



EC24-001539

**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER  
JODY BROWN**

Mr Zachariah Matysek  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association  
s47F [REDACTED]@natsiha.org.au

Dear Mr Matysek

I am writing to you about Activity ID 4-HBIG4U4, and the grant agreement between the Commonwealth of Australia, as represented by the National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA), and the National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association (NATSIHA) (the Grant Agreement).

#### Grant Agreement obligations

The NIAA reminds NATSIHA of its obligations under the Grant Agreement. These obligations include providing the NIAA with additional information it reasonably requests under Clause 57 of the Head Agreement.

#### NIAA's concerns

We also bring to your attention our concerns about:

- NATSIHA's performance under the Grant Agreement, and
- potential breaches of the Grant Agreement, including the use of funds, we have identified.

#### Recent travel to Geneva

On 29 August 2024, Ms Simone Persson of the NIAA emailed you about NATSIHA staff travel to Geneva. On 29 August 2024 you responded to Ms Persson's email and the NIAA did not find this response adequate. Ms Persson emailed you again on 27 September 2024 reminding you of your obligations under the Grant Agreement and requesting information in relation to this travel. I note that no response to Ms Persson's email of 27 September 2024 has been received. As the NIAA has not received the information it requested, NATSIHA has not complied with its obligations under the Grant Agreement. The NIAA reserves the right to issue a formal breach notice for any breach.

Alternatively, I request you provide the below information within 10 business days of the date of this letter:

1. how many NATSIHA staff travelled to Geneva to participate and attend the United Nations Human Rights Council in July 2024.
2. what was the purpose of this travel
3. who from NATSIHA approved this travel, and
4. who funded the cost of this travel.

As Ms Persson advised you on 27 September 2024, the NIAA considers it reasonable to request this information. This is because the Grant Agreement funds the salaries of NATSIHA's CEO and staff. NATSIHA's sustainability is also a key component of the Grant Agreement, and there is a requirement that NATSIHA obtains, and documents to the Commonwealth's satisfaction, additional funding contributions as outlined in clauses 2.9, 2.10 and 2.11 of the Project Schedule.

#### NATSHIA expenditure

The NIAA acknowledges NATSIHA has submitted reports on expenditure and financial forecasting for the 2024-2025 period, however the NIAA has not accepted these reports.

The NIAA is concerned with the amount of travel NATSIHA staff are undertaking, and the associated costs. From 1 July 2023 to 30 June 2024, NATSIHA spent almost \$225,000 in travel and associated costs, and is expected to spend \$400,000 in the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025.

The NIAA is concerned about the amount of travel undertaken by NATSIHA staff, and its impact on NATSIHA's the ability to deliver Objectives under the Grant Agreement. While I note some travel relates to the Project Objectives and deliverables, the NIAA is of the view the reported figures are excessive.

#### Payments to Board of Directors

The financial information provided by NATSIHA on 18 October 2024 identifies that Grant Agreement funding was used to reimburse NATSIHA Board of Directors' travel and out of pocket expenses.

The *Additional Conditions* in the Grant Agreement stipulate funds cannot be used to pay sitting fees, allowances, travel expenses or similar payments to Directors (Part 3, Additional Conditions, 11. Restrictions on expenditure), unless prior written approval is obtained. The NIAA has no record of providing prior written approval, and advises these payments breach the Grant Agreement. The NIAA under clause 57 of the Head Agreement, seeks information from NATSIHA on all payments to the Board of Directors since the Grant Agreement commenced, within 10 business days of the date of this letter.

### Status of Chief Executive Officer

The NIAA seeks information on the substantive Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

Mr Robert Macfarlane's employment status. Information received indicates Mr Macfarlane is on long term leave. If so, the NIAA seeks the details surrounding his departure and his leave status. Further, the NIAA seeks information on how NATSIHA's approach to management and governance enables it to deliver its obligation under the Grant Agreement and any identified risks (financial or otherwise) that his employment status has on the organisation. The NIAA considers it is within its rights to seek this information as the recruitment of a CEO to assist and guide the establishment of the governance and administration of NATSIHA is a key component under the Grant Agreement.

Further, the NIAA is concerned:

- there has been no substantive CEO leading the organisation for some time, and
- current administrative arrangements are impacting NATSIHA's ability to establish and build its capacity to become a successful national peak body for First Nations people.

### Ability to deliver on Project Objectives and Deliverables

On 16 August 2024, the NIAA advised NATSIHA that the reporting it provided in June 2024 was rated as 'Needs to Improve' and several issues were identified. The NIAA asked NATSIHA to resubmit this reporting and has since worked closely with NATSIHA to provide it the greatest opportunity to successfully deliver the project deliverables. While I understand there has been progress against some deliverables, the NIAA remains concerned NATSIHA will not meet all of its objectives and deliverables under the Grant Agreement. In particular:

- Co-design programs that are culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Housing Organisations;
- Development of a National Indigenous Housing Employment Strategy for housing, encompassing all jurisdictions;
- Review and develop a National Indigenous Housing standard, encompassing all jurisdictions;
- Develop culturally appropriate rental, mortgage, and financial literacy advice;
- Obtain and allocate additional funding contributions from State and Territory Governments, the private sector, non-government organisation and donations, to support the operations of the NATSIHA.

The performance report NATSIHA submitted for the period 1 January 2024 to 30 June 2024 requires additional information. Further, the Annual Workplan for the period 1 July 2024 to 30 June 2025 requires significant work and is not accepted. The NIAA's comments against these documents were provided to NATSIHA separately on 23 September 2024, 23 October 2024 and 28 October 2024.

Given these concerns, I give you notice that under Clause 70 of the Head Agreement, the Commonwealth is considering taking risk management and/or performance action against NATSIHA. This is because the NIAA considers NATSIHA's performance is less than satisfactory.

Further, under Clause 71 of the Head Agreement, I give notice that the NIAA requires NATSIHA to work with us to improve its capacity to deliver funded Projects to the Commonwealth's satisfaction by addressing its governance, financial and service delivery issues. NIAA officials will contact you shortly about what is required.

Financial Sustainability – Clauses 2.10 and 2.11 of the Project Schedule

The Grant Agreement requires NATSIHA to obtain and allocate additional funding contributions from State and Territory Governments, the private sector, non-government organisations and donations, to support its operations. However, NATSIHA has not reported any additional funding contributions. I understand NATSIHA is focused on securing Commonwealth funding, but this is not what the Grant Agreement requires, and the NIAA considers this as less than satisfactory.

Staff Behaviour

Finally, I advise of issues raised directly with me about recent behaviour by NATSIHA staff toward Commonwealth employees, including NIAA staff. I know this has been raised directly with you in various forums, but the NIAA has seen this behaviour continue, which is unacceptable.

Concerns have been raised around NATSIHA staff's behaviour and public statements, including those made by yourself. The NIAA has seen firsthand, and been subject to, inappropriate behaviour directed towards Commonwealth staff. The NIAA values its relationship with NATSIHA and has sought to work in partnership on many occasions. We seek your support to address this behaviour, and your commitment for us to go forward and work in true partnership.

Yours sincerely

A large redacted signature area with the text 'S47F' in red.

**JODY BROUN**

Chief Executive Officer

27 November 2024

Cc: s47F [redacted] n,  
s47F [redacted]

Released under the FOI Act by the  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)



s47F

**From:** s47F @official.niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, 22 July 2024 10:12 AM  
**To:** Benjamin Thompson  
**Subject:** RE: Financial report - NATSIHA - 22-23 Submitted Reporting [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** 2023.10.03NIAASignedCover AudittedFinacials 3Oct23.pdf; 2023.11.07 - 22.01 - 2022-23 Acquittal Outcome 4-HBIG4U4 - Letter to Mr Mcfarlane NATSIHA.pdf; 2023.10.03NIAA23 Acquittal audit report signed.pdf

OFFICIAL

Morning Ben,

Attached is the 2022-23 Audited Financial reporting submitted by NATSIHA and the Outcome Letter from NIAA to NATSIHA.

We will be emailing out the 2023-24 Acquittal Reminder letters to all provider in the next month.

Thanks,

s47F  
s47F | Senior Agreement Manager | GMU Canberra  
Grants Management Unit | Grants and Finance Group  
p s47F | s47F @official.niaa.gov.au



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the Traditional Owners and Custodians of Country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the Elders past and present.



---

**From:** Benjamin Thompson s47F @natsiha.org.au>  
**Sent:** Monday, July 22, 2024 7:59 AM  
**To:** s47F @official.niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Financial report

Good Morning s47F

I was wondering if you had a copy of the last financial report we submitted. As you may know the previous CEO is no longer with us and our A/CEO is oversees and due back this week. These gentlemen are the only ones who may have copies of the financial reports prior to my onboarding. Any assistance would be appreciated to keep formatting inline as I have a meeting with the finance lady later this week when she returns from leave.

Kind Regards, Ben

Released under the FOI Act by the  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)



**Benjamin (BJ) Thompson**

Executive Director

Housing Sector Strengthening

NATSIHA – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Association

Suite 3.01, L3, 24 Montgomery Street, Kogarah NSW 2217

M s47F | E s47F [@natsiha.org.au](mailto:s47F@natsiha.org.au)



Mr Robert Macfarlane  
Executive Officer  
NATIONAL ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER HOUSING ASSOCIATION LIMITED  
coo@natsiha.org.au

Dear Mr MacFarlane

## ACQUITTAL ADVICE

I am writing to advise you of the acquittal outcome outlined in the table below.

An analysis of the financial acquittal documentation has been carried out to determine if the funding objectives have been achieved and that all funds have been accounted for in accordance with your Grant Agreement.

<b>Activity ID</b>	4-HBIG4U4
<b>Project Title</b>	NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building
<b>Programme</b>	1.4 - Culture and Capability – CAC - Closing the GAP
<b>Acquittal Period</b>	1/07/2022 to 30/06/2023

<b>Financial Acquittal Details</b>	<b>Amount</b>
Funding released for year	\$2,125,651.25
Prior year funds carried over	\$967,246.00
Prior year funds with offset carried over	\$0.00
Prior year overspend carried over	\$0.00
Activity generated income - interest	\$0.00
Activity generated income - other than interest	\$0.00
<b>Total Value of Funds Acquitted for period ending 30/06/2023</b>	<b>\$3,092,897.25</b>
<b>Actual Approved Expenditure</b>	<b>\$839,042.94</b>
<b>Acquittal Balance</b> (Positive Value if Underspend, Negative Value if Overspend)	<b>\$2,253,854.31</b>

<b>Outcome</b>	<b>Comments (if applicable)</b>	<b>Approved Amount (ex GST)</b>
Underspend - carryover as per Schedule special conditions	Against Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4 in 2023-24	\$2,105,553.06
Underspend – carryover SCSO payment	Against Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4 in 2023-24	\$148,301.25

Although we have acquitted funds we may still seek return of those funds or pursue other remedies if it is later discovered that the funds were not used in accordance with your Grant Agreement.

Should you have any queries in regard to the above please do not hesitate to contact s47F on s47F or s47F @official.niaa.gov.au.

Yours sincerely

s47F

s47F

National Grant Management | Grants Management Unit | Grants and Finance  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

7 November 2023

OFFICIAL



**Australian Government**  
**National Indigenous Australians Agency**

**Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4**

Mr Robert McFarlane  
Chief Executive Officer  
National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association Limited  
Unit 27  
3-7 Fetherstone Street  
BANKSTOWN NSW 2200  
E: [coo@natsiha.org.au](mailto:coo@natsiha.org.au)

Dear Mr MacFarlane ,

**Reminder – Audited Financial Acquittal Report for 2022-23 - NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building**

This is a reminder that your Audited Financial Acquittal Report for NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building for 2022-23 is due 30 September 2023.

The purpose of the Audited Financial Acquittal Report is to provide assurance that the funding provided under the NIAA Grant Agreement has been used in an efficient, effective, economical and ethical manner and in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

Please ensure you are fully aware of the financial acquittal reporting requirements specified in your Grant Agreement.

**Please note that 2022-23 Financial Acquittal Reports will be submitted online. You will be emailed the online lodgement details from [noreply.gps@fms.gov.au](mailto:noreply.gps@fms.gov.au) specific to your activity where you can attach the completed financial report template provided with this letter and any underspend business case. Please note all information to be submitted will need to be provided in a single attachment.**

**Timing**

It is required that your audited financial acquittal report is provided to NIAA by the due date stated above and specified in your Grant Agreement.

**Acquittal Documentation**

The financial acquittal report must confirm that the funding has been spent in accordance with the Grant Agreement.

In most cases NIAA requires a separate income and expenditure statement pertaining to each NIAA funded activity. An income and expenditure statement for your entire organisation is not acceptable, unless income and expenditure relating to each NIAA funded activity is clearly differentiated. If your organisation is funded for more than one activity, a single set of financial acquittal documentation can be provided. However, this report must clearly



differentiate the income and expenditure relating to each activity you are funded for, unless otherwise specified in your Grant Agreement.

A template covering these requirements which you may find useful is provided at **Attachment A**. If you have a budget in your agreement you should report against the budget in your agreement instead of using the template at **Attachment A**.

### **Interest**

As specified in your IAS Grant Agreement, a **Grant** (ie NIAA funding) includes any **interest** earned on a Grant. You must therefore also include any interest earned on your NIAA funding as part of the Audited Financial Acquittal Report.

If there is nil interest, an explanation needs to be provided as to why there is nil interest.

### **Depreciation**

Unless the inclusion of depreciation has been specifically included in your Grant Agreement, the NIAA does not consider depreciation to be an allowable expense for Grant Acquittal purposes.

### **Underspends/offsets**

NIAA aims to recover underspends via offsets where possible. Offsetting involves reducing any future Grant payment(s) under that particular IAS Grant Agreement or any other IAS Grant Agreement that you have with the NIAA, up to the amount of the underspend.

You will need to present to the NIAA for approval a business case for any underspends that you wish to retain for use on the activity. The underspend should not be used until the business case is approved.

### **Verification and Audit Requirements**

It is recommended that your organisation discuss its financial acquittal reporting requirements with your Auditor if you have not already done so. It is your organisation's responsibility to bring to the attention of your Auditor the Terms and Conditions under which the funding has been provided to the organisation and **all** of the requirements set out in the Terms and Conditions need to be met. The schedules attached to the Grant Agreement also need to be brought to the attention of the Auditor.

The Agency relies on the independent audit opinion as a third party verification that the financial acquittal report prepared by your organisation is true and fair, is in accordance with the Grant Agreement and in line with the applicable accounting standards.

The following is a list of key actions you should consider when preparing your audited financial acquittal report:

- Check the financial acquittal requirements in your Grant Agreement Schedule (including the due date and financial reporting and audit requirements);
- Review your organisation's statutory reporting requirements;
- Talk to your Auditor about the financial acquittal requirements under the Grant Agreement;
- Provide a copy of the Grant Agreement and any Variations together with a copy of this email, including the audited financial acquittal report template (Attachment A) to

your Auditor. Please note that all information required for Audit purposes is contained in the Grant Agreement and any Variations.

If you require any further information in relation to the above or any other aspect of the Terms and Conditions of NIAA grant funding, please contact s47F on s47F or s47F [@official.niaa.gov.au](mailto:s47F@official.niaa.gov.au)

Yours sincerely,

s47F

Team Leader  
Canberra Grants Management Unit  
Program Performance and Delivery Group  
National Indigenous Australians Agency

10 July 2023



## Attachment A

**Audited Financial Acquittal Report**

This form, together with the Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure and Audit Report, should be provided to NIAA by the Acquittal Due Date.

Grant Recipient:	National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association Limited
Activity Name:	NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building
Activity ID Number:	4-HBIG4U4
Grant Agreement Managing Office:	Canberra GMU
Activity Start Date:	01/03/2022
Grant Agreement Acquittal Period Start	01/07/2022
Grant Agreement Acquittal Period End	31/12/2023
Amount of Funding Released for Year Ending 30/06/2023	\$2,125,651.25
Unexpended Funds for this activity from Prior Year approved carry forward.	\$967,246.00
Unexpended Funds for this activity from Prior Year carried forward and offset:	\$0.00
Total Value of Funds to be Acquitted (grant recipient to add interest):	\$3,092,897.25
Acquittal Due Date:	30 September 2023

**DECLARATION BY MANAGEMENT**  
**FOR THE PERIOD 1 JULY 2022 TO 30 JUNE 2023**  
**NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building GRANT AGREEMENT**

We declare that the financial acquittal report of the NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building GRANT AGREEMENT is in accordance with the NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building GRANT AGREEMENT. In particular, the Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure:

- a) Gives a complete and accurate view of the NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building GRANT AGREEMENT Income and Expenditure and grant interest of NIL; and
- b) All funding and grant interest was expended for the project and in accordance with the Grant Agreement;

Explanation if nil interest:	s47F	
SIGNATURE		
NAME	Robert Macfarlane	
POSITION	CEO	
DATED	3/10/23	

**Audited Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure**  
**for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023** - If you have a budget in your  
agreement you should report against the budget in your agreement instead of using this  
template.

<b>Income</b>		
<i>(delete categories in italics if not applicable)</i>	Budgeted Amount as per Grant agreement (Excluding GST) <sup>1</sup>	Actual Amount (Excl GST)
Grant funds received <sup>2</sup>	\$2,125,651.25	2,125,651.25
Unexpended Funds received in previous financial year approved for carryover <sup>4</sup>	\$ 967,246.00	967,246.00
Interest income derived from grant funds <sup>5</sup>		
<i>Other activity generated income:</i>		
<i>Fees from service users (grant related only)</i>		
<i>Sale of goods (grant related only)</i>		
<i>Other<sup>6</sup> LIST ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE LINE ITEMS</i>		
Total income	\$3,092,897.25	3,092,897.25
<b>Expenditure</b>		
<i>(delete categories in italics if not applicable)</i>	Budgeted Amount as per Grant agreement (Excluding GST)	Actual Amount (Excl GST)
Operational <sup>7</sup> <i>Directly related to the Grant</i>		
Salary and related Administration - <i>Only administration costs directly related to the grant</i>	\$ 658,200.00	237,662.43
Operational – materials, supplies and overheads	\$ 423,150.00	322,207.96
Conference and workshops	\$ 464,000.00	173,431.01
Learning and Development	\$ 280,000.00	
Travel and motor vehicle		
Information technology and minor equipment (non capital) <sup>8</sup>		
Consultants and contractors		
Rental and property (including repairs and maintenance)		
General administration <sup>9</sup>		
Accounting and audit		
Other <sup>10</sup> <i>LIST ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE LINE ITEMS</i>		
Overheads <sup>7</sup> <i>INCURRED CENTRALLY AND ALLOCATED TO THE GRANT</i>		
Salary and related Administration		
Rental and property (including repairs and maintenance)		
Insurance and utilities		
Other attributed administration costs <sup>9</sup> <i>LIST ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE LINE ITEMS</i>		
Capital <sup>8</sup>		
Vehicles		
Building purchase and construction		
Major equipment purchase and installation		
Office Leasing	\$ 50,000.00	26,350
Capital acquisition	\$ 102,000.00	79,391.54
Other <sup>10</sup> <i>LIST ADDITIONAL EXPENDITURE LINE ITEMS</i>		
Total expenditure	\$1,977,350.00	839,042.94
<b>Grant Underspend/ (Overspend)</b>		
Grant underspend/(overspend)	\$1,115,547.25	2,253,853.97
Remaining funds	\$1,115,547.25	2,253,859.97
Reason for underspend	As per approved budget	
Requested underspend to be returned to NIAA		
Requested carry over funding into next period (if applicable).		
<b>Business case on proposed use of carryover funds, including costings MUST BE PROVIDED AS PART OF THIS ATTACHMENT</b>		



## Guidance to complete the Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure.

**Failure to comply with this request for a Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure may result in non-compliance with the conditions of your grant agreement.** The Statement of Grant Income and Expenditure must be prepared from the financial records and information of your organisation. Your auditor should perform their audit using the information you have provided in this template.

Please refer to the following footnotes when completing this template:

1. The amounts presented in this column should agree to the grant agreement. Some schedules (or Additional Conditions) contain approved budgets for grants.
2. This amount should be the amount of all payments received from the Agency during the financial acquittal period.
3. These payments are to be treated separately for reporting purposes. You must review your grant agreement to assess whether there are payments you may have received that are a Social and Community Services (SACS) Award Supplementation.
4. This amount must be the amount approved as an underspend for carryover from the previous financial grant acquittal reporting period. If you are uncertain if you have an underspend that was carried over or the amount of this carryover, please contact your Agreement Manager to confirm if an underspend must be reported here.
5. Interest income reported should only be interest derived from the grant funding. If there is nil interest, an explanation needs to be provided as to why there is nil interest.
6. Income generated from performing activities relating to this grant must be reported, such as event/ticket income, cost recovery income or rent received from letting properties leased or purchased using grant funds.
7. "Operational" costs are those that relate directly to the grant, e.g. salaries for staff working 100% on the funded activity. Costs that are incurred centrally and allocated to the grant activity should be reported under the "overheads" heading.
8. Capital costs are for purchases of large assets such as a vehicle, building or large piece of equipment and are acquitted separate to the other expenses, under the "capital" heading. The cost of these assets can only be acquitted if they are specifically included in your grant agreement. Note that you must contact the Agency in writing prior to purchasing, leasing or acquiring an Asset that has a value of more than \$5,000.00 (excluding GST). Depreciation is generally not referred to in the terms and conditions of the grant agreement and is not a claimable expense item against IAS Grant funding. There are only exceptional circumstances that approval may be obtained for claiming depreciation against a Grant. Depreciation can only be claimed if specified in the grant agreement. Purchases of minor pieces equipment can be acquitted under the "Operational" heading.
9. Only administration costs directly related to the grant should be reported under the "operational" heading. Where the administration costs are incurred centrally and allocated to the grant activity they should be reported under the "overheads" heading. Your grant agreement may also set a limit to the value of administration costs that can be allocated to the funding you have received.
10. Please list the nature of expenditure if your grant expenditure does not align to an expenditure line item already listed.

11. This amount is calculated as the grant underspend/(overspend) less any funds that have been committed (e.g. signed contract, goods ordered but not yet delivered) but not paid at the time of reporting
12. The amount entered here is the value of funds you wish to carry forward for use in future periods. **Your Agreement Manager will advise you on the treatment of this underspend.**

ATTACH AUDIT REPORT PROVIDED BY YOUR AUDITOR TO THE END OF YOUR STATEMENT.



## INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT

*Report on the Income and Expenditure Statement in relation to the Agreement between the National Indigenous Australians Agency and National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association regarding the Culture and Capability Programme for the period 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023.*

We have audited the accompanying Income and Expenditure Statement relating to the Culture and Capability Programme Funding Agreement of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association for the year ended 30 June 2023 a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information and the director's declaration (together "the financial statements"). These statements have been extracted from the audited accounts of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association and were prepared by management using the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

### *Opinion*

In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the statements of income and expenditure of National Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Housing Association for the year ended 30 June 2023 in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1.

### *Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements*

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in accordance with the basis of accounting described in Note 1; this includes determining that the basis of accounting is acceptable for the preparation of the financial statement in the circumstances and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial statement that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

### *Auditor's Responsibility for the Audit of the Financial Statements*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statement is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statement. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statement, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statement in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies and the reasonableness of accounting estimates, if any, made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statement.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT (Cont'd)***Basis of Accounting*

Without modifying our opinion, we draw attention to Note 1 to the financial statements, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial statements are prepared to provide information to the Department of Health. As a result, the financial statement may not be suitable for any other purpose.

s47F

s47F

**Director – Audit**  
**29 September 2023**



s47F

**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 28 January 2025 4:24 PM  
**To:** Benjamin Thompson; 'Zachariah Matysek'  
**Cc:** GMU Canberra  
**Subject:** RE: NATSIHA - 4-HBIG4U4 - Outstanding reports [SEC=OFFICIAL]

Hi Ben and Zac

Thank you for submitting your organisations performance report, activity workplan and audited statements. While the NIAA is still working through your audited statements and budget information, and will respond to you separately on this, the below assessments have been made.

**Performance Report**

I wish to advise you that your organisations performance report has been rated as **needs to improve**. While NATSHIA has met some requirements for reporting, such as KPI’s for the reporting period, progress on the grant deliverables are well behind where they need to be and need to improve significantly. While the NIAA acknowledges that some progress has been made, we hold significant concerns that NATSIHA will not meet all of its objectives and deliverables under the Grant Agreement.

Specific comments on the performance report are outlined below

*Project Objective A: Recruiting a CEO to assist and guide the establishment of the governance and administration of the organisation*

- The NIAA notes that while this has been marked as completed, any future recruitment of a CEO for the organisation will need to be reported on.

*Project Objective D: Develop strategic and operational plans required to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of the organisation*

- As per previous advice, the NIAA does not support this as being completed. Per previous discussions, it is our understanding that operational plans have been developed and providing this information to the NIAA will not be onerous.

*Project Objective G: Co-design programs that are culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Organisations*

- Program 2 – NRSCH registration – pleased to see that this is back. Look forward to seeing the overview material created – grateful if this could be sent to us ahead of being distributed to ATSICCHO’s and Peaks to ensure it covers what is required under the grant agreement.

*Project Objective H: Development of a National Indigenous Housing Employment Strategy for Housing encompassing all jurisdictions*

- Note that the report states that a National Workforce Strategy is being developed – please ensure that future reporting does not reference a workforce strategy, it references an employment strategy as detailed in the grant agreement.
- The NIAA looks forward to receiving a draft strategy ahead of it being tested with ATSICCHOs.

*Project Objective J: Develop culturally appropriate rental, mortgage, and financial literacy advice*

- Progress on this and information provided is not satisfactory. This deliverable is to develop advice and not to share a program that is already available. Please provide further details on the outcome and deliverables of the project in your next report.

**Part 3, Project Schedule - Financial Sustainability**

- Information provided is not satisfactory – there is no reference on how NATSIHA will go about engaging with partners and stakeholders and progress to date.

**2.10 The Provider must obtain and allocate additional funding contributions from State and Territory Governments, the private sector, non-government organisation and donations, to support the operations of the NATSIHA.**

- Not satisfactory – the information does not provide any information on what funding is being obtained from state and territory governments, the private sector, non-government organisations and donations to support the operations as required under the Grant Agreement.

**2.11 The Provider must document this clearly, and to the Commonwealths satisfaction, in the budget information you (the Provider) provide to the Agency in the reports as required in Part 3, item 7; Reporting and Site Visits.**

- Budget information has been provided, however is not to the Commonwealth’s satisfaction and does not include other funding sources as required.

**Annual workplan**

The Annual workplan provided has not been accepted by the NIAA. Please see specific feedback below.

<b>A)</b> Recruiting a CEO to assist and guide the establishment of the governance and administration of the organisation;	Nil comments, however please note that while this has been marked as completed, any future recruitment process of a CEO will need to be reported on.
<b>D)</b> Develop strategic and operational plans required to meet the immediate and medium-term needs of the organisation;	The NIAA does not support this as being completed. While the Strategic Plan has been developed and provided, the NIAA has not been provided with operational plans as required under the Grant Agreement.


	OFFICIAL	Document 3
G) Co-design programs that are culturally safe and appropriate for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Housing Organisations (ATSICCHO);	No details have been provided on the NRSCH review project as reported on in the Performance Report.  Further information is required on what the national data platform will do as this is the first time that the NIAA has seen this as part of NATSIHA’s deliverables. Information provided says it will inform strengths and issues nationwide and the NIAA does not understand what these are?	
J) Develop culturally appropriate rental, mortgage, and financial literary advice.	Not accepted – the workplan indicates that research on what platforms are already in existence and promoting these is what is being delivered. It is not clear what is going to be developed.	
Work collaboratively with key stakeholders across all jurisdictions, including but not limited to state and territory governments, ATSICCHOs, other national, state and territory peak bodies and other community services;	Not approved as closed as this work is ongoing, however we note that information provided and accept that this is underway and ongoing	
Maintain established linkages and strategic partnerships with relevant agencies including, but not limited to, state and territory governments, ATSICCHOs, other national, state and territory peak bodies and other community services;	Not approved as closed as this work is ongoing, however we note that information provided and accept that this is underway and ongoing	
Maintain strong governance and financial management arrangements complying with Australian law;	Not approved as closed as this work is ongoing, however we note that information provided and accept that this is underway and ongoing	
Use their best endeavours to employ First Nations people to work on the Project;	Not approved as closed as this is ongoing, however we note that information provided and accept that this is underway and ongoing	
Part 3, Project Schedule - Financial Sustainability		
Future financial sustainability and funding for NATSIHA must be part of its operational and strategic planning.	Noted. Please ensure that you include details around sustainable program information in reporting.	
2.10 The Provider must obtain and allocate additional funding contributions from State and Territory Governments, the private sector, non-government organisation and donations, to support the operations of the NATSIHA.	Not acceptable. Agreement specifically states funding from state and territory governments. There are not peaks in every jurisdiction. Note low bono rates from partners has been included – these need to be reported on in upcoming reporting.	
2.11 The Provider must document this clearly, and to the Commonwealths satisfaction, in the budget information you (the Provider) provide to the Agency in the reports as required in Part 3, item 7; Reporting and Site Visits.	Not accepted – has not been documented clearly. Travel / conferences / workshops is excessive, consultants and contractors is excessive and does not equal the list of contracts submitted for approval in line with 11.1 (e).	
11.1 (e) Restrictions on expenditure..... written prior approval... to engage a consultant for over \$5,000	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. <b>Political strategy – not approved.</b> Funds are not to be used for political purposes. While the justification provided by NATSIHA outlines that 50 Acres are supporting the organisation to ensure messaging is targeted, stakeholder engagement is impactful, and goals are presented persuasively to decisions-makers, as this is for political purposes funds cannot be used for this purpose.</li><li>2. <b>SPOKEN data project and industry roundtable – further information required.</b> \$200,000 seems excessive and it is unclear what work needs to be undertaken for the SPOKEN data project. It’s inclusion in NATSIHA’s workplan is the first time that NIAA has seen this project referenced. Further, funds also seem to be used for industry roundtables and this is a possible double up in funding to PWC for Partnership Roundtables – what is the difference between the two?</li><li>3. <b>PWC – National Workforce strategy – not approved – further information required.</b> The delivery of a workforce strategy is not a deliverable under the grant agreement. It is unclear if this is meant to be <i>Project Objective H: Development of a National Indigenous Housing Employment Strategy for Housing encompassing all jurisdictions</i></li><li>4. <b>First Nations Foundations – Financial Assistance Program for ACCHO’s – not approved – further information required.</b> It is unclear what this will deliver and if it is value for money. How has the current training program been adapted? What are the funds specifically for?</li><li>5. <b>Bloom HR – HR and recruitment support – Approved</b></li><li>6. <b>PWC – Partnership Roundtables – not approved – further information required.</b> What will funding be used for?</li><li>7. <b>Berkeley Co – Governance Facilitation – not approved - further information required</b> – what is funding specifically for and how many locations will this support delivery to?</li><li>8. <b>Growers – National Housing Standards – not approved – further information required</b> – how many consultations will \$200,000 support? This amount seems excessive for a set of standards</li></ol>	

	<div>OFFICIAL</div> <div>9. <b>Company Matters – Board secretariat support – approved</b> 10. <b>Unity Accounting – Finance support – approved</b> 11. <b>NGNY – website membership – not approved – further information required.</b> What type of memberships does this support?</div> <div>Document 3</div>
--	--





I am on leave and will return Monday 17 February and would be more than happy to discuss then if you require.

s47F

s47F | Director  
National Housing Policy | Housing and Infrastructure Branch  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
s47F  
Ngunnawal Country  
Charles Perkins House | 16 Bowes Place Phillip ACT 2606  
w. [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au) w. [indigenous.gov.au](http://indigenous.gov.au)



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



**From:** Benjamin Thompson s47F @natsiha.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 January 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** GMU Canberra <GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** Re: NATSIHA - 4-HBIG4U4 - Outstanding reports [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank for making time to catch up in Canberra prior to the break.

Hope we continue to catch this year moving forward.

Regards, Ben



**Benjamin (BJ) Thompson**

Executive Director

Housing Sector Strengthening

NATSIHA – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Association

Suite 3.01, L3, 24 Montgomery Street, Kogarah NSW 2217

M s47F | Es47F @natsiha.org.au

OFFICIAL

Document 3

OFFICIAL

**From:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Benjamin Thompson s47F @natsiha.org.au>  
**Cc:** GMU Canberra <GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** NATSIHA - 4-HBIG4U4 - Outstanding reports [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Ben

As we are coming to the end of the year, and NATSIHA have reports due again very shortly, could I ask you to formally submit your outstanding reports for NIAA's formal assessment. I note we have been back and forth a few times on these and I have provided feedback, but for us to progress I require you to send through final updated versions after consideration of our feedback.

1. Performance Report to 30 June 2024
2. 2024-2025 Work Plan
3. Budget 2023-24 and Forecasted Budget 2024-25
4. Contractors over \$5,000 for 2024-25
5. Statement of Income and Expenditure that includes the Auditors Special Statement as requested by Pam on 19 November 2024 – I don't believe this has been provided?

I think that covers all the outstanding reporting but let me know if there is anything that I've missed.

We have a catch up scheduled for Thursday, please let me know if you are still available to catch up, otherwise I think I need to put new ones in for next year but wanted to have a chat about moving it from Thursday's.

s47F

s47F | Director


National Housing Policy | Housing and Infrastructure Branch

National Indigenous Australians Agency





p. s47F | s47F

Ngunnawal Country

Charles Perkins House | 16 Bowes Place Phillip ACT 2606  
w. [niaa.gov.au](#) w. [indigenous.gov.au](#)



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



OFFICIAL

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

s47F

**From:** Benjamin Thompson s47F @natsiha.org.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 January 2025 9:45 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** GMU Canberra  
**Subject:** Re: NATSIHA - 4-HBIG4U4 - Outstanding reports [SEC=OFFICIAL]  
**Attachments:** NATSIHA report to 30 June 2024 v2.pdf; Signed document.eml; NIAA 23-24 Budget vs Actuals and forecast for 2024-25 - Auditor signature.docx; NATSIHA Annual Work Plan July 1 2024 - June 30 2025.docx; NATSIHA CONTRACTORS.xlsx; GWAPP000229 \_60272\_55008\_1\_NIAA IAS Review Report (1).pdf

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Flagged

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Thank for making time to catch up in Canberra prior to the break.

Hope we continue to catch this year moving forward.

Regards, Ben



**Benjamin (BJ) Thompson**  
Executive Director  
Housing Sector Strengthening  
NATSIHA – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Association  
Suite 3.01, L3, 24 Montgomery Street, Kogarah NSW 2217  
M s47F | E s47F @natsiha.org.au

OFFICIAL

---

**From:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, December 17, 2024 12:54 PM  
**To:** Benjamin Thompson s47F @natsiha.org.au>

Cc: GMU Canberra <GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au>

Subject: NATSIHA - 4-HBIG4U4 - Outstanding reports [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi Ben

As we are coming to the end of the year, and NATSIHA have reports due again very shortly, could I ask you to formally submit your outstanding reports for NIAA's formal assessment. I note we have been back and forth a few times on these and I have provided feedback, but for us to progress I require you to send through final updated versions after consideration of our feedback.

1. Performance Report to 30 June 2024
2. 2024-2025 Work Plan
3. Budget 2023-24 and Forecasted Budget 2024-25
4. Contractors over \$5,000 for 2024-25
5. Statement of Income and Expenditure that includes the Auditors Special Statement as requested by Pam on 19 November 2024 – I don't believe this has been provided?

I think that covers all the outstanding reporting but let me know if there is anything that I've missed.

We have a catch up scheduled for Thursday, please let me know if you are still available to catch up, otherwise I think I need to put new ones in for next year but wanted to have a chat about moving it from Thursday's.

s47F

s47F Director  
National Housing Policy | Housing and Infrastructure Branch  
National Indigenous Australians Agency  
p. (s47F) | (s47F)  
Ngunnawal Country  
Charles Perkins House | 16 Bowes Place Phillip ACT 2606  
w. [niaa.gov.au](http://niaa.gov.au) w. [indigenous.gov.au](http://indigenous.gov.au)



The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.



OFFICIAL

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you



must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

---

s47F

**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 5 February 2025 9:23 AM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F  
**Subject:** FW: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

Just a heads up. The Performance Report which was due 15 January 2025 has not yet been submitted. The system sends an automatic reminder after 14 days then 21 days. Then at 30 days we send a manual breach notice (we did NOT include this deliverable in the breach notice sent last week). Below is s47F advising that a system reminder will go to NATSIHA today reminding them to submit the performance report.

On a positive note, one of the breaches in the letter has been resolved. The Statement of compliance which was due 31 October 2024 has been submitted.

Regards

s47F

OFFICIAL

**From:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 4 February 2025 4:56 PM  
**To:** s47F dt@niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Hi s47F

GPS is scheduled to send the second overdue performance report reminder email tomorrow to NATSIHA.

s47F

OFFICIAL

**From:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 31 January 2025 1:47 PM  
**To:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>; Jeremy MICKLE s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F

OFFICIAL

Document 7

s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F @niaa.gov.au>

**Subject:** FW: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

FYI

Regards

s47F

OFFICIAL

**From:** Zachariah Matysek s47F k@natsiha.org.au>

**Sent:** Friday, 31 January 2025 11:34 AM

**To:** Jody BROUN s47F n@niaa.gov.au>

**Cc:** s47F @gmail.com; s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F

s47F @niaa.gov.au>; GMU Canberra <GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au>; s47F

s47F @niaa.gov.au>

**Subject:** Re: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Jody,

Thank you for your email.

NATSIHA will again provide the requested information by the date required, however I note we feel this has already been provided to the agency in both the letter we sent in December, as well as all subsequent engagements at an officer level.

In the spirit of moving forward, we will again collate the requested information for the NIAA by 13 February, however I note in my view it would be immensely beneficial if at an officer level both NATSIHA and NIAA can meet and resolve all outstanding matters together, in the spirit of cooperation and partnership.

I do however respectfully disagree with this breach notice, and if someone from the agency could provide information around a dispute resolution process as it relates to the breach, this would be most appreciated.

I look forward to hearing from your office around your availability, and I hope the NATSIHA and NIAA teams can meet at an Officer level to work through all of the matters raised and close them off.

Thanks,

Zac

Sent from my iPhone

On 31 Jan 2025, at 10:15 am, Jody BROUN s47F @niaa.gov.au> wrote:

OFFICIAL

Hi Zac

Thank you for email. I appreciate NATSIHA has been working closely with NIAA to provide the requested information and that this takes significant time and resources.

There are currently separate processes in NIAA concerning different activities of NATSIHA, which I can clarify:

The notice of breach and remedy was issued following NIAA's assessment of the information provided in your letter of 11 December 2024. As outlined in the notice, there a range of actions we have requested NATSIHA to take to remedy the breaches identified. Consistent with my earlier email of in which I noted NIAA was yet to fully assess the information.

The email that you've shared that was sent on 28 January 2025, relates to NIAA's assessment of NATSIHA's performance report and activity workplan and is separate to notice of breach and remedy.

Separately, I would welcome the opportunity to meet with you to talk through NATSIHA's priorities for 2025. My office will reach out to provide some availability options the week of the 10 February.

Jody

OFFICIAL

OFFICIAL

**From:** Zachariah Matysek s47F @natsiha.org.au>  
**Sent:** Thursday, 30 January 2025 10:43 AM  
**To:** Jody BROUN s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F @gmail.com' s47F @gmail.com>  
**Cc:** s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F @niaa.gov.au>;  
GMU Canberra <GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** RE: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

OFFICIAL

Dear Vicki and Jody,

Thank you for your email.

I am very confused about receiving this breach, as we are still awaiting a formal response from the NIAA CEO regarding the matters raised by her late last year, in which NATSIHA provided all of the requested information by the due date requested.

I note the NIAA CEO sent me correspondence (attached) only two days ago asking to meet and discuss NATSIHA's priorities and that, "*The NIAA is currently in the process of reviewing the information*" that was provide by NATSIHA to the NIAA last year, which provides information as it relates to all of the matters you've raised in your breach letter .

I note s47F from the NIAA also provided correspondence to NATSIHA two days ago seeking further information, however noted she is taking leave as of COB that day, and would not be back until Monday 17 February 2025 and that she is "*more than happy to discuss then if you require.*" This also relates to the breach letter you've sent.

**As of this week, the NIAA is now running three different processes concurrently.**

I genuinely ask how is this fair, equitable and transparent? How is NATSIHA supposed to respond when your agency is providing us such disjointed advice? And, How is this acting in the spirit of partnership, and in line with the National Agreements on Closing the Gap?

Jody – In good faith I ask that you provide us some clarity on your preferred approach to resolve these matters. NATSIHA has invested a significant amount of time into this, and we would very much appreciate your guidance regarding how you would like NATSIHA to respond to the various requests and processes your Agency is asking of us. I can make myself available the week of the 10<sup>th</sup> of February for an in person meeting with you, and I am more than happy to work through all matters raised by the NIAA.

NATSIHA and me personally deeply values our relationship with the Commonwealth, and we are a key delivery partner across multiple portfolios. I am really invested in trying to resolve these matters.

I look forward to hearing from you soon Jody, however feel free to call me any time!

Zac

Regards

<image006.png>

**Zachariah Matysek**

Acting Chief Executive Officer

Co-chair National Housing Policy Partnership

NATSIHA – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Association

3/59 Spence Street, Cairns City QLD 4870

M s47F | E s47F @natsiha.org.au

*NATSIHA would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land in which we work, live, and meet.*

*We acknowledge our work impacts and supports every country of our First Nations peoples. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging leaders.*

*We would also like to acknowledge that the foundation and work delivered by NATSIHA is because of the hard work of our strong First Nations men and women that came before us.*

OFFICIAL

Document 7

From: GMU Canberra <[GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au](mailto:GMUCanberra@niaa.gov.au)>

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2025 9:13 AM

To: Zachariah Matysek [s47F@natsiha.org.au](mailto:s47F@natsiha.org.au)

Cc: [s47F@niaa.gov.au](mailto:s47F@niaa.gov.au)

Subject: NATSIHA Breach Notice - funding activity id 4-HBIG4U4 [SEC=OFFICIAL]

You don't often get email from [gmucanberra@niaa.gov.au](mailto:gmucanberra@niaa.gov.au). [Learn why this is important](#)

OFFICIAL

Dear Mr Matysek

Please find attached Notice of breach and remedy relating to your funding agreement with the NIAA.

Regards

[s47F@niaa.gov.au](mailto:s47F@niaa.gov.au) t

**Grants Management Unit Canberra**

National Indigenous Australians Agency

Ngunnawal Country

Charles Perkins House, 16 Bowes Place, Woden ACT 2606 | PO Box 2191 Canberra ACT 2600

[w. niaa.gov.au](http://w.niaa.gov.au) [w. gmucanberra@niaa.gov.au](mailto:w.gmucanberra@niaa.gov.au)

The National Indigenous Australians Agency acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of country throughout Australia and acknowledges their continuing connection to land, waters and community. We pay our respects to the people, the cultures and the elders past, present and emerging.

<image007.png>

The National Indige  
throughout Austral  
respects to the peo

<image008.png>

<image009.png>

<image010.png>

<image011.png>

OFFICIAL

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

---

IMPORTANT: This message, and any attachments to it, contains information that is confidential and may also be the subject of legal professional or other privilege. If you are not the intended recipient of this message, you must not review, copy, disseminate or disclose its contents to any other party or take action in reliance of any material contained within it. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately by return email informing them of the mistake and delete all copies of the message from your computer system.

---



s47F

**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 January 2025 10:55 AM  
**To:** s47F  
**Cc:** s47F  
**Subject:** FW: OVERDUE - IAS Performance report for Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4, Activity Title: NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building [SEC=OFFICIAL]

**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OFFICIAL

FYI – NATSIHA have not yet submitted their PRA due 15 January. Two reminders are sent at 14 days and 21 days overdue (system generated). The third is a notice to breach at 30 days over due, which will be 14 February (manual letter).

Regards

s47F

OFFICIAL

**From:** noreply.gps@dss.fms.gov.au <noreply.gps@dss.fms.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 29 January 2025 10:02 AM  
**To:** s47F @nastiha.org.au  
**Cc:** s47F @niaa.gov.au  
**Subject:** OVERDUE - IAS Performance report for Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4, Activity Title: NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building

Dear Grantee

Our records indicate that we have not received a completed Performance Report from your organisation for the following grant:

Activity ID: 4-HBIG4U4

Activity Title: NATSIHA Housing Peak Body Capacity Building.

Completing the Report is a requirement as specified in the Project Schedule of your Head Agreement.

If you have recently submitted your completed Report to the Agency, or require more time to provide it, please contact your NIAA Agreement Manager to clarify the situation.

A failure to complete this Report may lead to delays in the release of future grant payments to your organisation.

Please do not reply to this email as it has been automatically generated.

Released under the FOI Act by the  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

Kind regards  
NIAA IAS Performance Reports

Email: [IASPerformanceReports@niaa.gov.au](mailto:IASPerformanceReports@niaa.gov.au)

Web: <https://www.niaa.gov.au>

s47F

**From:** s47F  
**Sent:** Friday, 3 January 2025 12:54 PM  
**To:** s47F  
**Subject:** FW: UPDATE | 20241211 NATSIHA Response to NIAA ltr 27.11.2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]  
**Attachments:** 20241211 NATSIHA Response to NIAA ltr 27.11.2024.pdf; EC24-001539 - Mr Zachariah Matysek.pdf  
**Follow Up Flag:** Follow up  
**Flag Status:** Completed

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Not for further distribution please.

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

**From:** Simone PERSSON s47F n@niaa.gov.au>  
**Sent:** Friday, 20 December 2024 6:06 PM  
**To:** Jody BROUN s47F @niaa.gov.au>; Julie-Ann GUIVARRA s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Cc:** Jarrod MCALISTER s47F @niaa.gov.au>; Andy JOHNSTON s47F @niaa.gov.au>; Ali JENKINS s47F @niaa.gov.au>; s47F @niaa.gov.au>  
**Subject:** UPDATE | 20241211 NATSIHA Response to NIAA ltr 27.11.2024 [SEC=OFFICIAL:Sensitive]

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

Dear Jody and Julie-Ann

The team has taken some time to consider the response provided by NATSIHA. We are of the view that the responses to NIAA's concerns are not satisfactory and both s47F and s47F s47F (Compliance Team) agreed this morning that the best course of action is for a compliance review to be formally undertaken. I support this recommendation as the responses provided by NATSIHA do not address our questions, especially in relation to NATSIHA's expenditure, and this has raised further concerns for NIAA.

We have this week asked NATSIHA to resubmit all their outstanding reporting for our formal assessment. This follows feedback provided to the organisation over the last few months. All NATSIHA's reporting due in July and September is still outstanding and their next performance report is due on 15 January 2025.

Given the compliance action that will be undertaken, we don't propose Jody respond to Mr Matysek and that the next formal correspondence from the NIAA is from the compliance team. We do however have some concerns in relation to the status of the substantive CEO and the advice that there is an ongoing legal matter underway. Contrary to what Mr Matysek has advised in his letter, this is the first time NIAA has been advised of this legal matter. Previous advice provided has been that Mr Macfarlane is on long term leave. Mr Matysek has advised that any concerns regarding the status of the substantive CEO should be directed to the Chairperson. To this end, we suggest that a letter be

drafted for Jody's consideration to the Chairperson seeking information on any financial implications that might arise from these legal proceedings.

Very happy to discuss in the new year.

Many thanks,

Simone

---

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

OFFICIAL: Sensitive

**From:** Zachariah Matysek [s47F@natsiha.org.au](mailto:s47F@natsiha.org.au)  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 11 December 2024 12:22 PM  
**To:** Jody BROUN [s47F@niaa.gov.au](mailto:s47F@niaa.gov.au)  
**Cc:** Senator McCarthy (APH) <[Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au](mailto:Senator.McCarthy@aph.gov.au)>  
**Subject:** 20241211 NATSIHA Response to NIAA ltr 27.11.2024

Dear Jody,

I trust this email finds you well. I refer to your letter received by NATSIHA on 27 November 2024 attached ("EC24-001539 – Mr Zachariah Matysek.pdf").

In your letter, you pose seven questions to NATSIHA. Please see our responses enclosed in the letter attached (20241211 NATSIHA Response to NIAA ltr 27. 11. 2024.pdf).

As the NIAA has restrictions on the size of the emails it can receive, I provide you with the following link to all attachments referenced in our response [NATSIHA Response to NIAA.zip](#). I have given all recipients of this email access to this link, whereby you can open the hyperlink above named "NATSIHA Response to NIAA.Zip" to access the File. Once you open the hyperlink you can simply click on the downfacing arrow at the top of your screen which will automatically download the Zip File onto your computer, and you will be able to open all of the attachments.

If you have difficulty accessing the Zip File, I would welcome your advice on what your preferred approach is to enable me to provide these documents to you.

NATSIHA remains committed to maintaining a strong and harmonious relationship with the Commonwealth Government consistent with the Priority Reforms in the National Agreement on Closing the Gap.

Based on this detailed response, we hope the concerns raised in your letter are resolved, enabling us to focus on our objectives including successfully delivering the final component of our a Agreement with NIAA by 30 June 2025.

Going forward, we hope to have the opportunity to discuss any issues that may arise so that any misunderstandings can be resolved at an early stage. In our view a conversation between CEOs is an appropriate escalation point.

Released under the FOI Act by the  
National Indigenous Australians Agency (NIAA)

I would welcome a meeting with you to discuss these matters in more detail to ensure mutual agreement on a way forward between our two organisations.

Many Thanks,

Regards



**Zachariah Matysek**

Acting Chief Executive Officer

NATSIHA – National Aboriginal & Torres Strait Islander Housing Association

Suite 3.01, L3, 24 Montgomery Street, Kogarah NSW 2217

M s47F | E s47F @natsiha.org.au

EA: s47F | P +s47F | E s47F @natsiha.org.au

*NATSIHA would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners and Custodians of the land in which we work, live, and meet. We acknowledge our work impacts and supports every country of our First Nations peoples. We pay our deepest respects to their Elders past, present, and emerging leaders. We would also like to acknowledge that the foundation and work delivered by NATSIHA is because of the hard work of our strong First Nations men and women that came before us.*