



Northern Land Council

Media Release

It has taken too long to get a house built under SIHIP

23 July 2009

The Northern Land Council's Chief Executive, Kim Hill has today said that it has taken too long to get a house built under the Federal government's housing program – SIHIP – initiated under the federal intervention into Aboriginal people's lives.

“Not one house has been built under SIHIP in the two years since the Federal intervention,” said Mr Hill.

“Now there are serious allegations that up to 70-percent of the \$1.6billion SIHIP funds are being misspent on the government's excessive administration costs, delays and waste.

“The Federal government must respond to these allegations – so we are all clear on how this money is being spent.

Mr Hill also said that while hundreds of Aboriginal people are still waiting for a house there has to be proper consultation with Traditional Owners and communities to determine appropriate housing sites, designs, and agreements on employment and training outcomes for Aboriginal people within the construction industry.

“We want local Aboriginal people to be properly trained and employed to help build these houses, not only so they have future work skills, but also for local communities to have an employment force that can maintain the houses,” he said.

“The NLC has carried out its role in consulting with Traditional Owners on the SIHIP initiative, and we have done so in a timely and efficient manner.”

SIHIP = Strategic Indigenous Housing Infrastructure Program.

Ends.