



Australian Government
Aboriginal Hostels Limited

Submission No. 15
(homelessness legislation)

A.O.C. | Date: 19/08/09

ABORIGINAL HOSTELS LIMITED

INQUIRY INTO HOMELESSNESS LEGISLATION

(Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994)

AUGUST 2009

AHL SUBMISSION

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1 Introduction

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth Inquiry into Homelessness, with particular reference to the *Supported Accommodation Act 1984*.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL)

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL), established in 1973, is a company wholly owned by the Australian Government. It operates within the Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs portfolio.

This submission outlines the work currently undertaken by AHL to help address the disadvantage experienced by homeless Indigenous people and proposes a strategy to enable AHL to make an even stronger contribution in future.

In preparing this submission and all recommendations, AHL has been careful to reflect basic human rights principles.

2. Terms of Reference

AHL notes that the Terms of Reference of the Inquiry are as follows:

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth shall inquire into and report on the content of homelessness legislation.

The Committee will make inquiries into the principles and service standards that could be incorporated in such legislation, building on the strengths of existing legislation, particularly the *Supported Accommodation Assistance Act 1994*.

The Committee shall give particular consideration to:

1. The principles that should underpin the provision of services to Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.
2. The scope of any legislation with respect to related government initiatives in the areas of social inclusion and rights.
3. The role of legislation in improving the quality of services for people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

4. The effectiveness of existing legislation and regulations governing homelessness services in Australia and overseas.
5. The applicability of existing legislative and regulatory models used in other community service systems, such as disability services, aged care and child care, to the homelessness sector.'

3 Executive Summary

AHL has addressed the first two terms of reference.

Term of Reference 1

AHL's view is that AHL should remain a player in the provision of services to Indigenous Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. AHL is an Indigenous accommodation service provider in all respects. It provides crisis, temporary, and transitional accommodation, and steps toward long-term accommodation.

AHL is an organisation with strong human capital and financial capacity. The company has a proven record in providing services for the homeless, enabling them to access to a range of services and helping to build individual and community capacity.

Accordingly, AHL is in an excellent position to play an enhanced role in the Australian Government's homelessness policy and its strategies aimed at closing the gap in Indigenous disadvantage. AHL looks forward to providing further evidence of its capacity to work with the Government in planning for and delivering homelessness services to the Indigenous community.

Terms of Reference 2

AHL would like to see the legal definition of homelessness broadened to acknowledge cultural factors and social factors such as discrimination and perception of low status experienced by Indigenous people, and attributes (for example extended family structures) specific to Australian Indigenous peoples.

In AHL's view legislation should reflect key social justice principles and acknowledge the various forms of disadvantage and poverty that overflow into Indigenous homelessness. It should also acknowledge cultural factors such as low economic status, discrimination, and oppression and support strategies to address these disadvantages.

4 Term of Reference One

The principles that should underpin the provision of services to Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

AHL would welcome the opportunity to become more involved with the government's provision of homeless accommodation. The following paragraphs provide relevant information on the company's legal status, governance and work.

4.1 AHL's Legal Status and Governance

AHL was established in 1973 and is wholly owned by Government. AHL has an independent non-executive Board of nine directors. AHL is a company limited by guarantee. The AHL Constitution (see [Appendix 1](#)) sets out the objectives and powers of the company, providing the framework for AHL to conduct its business. AHL's constitution is in accordance with the *Corporations Act 2001*.

The requirements for the company's operations and reporting are set out in section 42 of the *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (the CAC Act). The AHL Constitution also requires that the company and its Board of Directors must comply with the provisions of the CAC Act.

The Statement of Corporate Intent ([Appendix 2](#)) is a legal document which sets out the agreement between the Commonwealth and AHL about what we do. This document includes:

- a definition of AHL's core business activities, its purpose, objectives and values
- business directions for AHL, including major goals and expected outcomes
- a public commitment to performance in relation to key areas of the business, accountability and performance reporting.

AHL's annual budget is approximately \$50 million.

For further information, please see [Appendix 3: Aboriginal Hostels Limited Annual Report 2007-08](#).

4.2 Aboriginal Hostels Limited – Company Overview

4.2.1 AHL Vision

To work with government, business and communities to help close the gap in education, health, employment, accommodation and quality of life between Indigenous and other Australians.

4.2.2 AHL Purpose

To improve Indigenous quality of life through the delivery of hostel accommodation to enable access to education, employment, health and other services.

4.2.3 AHL's national network of hostels

AHL has a national network of hostels providing affordable and culturally appropriate accommodation for Indigenous people. From the time the company was established, this need was seen as particularly critical for people who needed to travel from home to access services and opportunities but who had few options for safe and affordable accommodation.

Today our work has an increased emphasis on working in partnership with other organisations and enabling Indigenous people to access other services vital to their future and that of their families

AHL is one of the largest providers of employment and training for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. At 30 June 2009 AHL had 520 employees, of whom 82 per cent were Indigenous.

AHL operates and funds hostels in all mainland states and territories. In 2008 -09, AHL operated 50 hostels and 22 Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP) houses. Through its Community Hostel Grants (CHG) program, AHL also funded community organisations to operate 66 hostels. Altogether, these services provided 3,167 beds each night across Australia and we served more than 9,000 meals a day.

AHL operates hostels in eight categories, two of which, Transient/Homeless, and Homeless, specifically cater for the homeless. Other categories, including medical transient and substance use rehabilitation, also offer services to those people with complex social and health problems often associated with homelessness. More detailed information is provided in section 4.3 of this submission, and in Appendix 4.

4.2.4 Partnerships

AHL operates 50 hostels directly, and funds community groups to operate another 66. Funding grassroots community groups to operate hostels illustrates the importance AHL places on partnerships. AHL consistently works with other organisations, government and community-based, to provide coordinated support and services to residents. Other agencies recognise that having stable, well-managed and culturally appropriate accommodation services are often a key factor in getting the best outcomes for their clients, particularly those, such as homeless adults, young people and families with complex needs.

4.2.5 Organisational expertise, cultural relevance and financial capacity

AHL has strong credentials in the provision of well-run temporary accommodation for a range of client groups, including the most marginalised and disadvantaged. AHL hostels offer safe, affordable, secure and culturally appropriate accommodation where alcohol and drugs are prohibited.

AHL's service delivery and financial management are supported by sound governance arrangements. AHL's Board of Directors supports and adheres to the best-practice principles of corporate governance. The company has continued to follow the best-practice guide on corporate principles as published by the Australian National Audit Office (see attached AHL Annual Report 2007-08 including its financial statements).

AHL works from a sound financial base. Its Board and management constantly monitor the company's overall performance, including its financial performance.

AHL's high proportion (82 per cent) of Indigenous staff positions it exceptionally well to provide a trusted and culturally relevant environment for residents, and contributes to the strong demand for accommodation evidenced by high occupancy rates.

AHL's expertise includes:

- Skill in running the daily operations of hostels
- Sound property and financial management
- Construction experience
- Building maintenance in many challenging climatic environments
- Provision of social supports and links
- Operating renal dialysis hostels.

4.3 AHL's Current Services to Homeless Indigenous people

4.3.1 AHL Hostel Categories

AHL currently operates hostels and funds other organisations to operate hostels in eight categories, described in Appendix 4. Four of these categories have particular relevance to homelessness.

(i) Transient/Homeless

Transient/Homeless hostels provide short-term accommodation in towns and cities for people and families seeking permanent housing and employment and meeting general business and other commitments away from their homes and communities. Many residents in these hostels are accommodated until they are able to access long-term accommodation.

This category of hostel also caters for homeless young people and adults, assisting them to develop life skills to enable them to live independently within the wider community.

(ii) Homeless

Some AHL and community-operated hostels cater specifically for people who are homeless while they are developing the skills necessary to live more independently.

(iii) Medical Transient

Medical transient hostels provide accommodation and support for patients and families who are required to leave their communities to access medical treatment, including renal dialysis. This category also includes hostels that are only for women requiring antenatal and post-natal care. This category may cater for homeless people, including those with complex health conditions associated with unsatisfactory living arrangements, notably homelessness and overcrowding.

(iv) Substance Use Rehabilitation

Substance use rehabilitation hostels provide accommodation for young people and adults to enable them to access substance use rehabilitation and education programs. AHL provides a secure, culturally appropriate place to support good rehabilitation outcomes for residents. Often these clients are homeless due to their addictions.

AHL also operates hostels in the following four categories:

- Primary and Secondary Education
- Tertiary Education and Training
- Aged Care
- Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP)

(See [Appendix 4](#) for more detail on hostel categories.)

4.3.2 AHL Hostels for the Homeless - Statistics

AHL operates or funds six hostels specifically for Homeless residents and 35 hostels for Transient/Homeless residents. Seven hostels are for Medical/Transient residents and 26 hostels for Substance Use Rehabilitation. As noted above, all these categories also provide some services to homeless people, to varying degrees.

TABLE 1: AHL Hostels for the Homeless 2008-09

State	AHL Operated Hostels	CHG Operated Hostels	Total Hostels	Total Beds
WA	4	4	8	241
NT	6	3	9	349
N Qld	5	8	13	381
S Qld	3	10	13	267
NSW	3	8	11	203
Vic	5	4	9	130
SA	6	2	8	116
CA	2	1	3	168
TOTAL	34	40	74	1855

Most commonly, homeless people will be found occupying beds in the following categories of hostel:

- Homeless
- Transient/Homeless
- Medical Transient
- Substance Use Rehabilitation

4.4 Unmet needs in Indigenous homelessness

Many of AHL's most disadvantaged residents are homeless, whether or not they are accommodated in hostels specifically designated as homeless. Along with

homelessness, these residents will have often experienced isolation from the services that could help to make a real difference to their lives.

As well as the obviously homeless (people who may sleep on the streets, in cars, or in parks) there are large numbers who are less visible but who nevertheless have no home. These may be

- people staying with relatives in already overcrowded homes, until the pressures become too much and they must again search for somewhere to sleep safely
- people who move from their home community to town and city parks or town camps, often ending up in conditions which are highly unsatisfactory and may be squalid
- young people in cities and towns who stay with a succession of friends or acquaintances and move at frequent intervals, making any engagement with learning or employment very difficult.

AHL understands the plight of these people from residents' first hand experience in our hostels.

4.5 AHL's View of Recent Developments under National Aboriginal Housing Affordability and Homeless Agreements

Finding the most appropriate Indigenous accommodation transient/homeless service model is essential.

AHL has 35 years of experience in providing accommodation services to the homeless. Informed by this experience, AHL makes the following comments with respect to a number of issues:

Current situation	AHL view
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under the COAG Commonwealth/State homelessness policy, funding allocation of \$800 million has already been allocated for disbursement through the states. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As a Commonwealth body AHL would like to access part of this funding so that it can provide more homelessness services. AHL believes that it would be most efficient for this funding to be directly appropriated to AHL rather than received indirectly through the states.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Much of the focus of funding is aimed at permanent housing. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHL believes that the new Indigenous homelessness

Current situation	AHL view
	<p>arrangements have not given consideration as to how Indigenous crisis accommodation and transitional accommodation needs will be met. Provision of temporary housing can be an enabler for successful transition to permanent housing, including through the development of life skills essential to maintaining a tenancy or embarking on home ownership.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is still a strong demand for temporary housing, from which more permanent housing and other services can be accessed. AHL's transient/homeless hostels, especially in NT are unable to meet demand for accommodation and many are turned away. • AHL can help with supporting people to make the transition from homelessness to permanent housing.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The SAAP funding commitment ended in 2008 but there has been no clear indication as to where clients formerly serviced through SAAP fit into the system. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AHL is concerned for the future of the 25 per cent of SAAP clients who are identified as Indigenous, and other Indigenous clients not identified by SAAP providers, who may remain in a chronic homelessness 'limbo.'

AHL believes it can play a vital enabling role by providing more stable, temporary accommodation to help people get a new start and break the cycle of homelessness and disadvantage. AHL hostels support the development of life skills and provide links to relevant services.

AHL wants recognition by the Commonwealth and State governments, including in the current and future Indigenous homeless strategies and agreements, that it

is a major Australian Indigenous stakeholder. AHL is an Indigenous accommodation service provider in all respects. It provides crisis, temporary, transitional and steps toward long-term accommodation.

AHL has the capacity and willingness to take on an enhanced role in Indigenous transient/homeless accommodation, as part of a distinct Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander homelessness service system. AHL would like to see a distinct Indigenous homeless accommodation program adopted in tandem with the National Aboriginal Housing Affordability and homeless agreements.

4.5.1 Where AHL sits under current National Aboriginal Housing Affordability and Homeless agreements

Clearly, AHL sits in a unique position. It has 35 years of expertise and is generally recognised as the most reputable Indigenous accommodation service provider throughout Australia. While its role is not currently specifically recognised under the COAG homelessness arrangements, AHL has the capacity to make a strong contribution to their success.

4.5.2 Some perceptions of AHL

There may be an inaccurate perception that AHL only provides temporary Indigenous accommodation. AHL provides many services above and beyond simple “bed and board”. AHL’s services encompass many aspects, including links with other government and community service providers, for example hospitals, employment services providers, schools and other educational facilities, legal and financial counselling and advocacy services.

4.6 How AHL can work in synergy with the new arrangements

The Way Forward

AHL wants to work in synergy with the new arrangements. The company would prefer direct allocation of funds to support its current homelessness services and the extended services which it is well-positioned to deliver if funding can be secured.

AHL as a Commonwealth agency believes it is appropriate to receive funding directly from the Australian government, rather than through a less efficient process which would see funds going from Commonwealth to states and back to the Commonwealth, for the eventual distribution to third party hostels.

Summary of AHL’s strengths

- AHL is a long established and proven stakeholder
- AHL is resourced to play a role in the Commonwealth government's homelessness and closing the gap priorities
- AHL can implement homeless accommodation needs driven service models, rather than infrastructure driven, especially transient/homeless needs

AHL has the flexibility to allow for whole of government and non-government partnerships

5. Term of reference two

The scope of any legislation with respect to related government initiatives in the areas of social inclusion and rights.

AHL notes that there is a proposal for a new Homeless Act or other legislation. AHL would like to see the following features in the new Homeless Act:

- Reflection of key social justice principles such as recognising the various forms of disadvantage and poverty that overflow into Indigenous homelessness.
- Acknowledgement of and support for strategies to tackle cultural factors such as low economic status, discrimination, oppression and the need for equality in service delivery to Indigenous people. Policies need to set out who is responsible for implementation and ensure the necessary resources and means for their implementation.

Recommendations

Terms of Reference 1 –

The principles that should underpin the provision of services to Australians who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.

AHL strongly advocates for the maintenance of distinct service arrangements for Indigenous homeless people. These could operate in tandem with the National Aboriginal Housing Affordability and homeless agreements

Specifically this means -

1. AHL be funded directly by Commonwealth to manage the Indigenous homelessness program, including disbursing funding through third parties. If necessary, this could be done as part of AHL's existing Community Hostel Grants Program.

2. That AHL be funded to manage the Indigenous homeless programs proposed.
3. That there would be Indigenous people on the committee managing funds for the Indigenous-specific programs.

Terms of Reference 2 –

The scope of any legislation with respect to related government initiatives in the areas of social inclusion and rights.

1. AHL supports the Government's proposal to repeal the *SAAP Act* and replace it with a broader '*Homelessness Act*'.
2. AHL recommends that the replacement legislation should embody social justice principles. It should acknowledge Indigenous-specific cultural factors such as low economic status, discrimination, oppression and the need for equality in service delivery to Indigenous people, and support strategies to address these matters...

Conclusion

AHL provides an important service to Indigenous homeless and transient people all over the country. Ultimately, it is our goal that these families have their own permanent homes. For many, our temporary accommodation is a 'stepping stone' towards long-term housing. Just as importantly, we are a safety net if these families fall back into homelessness, for whatever reason. It is important that AHL not be overlooked as a major player in the area of Indigenous accommodation services.

AHL has a well-established and successfully proven history of 33 years specifically providing a whole range of Indigenous accommodation services, and working in partnership with community providers of such services, including through our Community Hostel Grants program.

Aboriginal Hostels Limited is very well-equipped to play a further part in reducing the marginalisation and disadvantage experienced by many Indigenous people, and which all too often results in homelessness. It is a soundly managed organisation with strong human capital and financial capacity. The company has a demonstrated record in providing relevant services, making them accessible to a range of client groups, and helping to build capacity.

AHL looks forward to providing further evidence of its capacity to work with the Government in planning for and delivery of homeless services to our community.

Senior Executive staff who are available for discussions with the Committee are:

Canberra	Canberra
Mr. Keith Clarke OAM General Manager Aboriginal Hostels Limited (02) 6212 2010	Dr. Kamlesh Sharma Company Secretary/Assistant General Manager Aboriginal Hostels Limited (02) 6212 2012
Mr. Russell Lane Assistant General Manager _ Operations Aboriginal Hostels Limited (02) 6212 2014	

APPENDIX 1

Constitution of AHL to follow by post and an electronic copy can be found on the AHL website <http://www.ahl.gov.au> under Publications/Corporate.

APPENDIX 2

STATEMENT OF CORPORATE INTENT FOR ABORIGINAL HOSTELS LIMITED

ABN 47 008 504 587

ABOUT AHL

Aboriginal Hostels Limited (AHL) is a not-for-profit company 'limited by guarantee'. The Commonwealth of Australia, through the Minister for Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs¹ (the Minister), is the sole member.

The company provides affordable accommodation with meals to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people throughout Australia. Over 3,000 beds are provided across the country each night and more than two million meals are served each year. Over 80 per cent of our staff are Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander people.

The company collects tariff from residents to supplement income and to help cover the cost of providing hostel services.

The company provides funds to alternative accommodation providers to operate their own hostels. The Community Hostel Grants program provides the company with a cost effective method of assisting with a wide range of temporary and special purpose accommodation needs in the community.

As of July 2005, AHL owns and operates 47 hostels and funds a further 76 community hostels throughout Australia.

COMMONWEALTH POLICY OBJECTIVES FOR AHL

The Commonwealth funds AHL to provide temporary and special purpose accommodation for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in order to:

- promote equity of access to community services and opportunities for Indigenous people; and
 - address market failures in temporary and special purpose accommodation for Indigenous people.
-

MISSION STATEMENT

AHL funds and provides appropriate temporary and special purpose accommodation to assist Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people improve their standard of living and achieve health, educational and employment-related goals.

OBJECTIVES

AHL aims to:

In respect of its customers

- ensure the customers of AHL receive services that meet reasonable benchmarks and expectations
- improve its responsiveness to needs of individuals and communities, and to changes in those needs over time;
- maximise the number of people assisted through improvements in efficiency, pricing mechanisms and tariff arrangements.

In respect of the community

- give priority to using alternative accommodation providers for the delivery of services;
- ensure that funding arrangements and accountability arrangements for alternative accommodation providers are in accordance with the company's Financial rules and guidelines;
- ensure AHL programs and services do not adversely impact upon other private sector accommodation providers; and
- have constructive working relationships with Commonwealth, State and Local Government agencies, and non-government organisations.

OUR VALUES

AHL is committed to ensuring that the company is managed with full regard for all ethical standards. AHL staff uphold the Australian Public Service Values and Code of Conduct. The Code of Conduct requires AHL staff to act with honesty and integrity, and to disclose and avoid any conflicts of interest.

PERFORMANCE MONITORING

AHL monitors its performance against the following key performance indicators:

- continually improving client satisfaction with AHL services;
- continually improving the efficiency of AHL;
- continued progress towards the best practice of the purchaser/provider functions within AHL;
- sound management of AHL's assets, liabilities and balance sheet, to maximise the outcomes achieved with Commonwealth investment and funding.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTABILITY

Company Structure

The company has structured itself on a Purchaser/Provider Framework. This structure is being adopted to improve the achievement of the Government's objectives of promoting accountability, performance and efficiency. The adoption of this structure has seen two distinct functions emerge in AHL. The ultimate responsibilities of the distinctive functions are:

- Purchaser: researching the needs for accommodation, evaluating the effectiveness and efficiency of accommodation services already in operation, negotiating with other alternative accommodation providers to prevent a gap forming that needs to be filled by AHL, conducting tenders in appropriate circumstances, calling for expressions of interest for identified needs, and monitoring service standards.
- Provider: the delivery and management of hostel services in response to AHL's purchaser requirements.

LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK

AHL is subject to the:

- *Corporations Act 2001*, (including AHL's constitution which was established under this Act);
- *Public Service Act 1999*;
- *Auditor-General Act 1997*;
- *Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Act 2005*;
- *Commonwealth Authorities and Companies Act 1997* (the CAC Act);
- *Commonwealth Electoral Act 1918*
- *Privacy Act 1988*
- *Freedom of Information Act 1982*

- *Occupational Health and Safety Act 1991*
- *Archives Act 1983*
- *Workplace Relations Act 1996*
- *Crimes Act 1914*

AHL is committed to ensuring that the company is managed with full regard for all legal requirements. AHL also has regard to best practice as reflected in the ANAO Principles and 'Best Practices Corporate Governance in Commonwealth Authorities and Companies'.

REPORTING OBLIGATIONS

Under the *CAC Act*, AHL must provide annual reports and other information to the Minister and the Minister for Finance and Administration.

AHL reports to the Minister on a quarterly basis on a range of issues including the financial position of the company, its plans, the services the company is providing, the outcomes it is achieving, and any issues that may be of concern or interest to the Minister. It also ensures that all matters of significance are brought to the attention of the Board and the Minister as they arise.

AHL is committed to assessing the outcomes achieved by the hostels it owns and those it funds using a consistent methodology. It also seeks to ensure that information is collected on the level of met and unmet demand in a region. Information gathered from these exercises is intended to assist AHL decisions on the allocation of resources.

EVALUATION AND AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS

The Australian National Audit Office audits the company annually. The Office of Evaluation and Audit within the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission has a legislative evaluation and audit function in respect of AHL and will audit when necessary and is represented on the AHL audit committee.

AHL is committed to ensuring that its audit committee is independent of management, has an appropriately qualified membership that is rotated on a regular basis, and is involved in overseeing risk management policies and the assessment of whether organisational objectives are being achieved.

The company evaluates and audits all aspects of its operations, including every program conducted by the company at least once every three years.

CORPORATE PLAN

The company has a corporate plan which is posted on the AHL website. The corporate plan is prepared in consultation with the Minister and is reviewed regularly. The corporate plan covers a three to five-year period and sets out the company's goals, objectives, strategies and performance indicators for that period and beyond. It gives effect to this *Statement of Corporate Intent*.

COMPETITIVE NEUTRALITY

AHL encourages the development of new accommodation providers through the application of the competitive neutrality principle. That is, it seeks to ensure that it does not use its status as a publicly funded body to advantage its business over those of actual or potential private sector competitors. AHL does this, among other things, by only locating its services in areas where the private sector is not meeting the needs of Indigenous people. AHL works as a broker to encourage alternative accommodation providers.

RISK MANAGEMENT

AHL has a formal risk management process including procedures to identify, assess, treat and manage risks. AHL seeks to use information gathered through this process to support its strategic planning initiatives. AHL conducts an annual risk assessment, and has developed a Fraud Risk Assessment and Fraud Control Plan.

APPENDIX 3

Aboriginal Hostels Limited Annual Report 2007-08

to follow by post and an electronic copy can be found on the AHL website <http://www.ahl.gov.au> under Publications

APPENDIX 4

AHL Hostel Categories

AHL currently operates hostels and funds other organisations to operate hostels in the following eight categories:

1 Transient/Homeless

Transient/Homeless hostels provide short-term accommodation in towns and cities for people and families seeking permanent housing and employment and meeting general business and other commitments away from their homes and communities. Many residents in these hostels are accommodated until they are able to access long-term accommodation.

This category of hostel also caters for homeless young people and adults, assisting them to develop life skills to enable them to live independently within the wider community.

2 Homeless

Some AHL hostels cater only for young people and adults who are homeless while they are developing the skills necessary to live more independently.

3 Primary and Secondary Education

Primary and Secondary education hostels provide accommodation for students to enable them to access education and complete high school.

4 Tertiary Education and Training

Tertiary education and training hostels provide accommodation to facilitate student access to tertiary education and training.

5 Aged Care

Aged care hostels provide accommodation and care for elderly Indigenous people, particularly those with disabilities or chronic health problems, to help them live their lives with dignity.

6 Medical Transient

Medical transient hostels provide accommodation and support for patients and families who are required to leave their communities to access medical treatment, including renal dialysis. This category also includes hostels that are only for renal patients and those only for women requiring antenatal and post-natal care. This category also deals with homeless people.

7 Substance Use Rehabilitation

Substance use rehabilitation hostels provide accommodation for young people and adults to enable them to access substance use rehabilitation and education programs. AHL provides a secure, culturally appropriate place to support good rehabilitation outcomes for residents. Often these clients are homeless due to their addictions.

8 Indigenous Youth Mobility Program (IYMP)

IYMP hostels provide accommodation for people aged from 16–24 years from rural and remote areas who are participating in apprenticeships, traineeships and higher education under the Department of Education, Employment and Workplace Relations' Indigenous Youth Mobility Program.

APPENDIX 5

2008 AHL Accommodation Guide

to follow by post and an electronic copy can be found on the AHL website <http://www.ahl.gov.au> under Publications