

Wednesday, April 22, 2015

Tenant management changes hands

■ Michael Dulaney

The organisation set to take over control of 121 Aboriginal community houses in the Goldfields has talked up its track record in remote communities and "value for money" services.

Community Housing Ltd, an international social housing provider based in Sydney, announced this week it will be taking over seven Goldfields communities previously managed by the Goldfields Indigenous Housing Organisation.

Tenancy management in Bondini, Katampul (Nambi Village), Mt Margaret, Mulga Queen, Ninga Mia, Tjuntjuntjara and Wongatha-Wonganarra will be transferred to CHL from July 1.

The organisation was successful in the open tender process instigated after the Department of Housing changed its existing property management arrangements around WA.

CHL managing director Steve Bevington said a determining factor for the tender process was to

demonstrate it could provide "value for money".

"It was a significant part of the tender requirements; there's not much room for movement there," he said.

"Being an organisation which has substantial reach and staffing base, as a tier-1 community housing provider, we have substantial resources to deploy, which I think is one of the advantages of having an organisation like ourselves around."

Under the department's new ar-

rangements, CHL will take on tenancy management while another contractor will supply maintenance services — both of which were previously provided by GIHO.

Mr Bevington said the first step for the organisation would be to carry out an inspection of existing properties in the region and report back to the department.

To do this, CHL will establish an office in Kalgoorlie-Boulder for five locally-based staff managing the properties.

"Naturally, we would welcome any applications from existing staff members (of GIHO) or community members from those in question," he said.

Mr Bevington said the long-term plan includes working with each community to improve their sustainability, focussing on employment and income generation.

But he said this would have to wait until CHL was on the ground in the Goldfields.

CHL's contract is for a three-year term commencing July 1.

AFLS launches Ochre Ribbon Day in memory of resident

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inator Julie Dabb said the cam-

