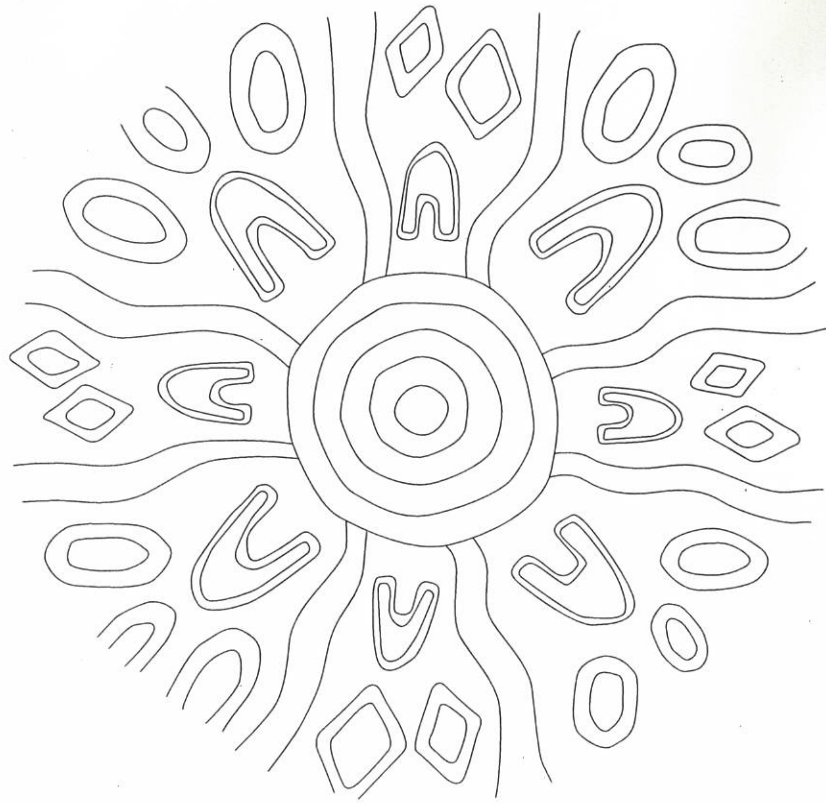


LAW TO LORE

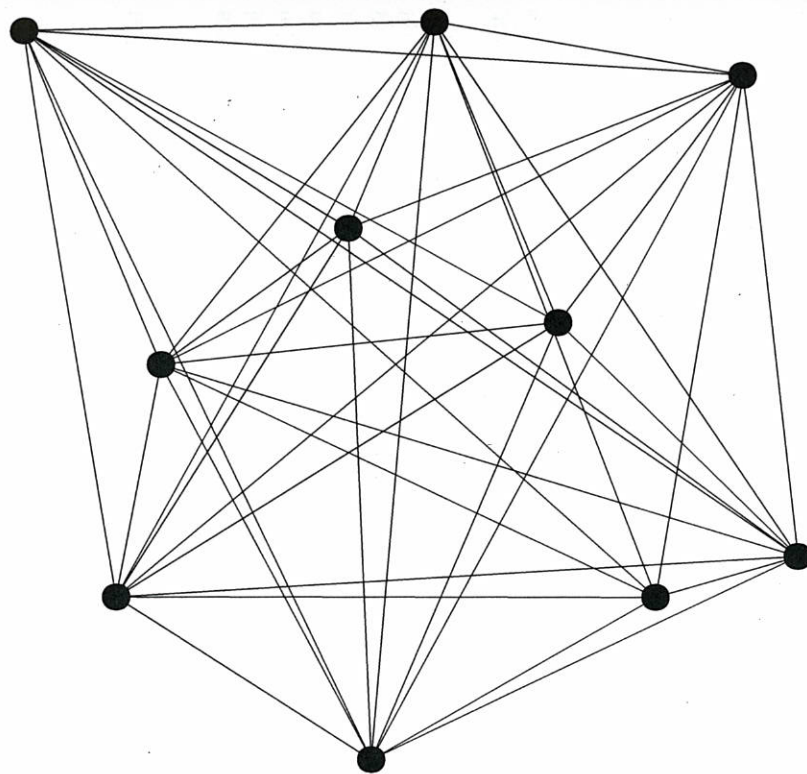
This is a checklist to assist prospective designers in taking intercultural design actions to benefit health and wellbeing of those in Australian Indigenous communities.



The *Law to Lore Strategy* (outlined in this checklist) has been created in recognition of the fact that the current systems in place for delivering housing and services to Indigenous communities are in urgent need of repair. In order for people to remain on country, new strategies and practises are required. With the renewed public interest in Indigenous communities, there is sure to be more students and practitioners of design and architecture who wish to lend their skills to help remote centres across the country increase their standards of wellbeing and generate their ability to sustain themselves, without governmental support.

This strategy aims to highlight the challenges facing designers, as well as provide a framework for how they might go about working with locals in these communities to create the conditions in which all participants can actively contribute to the sustainment of healthy living.

It is designed to compliment the existing environmental health and design strategies of *Health Habitat* and work as a preliminary checklist for designers and design students to undertake before and during **Housing for Health** projects.



A rhizome diagram can help to understand the interconnectedness of different networks.

Each node in the opposite diagram may be understood as a part of the network ensuring **Healthy Living Practices** and well being. These might be a flushing toilet, a working hot water system, unblocked plumbing and drainage, safe electrical fixtures, screening to keep insects out (see **Health Habitat's 9 Healthy Living Practices**). Without all of these elements functioning properly, the connections between the system become weakened, and the sustainment of healthy living and well being can become compromised.

It is the designer's responsibility to learn, value and work with and alongside established traditional knowledge systems and practices that reflect place and locale. Collaborative skill share between designer and user is key to the longevity and sustenance of the community in regards to the undertaking of works (both construction and maintenance) of existing and new homes.

New Works:

All new work must arrive out of an intense in situ consultation and cross cultural participatory design process. This will ensure that a new home is one which is:

- culturally appropriate (type, size, spatial layout in accordance to core cultural imperatives of customary traditions and lifestyles)
- environmentally sustainable (orientation, siting, construction footprint) and,
- incorporates **Health Habitat's 9 Healthy Living Practices** through specification of **Health Hardware**.

Undertaking a Post Occupancy Evaluation (P.O.E) is first and foremost the responsibility of the designer. However, many designers do not carry out P.O.E's, due to time and project constraints. The failure to return to site, once the construction drawings are handed over has many ongoing consequences. Poorly thought out or constructed designs can leave behind a legacy which effectively damages future processes. Insufficient P.O.E's also result in ineffective maintenance reporting/ scheduling.

A P.O.E provides information intended for the immediate and ongoing rectification of faulty construction works and materials. It also looks at what a space does and does not achieve to influence future builds. The success of Indigenous housing is currently measured against a set of criteria that includes budgetary costs, targets, construction methods etc.

This calls for the redefining of success and failure based on the understanding of 'lore'. This means the success of a design is achieved when it has reached the goals of the occupant and sustained a connection to family, nature and wellbeing as opposed to cost efficiency. It champions qualitative gain over quantitative and the occupants needs over aesthetics and personal glorification.

All homes should be assessed on their contribution to comfort and improved health and wellbeing of the user along with its ability to support rather than strain human relationships. Information is gathered through narratives and interviews in situ, supplemented with hard data on the functioning components of the house as demonstrated by **Health Habitat's Housing for Health Guide**.