

OFFICIAL

# **FIRST NATIONS VOICE ENGAGEMENT HEARING HOUSING AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

Kingston Room, Old Parliament House

Friday, 25 July 2025 at 1:05 pm

OFFICIAL



ATTENDEES:

Ms Danni Smith, Joint Presiding Member, State First Nations Voice  
Mr Leeroy Bilney, Joint Presiding Member, State First Nations Voice

Hon. Peter Malinauskas MP, Premier of South Australia  
Hon. Kyam Maher MLC, Minister for Aboriginal Affairs  
Hon. Stephen Mullighan MP, Treasurer  
Hon. Nat Cook MP, Minister for Human Services  
Hon. Nick Champion MP, Minister for Housing and Urban Development, Minister for  
Housing and Infrastructure

Mr Rick Persse AM, Chief Executive, Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Ms Caroline Mealar PSM, Chief Executive, Attorney-General's Department  
Mr Sandy Burness, Acting Chief Executive, Department of Treasury and Finance  
Ms Alex Reid, Acting Chief Executive, Department of Human Services  
Mr Chris Menz, Chief Executive, Renewal SA  
Mr David Reynolds PSM, Chief Executive, Department for Housing and Urban  
Development  
Ms Julie-Anne Burgess, Chief Executive, South Australian Housing Trust

OBSERVERS:

Office of the Premier  
Ms Cat Blaikie, Senior Adviser  
First Nations Voice Secretariat  
Mr Colin Marsh, Director  
Ms Vanessa Botting, Senior Policy Officer  
Department of the Premier and Cabinet  
Ms Jessica Pisani, Executive Director, Strategic Engagement  
Ms Gemma Smyth, Program Director, First Nations Engagement  
Mr Andrew Furber, Administration Officer, First Nations Engagement

Mr RICK PERSSE: We acknowledge this land that we meet on today is the traditional lands of the Kurna people and respect their spiritual relationship with their country. We also acknowledge the Kurna people as the custodians of the Adelaide region and that their cultural and heritage beliefs are still as important to the living Kurna people today. We also pay our respects to the cultural authority of Aboriginal people and Torres Strait Islander people visiting from other areas across South Australia and Australia.

Rick Persse, Chief Executive of the Department of the Premier and Cabinet. I am pleased to be here.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: Kyam, the Minister for Aboriginal Affairs.

Ms CAROLINE MEALOR: Caroline Mealar, the Chief Executive of the Attorney-General's Department. As you know, Aboriginal Affairs and the Voice secretariat sit in AGD.

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: David Reynolds, Chief Executive, Department for Housing and Urban Development. Good to see you again.

Mr CHRIS MENZ: Chris Menz, Chief Executive, Renewal SA. Thank you for having us.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Nick Champion, Minister for Housing and Urban Development.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: Julie-Anne Burgess, Chief Executive of the Housing Trust.

Hon. NAT COOK: Nat Cook, Minister for Human Services and Seniors and Ageing Well.

Ms ALEX REID: Alex Reid, Executive Director Community and Aboriginal Partnerships, deputising for Sandy Pitcher.

Hon. STEPHEN MULLIGHAN: Stephen Mullighan, Treasurer, Minister for Police and Minister for Defence and Space Industries.

Mr SANDY BURNES: Sandy Burnes, Executive Director of Budget and Performance branch in Treasury and Finance, deputising for Tammie Pribanic.

Ms DANNI SMITH: I would just like to acknowledge the land that we are on today is the lands of the Kurna people, and I pay all respects to elders past, living and present and the connection to land and country. Thank you.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I am Leeroy, the other Presiding Member. If there is anything we have learned from the last experience, it's that the timing is not enough. With that said, we would like to just kick straight off and get straight into it. As we go along and as we might feel out the space of where the conversation might be going, we may pivot to different parts of the questions, which you would understand and appreciate.

With that said, we are starting off today around housing and infrastructure. As the Premier mentioned, later we will talk about another theme that comes out of it. Hopefully, what we say today is going to correlate and show the links between the other areas that we have talked about in health and wellbeing and also policing, justice and incarceration, which is a major area that we want to see being improved.

In setting the scene, we are here today with a clear purpose to work in partnership with the South Australian government to deliver real and lasting outcomes for First Nations people and, in doing so, strengthen the state as a whole. The Voice brings forward lived experiences from communities across the six Local Voice regions. These are not policy ideas from a distance; they reflect the daily realities of our people and the urgent need for safe, secure and culturally appropriate housing and infrastructure.

Housing is about more than shelter: it is about health, it is about safety, it is about education and it is also about opportunity. As we know, and as the Premier touched on, poor housing conditions, overcrowding and infrastructure gaps continue to impact our communities. This hearing is a step towards genuine collaboration. We want to see clear commitments and actions from government that reflect our priorities, not in isolation but as part of a broader picture that includes the health, justice and wellbeing of our whole community and, in particular, the First Nations people.

We also remind you that truth-telling and Treaty remain a central part of achieving long-term justice and equity as we move forward, so we would like to keep those things on the agenda. The procedural introduction in this space is that the questions we bring today are grounded in experience, just so you know, whilst it might not sound like that, sometimes we have to zhoosh it up and make it sound like government language, hoping that it resonates with you and makes sense so that there is no need for interpretation—instead, you get it first up.

With that, we are here to work with you to drive progress, accountability and meaningful change. We will seek to address today's questions through a series of themes, providing context to each group of questioning as we move forward through highlighting key considerations and concerns. In this engagement hearing we will direct the questions as best as possible to the relevant person, but as you all know each other, if you feel that you can help, jump in or, better yet, redirect those questions amongst your peers in this space to make sure that we are getting a much more meaningful outcome. We would appreciate that and I am sure you would as well.

Ms DANNI SMITH: As South Australia advances housing reforms, including the Housing Roadmap, the Aboriginal Housing Strategy 2021-2031 and the Closing the Gap agreement are essential to delivering appropriate outcomes for Aboriginal people, with clear accountability, progress tracking and strong Aboriginal leadership. Minister Champion, what portion of new public housing dwellings will be allocated to Aboriginal households?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We have some statistics. I know this came up in our meeting and the Attorney-General and I were talking about this yesterday. I think that when Aboriginal housing was rolled into what was then dubbed the overall SA Housing mix and the Trust name went, the perception would be that there has been a decline in the number of houses—and there has, but it has been in proportion to the decline in public housing generally over the last little while, but there are actually more Aboriginal customers within public housing generally.

So there are those statistics, and from there we are increasing public housing by 400 overall. Some of those figures bounce around a bit because of urban renewal and the projects we have in Seaton where we are demolishing some and rebuilding them, but you would expect it to rise roughly in proportion to what it is now, and I think it is a bit under 17 per cent.

Ms DANNI SMITH: What was that, sorry?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: So 17 per cent of public housing tenants at the moment are Aboriginal and we would expect that to rise proportionally as we lift public housing, so it would be 17 per cent of the increase, which is 400, across a portfolio of about 33,000-odd properties.

Ms DANNI SMITH: In terms of new applicants on the public housing register, do you know how many of them are identified as Aboriginal?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We would have to get that information, but there are a bit over 4,000 for category 1, and then for category 2 and 3 the numbers get much higher from there. But we are happy to give you a full detailed statistical analysis.

Ms DANNI SMITH: That would be great.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Perhaps what we might do is provide it in the weeks preceding when we no doubt come back to talk about it again.

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: So we know how many Indigenous members of the community are in public housing. Can I ask: is there a disproportionate number of Aboriginal people in public housing?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: It's 17 per cent of tenants.

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Sure, okay.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: So it's much higher. Some of that reflects the original Aboriginal housing being incorporated into the trust numbers. We have some numbers there but that was thousands of homes as well. We have to bear in mind that all of the housing in the lands is provided by the trust.

Ms DANNI SMITH: How many homes scheduled for completion by 2026 are being delivered in areas with high Aboriginal housing needs, such as remote and regional communities?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We would have to get you that number.

Ms DANNI SMITH: What measurable outcomes have been achieved under the Aboriginal Housing Strategy regarding crisis housing, homelessness and overcrowding?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: There has been a focus, in terms of the new builds, in looking at four-bedroom homes, rather than the other way in which we have done housing, which has generally been much smaller dwellings. There has been a recognition that there is a need for homes that are larger, particularly where we have high concentrations of people of Aboriginal background, so certainly on the APY lands and in the northern suburbs where we are aiming to have more of that housing stock in conjunction with the smaller one and two-bedroom stock.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Will Aboriginal people be a part of that design of the housing?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: They haven't been traditionally part of the designing process for—we haven't traditionally included tenants particularly well in terms of any of our housing. This is certainly something that we took from the chief executive conversation with the Voice members, that the design of housing is such a critical piece of information that we are missing because we don't genuinely understand how Aboriginal people would like to use the space that they are living in. We have designs that we have traditionally built, both in suburban areas and on the APY lands through that full spectrum of builds and they all look pretty much the same.

There has not been any real consideration about different ways in which space could be used, and that is a piece that we would like to engage on and would appreciate understanding from particularly the Voice members about how we best do those engagements, recognising that there will be regional differences in terms of some of the ways in which, particularly buildings, would like to be used and outdoor areas. That's a piece that we have begun the conversation internally about how we could engage in that conversation meaningfully with members of the community.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Is that an actual action that's happening and, if so, is there a timeline on that?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: I have had the conversation with our head of Aboriginal housing, who has cautioned me to be careful about putting timelines on when we might be able to achieve that kind of outcome because it's such a large consultation piece. But I can certainly come back to you with some thinking about how we would go about that engagement, because I think how we go about understanding the needs of the community is going to be really important to make sure that the right voices are heard.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I know that that's probably a good way of looking at it but, to change it around, a timeline has been sent through the Gap of 88 per cent by 2031, so at some point some kind of strategy has to take place. So it's not so much the timeline of when but it's also the timeline that these pieces of work are actually contributing to what has already been said as a timeline, and when does it happen. Maybe if the answer is not clear on what that actually is, but even the process of knowing what that looks like, the engagement, the community engagement part, if that's something that needs to happen, at what point does that happen that will inform what kind of program or initiative may happen later in time, if that makes sense?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: Yes, so some milestones—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: It's actually understanding that strategy as a whole, because if that's a commitment, what is the strategy to fulfil that commitment?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: So what's the strategy to fulfil the commitment or what's the—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Part of Closing the Gap is increasing the proportion of Aboriginal people living in appropriate sized—not overcrowded—housing to 88 per cent by 2031.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: So the strategy to do that?

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Yes.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: The timeline on that strategy is around our larger builds. We can come back to you with the program of work around where those larger builds are happening. The second piece of that will be appropriately constructed housing, but we need to do the piece of work to understand what that structure can look like. So those two pieces of work are going in parallel.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: It is interesting to note that there is a ministerial specification, 78A, which is essentially a building code for the remote communities. Clearly someone has thought about this in the past, and that's about thermal efficiency and those things. I am not sure when that was done.

Hon. NAT COOK: If you're okay, there was a deep piece of consultation that happened across Aboriginal communities in regards to setting priority targets around the types of building, and that is what came to the design of the large four-bedroom, two-bathroom, open space, big wide verandah build that is currently the model for construction, which I am sure you have seen—I do not need to lecture you, and then last year—Nick has been in the housing portfolio—

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Just over a year.

Hon. NAT COOK: —for just over a year, but leading up to the change of portfolio we did a deep one corner to the other consultation throughout the APY lands and also across Ceduna and the West Coast in respect to that.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: That is what is driving the form of buildings now—it would be effectively that code, which is different from the rest of the state already. I will ask my office to have a bit of a look at it. Once we have that it leads us to a more detailed discussion of some of the things raised in our informal meeting, like rainwater tanks—we have gone away and looked at that and we have an explanation for why they are no longer provided. It would be about getting some of those detailed—perhaps we will bring back the design, what had been done in the past, a timeline, so we could not reinvent the wheel but how we improve from there.

Ms DANNI SMITH: You were saying earlier, Julie-Anne, about having consultations with community and that you wanted to lean on the Voice to give some advice around being a part of that co-development of housing. What are you doing outside the Voice to start that process, the planning stages?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: That is the internal team we have within the department. We have an Aboriginal advisory committee, which we also lean on for cultural advice and will lean on for this piece of work, and of course our internal Aboriginal housing strategy team, which is connected to community and will be the lead in terms of helping us to design this piece of work to go out and consult with the community.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: This is sort of a similar approach, but I am hearing that there is a lot of emphasis in finding and identifying in order to know what is the next step, whether it be consultation or redesigning policy—is that correct, or around that structure, what can be—

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are not stopping building. There is a list of programs and they all have budget allocations. If you like, the work is not stopping, but some of the issues that were raised in our informal meeting are such that we are cognisant that you probably need a continual feedback loop on whether we are getting it right. There are a number of programs for the lands and for regional centres and for the city. It is a different picture across each area.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Sorry to interrupt, which I may do from time to time as we had an experience where we had a lot of talking and we did not get answers and we only have a short time. I intervene in that space because the next question was around measuring and monitoring and how you measure that. I have heard that to some extent, but what I am concerned for and our people are concerned for is that a lot of the disproportionate population is in social housing, there is unoccupied social housing out there, the poor housing quality—this is a list of what has been captured from our people in speaking community. This is known to them, but this is also information you already have that is readily available.

How much research do we have to go into in order to understand what is next, or is it because we already know what the gaps are, we already know what the problem is, but now we need to start

making that move and actually do something. I think that some of that can all co-exist at the same time. Because as you are out there trying to have real meaningful engagement to co-design what is, you also will start picking up on further gaps or further issues as they arise. But, if we are not moving in either/or at a rate that is going to get outcomes we will be still sitting here talking about the same things. So I am more so trying to get a sense from you about what is the immediate action that you are doing, knowing what you know so that we are actually addressing these now. Yes, we might not solve everything, but it sort of feels like there is not a sense of us actually moving towards it, maybe not at the rate that our people feel is not happening.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: I think that's a story of housing more generally as well. It is why we have had the Housing Roadmap and a range of other things. All supply helps the community generally. Prior to this, we had declining public housing. If you have declining public housing, that helps nobody, but it would disproportionately affect Aboriginal people. So we are happy to have both a list of things that we are doing—the money, the housing.

Perhaps we could come up with a pretty clear table so you could see what is delivered and when. Certainly, we could probably run you through it. That is not stopping. It is just a question of some of the issues that were raised obviously previously we want to make sure we have a feedback loop. So if we are getting it half right, we can do better than that. If we are getting it three-quarters right, we would try to do a bit better than that as well.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: One of the programs that we have is around the remote maintenance, so maintenance on remote community housing, which has come through the Housing Australia Future Fund, which is specifically targeting the remote communities for things like energy efficiency. There are insulation upgrades currently happening on the APY lands and a whole range of consultation on the lands about the other pieces that can go into upgrading facilities in those.

We are undertaking consultation about homelands, because there is some money for homelands maintenance. These are pieces that are being rolled out between now and 2028-29, so there is a four-year program of work with that. These are quite specific pieces around ensuring that we have upgrades to facilities that are existing whilst we are having conversations about new. There has also been some new housing built on the APY lands as well.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Thank you. That will lead me into the next question, I guess, around accountability. How are Aboriginal communities being informed about government initiatives?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: I think they doorknocked half of the houses in one of the APY lands communities most recently, likely in the last week, to actually have a conversation about the pieces of work that are available. The insulation is being done for all of the properties, but there are some various pieces that are more flexible in terms of what can be done and what particular homes want in terms of how that money is expended in those lands. So we are trying our hardest to engage with community in a way that is meaningful as well as trying to work with the councils and board members. It just happened that the day they turned up the board members had had to leave early, just before we got there, and so they decided to just keep knocking on doors, talking to people.

Hon. NAT COOK: I can confirm that when we were in the APY lands this week—and I just cannot remember the town—it was raised that they had been communicated with face-to-face about a program rolling out to improve energy. That was how it was put to me.

Ms DANNI SMITH: So outside of the APY lands, how do you then show Aboriginal communities?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: I guess this particular program has had funding and particular requirements through SAACCON about how we have engaged with community. It is not as straightforward in communities that are not on the APY lands, so it is not necessarily the same process if you were in Elizabeth around maintenance. It tends to be much more responsive about when people call and say something doesn't work, and that is how we are responding to that kind of work, rather than necessarily going out with a maintenance program that is either preventative or uplifting in terms of the properties.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Do you have Aboriginal staff within all Housing SA offices?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: As in the regional offices?

Ms DANNI SMITH: As in regional offices.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: They would be most of them, if not all of them.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Maybe we can come back with a detailed answer of which offices.

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: I think they have all got them, yes.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: The other part to it you might want to mention when you are talking about maintenance and what is happening in that space, but the reality of that comes from our communities that there is a lot of maintenance issues that have not been dealt with and are unresolved, so the amount of timing and all of that is not actually opening. Whilst you say having a phone call even if you are in Elizabeth, it is not even happening in the metro, regional or even the remote sectors. From what we hear from the people, that actually is a big gap.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Well, Leeroy, you are reflecting, I think, that we have issues with maintenance in the Trust more generally.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Yes.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: That has been pretty well documented—working with the maintenance providers. So you are probably doing a service to the community in bringing this issue up here because it's a general issue. It occupies a lot of the correspondence I get from members of parliament.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: So what are you doing, if you know this stuff?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are spending more money, but one of the fundamental issues about the maintenance contract at the moment is that we are paying a bit less than other government organisations and other private sector entities as well. We have recently improved the P1 targets; it has finally hit—

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: Ninety-eight per cent, which is a response immediately, and then fixed within five hours for the most critical issues that arise. That is at its necessary target under the contract, for 98 per cent.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: That is a milestone, because it's the first time it has happened.

Ms DANNI SMITH: We are hearing from community—that might be a milestone, but the quality of workmanship is not adequate.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: But that's—

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: In, or particularly remote?

Ms DANNI SMITH: All over we are hearing that the quality of maintenance work is not adequate. It's a bandaid fix, they are not fixing the real—

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: I suppose there are two broad issues: there is the maintenance contract, and we are working on that and putting more money towards it and trying to get it better, and there have been improvements in that critical category—

Ms DANNI SMITH: When you say 'trying to get it better', what does that look like to you?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are doing that. Some of the issues we have, though, is the absolute age of our properties. The average age of a Housing Trust property is 44 years. There has not been preventative maintenance in previous years. What happens is two things that I suppose are a challenge: the maintenance contract and the quality of the maintenance work, and then, secondly, the age of the homes.

One of the reasons why we have such a large vacancy rate is that when homes become vacant we are typically having to rebuild kitchens, bathrooms and the like. That is occupying a lot of our time. I can probably get Julie-Anne and David to tell you about how we are pressing the maintenance contractors. It's not a perfect picture for any Trust resident, and for many of the

frustrations that Aboriginal people would have, other people who are tenants of the Trust would have similar complaints.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Then what is that telling you? That maintenance is an issue.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: It's telling me that we have a very big challenge with the age of properties and the maintenance that we are allocating to them. This is one of the reasons why, if you look at the Seaton redevelopment, which is 388 ageing Housing Trust properties in the Treasurer's electorate, we are knocking them over. The demolition is happening at the moment: we are replacing every one of them, one for one, and we are building 1,453 homes, extra houses, and that is being done in partnership with Renewal and the Trust. That is new public housing, more housing overall, and a lower maintenance rate because the houses are new. That is part of the answer—urban renewal—and part of the answer is getting this contract working and functioning better. I might just let David and Julie-Anne give you—

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: A couple of specific things we are doing under the contracts is that, firstly, we don't pay the contractors if they don't do the work on time. We fine them—they are called abatements, but we essentially fine them for not getting the work done, which keeps the pressure on them to do better. We have enabled them to hire more staff directly, and they have done this. They have hired 25 staff, I think it is, for the Adelaide-based ones, and smaller numbers elsewhere. So they can now hire staff directly—whatever they think is the most efficient way to get maintenance done—and they don't always have to use trade subcontractors. They now can go and do it directly.

We have also hired other building companies ourselves directly, outside of those contracts, where there is a more major build requirement. We will directly engage businesses outside of that in trying to bring more businesses and more tradies into the effort to get these houses built more quickly. We put a lot of pressure on them: we sign contracts with them and they need to deliver on those contracts. They have been increasing the number of tradies, each of them has, under their contracts. We monitor that very closely to make sure that they are slowly building the capacity to do it, and that includes locally and in regional areas.

Ms DANNI SMITH: When you are saying you are getting numbers of the work that is done, who are you getting that information from? Tenants?

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: It goes through a centralised system. Tenants ring a maintenance booking system and then it is logged in the system. We have access to the system, as do the maintenance providers, so all the data comes out of the system. We can see how many jobs are done, when it is signed off, when it is authorised to be paid—which means it is satisfactorily done—and we can see the number of complaints that come back from tenants where they say, 'This wasn't done to satisfaction' and they ring again. All that data comes out of a single system that we use.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Do you have mechanisms in place now that assess the quality of work that gets done?

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: When it is done there is always an inspection as part of that to make sure it is done to quality. There is too much rework going on in our system at the moment, so we are making sure that we are communicating with the tradies, because they don't get paid until it gets signed off that the work is done to the quality that is needed. They are required to take a before photo, do the work, take an after photo and lodge that as part of the system so we can also get good evidence trains of what quality work looks like.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I am just going to touch on it and elaborate a bit more—and Minister Cook, this is where you can also jump in as well. We also understand that with the housing issues, the chronic services and delays impact people's health and wellbeing in the spaces of housing but also homelessness and all of this other stuff that is happening.

In referring to maintenance and talking about those contractors that you are working with, is there a process or a partnership—because this was an idea that came from community in remote settings and regional areas—that can be extended to work with Aboriginal community controlled sectors? Some of the services actually have maintenance officers, and they support people with a chronic illness moving into a Housing SA home, and maintenance wasn't getting done because they have to wait for so-and-so to come from four hours or six hours away from another town.

How could that relationship with housing work better with the Aboriginal communities in the community so that those things could be done in real time and are not making it worse for people who have more serious illnesses? Not only that, I also would see that as a way of combating the pile-up that is coming through the waiting list or the phone calls that are looking for maintenance. Is that something that is happening or, if not, could it happen?

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: It is something that is starting to happen. Six months ago the contracts would have prevented them from doing that—working with those local people—and they had to go through specific trade requirements. We have removed those arrangements from the contracts so now they can go directly to communities, directly to areas and employ people directly to be able to do the work. We have removed the restrictions that had been making that very hard to do, so now it is a case of building the connections. That is why we are putting on the trade operators and we are very keen to talk to ACCOs and others who have those skills so we can put them together and build those connections and build that function.

We all agree that the most efficient way to get the work done is that the person is already there to be able to get that work done. That includes us as a government working across agencies, where we have the infrastructure and transport department sending tradies up to fix a school. The same tradies can do the same work. Some of that has worked in the past, but not well. That is the thing we have now started: having removed the restrictions, it is about us doing the work to know who's who to put in contact and build that workforce.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Is it something that you also might need to push or have something written in a way that actually makes that an actual thing that needs to be done as opposed to just waiting? We also know that community don't see and understand this information, and whilst it might be happening internally it is not coming out and being communicated in the community. Who drives that initiative? Is it the people who have to come and seek that out? Or is it because the services themselves, if they are connected, should actually make that engagement initially—especially when we are talking about remote settings, where there are only maybe one or two Aboriginal community controlled sectors that could be providing it? It is not like it is rocket science: just go out there, have the yarn and forge that partnership so that they can actually deal with what seems to be an issue.

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: Yes, and I think it works best in both directions. It works best, if the contractor and the ACCOs are all trying to make that work for all those things. Our part of that is putting effort onto the contractors to make sure they are out in communities, lifting the number of people doing the work and having those conversations. We have put that in there to measure them as part of their improvement plans to get more maintenance done.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I am going to shift a bit here to homelessness and crisis responses as well. When speaking about that, I might touch on it from this other end too Kyam and that, because of the sense of people feeling that there is racial profiling happening. A lot of that is also hindering people's access or actually having the better support to better do this, which then leads to homelessness or any of the other issues that we seem to be identifying in community.

But in what they are saying, is there any kind of shift in particular that's happening now, in the immediate to long term, that's dealing with homelessness? One of the main issues that comes up to us is around the stuff that's happening at Edwards Park and how even Anangu people coming in from the APY lands are coming in and getting stranded in the communities. Whilst on one hand it would seem like that is also a huge cost in some ways, from what we hear or maybe understand, would the cost and investment be better in how we return people to country and how services could actually be back on country, which has also been expressed across a lot of the regions?

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Can I ask a stupid question so that I am following appropriately: where is Edwards Park?

Hon. NAT COOK: Down at the old netball courts, on Anzac Highway.

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Sorry. Yes, okay.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: The West Terrace Cemetery at Keswick.

Hon. NAT COOK: With your permission, I will quickly just jump back to the question that you were asking before regarding total wellbeing and making sure that people's health is a priority in regard to how the consequences of homelessness, overcrowding and all of those things, impact on that.

If I can just draw your attention to an action that has happened as a consequence of visiting the community, listening to community and holding community meetings, a year ago we were in Mimili, where 450 people are housed in 40 homes. That is a significantly crowded community. Twelve months ago, and in other periods of time since, there has been significant unrest in the community, potentially as a consequence of that in some situations and others. As a result, there were some really practical things that were suggested to us that we might be able to do to assist the community to better support themselves.

A very simple one was the fact that their laundromat, a laundry area, had not been operational for five years. It was a laundry set up with industrial washing machines and dryers where families could come to do their washing, which is really important when you are thinking about the health effects of scabies and other things that happen because of overcrowding. We set about communicating and liaising with community with our DHS staff who are based up there already.

Ms ALEX REID: And Housing staff.

Hon. NAT COOK: And Housing staff, yes. For a very small cost—in fact, I have asked for the exact cost and I think it is somewhere between \$10,000 and \$15,000—we managed to clean up, sort out and get the machines operational. Now, not just can people use those to help maintain the cleanliness of their homes and the safety of their families but there are community programs happening in the laundry, like mums and bubs groups, as a result. So there is this whole community.

Ms ALEX REID: Employment as well.

Hon. NAT COOK: Yes, and employment. We employ a local Anangu to do that service and deliver that service at the laundry, make sure the supplies are there and all of that, and open and close it. All of that is happening. It is a very small consequence.

What I have also noticed is that there is the Mimili men's group that has now really started to establish itself, which is a conduit now to providing more information to us and service providers up there in advocating on behalf of community. It felt like a more peaceful, coordinated and strong community to visit. So they are very small examples. I think overcrowding certainly does not help in remote communities, metropolitan communities or just regional communities.

Sometimes that is a consequence of people journeying through country and having nowhere to stay and no means to provide for themselves to stay in alternate accommodation, hence we have been working really hard with the Return to Country program and with alternate sites for accommodation. That is in conjunction with Housing's transitional accommodation centres in both Ceduna and Port Augusta. I haven't got the number in my head, but the funding through the budget process has increased significantly to provide those supports, so we now can provide those supports out of Adelaide, Port Augusta, Ceduna and Coober Pedy.

Ms ALEX REID: The budget now allows us to provide directly through Whyalla as well.

Hon. NAT COOK: Whyalla, correct. Thank you. All of those things work with and communicate with the excellent specialist team through Housing called Wali Wiru, which you may be familiar with. That program employs Aboriginal local people to provide specific outreach and housing support that prevents homelessness.

These things, these processes, are maturing. I am not saying for one minute that anything is perfect, because Aboriginal people are completely misrepresented on homelessness data. We know they are 2.9 per cent of the population and 27 per cent of the people who are coming into homelessness. We have a much better view on how that is happening. We have insisted through the alliance process, and in all but one of the alliances have an ACCO or ACCHO who is partnering with that service that was established four years ago now.

Ms ALEX REID: We're into the fifth year now, or is it six years?

Hon. NAT COOK: Yes. But what we acknowledge also is that the Country North alliance does not have an Aboriginal organisation attached, and that covers many communities that have high levels of Aboriginal population. Maybe this is part of what is now being reflected in some of that instability and uncertainty that causes some homelessness, because people do not have a safe place to go and have a conversation to represent themselves and be in a safe place with an Aboriginal person to be able to discuss sensitive matters. So that is a priority for us through the review of the homelessness service, which has now started.

The homelessness contracts are a two plus two plus two arrangement. We have already now put out to tender for somebody to review the contracts two years ahead of when they are fixed so that we don't go into a situation where the alliance contracts are being signed a month before they are due to start, which happened last time. We are already reviewing the system. We are determined to get an Aboriginal lead for that service within those areas. We separately contract, outside of the alliance, the NPY Women's Council to provide support in remote communities around homelessness services.

Again, I just want to say to you that I absolutely acknowledge we are not at a perfect state because in a perfect world, Aboriginal representation in homelessness data would be less than the population, and it is not that. We are also acknowledging that you cannot look at homelessness in a silo, or even just in partnership with housing. Training and skills are very important. It is about building culture right from early years through to young adults, emerging leaders, to understand how caring for each other in community is very important, and that has been the highlight of this last week of the work that we have just been doing in communities. Have I touched on everything that you wanted? Do you want some more about return to country and also some other examples, because Alex—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I think the only thing I would say to all that is that while we know most of these things do happen they are not happening at the rate they should, and it doesn't seem like it is really making a difference. While that is the case, we are also seeing that there is an increase in homelessness and there is an increase in all of this that is happening in some of our communities in particular. If we refer to Ceduna, where I am from, there are over 45 services in this place—

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: How many?

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: The last time I checked it was 45—whether they be based there or FIFO, state or national, NGOs, or what have you—but we are only a population of three and a half thousand and I think about two and a bit are Aboriginal people, and a lot of Anangu people are coming down and they have been asking why services are not in the communities so that people can actually go back home and be there. While houses are being built there, who is living in the houses if they are in town?

People are also moving depending on social issues, whether it be alcohol restrictions and so on and so forth, and while we all know that and we are putting things in there, they are more risk-averse as opposed to being opportunistic and solution-driven—as in going back to the root cause. We also know that there is intergenerational trauma and intergenerational bias in the systems and systemic racism that is happening out there.

While all these initiatives are there, they are not necessarily accessible everywhere. There is an emphasis on remoteness in places like APY, but a lot of other regional areas would like to see what kinds of duplication or similar supports can be delivered in their regions. For example, if people are coming down into Ceduna and there are restrictions, they start moving towards places like Whyalla, but Whyalla doesn't sit within the remit of so-called government boundaries that allow them to access a certain amount of resources from government—I don't have the language right now, but there is something in that space there that means they can't get those resources to support those issues that are coming into the community.

Obviously, we are not trying to deter people away—it is their choice—but if there are issues like this that are happening and we see it now moving around relocation to places, it is almost like: 'What emphasis is put on you to work better collaboratively?' because whilst there is a restriction on environmental health in Aboriginal health services, they are your key people in also working in the

environments when you talk about washing and laundry and water testing for tanks and the quality of water that comes into homes.

These are all the connections and synergies that Aboriginal community controlled sectors do that has been undervalued or, better yet, aren't even realised. Whilst, yes, you all work in your own silos as well, what partnerships are you really doing it based on the actual needs and the issues in the community as opposed to which portfolio you hold and who does what? How are we actually committing to putting resources towards a collaborative approach that means that this is done in a holistic way, and then let's measure that, and if we don't know the answer, how are we delivering pilot programs to understand that?

How are we learning from those programs, like what you are talking about now, that could be mirrored somewhere else so that we can have a scale-up moment, to scale it up and actually monitor and see what's working and what isn't with actual people that are Aboriginal people co-designing that, or, better yet, designing it themselves? In our discussion with you, minister, we talked about Aboriginal—

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Yes, that was good. I undertook to find out about the rainwater tanks, and I have the answer for you too. I don't know if you want us to tell you now or later, but we did find out why.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: So in saying that there, I hear what you are saying but from what we see and what we are hearing it is not happening as much and it is not as known. Another concern is—just to shift across—people feeling like there is the racial profiling that is happening in these spaces. How is that being monitored to make sure things aren't happening in a certain way that is putting people in further disadvantageous positions, especially when we know ratios of how many are being disproportionate, how much we know or understand of homelessness, and how much we know a lot of this also boils down to other health or human issues, whether it be mental health or others, as in incarceration and people coming out of prisons? There is a whole lot of stuff that is in that space, but how do we make sure that these systems aren't—

Hon. KYAM MAHER: When you say racial profiling, Leeroy, do you mean in provision of these sorts of services: homelessness and other sorts of services, or more generally the justice and—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Because we are talking about housing, we will just base it on housing for now, but it probably would span across other places as well. An example about the health issues with housing is that in Aboriginal health, when I worked there in Ceduna, people were chronically ill that needed to be in a stable environment. We go and speak to Housing SA and they say they want a whole health check. In some ways, health is very conscious about data sharing and data sovereignty, and sharing information that is confidential. Going through that whole rigmarole, they did not want to support this because they would rather look at that as a high risk of this person's health conditions, not thinking that the high risk is that this person will die if they don't have a house, if that makes sense.

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: So they didn't want to put someone in a home because of their health condition?

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Yes, and we felt as Aboriginal people: 'Is that just happening to him because he's Aboriginal?' and he has actual other kinship arrangements that they are actually holding on and understand that. It shouldn't be the driver; it should be more about what is actually happening at hand with this individual and their needs. That is just one example of many. The same with maintenance. Maintenance is slower, it seems, than when it comes to non-Indigenous people. There is a bandaid approach. Really, something is fixed and only broken—

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: Unfortunately, it is just slow for everyone. That is the issue about maintenance. I can totally understand people raising it but it is an issue that impacts nearly every Trust tenancy in some way. I can show you, and I am sure Nat prior to me—it has been this issue for a long time. Nat and the Treasurer improved the contract. There was a big investment, with thousands of homes upgraded, and even with that, because we have such a big housing stock and because it is getting so old, the challenge is large. We are going to continue to work on that. That is

sort of a common story but not one of the Trust saying, 'Oh well, Aboriginal housing can have a lower standard than the general Trust properties.'

Hon. NAT COOK: What I am also hearing is that we need to improve the systems to capture the information and educate the staff out in community about how they do provide the services. With our homelessness services, we recently launched the outcomes framework, and there are absolutely sections in that which are informed by communities and stakeholders around the Closing the Gap targets, about how we achieve those, and also with the upgrades of the homelessness to home, which is the data asset we use to capture for homelessness. It will have scope to better support Aboriginal people within the service, so the communication is more streamlined and thorough. Bureaucratic work happens, but a flag has been put on the hill and systems are changing and being put in place to better support how we achieve those things.

Ms DANNI SMITH: I guess that will potentially lead on to complaints and grievances. What is happening in that space for community members to feel that they are supported in making a complaint and grievance, especially when you think about our mob being too ashamed to come and speak up, not feeling like they are being listened to, and with the racial profiling that a lot of our mob feel?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: In terms of the maintenance side of things?

Ms DANNI SMITH: Housing, maintenance.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: I think we might take that as something we can work on and think about, because at the moment you call up the maintenance line—

Ms DANNI SMITH: Have you recently called the maintenance line?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: No, but I know enough, Danni, to know that—

Ms DANNI SMITH: All I am saying when I say that, is that you don't get a hello, you get, 'What's your address?'

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: It is not very user friendly.

Ms DANNI SMITH: It's not.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We might take that one on notice, because it is a pretty valid point about how people feel, not just about—and I have my own constituents who sometimes call the maintenance line and then they make a beeline for our offices. It is a genuine issue about how that is managed and how people feel, not just when they call but when the maintenance contractor comes. It will never be a perfect system, but it probably could be a bit more user friendly.

Ms DANNI SMITH: So what are the plans to make it more user friendly?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are going to take that as feedback. We are trying to improve the overall system, but to be honest, because we have been so focused on outcomes of actual maintenance, I have not thought very much about the whole process of calling.

Hon. NAT COOK: We know with homelessness, if a complaint is made about service delivery, if that is made by an Aboriginal person to an Aboriginal person or to an ACCO, you will get a much better outcome. That is not good enough. We know that, so we are undertaking to ensure there are more Aboriginal people to support and again that is a good opportunity to mention that. It is not good enough.

Ms DANNI SMITH: No. Thank you for acknowledging that.

Hon. NAT COOK: You're welcome.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Just on that, moving away from housing itself, when you are talking about feedback and thinking about what is culturally appropriate, a lot of things that came up as a lack in our communities were around rehabilitation, healing centres, cultural hubs and youth centres. This is getting more to major infrastructure, but it is not just major infrastructure. It could also be the key central point to how you are connecting with our people in the community, where that feedback loop and meaningful consultation could take place, but also where you could measure success

through the community's involvement at a central point. Obviously that will be different depending on where it is based, whether it be APY remote, Ceduna or Mount Gambier versus the metropolitan area.

So there are a couple of things in that. First of all is whether there moneys that can be quarantined and allocated for such things, even if that is a start to it, but then also the commitment to what does that look like, whether it is co-designed with the people. Also, what does that mean in terms of you as departments in your areas also coming together and working towards those commonalities of what can actually work in a community? That is especially so when I am hearing in conversation where you know a lot of stuff, you have evidence to back it up, but I am not hearing the solutions. It is like, if you don't know the answer, that's okay, but maybe working with people and having meaningful moments like that is where the magic could happen and where we can start seeing real shifts taking a turn—whoever want to jump in first.

Hon. STEPHEN MULLIGHAN: I don't know the answer—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: You've got the money, so you get to go first.

Hon. STEPHEN MULLIGHAN: I am the first to say I don't know the answer, but I am interested to understand are there examples of those sorts of facilities where it works well.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: One uncle mentioned that he travelled and lived over in Canada, and he said over there they have had examples of how it worked, and it has been really successful. Even then, where is the work being done in actually researching and doing that work to find out? The other example that came up is that we need to base it on our landscape. For example, if we don't know what it is ideally going to look like, how do we create an opportunity to create the blueprint? We might have one based in a remote, to a regional, to a rural. Even if it is just one, picking certain locations, that is moving us into a space of, okay, we are learning, we are finding the way, and then how do we do that?

It is also making sure that we connect with Aboriginal architects as well and we also take in a holistic approach. As we all know, and you read all the books about us if you don't know, or google it, we are spiritual people. We also talk about country not just because it is about we just want to say Welcome to Country, but literally we feel, when our feet are on the munda and we are on land and on country, that is a healing for us. That keeps us connected. It is also about how we keep connected to our ancestors and our communities.

Knowing all of that there, how is that not being designed and built in a way that is like we are evolving as Aboriginal people but we are also bringing an authenticity that connects us to ancient times? As we move forward, we believe that that could be a lot of things that could heal us on so many levels and help empower us to not only just voice our concerns but also start talking about real solutions that are actually being designed by the people, which should make all your jobs even more easier. We should be on the other side celebrating the outcomes, as opposed to continuously trying to figure out what we are going to do. Does that help?

Hon. STEPHEN MULLIGHAN: It does.

Hon. NAT COOK: Are you happy for me to provide some input about what has been going on? You would have heard of some of the work that has been going on. It is very different when you look at metro versus close regional, versus remote. In the metro, we have, through Human Services, been able to provide significant increases in funding to community centres and community hubs and also to sheds.

One of the challenges we have, and we need to continue to work on, is exactly what you were referring to, I think, before. It is about the access to those in a safe place and a safe way for Aboriginal people to join in and do programs within those. That is young, middle-aged, older—all age groups. That is one challenge: metro.

There is a lot of infrastructure that has been invested in, but it is the cultural transition to the use of those spaces. It is not isolated to just difficulties for Aboriginal people. It is hard for young people to go to a community centre. These places, while they were designed originally for women seeking a place to support each other when they left partners, through domestic violence in most

cases, things have changed, and a lot of older people have taken them over, so we have a bit of a piece of work that we need to do.

Then there are more larger regional centres like Port Lincoln, Port Augusta and Whyalla that we have been concentrating on investment. You know the partnership that has gone in with the NIAA where we are doing equal parts—it was \$6 million and \$6 million—announced not that long ago, and there is now a community-led leadership authority that is making all the decisions about where that money is being invested to provide not just youth activities but community activities to build leadership and build cultural safety within Port Augusta and Davenport. That is underway. I am visiting there again soon to attend one of those meetings and listen to some of the decision sets. I am really excited about some of the work that they are doing there. This does also include arts centre discussions and a range of other youth centre discussions.

Then we have Port Lincoln. We have PLACC, which you know well about and I do not need to tell you too much, but we have been working with them. I visited there recently to discuss with the leadership about the youth space out the back. There has been money spent there and investment to improve that space, and they are doing work to improve the opportunities for young people. One of the challenges with PLACC is that, although it's really well located near the footy ground, it's actually a little bit out and away from the main centre of Port Lincoln. But, again, they are doing good work there, and obviously Ceduna as well, I am well versed with some of the challenges there, and the West Coast—

Ms ALEX REID: Excellent youth centre.

Hon. NAT COOK: Yes, fantastic. The West Coast partnership has been tasked with doing a lot of the work around providing information and lobbying for investment in that area. This week in the APY lands—last year we did a review of the youth services that are being provided up there, and the NPY Women's Council has been the funded body to deliver those services. They have challenges in providing skilled staff and infrastructure.

I will give you another example: we visited the Fregon Youth Shed, and while the hum was great, the feel was great, the youth workers were excellent and the community buy-in was great, the parents didn't want their kids going there because snakes could get in under the walls—

Ms ALEX REID: Gaping holes.

Hon. NAT COOK: —so we invested \$500,000, about half million dollars, to do a fit-out where we refabricated the walls and did a whole heap of work there. We hope it's ready for maybe a cabinet visit later, in a few months. It is an important space. We have a new youth centre being funded in Amata. It has taken some time to negotiate the rebuild of that centre. The other one is totally not fit for purpose, so there is a whole new one being done right next door to where the bike jumps are. That will be shovel—

Ms ALEX REID: It's a \$2 million investment funded by the commonwealth—

Hon. NAT COOK: In partnership.

Ms ALEX REID: —that we are project managing with community.

Hon. NAT COOK: That will be shovel to soil early next year. What we have is a youth space in Mimili where the roof needs repair, so we are going to get onto that now. Basically, young people had been made to not feel welcome in the space, and we didn't have a youth worker to help support those programs. So we have Mimili—I spoke to the school about partnering in that—we have Fregon with an upgraded centre, we have Amata with a new centre, and we have Pukatja with a multimillion dollar massive youth space that was opened a year ago and has not been used because of contractual negotiations. I spoke with Richard King and Tania only yesterday. We visited there yesterday morning, and they feel that they are nearly at a place where they can do the contracts.

Then we have the NPY council delivering the services and needing support. We have offered DHS support to build their skills and do all of that work. It is quite extensive stuff that is going on. That is at the heart of that middle group and that emerging group of young leaders who we need to concentrate on.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: It's good that there is that youth centre space. I want to try to just put that to the side. When a community is referring more to healing centres and cultural hubs, it's about how they bring back the sense of community. Government likes to fund a lot of these programs, but it also separates our kinship and our cultural ways. When we think of our communities we think of everybody—our elders, our young, the mums, the dads, and so on and so forth—but the programs generally are 'this is the women's program, this is the men's program, this is the youth program' and a lot of things are then split up and there is no actual anything that brings us back as a community.

Even with a lot of the social issues, a lot of people feel like there is a big gap when it comes to mental health and when it comes to the social issues that we see. Also, that is how it increases people becoming incarcerated, or, better yet, when they come out they go back in because there is not a central point that actually provides that culturally appropriate service that supports people in empowering them and in how they can connect with one another and bring back a sense of community. So when it's healing centres and cultural hubs, it's almost like a combination of what you have just said but more as a central point as well.

Hon. NAT COOK: I will try to keep it shorter this time. These pieces of work are, again, a result of last year's visit. The Mimili Family Wellbeing Centre, which the youth space is part of, which I didn't really explain very well, is a space where all ages and people can be involved. The arts centre now has a separate meeting space for them to do the work, as well as the women's space. Then, if we go to Amata, there was a massive building that was barely being utilised at all—the Amata centre. That is now in the last throes of negotiation; the Attorney-General has been involved in that. This will provide an opportunity to provide meals, a space and we think some accommodation is possible through there as well. That, we hope, will be close to ready to start really humming very, very soon.

Ms DANNI SMITH: How are these places being replicated across the state?

Hon. NAT COOK: Slowly.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Slowly?

Hon. NAT COOK: Slowly, and—

Ms DANNI SMITH: And that is by way of visiting first?

Hon. NAT COOK: If we as members of parliament do not cast our eyes or open our ears—and sometimes close our mouths—when we are helping to advocate here, it is impossible, so we make it a priority to get out and listen. When we have, we invariably deliver what the community is asking us but we go away and then we leave the experts there to consult, for the community to lead that. What we are seeing through not just the Mimili men's group like I mentioned but the tri-nations empowered communities group up in Amata and—

Ms ALEX REID: Tri-state.

Hon. NAT COOK: —sorry, the tri-state group, is that these groups weren't there a few years ago. They will make a huge difference to the outcomes of all communities, not just remote communities. But we know because people move around—and they absolutely should be—that they are bringing opportunities, doing different training elsewhere. People are stronger because of that capacity building. The small answer is 'slowly'; the big answer is 'there is work to do'.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Are you yourselves, Kyam and Minister Champion, aware of these initiatives?

Hon. KYAM MAHER: Yes, absolutely.

Hon. NAT COOK: Kyam is.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: A lot of it is work that we helped coordinate with Aboriginal Affairs, particularly the APY stuff. There has been, probably for 15 years, a pretty big sum of money and I think it was Lowitja O'Donoghue who chaired an APY task force close to 20 years ago that resulted in the model we have now have, which brings a whole lot of stuff together so it is much more centrally coordinated.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: And yourselves? Are you aware of these initiatives?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: The departments work together very well. In some of our discussions previously, Leeroy, I do think there are services that are provided in communities and all of the interactions—Nat has pointed to a few of them. More broadly speaking, I guess it is a bit of a learning piece about what models work that you could then scale across communities while still maintaining communities' sense of ownership. I think we are learning about that, to be honest with you. Some of what you described to me sounds like urban planning, but I don't think I have ever met an Indigenous urban planner. It would be fascinating if there is one. There are probably landscape architects and architects themselves—there is probably a whole set of things we could learn from. Some of it is—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I am just mindful of time. I think we have about 15 minutes.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: I might just say on that point, though, there are probably a range of ways that you could get involvement from Aboriginal people without having a qualification of urban planning.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: That's right, yes.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: Aboriginal people have essentially been urban planners for millennia.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: That is the point, and thank you for raising that. With the work that is happening over here, it is already telling me that these are things that are already embedded in the community where your feedback loops and consultation processes and all that could already be taking place. I am trying to do that deliberately and I will say it: these are already solutions that you could be using as opposed to waiting for whatever design it is that you are designing, you know?

Going on and moving forward really quickly, I want to talk about some of the other partners or structures that are out there. With the Aboriginal housing that used to be, what happened in that space? For all of the other initiatives that have ever existed in that space, is there an appetite to bring these back, knowing and looking at the lessons learned?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are currently doing a whole range of things with SAACCON.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: We are currently working with SAACCON to establish a peak body for housing. That is a conversation that should land in the next little while, as in the next couple of weeks, so that we reach agreement about how we are going to establish the peak body. The purpose of the peak body is to really grow and mature the Aboriginal Community Controlled Organisation environment that could be involved in housing to create an environment where something like Aboriginal housing being controlled and managed by Aboriginal people can be put back in place.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: That is a good one because that was where it was leading to. That SAACCON trust housing subcommittee has been established since early 2023, so—and you might want to talk to that as well—what has come out of that already in that space?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: By the next meeting, we will be able to—

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Is this meeting coming up the first meeting you are having since 2023?

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: No.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: No, this has been a regular forum over the last couple of years that has been working very hard to reach an agreement about how we create a peak body.

Hon. NAT COOK: And what it looks like.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: We are this close—

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: —to signing an agreement. That is the plan. We are pretty close to that finalisation and we are looking forward to sharing that more broadly with the community when we are able to.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Anything else you would like to add there, Danni?

Ms DANNI SMITH: When you are saying you are 'this close' to signing this peak body, what is 'this close'—are there more meetings, more consultation, what is that? Can you unpack that for me?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: It has been through the Trust board this morning in terms of being approved for sign-off, so we now have authority and delegation to sign off, and SAACCON will be equally doing that piece of work being ready to sign off so that when everybody is ready to sign, we are ready to go.

Ms DANNI SMITH: I see here that it was established in 2023. That is two years ago. This is what we are saying: things are taking a very long time. Things are happening really slowly when they could be happening a lot faster and having really meaningful outcomes.

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: I guess the challenge in that is that it is two ways as well. There is a speed with which we can work which sometimes isn't the speed with which community is ready to engage with us. It is a partnership whereby we can't impose a timeline that community is not ready for, so working at a pace at which both parties are able to function effectively.

Ms DANNI SMITH: So how do we support community, then, to engage?

Ms JULIE-ANNE BURGESS: That has been our engagement with SAACCON. It has been trying to wrap around SAACCON to say, 'Here are the pieces that we need in order to be able to get an agreement to the sign-off level.' That has been the work that we have been doing.

Ms DANNI SMITH: Thank you.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Just quickly around the Housing Australia Future Fund implementation, how is the \$50 million in HAFF funding being allocated across South Australia's remote Aboriginal communities and what criteria are being used to prioritise locations and projects? Do you have what a timeline might look like?

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: The \$50 million is spread \$10 million per annum, so for each of the years, and it has been an engagement with our Aboriginal engagement team—Cheryl and her team—with SAACCON and others having deep conversation which has been community-led about where they believe that money needs to be spent for the best effect on the lands. So we are not making any decisions about that; that is being done by community to determine where it should be spent.

They now have a priority list, as I understand it, to spend the first \$10 million to start that work, which is up and running. So that is the group that they have put together. They have come up with the list of priorities for that maintenance spending and now they are getting on with doing it. I actually think it is something that has worked pretty well and very successfully, and we have been repeating it in other areas.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: That should have been talked about in the maintenance section. That would have sounded good.

Mr DAVID REYNOLDS: We were thinking about things we haven't quite got right, as opposed to the things we are doing really well.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: I would like to bring it back to you, Premier. Given what we have talked about and everything that is happening, what do you consider to be something that we could be pushing for as a key outcome?

We talk about partnerships, we talk about meaningful engagement, and we talk about education and awareness so that people understand and know how they can access or understand and navigate these systems or these areas, but what is it that you think we could be doing as the government and the Voice with Aboriginal people and the concerns that are coming through to create some real, tangible shifts in moving forward to combat these issues that have been raised?

Obviously, what we have touched on today is very little. This is like really big, thick paper here of not only how many of the issues that are raised but also potential solutions? How is it that we can move forward with it?

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: I think we have a shared objective to make sure that the Voice is able to contribute to policy formation or reformation that can result in tangible outcomes. If there was a consistent theme to all your questions it is focused on the practical. To that end, it has to be on things that we can measure. Take, for instance, one subject that you have raised that we have talked about a fair bit in the context of maintenance—that's something we can measure. We can measure the speed of action. We can even measure the quality of action in respect of Housing Trust maintenance in areas where your people are at home, particularly in places like the lands.

I think we have heard there is a plan and there is certainly allocation of additional funds to improve that effort, notwithstanding the pace of that improvement isn't nearly at a level that I think is worthy of high praise, but there is an effort there that we can measure over the course of month by month, quarter by quarter and in the context of 12 months. So in 12 months' time we reconvene and we should be marking out on the back of today what is the performance of maintenance, particularly in remote Aboriginal communities, and what is the performing of Housing Trust maintenance where there is a high representation of Aboriginal people. Similarly—I want to be frank about this—the effort that Nat was talking about with the community centre in Amata, I didn't know about that.

Ms ALEX REID: You will.

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Yes, no doubt, when we get up there. I think there is a legitimate question before us, and, again, there is something that can be measured, which is: how is that being replicated in other locations, if, indeed, it is a model that works? That's not necessarily hugely expensive; it's just about making the decision to do it. I think there is an opportunity to do this in the next segment as well: things that we can measure.

What I would encourage happens on the back of today—and this is, of course, your judgement more than mine—is pick three things that can be measured, put them back to us and then we should resolve to get on with it. I have mentioned two but it's not for me. You can pick as long a list as you like but the more finite it is and the more measurable it becomes, the more likelihood that this will result in something that in 12 months' time we can come back together, you guys have done what you said you were going to do and it's improved, or the opposite—hopefully not.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: Just to add on that, one thing you might want to consider that has always struck me as something that we do very poorly—you raised it before about maintenance. I didn't realise, David, that now there is an ability within the maintenance contracts to not go with the—in the APY lands you have a company out of Port Lincoln that services it. If there was a way to measurably look at which Aboriginal groups or organisations are actually providing maintenance, that could make a big difference. If there is now a contractual possibility to do that, that might be something you want us to have a look at and report back on.

Hon. NICK CHAMPION: It would be way more efficient too.

Hon. KYAM MAHER: It would be.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: It sounds like there are two parts to it: one is that even the design of that matrix that you use to measure would be nice to know. That could be something that could be tailored because when you are measuring something based on a certain way or certain perspective, you are not going to get the results necessarily of what the community's needs are—and hence why we talk about all of this stuff, if the processes and procedures that exist aren't necessarily meeting the needs.

I think what we can do is come back—and I would like to see what you are saying, Premier, and having that commitment from you—with not only the three areas, which I think is great because we can narrow it down. Obviously, we want everything done as well but we also live in the real world, and we know that things need to be done realistically, but we feel like if we are going to use this platform, how do we make sure that our people are seeing something moving in the space? Then the next crew that comes through can just add on to those other many issues that arise but also coming back with what we also think that measuring should look like to give you an understanding of doing it this way: 'These are the outcomes that we want to see which should be what you measure,' as oppose to what you want to measure, if that makes sense.

That is not to say that what you have we can't—I think that is part of the collaboration and real meaningful partnership and how we can both design that so we are getting our meaningful outcomes recognised and what that looks like and you are getting yours, but we are moving in a way that is showing us all that we are doing things and we can now not only see the difference but people are feeling it and we see improved outcomes. Would that be fair enough to say that?

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Yes, I think so.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Everybody's happy?

Hon. PETER MALINAUSKAS: Will you, through the secretariat, tell us what those three things are, and then it is incumbent upon us to come back to you and say, 'Here's the metrics, here's the targets'?

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: Yes, that is what I am saying. It is not just coming from Danni and I—we take back what everybody has said—

Ms DANNI SMITH: Across the state.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY —and know what we know here and what we have heard and also our other prior engagements with the ministers here, which we appreciate, thank you, because it gives us that deeper sense of what is happening in your areas. We can try to articulate it in a way so we all feel like we are moving in a certain direction and the secretariat supports that.

At the same time, in return some of the work you have mentioned you have done, and even from that blueprint of the design on how those concepts out there had come to life, some of that information would be good to share with us as Voice members, because we see communities' needs from one end, but when we are hearing this it puts us in a position where we feel more informed to bring back those ideas and actual solutions that could really be the gap between all of this.

Hon. NAT COOK: It is in train, Leeroy, and, Danni, we are going to do a summary and put it through to you.

Mr LEEROY BILNEY: But we have to make it work as a collective. I think that is it.

The hearing concluded at 2.26pm.