

MLAHMC NEWSLETTER

October 2020

Hi All

Welcome to the third edition of our newsletter – There have been many challenges for MLAHMC this year but none more than the passing of one of our Board members Cherie Keed.

Cherie, the CEO of Peak Hill Local Aboriginal Land Council, was instrumental and a founding member of what would eventually become MLAHMC Ltd and was very passionate about women's rights, Aboriginal housing and Aboriginal land rights. Cherie wore many hats but more importantly was a wife, daughter, mother, sister, aunt and friend to anyone that knew her. "Mousey" you'll be sorely missed by us all 😞

The Tenancy Support & Education Project (TSEP) partnership between MLAHMC Ltd, Murdi Paaki Aboriginal Housing Corporation and Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council ceased on the 30 September 2020. Through the partnership we have assisted many tenants and community members of the Murdi Paaki region, to which we have been proud to do so. I personally would like to thank Andrew, Catherine, Nicki and all other former staff members for a wonderful job they have done.

On a happier note TSEP will be still a valuable program that can be accessed by tenants in the Murdi Paaki region with a smooth transition to the Murdi Paaki Services (MPS) having occurred (see *TSEP article*).

COVID-19 is still a serious danger to our people and we need to remain vigilant to stop the threat of spreading this deadly virus. At MLAHMC we continue to exercise measures to help assist including limited travel to communities - essential visits only and following NSW guidelines on COVID-19.

Remember if you have been impacted by loss of employment due to COVID-19 please talk to one of our friendly staff about our short-term hardship assistance program.

Keeping up with technology for the tech savvy we've added a QR scan within the newsletter for tenants to update their contact details. This will be in our newsletter from now on to remind people to make us aware of any changes.

In closing enjoy the newsletter as you read through the many articles and as always if you have any suggestions please send them through – reminding you **"this is your newsletter"**.

GM, Seth Toomey



Cherie "Mousey" Keed

Let's **SLOW THE SPREAD** of COVID-19 together

Regularly wash your hands



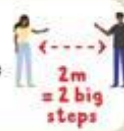
Cough and sneeze into your elbow



Phone or video call to check-in on others



Keep a safe distance of 2 metres



COVID-19

visit health.nsw.gov.au for the latest information

The Tenant Support Education Project (TSEP)

As of the 1st of October 2020, the Tenant Support and Education Project (TSEP) will be transferring to the Murdi Paaki Regional Aboriginal Housing Leadership Assembly (RAHLA) and will no longer be funded by the NSW Aboriginal Housing Office.

MLAHMC is very proud to have been a part of TSEP and the excellent work that has been achieved with our Partners, Murdi Paaki Aboriginal Housing Corporation and Coonamble Local Aboriginal Land Council (LALC).

Here's just a few of the successful TSEP outcomes:

- 872 people have had access to Power and Water workshops with over \$100,000 of energy assistance provided
- 205 Aboriginal people and their families have been placed on state housing lists with 40 families being housed
- 110 Aboriginal tenants have sustained their tenancy through the assistance of case management

We look forward to seeing what new initiatives the program will deliver under their new funding body Murdi Paaki RAHLA in 8 communities MLAHMC services including – Enngonia, Goodooga, Brewarrina, Weilmoringle, Wilcannia, Dareton, Cobar and Gulargambone.

MLAHMC would like to thank all the community leaders, members, tenants and service providers who have supported TSEP but we particularly thank all the TSEP staff for the great service they have provided MLAHMC tenants, their families and communities since their inception in 2014.



World Suicide Prevention Day - 10 September 2020

World Suicide Prevention Day is an awareness day observed on 10 September every year, in order to provide worldwide commitment and action to prevent suicides, with various activities around the world.



In Australia alone;

- Eight Australians die every day by suicide (more than double the road toll.)
- 75% of those who take their own life are male.
- Over 65,000 Australians make a suicide attempt each year

Sadly for our mob, in particular our young people, suicide is more prevalent in our communities;

- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders aged between 15 and 24 are almost four times more likely to commit suicide than non-Indigenous people the same age.
- Suicide is the leading cause of death for Indigenous children aged between five and 17.

The transgenerational trauma associated with the removal of children from their families, the dislocation from culture and country has undoubtedly impacted the wellbeing and sense of belonging of our people. When there is a suicide amongst us, our entire community grieves, and a part of our spirit leaves us with that person.

World Suicide Prevention Day aims to create greater awareness of suicide and suicide prevention and to ultimately change the way suicide is understood and discussed in the community and connecting us to support services.

In the community of Forbes; The Wiradjuri Dreaming Center, Yoorana Gunya and Binaal Billa hosted a 'Sock it to Suicide' event where all members of the community were welcomed to join in and to wear bright coloured socks or stockings to raise awareness about suicide and support suicide prevention.

Check out the photos below of MLAHMC staff joining in on the action.



MLAHMC Activities

Since our last newsletter we have:

- Completed **3164 Repairs and maintenance requests**
- Signed up **10 new tenancies**
- **Property inspections** have been cancelled until further notice due to COVID-19.



MLAHMC Photo Gallery



MLAHMC's Operations Manager Charlie Trindall meeting with NSWALC's Chair Anne Dennis, Councillor Grace Toomey, CEO James Christian and Western Zone Directors



MLAHMC Chairperson Robert King Congratulating GM Seth Toomey on his 10 Years of Service at MLAHMC



MLAHMC Board of Directors and executive staff during recent planning 2-3 October 2020



MLAHMC All of Staff Training Week 14-18 September 2020

MLAHMC Office Hours and Contact Details

MLAHMC

Office Hours

Monday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Tuesday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Wednesday: 1.30 pm - 5.00 pm
Thursday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm
Friday: 9.00 am – 5.00 pm

MLAHMC

Contact Details

4/91 Clarinda St, PO Box 810 Parkes NSW 2870
or 33-37 Macquarie St, Dubbo NSW 2830
P:1800 231 160 E: mlahmc@mlahmc.org.au

Tenant Spotlight



Name: Sharon Johnson

What community are you from? Dareton

What do you like about your community?

I love the people around my community

What would you like to see more of in your community?

More opportunity for young people especially jobs and assisting out elders. More programs theirs heaps we could do.

Name: Beryl Powell

What community are you from? Condobolin

What do you like about your community?

My Family and friends. When anyone is in need we all come together to support each other.

What would you like to see more of in your community?

More housing and more opportunities for the youth.



Update your Tenant Details

Have you changed your phone number recently or your household circumstances have changed?

Don't forget to update your details with MLAHMC! This is important as it enables us to contact you regarding;

- Service updates
- Repairs and maintenance
- Emergency updates such as fire or flooding

Changes in your household circumstances may also impact your rent setting and the amount of CRA you receive, so it's important to keep your details up to date with MLAHMC.

Check out our QR code that will link you directly to our website to update your details. Its quick and easy to use, so scan away!



Service Spotlight

Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) vouchers

Energy Accounts Payment Assistance (EAPA) is a NSW Government Scheme designed to help people who are having trouble paying their home electricity and/or gas bill because of a crisis or emergency situation. The Scheme helps people in these situations to stay connected.

EAPA vouchers are sent directly to your energy retailer and used to credit your home electricity or gas account.

Who can get EAPA?

If you are in financial hardship due to a crisis or emergency situation you can apply for EAPA voucher assistance. This hardship may be caused by a range or combination of factors, including:

- a loss of income
- a very high electricity/gas bill
- a loss of income
- a very high electricity/gas bill
- an illness in the family
- a family crisis
- unexpected expenses or bills.



To apply for EAPA vouchers, please call Service NSW on 13 77 88 or visit their website <https://www.service.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/energy-relief>.

Employment Related Accommodation

Applying for ERA

To apply for ERA you must:

- be an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person over 18 years old
- have a family connection to remote NSW
- prove your enrolment in an education or training course at an approved institution such as university or TAFE or
- show that the potential employer offers long-term opportunities

What are the houses like?

ERA accommodation is similar to student accommodation at universities and TAFE NSW.

If you're a single person taking up this option you will move into a fully furnished share-accommodation house. You will have your own room and share the living, kitchen, laundry and bathroom areas with other people in similar situations.

If you have a family and you take up an opportunity to work or study in a regional centre, you can take your immediate family with you. Accommodation will be unfurnished so that you can bring your own belongings with you.

Find out more

For an application form or to find out more, please call, email or visit our website.

W: aho.nsw.gov.au/era
E: era_aho@fac.nsw.gov.au

Sydney South East region:
02 9354 1550

Northern region:
02 6691 7000

Western region:
02 6841 9100



Live or relocating to Parkes or Orange for long term employment or employment related study?

In need of affordable accommodation?

We have Employment Related Accommodation (ERA) vacancies for fully furnished, shared accommodation available in these communities

Contact our Tenancy Team on 1800 231 160 for further information on eligibility or assistance in submitting an application.