts 1 and 2, and deliver the 62 affordable housing dwellings **first for the community**.

The AHC's ambition is to create a positive future for the next generation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. Lani Tuitavake, the AHC's General Manager, believes future generations will have a chance to live and grow up at Pemulwuy, in a vibrant, safe environment that is sustainable over the long term.

"It's about giving our future generation a hand up, not a hand out," she said. "We want to give Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people the opportunity to live at Pemulwuy with modern housing that is culturally appropriate in a safe, community minded environment."

Every resident that lives at Pemulwuy will be an ambassador for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

With the Pemulwuy Project, the AHC will provide opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people through employment, training, education, and scholarships. The community will be able to access significantly increased social and economic benefits as a result of the project. There will be new jobs and training opportunities across construction, childcare, administration and retail.

The AHC plan to implement long-term contracts and apprenticeships during and after the construction of the Pemulwuy Project. Lani Tuitavake stated that often long-term employment opportunities are difficult to secure, with many contracts lasting between three to six months. During construction the AHC is determined to help tradespeople secure longer-term work and obtain certification and apprenticeships through the construction process of The Pemulwuy Project.

In addition to employment opportunities the AHC have set their sights on solving a growing demand for purpose built student accommodation. There is an ever-increasing number of University and TAFE Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander graduates in Sydney, which of course creates demand for accommodation, especially in an inner city hub like Redfern. We are surrounded by educational institutions, including the University of Sydney, UTS and Ultimo TAFE, and are located right next to Redfern station. The AHC will be offering scholarships in the student accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

The student accommodation in Precinct 3 of The Pemulwuy Project will be another avenue for these students to enjoy a local community, safe haven and support system. Students will also experience the cultural aspects of an urban, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community.

For further enquiries or interview opportunities please contact [media@heardagency.com](mailto:media@heardagency.com) or 02 8279 7878.

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### **About the Aboriginal Housing Company**

The Aboriginal Housing Company (AHC) is an independent non-profit charity and the first community housing provider in Australia, incorporated in 1973 as a company limited by guarantee. It is an all Aboriginal governed organisation, located in the heart of Redfern, which lies in the traditional lands of the Gadigal People, part of the Eora Nation.

The company was formed in direct response to the widespread discrimination Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and families experienced in the private rental market. The AHC is self-funded and operates on income derived from rental properties. Affordable housing is located across Sydney and country regions in NSW.

A current focus is the redevelopment known as Pemulwuy Project. The redevelopment will breathe new life into Redfern and restore a strong and healthy Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community with an emphasis on cultural values, spirituality and employment. Pemulwuy Project will make Redfern the best urban Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander community in Australia and in doing so, set the benchmark for all other communities.