The Hon. Jenny Macklin MP letter writer’s full address

P.O. Box 6022 date

House of Representatives

Parliament House

Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Minister Macklin,

I write to commend the speech you recently gave at the July 2012 *World Indigenous Housing Conference* in Vancouver where you stated:

“All buildings funded through the agreement (*The National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing*) must be designed and delivered in line with the requirements of the *National Indigenous Housing Guide*, the National Construction Code and all Australian standards and construction legislation."[[1]](#footnote-1)

I have two questions about this statement:

1. A review of the *National Indigenous Housing Guide* is 3 years overdue. This review was scheduled to be undertaken in 2009 with a view to the 4th Edition being available in 2010. To-date the 4th Edition is not available. The 3rd Edition of the Guide states:

“To make sure it remains useful and relevant, **the guide will be assessed and updated again in 2009**. As part of this process, the Australian Government will host an internet forum and invite comments and suggestions for improvements to the guide.” [[2]](#footnote-2)

If the standards provided in the Guide are to be implemented in the design and delivery of buildings, funded through the *National Partnership Agreement on Remote Indigenous Housing*, why has the update of the Guide not been undertaken?

If there confirmed plans for an update to be completed in the near future could your office please provide the details.

1. I have not been able to find information about **how** the standards and requirements in the Guide are being adhered to for the $ 5.5 Billion of building work being undertaken under the Agreement between 2008 -2018.

I am interested in this important work and would very much appreciate it if your office could forward some information demonstrating how quality assurance is being carried out on the building work in accordance with the standards provided in the *National Indigenous Housing Guide* and the other appropriate codes and legislation mentioned by the Minister in the speech quoted above.

Thank you and your staff for taking the time to read and reply to this letter.

Yours sincerely

Cc to letter writer;s state and Federal member + opposition minister for indigenous affairs/housing-

1. <http://www.jennymacklin.fahcsia.gov.au/node/1934> [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Commonwealth of Australia, *National Indigenous Housing Guide,* 3rd Edition, 2007 p. 10 <http://www.fahcsia.gov.au/our-responsibilities/indigenous-australians/publications-articles/housing/national-indigenous-housing-guide> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)