

12.30pm, Monday 22nd August 2011

The Mabo Room, AIATSIS, Lawson Crescent, Canberra ACT 2601

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From Newtown to Nguiu: Practical Approaches Supporting Indigenous Home Ownership in Australia

Kaely Woods

Home ownership is one of the housing options available to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders in Australia. Levels of home ownership are significantly lower for Indigenous Australians than the total population, reflecting the disadvantage and limited choices of this sector of the population.

Indigenous Business Australia's (IBA) Home Ownership Program (HOP) has provided subsidised loans and support to Indigenous Australians to purchase homes in the mainstream housing market since 1974. Over that period HOP has provided over 14,000 loans across Australia with a value of close to \$1.4 billion.

The Home Ownership on Indigenous Land (HOIL) Program, established in 2005, builds on the model and experience of HOP, extending home ownership to Indigenous Australians living on inalienable or communal titled land. The evidence supporting the benefits of home ownership and demand among Indigenous Australians for the opportunity to own their own home continues to grow. For governments, home ownership by Indigenous people can provide cost savings compared to alternative housing support.

This presentation will outline existing research on some of the benefits of home ownership by Indigenous Australians and discuss practical difficulties and successes in developing Indigenous home ownership in different community contexts.

Kaely Woods is the Deputy Chief Executive Officer Indigenous Business Australia (IBA), an organisation established by the Australian government to support Indigenous economic development, primarily through business and home ownership. At IBA, Kaely currently leads the home ownership and enterprise development programs, the development of new policy and partnership approaches with Indigenous groups, industry and government to increase these opportunities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders, as well as IBA's legal and corporate support functions.

Kaely's experience spans more than 24 years in Indigenous affairs and includes senior roles in Commonwealth central agencies dealing with Indigenous policy issues, particularly native title and land rights, complemented by tertiary studies in economics and Indigenous studies. Kaely is a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors.

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