

## Tangentyere Council Inc.

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22 May 2009

# MEDIA RELEASE

## RESOLUTION ON LEASE NEGOTIATIONS CLOSE

Tangentyere calls on the Australian Government to continue the lease negotiations with the Alice Springs Town Camp Communities, towards reaching a final agreement.

Tangentyere Council has written to the Australian Government outlining the 2 remaining sticking points preventing a resolution in these negotiations. These are:

1. Agreement that under a 40 year sublease to the Australian Government the community will retain some key decision making powers, and
2. In the interim 3 year period leading to the open tender the new Central Australian Affordable Housing Company (CAAHC) be contracted as an independent not-for-profit community housing provider to manage Town Camp Community housing

Executive Director of Tangentyere Council, William Tilmouth, said "the key concerns of the people remain as they have always been, that any lease agreement ensures that Town Camp residents continue to have agency in their own lives and that they are listened to, not just for the next few years but for the life of the lease."

"Tangentyere has reconfirmed its commitment to 40 year leases, an open and competitive tender process, and to complete the tenancy reform process commenced in February this year. This includes creating as much flexibility as possible to permit conditions to allow residents to buy their own homes. Homeownership is ultimately the best way of housing reform."

President of Tangentyere council, Walter Shaw said "Town Camp people have no faith in the Northern Territory Government or their public housing system. This is why we lobbied successfully in March last year to establish the Central Australian Affordable Housing Company. All we are now asking for is that the Minister shows some faith in the company she funded to establish, and allow it a chance to prove itself."

"We believe we are very close to reaching an agreement with the Australian Government, and call on them to listen to what the 2000 residents of the Town Camp Communities are calling for."

Further enquiries contact: David Donald, 0408 841 708

To view the history of Tangentyere Council and the Town Camp struggle refer to our website [www.tangentyere.org.au](http://www.tangentyere.org.au)