



Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation - important information from Housing ACT

What is Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation?

Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation (Billabong) is a not-for-profit organisation that runs a Indigenous community housing program that provides medium to long term housing for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people on low to moderate incomes.

Billabong aims to provide safe, secure, affordable housing that is responsive and sensitive to the needs of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community.

What accommodation is offered by Billabong?

Billabong manages 24 properties, ranging from two to four bedrooms which are located throughout the ACT. Of these 24 properties, four are older persons / disability properties.

Billabong offers both income-based (25% of an individual's assessable income) and affordable (74.9% of market rent) rental options.

Who can apply?

To apply for Billabong you must:

- have been approved and referred to Billabong by Housing ACT (HACT) after undergoing an eligibility assessment;
- be Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (or at least one applicant is Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander);
- be able to provide confirmation of Aboriginality or Torres Strait Islander heritage;
- be over 18 years of age;
- not have any outstanding debt with Billabong (or be willing to enter in to a repayment plan);
- be willing to provide current/previous rental statements, if available;
- attend an interview with a Housing Manager;
- complete an 'Application for Tenancy' if shortlisted for a vacancy; and
- sign a Tenancy Agreement and endorsed terms, if offered a property.



How much will it cost?

To be housed by Billabong you must agree to pay:

- a Bond equivalent to two weeks full market rent. If eligible, you can apply to Housing ACT for a bond loan (see the 'Rental Bond Loans' Fact Sheet for more information). All bonds are lodged with the ACT Rental Bonds Board. Bonds are refundable when you vacate the premises (conditions apply, such as leaving your premises in good, clean order, no outstanding rental payments); and
- two weeks rent in advance.

Can I get involved?

Billabong offers a range of activities and programs including:

- IT Courses;
- Free BBQ and Clinic Days;
- Housing Support;
- Tenancy Support;
- Family Support and referral;
- Various Training Opportunities;
- Native Seedbank and Nursery; and
- Community Linkages & Participation.

Various other programs are run throughout the year. Contact Billabong for more information.

How do I confirm by Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander heritage?

- Step One – Gather as much information about your family history and heritage as possible.

When applying for a letter of proof of Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander heritage through an Indigenous organisation, you are likely to be requested to explain your heritage to their committee. For this reason it is often useful to gather as much information about your family history as you can before you contact them. This is particularly important if your ancestors have been displaced from your heritage.

Examples of useful information include birth, death and marriage certificates that trace your family to a particular Aboriginal station or reserve, oral history stories and even photographs. The Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS) Family History Unit is able to assist you with the family history research that you may need to undertake to demonstrate your Indigenous heritage and/or the area that your family is from.



- Step Two – Contact an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander organisation

A 'letter of confirmation' is usually obtained from an incorporated Indigenous organisation and must be stamped with their common seal. It is useful to contact an organisation where your family is from, if possible, as someone in the community might know or remember your family.

An Indigenous organisation in the area where live may also be able to provide you with confirmation. For example, if you live in the Canberra region and your family is from the Canberra region, you could contact the Ngunnawal Land Council in Queanbeyan. If you live in Canberra but your family is from elsewhere, you would contact the Land Council in the area your family came from or are known in.

How can I contact Billabong?

The head office of Billabong Aboriginal Development Corporation is located at:

158 Stockdill Drive
HOLT ACT 2615

For more information call:

Phone: 6278 4799
Fax: 6254 2971

For more assistance on Housing ACT matters, please telephone 133 427.

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