



## Ministerial Media Statements

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### State Budget 2013-14: Protecting our Community - \$34 million to promote Aboriginal home ownership in the West Kimberley

Wednesday, 21 August 2013

- Aboriginal families develop the financial skills to buy their own home
- 40 new homes in Broome and 20 in Derby
- Kids of participants achieve 95 per cent school attendance rate

Aboriginal families in the West Kimberley will have the opportunity to buy their own home through an innovative initiative funded by the State Government's Royalties for Regions program.

The Department of Housing will receive \$33.89million over two years to fund the West Kimberley Transitional Housing Project.

Under the program 40 new houses will be built in Broome and 20 in Derby to facilitate the transition of Aboriginal tenants who want to move from public housing to home ownership.

"Through the program Aboriginal people engaged in employment or training will be provided housing and support services to help them develop independence and take an important step towards personal home ownership," Housing Minister Bill Marmion said.

The end goal is that participants buy the house they are renting. Participants must ensure children attend school and take part in the associated support program.

"This program includes setting lifestyle goals and financial management," Mr Marmion said.

"A similar project in the East Kimberley has delivered great results, with children of families participating in the program having a 95 per cent school attendance record."

Financial counselling is available to help participants develop the skills and habits to eventually become homeowners through creating a family budget and savings plan.

Regional Development Minister Brendon Grylls said the transitional housing model in Kununurra had proved highly successfully.

"Transitional housing helps to remove a key barrier to employment and provides the stability required for participants to engage in employment, education and training," Mr Grylls said.

"Families have the opportunity to purchase the house they are renting, which provides a strong incentive to stay employed and meet other requirements, such as ensuring their kids attend school."

#### Fact File

- The Liberal National Government released the State's first-ever Affordable Housing Strategy in May 2011. The strategy aims to deliver at least 20,000 affordable homes by 2020 and focuses on increasing the supply and diversity of rental and home ownership options for people on low to moderate incomes. As at June 30, 2013, 10,000 of these homes had been delivered
- The waiting list for public housing peaked in 2010 at 24,000 it is now down to 21,000
- The Liberal National Government has invested significantly in the Kimberley region including \$311million from Royalties for Regions into the Ord-East Kimberley Expansion Project and a further \$133million from 2013-14 to 2015-16 towards the West Kimberley revitalisation package

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