



# NEWS RELEASE

**Hon Peter Tinley AM MLA**  
**Minister for Housing**

**Hon Mick de Brenni MP**  
**Minister for Housing**

**Hon Zoe Bettison MP**  
**Minister for Social Housing**

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## **Turnbull Government's cuts to remote housing will hurt Indigenous communities**

The Turnbull Government is cutting funding for remote Indigenous housing, targeting vulnerable communities to arrest its record Budget deficit.

The Commonwealth had previously committed \$776 million over two years to the National Partnership for Remote Housing but has now walked away, saying it will only continue to fund the Northern Territory component.

The move flies in the face of Turnbull Government's own review into remote housing and directly contravenes the 'Closing the Gap' report that clearly states that safe and appropriate housing is fundamental to achieving the COAG targets.

Housing Ministers from Queensland, South Australia and Western Australia have slammed the cuts, saying the Turnbull Government has turned its back on the most vulnerable Australians.

South Australian Social Housing Minister Zoe Bettison is calling on Federal Indigenous Affairs Minister Nigel Scullion to reverse the decision and to rule out further cuts to Commonwealth social housing funding.

"I am absolutely appalled the Turnbull Government could cut this vital funding for remote Indigenous communities," Ms Bettison said.

"The fact that Mr Scullion has exempted his own electorate from these cuts is also of concern."

Queensland Housing Minister Mick de Brenni said the Commonwealth has turned its back on its responsibility to close the gap for Australians living in isolated and remote areas.

"Housing outcomes for indigenous Australians are worsening – the gap isn't closing, it's getting wider," Mr de Brenni said.

“But again we see the Turnbull Government has chosen politics and prejudice over good policy.”

West Australian Housing Minister Peter Tinley said ongoing Commonwealth funding is needed to protect the significant investment since 2008 under national agreements, and to finish the job of addressing housing needs in remote areas.

“Immediate action on long term funding for remote community housing is required to avoid a housing crisis in these communities,” Mr Tinley said.