

Central Land Council delegates met at Woolanger (Gem Tree) in April for their first meeting of 2026.

## HAND CONTROL OF HEALTH SERVICES TO COMMUNITIES

Aboriginal Medical Services Alliance Northern Territory chief executive Donna Ah Chee spoke to council about the process of how communities can transition from being an NT government clinic to one that is community controlled. Dr John Boffa, from Congress, spoke about the positives of Aboriginal controlled health clinics and the comprehensive

service available. Congress is finding out if communities with government-run clinics want to make the change to Aboriginal control. Dr Boffa said barriers include communities needing investment to upgrade clinics and not having enough houses for health staff. He said developing governance skills of future regional health board members is also important.



Donna Ah Chee talked about how communities can take control of remote health services.

## INCREASE THE REMOTE AREA ALLOWANCE

The council called on the Australian government to urgently increase the remote area allowance. It said rising fuel prices make everything more expensive. Increasing the remote area allowance is the easiest and most targeted way to compensate remote residents for the extreme cost of living out bush. "We need this Labor government to help us when we are really hurting," CLC chair Warren Williams said.



CLC chair Warren Williams wants the Labor government to raise the remote area allowance.



CLC deputy chair Barbara Shaw spoke about homelands.



David McCormack, from Yuelamu, spoke up about remote clinics.

## HOMELANDS UPGRADES IN THE WORKS

Since 2022, the NT government has been upgrading houses in the CLC region using federal funds. The council's homelands reference group provided advice

and recommendations on homelands to the joint steering committee for housing. The program will finish in mid-2027.



Kathleen Lucky asked about health services in small communities.

## REGULAR, PLANNED MAINTENANCE OF HOUSES

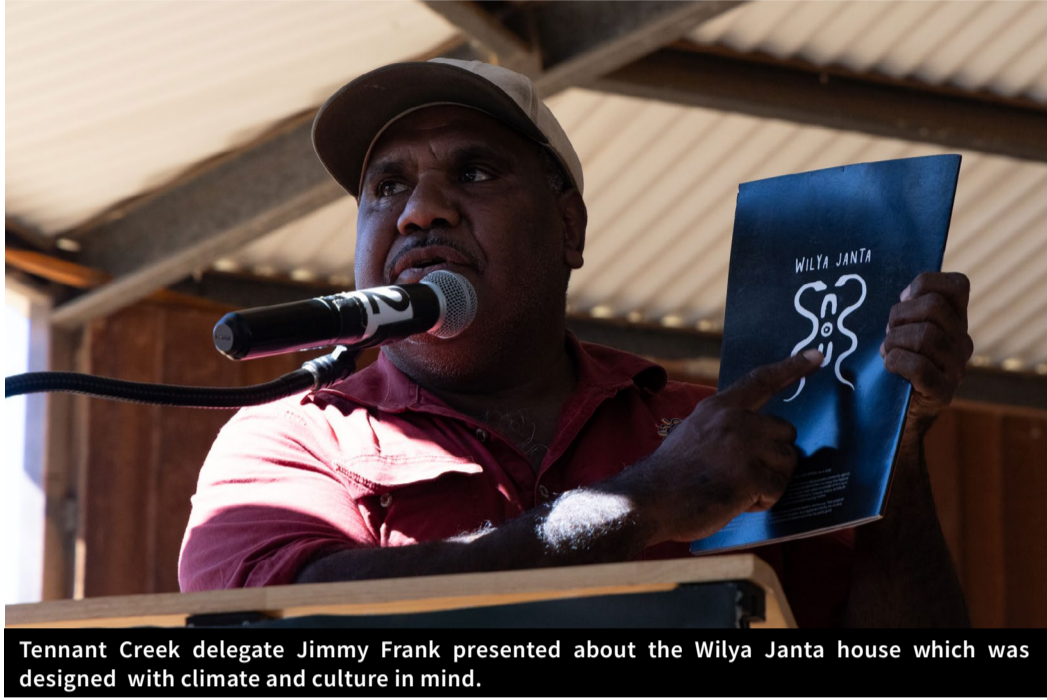
The CLC has spoken up strongly for regular, planned maintenance of houses instead of the NT government only acting when things break. Starting with pest control treatments and septic

tank inspections this year, the CLC expects the government to also do regular electrical and plumbing checks and service air conditioners. This will help plan for future upgrades.

## BUILD HOMES FIT FOR A HEATING PLANET

The CLC wants governments to design new homes so that they cope better with rising temperatures and save power. Wilya Janta Housing representatives Simon Quilty and Jimmy Frank said the solar-powered house they built in Tennant Creek is a great example.

Designed to meet a local family's cultural needs, it has two kitchens and bathrooms and a wrap-around veranda to keep it cool in summer. Dr Quilty said overcrowding in poorly designed houses causes health problems like scabies and rheumatic heart disease.



Tennant Creek delegate Jimmy Frank presented about the Wilya Janta house which was designed with climate and culture in mind.



Maria Ross from Atitjere talked about homelands and the importance of connection to country.

## TALK WITH US ABOUT NEW REMOTE RENT SYSTEM

The CLC wants the NT government to properly consult tenants about a new remote rent system by the end of this year.

The High Court has ruled the government's remote rent system invalid because the government did not consult tenants before it decided to charge rent based on

the number of bedrooms and not household income. That meant about seven out of every ten tenants paid more rent.

The CLC wants the next rent system to be based on consultation with tenants, Aboriginal housing organisations and expert advice.

## RACISM INQUIRY SUBMISSION

Delegates spoke about the racism they experience and what it does to them. They talked about kids being locked up for months for stealing a bottle of coke and chips, prison staff discouraging Aboriginal prison visitors and a clinic committee holding

clinic staff to account for racist behaviour.

Their stories will be included in the CLC's submission to the Australian government's inquiry into racism, hate and violence against Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in June.



Michael Liddle and St John Ambulance workers shared their concerns about growing violence against paramedics.



Derek Williams from Yuendumu spoke about safety in community clinics.

## NEW NATIONAL ABORIGINAL VOICE IS GATHERING

The daughter of the first CLC chair, film maker Rachel Perkins, asked the council to join a new national representative body that seeks to unite Aboriginal voices and will be independent from

governments. Duane Fraser, the chief executive of the National Gathering, said the new body aims to push back against the negative political environment for Aboriginal people.

## NOMINATIONS FOR NEW ABORIGINAL AREAS PROTECTION AUTHORITY BOARD MEMBERS



Mark Inkamala, Geoffrey Matthews, VM and Sharon Anderson were nominated as Aboriginal Areas Protection Authority board members.

## KUMANJAYI LITTLE BABY

The horrific news about Kumanjayi Little Baby cut the council meeting short. The delegates, including her family members, feel the pain of this tragedy and honour her memory.

13 Yarn (13 92 76) is a number anyone struggling can call for support.

## CLC MEETINGS

Executive: 24–25 June 2026, Alice Springs

Council: 18–20 August 2026, Kalkaringi



The council makes decisions in the best interests of Aboriginal people in the Central Land Council region that keep the CLC strong. Its meeting rules support good governance.

To read these rules and the council minutes at the CLC's Alice Springs office please contact the strategy and performance manager on 8951 6211 .