



Media Release
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National Shelter calls for negotiation not force to solve the town camp problem in Alice Springs

Chairperson of National Shelter, Adrian Pisarski said that negotiation needs to be prioritised over compulsory acquisition as an appropriate strategy for the Federal Government to solve the crisis of Town Camps in Alice Springs.

While Mr Pisarski recognises that these town camps may not be the best form of accommodation for Indigenous Communities, he said that the government needs to take a careful and culturally respectful approach when negotiating with these groups.

“The government needs to facilitate a cooperative process with these communities in order to arrange alternative living conditions,” Mr Pisarski said.

National Shelter has also expressed concerns that Indigenous Community Housing Organisations like Tangentyere, are being treated differently from mainstream community housing organisations.

“At a time when the government are throwing funds at mainstream community housing organisations and trying to build the capacity of the community sector in general, they are proposing to acquire leases and property from the Indigenous organisation. This is a contradictory approach,” he said.

Mr Pisarski also condemned the decision by the Council to allow police officers to confiscate blankets from people in the town camps.

“Alice Springs has a huge homelessness problem and taking people’s blankets will only make that problem worse.

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