Indigenous housing and governance: Lessons from case studies of remote communities in WA and NT

AHURI Project # 80124

Preliminary Research Findings

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Research Questions

• Research Agenda: “Indigenous Housing: The Housing System”
  – Research Question 1: Program Integration
    • How can human service program integration in relation to housing assistance be improved to achieve a whole of government approach?
  – Research Question 2: Community perceptions of programs & opportunities for community control
    • What are the perceived and actual differences in the nature of community control, ownership and management of housing and how these contribute to asset management in remote indigenous communities?
Presentation

• Levels of Research
• Method
• Preliminary Research Findings
Levels of Research

• Service Providers – State/Territory
  • AHIC (WA) / IHANT (NT)
  • ATSIC

• Service Providers – Regional
  • Regional Councils
  • Mamabulanjin A. C.
  • Tangentyere A. C.

• Communities
  • Lombadina
  • Djarindjin
  • Papunya
  • Laramba
Method 1

• Literature Review (ongoing during project)
  • review of current and proposed housing policy and programs in WA and NT;

• User Group/Steering Committee
  • ATSIC
  • FaCS
  • WA: DHW (AHID); DIA; DPC; DIA
  • NT: DCDSCA; IHANT
Method 2

Fieldwork
- community and regional perspectives on the current and proposed policy and programs
- ethical agreement
- Social Assessment
- Institutional Maps

Evaluation (in progress)
Method - Social Assessment

• Inductive
• Issues orientated
• Iterative Process
  • secondary data
  • Identify key issues
  • semi-structured interviews and focus groups
  • Analysis
• Additional tool – Institutional Mapping
Method - Institutional Maps

• Program integration - institutionally very complex

• Developed tool of Institutional Maps
  – Organisational charts
  – ‘Flow’ Charts – funding/information
  – Workshopped at different levels
Examples of Institutional Maps

Commonwealth Programs
Western Australia

1. 2002 State and Commonwealth Flow of Funds
2. 2003 Regional Organisational Diagram
3. Regional Funding Flow Diagram
4. Community Organisational Diagram
Regional Organisational Diagram
Regional Funding Flow Diagram
Community Organisational Diagram
Preliminary Research Findings

Key Issues

– Program Integration
– Housing Management
– Capacity-Building/Empowerment

= Research Findings & Policy Implications
Preliminary Research Findings

Issues

- Program Integration
- Housing Management
- Capacity-Building/Empowerment

= Research Findings & Policy Implications
Program Integration

• Complex System – inhibits the development of holistic approaches
• NT & WA Bilaterals improved integration but still complex

• **Flexible, community-level program integration**
• **Greater involvement of communities**
Preliminary Research Findings

Issues
- Program Integration
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- Capacity-Building/Empowerment

= Research Findings & Policy Implications
Housing Management 1

- **Housing R&M and management an issue**
  - Greater focus on community
  - Repair and maintenance monitoring system
  - Develop local skills for R&M

- **Program/Project management**
  - ‘at a distance’ a common issue
  - Local or regional management favoured
Housing Management 2

• Community not viewed as Client/Customer
  – Lack of community consultation
• Partnerships between Communities, Government Agencies and Managers
• Community focus
Preliminary Research Findings

Issues
- Program Integration
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= Research Findings & Policy Implications
Capacity-Building/Empowerment

• Lack of a ‘community development’ or empowerment approach, particularly ‘on the ground’
  – Promote community development as a long-term approach to asset management

• Few economic opportunities in remote areas – housing one opportunity
  – Use existing skills
  – Program to develop relevant skills
Key Findings Conclusion

- Local focus – work *with* not *for* communities
  - Community participation/ empowerment
  - Local/Regional program & project management
  - Utilise relevant existing skills
  - Develop local repair and maintenance skills
  - Enhance employment opportunities in remote communities e.g. preferential tenders