

CONSULTATION PAPER-Remote Aboriginal Communities Plumbing Scheme

Discussion-Scope Of permitted Work	
<p>Question 1: Would you support a realignment of the scope of work permitted under the remote Aboriginal communities plumbing scheme as proposed? If not, what concerns do you have with the revised definition and what changes to the proposed scope would you like to see?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • B needs to still include replacement of washers, spindles and handles. • Recommend including re-seating • We support C • D needs to include replace fluid master • E Needs to include emergency repair i.e. if no plumber can be available (as is the case in remote locations) the house & the tenants may be without water for extended periods of time, potentially resulting in insanitary conditions/un-inhabitable house (no toilet/shower facilities) Reasonable to require emergency repairs to be checked and certified by a plumber within X number of days. •
Discussion-Authorised workers and training requirements	
<p>Question 2: Do you support the proposal to expand the list of qualifications in regulation 37(b) to include higher level qualifications relevant to environmental health, health science, public health and population health? If no, please provide reasons for your view. Are there any other qualifications you consider should be added to the list of qualifications that an individual may hold in order to be considered an authorised worker?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EHW is a dedicated and specific job role within community. Agree only to expand to EH Cert 3 provided the EHW has also obtained units a,b,c (of EH Cert 2) • This job role relates specifically to Cert 2, and makes sense within the context of the day to day duties of an EHW. There is no practical connection to job roles requiring higher degrees/qualifications. • Retain attached to EH service provider. There are greater risks involved in broadening the scope of which organisation and professions are eligible for the exemption. EHW's have technical expertise and day to day presence in community.
<p>Question 3: Do you consider that the proposed plumbing training units sufficient</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes the units cover all aspects associated with the works.

<p>knowledge and skills to perform the basic plumbing work detailed in Question 1?</p>	
<p>Discussion -Eligible Remote Community</p>	
<p>Question 4: Are you aware of any reasons preventing eligible communities from using the remote Aboriginal communities plumbing scheme? If so, what are they and what changes do you think would make the scheme more accessible for these communities?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes. Not everywhere has regular access to an EHW that is employed by an EH Program. There are a lot of community residents trained in Cert 2 IEH. There is currently a need for EHW program to expand through increased resourcing to allow greater access to qualified EHW, with resourcing for materials. • Plumbing consumables are not consistently available. Recovery of cost of consumables through Housing is an unfunded administrative burden. • Funding to buy consumable needs to be made available, this would be a minor investment from govt considering cost of plumbing example through standard existing system (plumbing contractor is Balgo \$1100 to replace a tap washer.
<p>Question 5: What is your view on the inclusion of town-based reserves on a case-by-case basis? What criteria should town-based reserves be required to meet in order to qualify as an eligible remote community?</p>	<p>Consideration to be given to the length of time it takes for contractors to attend properties. If town based communities has the ability to get a contracted plumber to the property then they should utilise it. If they are having difficulty getting the plumber to the property then a question need to be raised: Why are the contractors taking so long?</p> <p>Additional consideration is ownership of asset and availability of resourcing/funds to maintain. Those houses/communities where there is no HMA and the tenants are relying on low income (below or at poverty line) should be considered eligible as the cost of plumber may be prohibitive.</p> <p>Additional factor is that plumbing contractors under Housing maintenance contract are only able to perform repairs</p>

	<p>and maintenance specified on works order. Additional items cannot be completed at the same time, and must reflect the wording on works order. Example: repair 1xpipe leak. When plumber arrived, leaking in two locations, could only repair one location.</p>
Discussion-Service providers	
<p>Question 6: Are you aware of any reasons preventing providers from using the remote Aboriginal communities plumbing scheme where there may be a benefit to do so? If so, what are they and what changes do you think would make the scheme more accessible to these service providers?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes, lack of available ongoing investment in consumable resources that are needed. Ie: existing funding of Aboriginal EH programs cannot sustain the outcome to its full potential. • Request submitted to Housing for investment up front in consumables with collated reporting after use. Existing process is prohibitive eg to require individual invoice per house per item is excessive admin burden, where there is no cost recovery on time (or travel). EH programs are not structured with this level of administration support, not primary function and no ability to cost recover (as there is in a commercial setting)
<p>Question 7: Do you agree with the proposal to require service providers to keep a register of each 'authorised worker' they employ or engage to perform work under the scheme? If not, please provide your reasons.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Yes this retains emphasis on who can do the work and assurance that all are appropriately qualified. • All service providers should have a list of who can complete the required work and make sure that the employees have the right qualifications.
Discussion- Impact of the Scheme	
<p>Question 8-Health Outcomes: Can you provide any examples of where there has been an improvement in the incidences of hygiene-related health issues that can be attributed to the introduction of the remote aboriginal communities plumbing scheme?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirrumbuk holds before and after photos that can be shared if required. • Changes and improvements have been realised as EHW's have attended – fixed problem in accordance with restricted permit

	<p>and/or reported reoccurring problems such as ongoing sewage leaks. This has resulted in a revised process for reporting and actioning repairs and maintenance requests i.e. EHW can report direct to Housing, provide photo and monitor outcome</p>
<p>Question 9- Water Saving Out comes: Can you provide any examples or calculations showing water saved in remote aboriginal communities as a result of the remote aboriginal communities plumbing scheme, as well as the impact that this water saving has had on the community?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nirrumbuk is happy to support by measurements going forward. Please confirm whether this is useful. Noting, there have been no plumbing repairs since this consultation has been released due to no access to consumables. • Yes, video evidence of leak and measured water over a month. Water audit done in community measuring 23,000L water wasting per day with overflow to sewage pond.
<p>Question 10- Impact on licenced plumbing contractors: if you are a licenced plumbing contractor in an where the remote aboriginal communities plumbing scheme is in operation, what has been your experience of the scheme so far? Has the scheme had any impact (positive or negative) on your business? If yes, please provide details.</p>	<p>NA.</p>