

**HOUSING AUTHORITY — NATIONAL PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON REMOTE
INDIGENOUS HOUSING**

Statement by Minister for Housing

HON COL HOLT (South West — Minister for Housing) [10.01 am]: I rise to advise the house of the Housing Authority's achievements for Western Australia under the National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing. In December 2008, Western Australia entered into the agreement as part of a Council of Australian Governments initiative to provide substantial investment in Aboriginal housing. It is a 10-year agreement that aims to facilitate significant reform in the provision of housing to remote Aboriginal communities.

The NPARIH improves both the quality and quantity of housing through a capital works program that addresses housing shortages, poor housing conditions and overcrowding. The cumulative outcomes since 2008 for capital works under the NPARIH program have included the completion of 581 new houses and 1 379 refurbishments. The Housing Authority is the only state and territory agency to meet its NPARIH construction and refurbishment targets each year. The 2014–15 annual performance targets for capital works have been exceeded and have included the construction of 86 new houses from a target of 80, and 103 refurbishments from a target of 80. The 2014–15 annual performance target of 20 per cent Aboriginal employment in the NPARIH projects has also been exceeded. As at 30 April 2015, capital works projects are achieving 40 per cent Aboriginal employment, and over 35 per cent of all hours worked are being completed by Aboriginal workers.

The NPARIH capital works program is predominantly delivered by a panel of seven appointed building businesses. Two of the businesses are 100 per cent Aboriginal-owned and a third business is 50 per cent Aboriginal-owned. In 2014–15, the panel was awarded contracts to the value of \$99 million, with 38 per cent being awarded to the three Aboriginal businesses. Aboriginal-owned subcontractors have also undertaken over \$17 million worth of the \$99 million of construction works. A further \$1.1 million of minor works such as demolition and fencing will be contracted directly to Aboriginal communities or small developing Aboriginal businesses.

Other reforms in 2014–15 include a new property and tenancy management system and the rollout of the head contractor maintenance program, aligning remote community property and tenancy management to social housing-like practices. The authority and the commonwealth government are working together to finalise arrangements for 2015 to 2018 that will supersede the current NPARIH program.