



Indigenous Housing

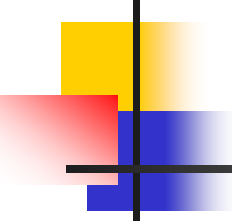
National Housing Conference – Sydney

Olga Havnen



Overview

- Right to housing,
- UN Rapporteur on Housing – 2006 Report
- Indigenous Australia – institutional arrangements and emerging trends
- Needs
- Reform agenda – The way forward?



Right to housing

- a fundamental human right of all people.
- is essential for human survival with dignity
- Article 25 of the UN Declaration of Human Rights provides:

“Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and his family, including housing”.



Australia's international obligations

- ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CROC, CEDAW
- universal principle of non-discrimination
- particular significance for vulnerable



UN Rapporteur on Housing

2006 Report

"...the Special Rapporteur has come to believe that there is a ***serious hidden national housing crisis in Australia.***

This crisis affects many sections of the population, and though having a critical and direct impact on the most vulnerable groups of the population..."



UN Rapporteur on Housing

Findings

- Inadequate and ageing stock
- Overcrowding
- Homelessness
- Discrimination
- Lack of emergency accommodation, shelters and refuges



Observations

- Australia lacks a clear consistent, long-term and holistic housing strategy,
- described as a “silo” approach
- numerous government programs and sources of funding don’t seem to address the structural problems
- responses tend to be inefficient, partial and non-sustainable



Recommendations

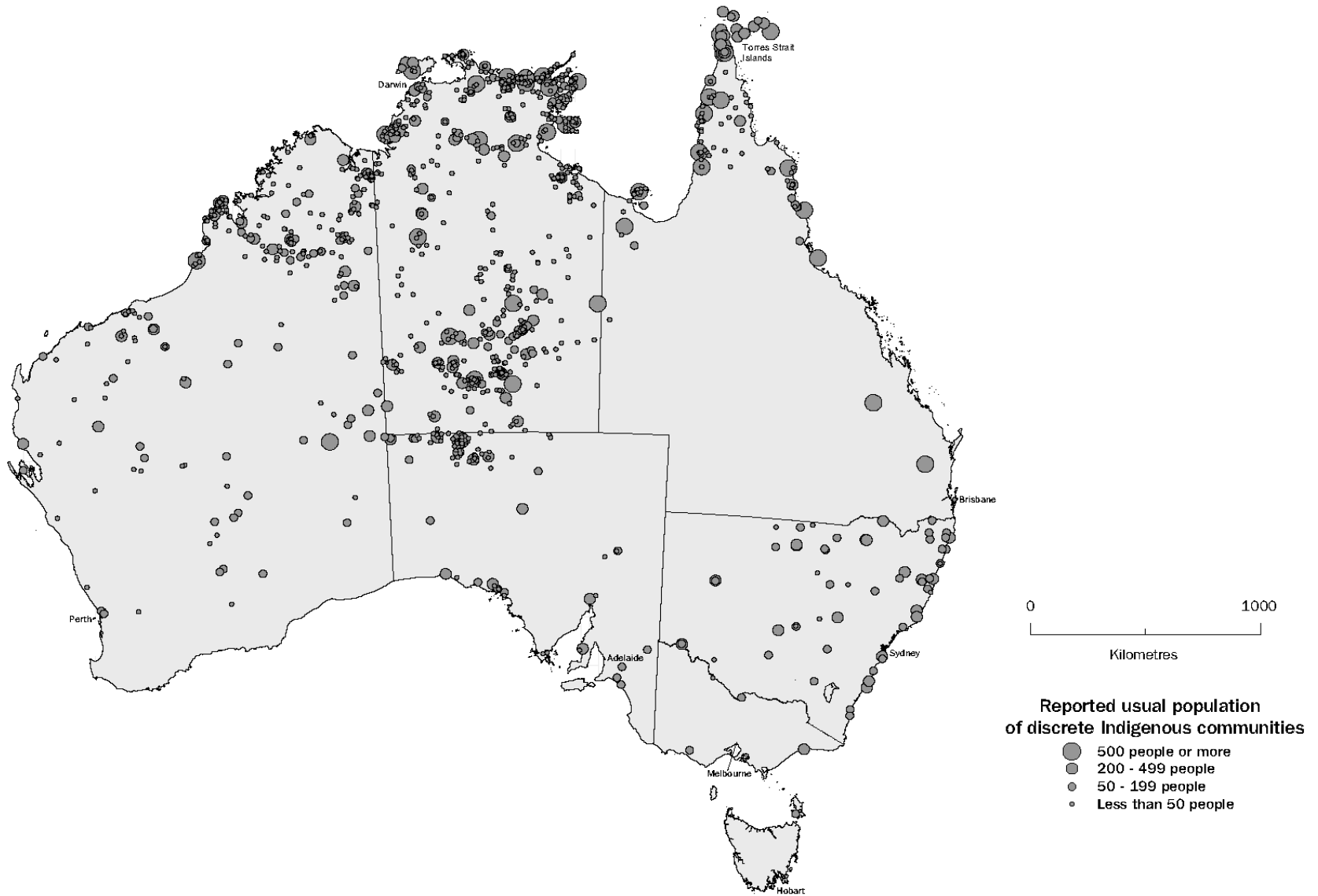
- Adopting a human rights approach to housing needs for the most vulnerable
- Developing a national housing policy based on human rights
- Federal Government consider having a dedicated Ministry/ portfolio solely on housing,
- Housing and addressing homelessness and its causes should be listed as a priority for the Government



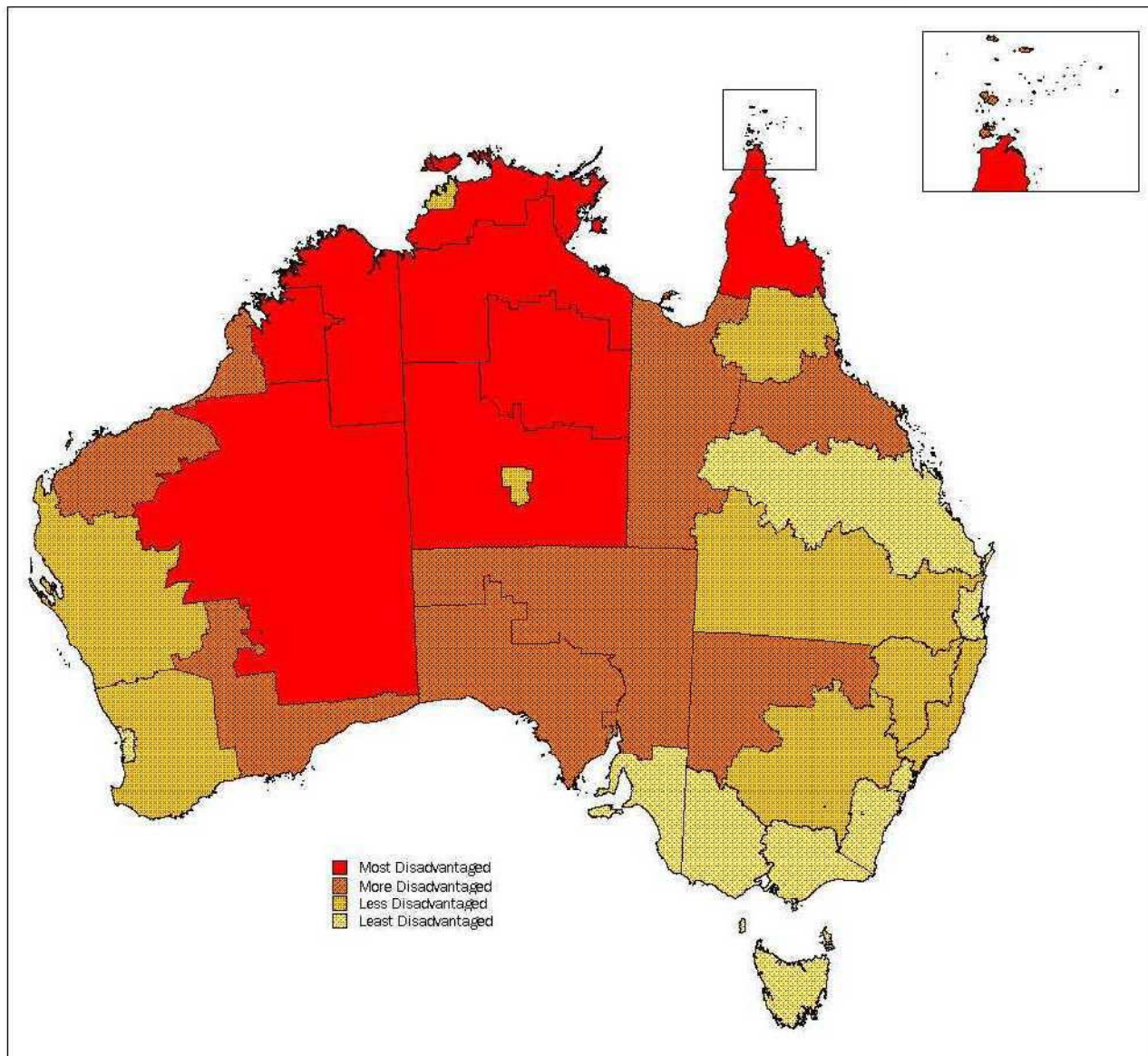
Indigenous Australia

- Shared domains – health, housing, education
- Structural arrangements and citizenship entitlements
- Duplication and fragmented nature of government services and programs
- Absence of any coherent, long term planning and needs based funding

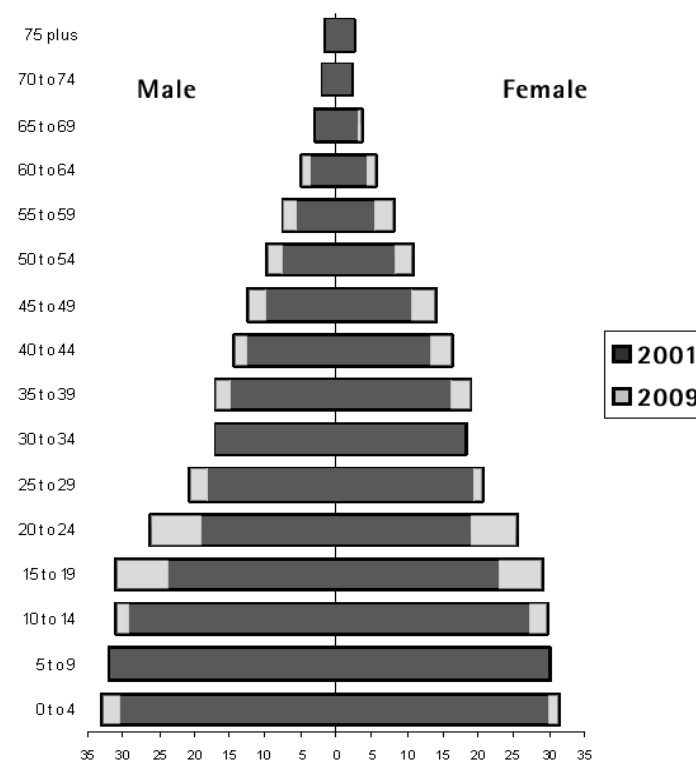
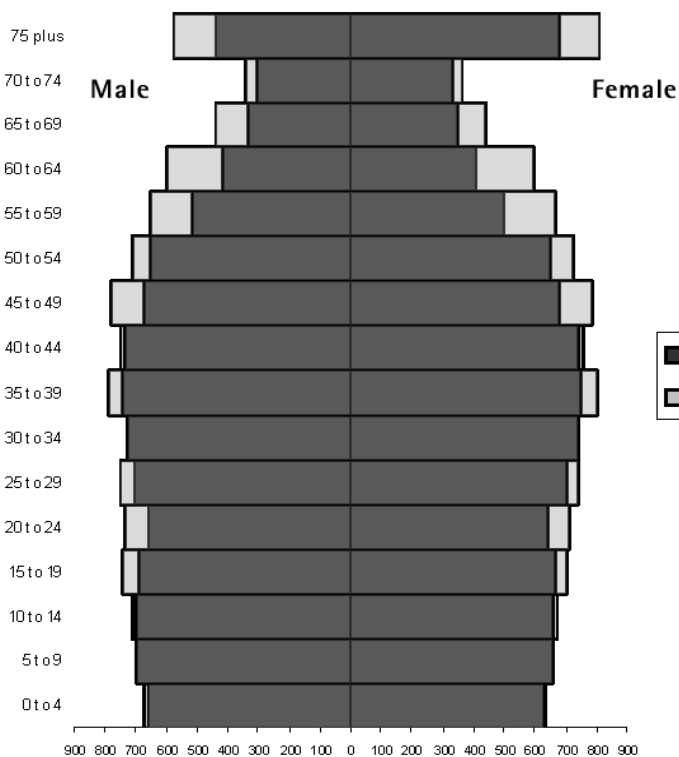
Discrete communities



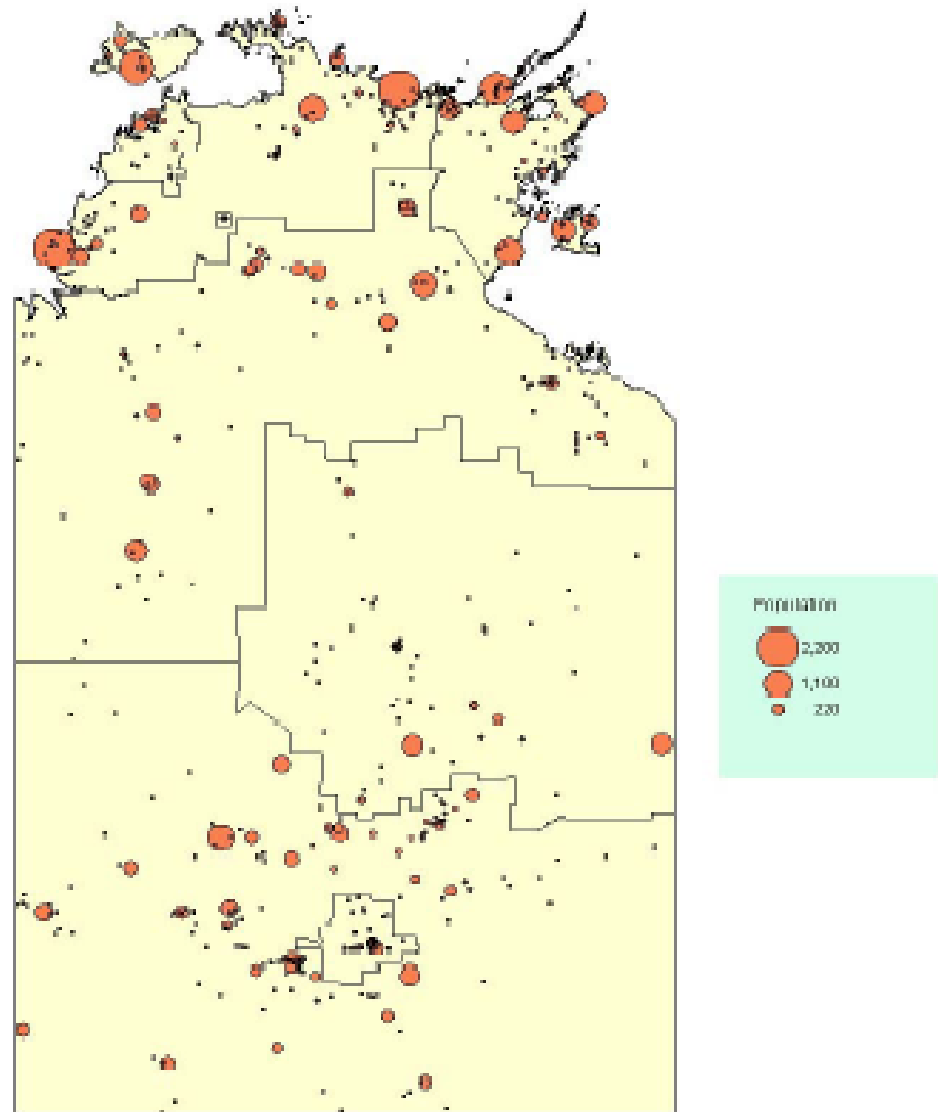
Socio-economic disadvantage



Total and Indigenous Australia age pyramids 2001 and 2009

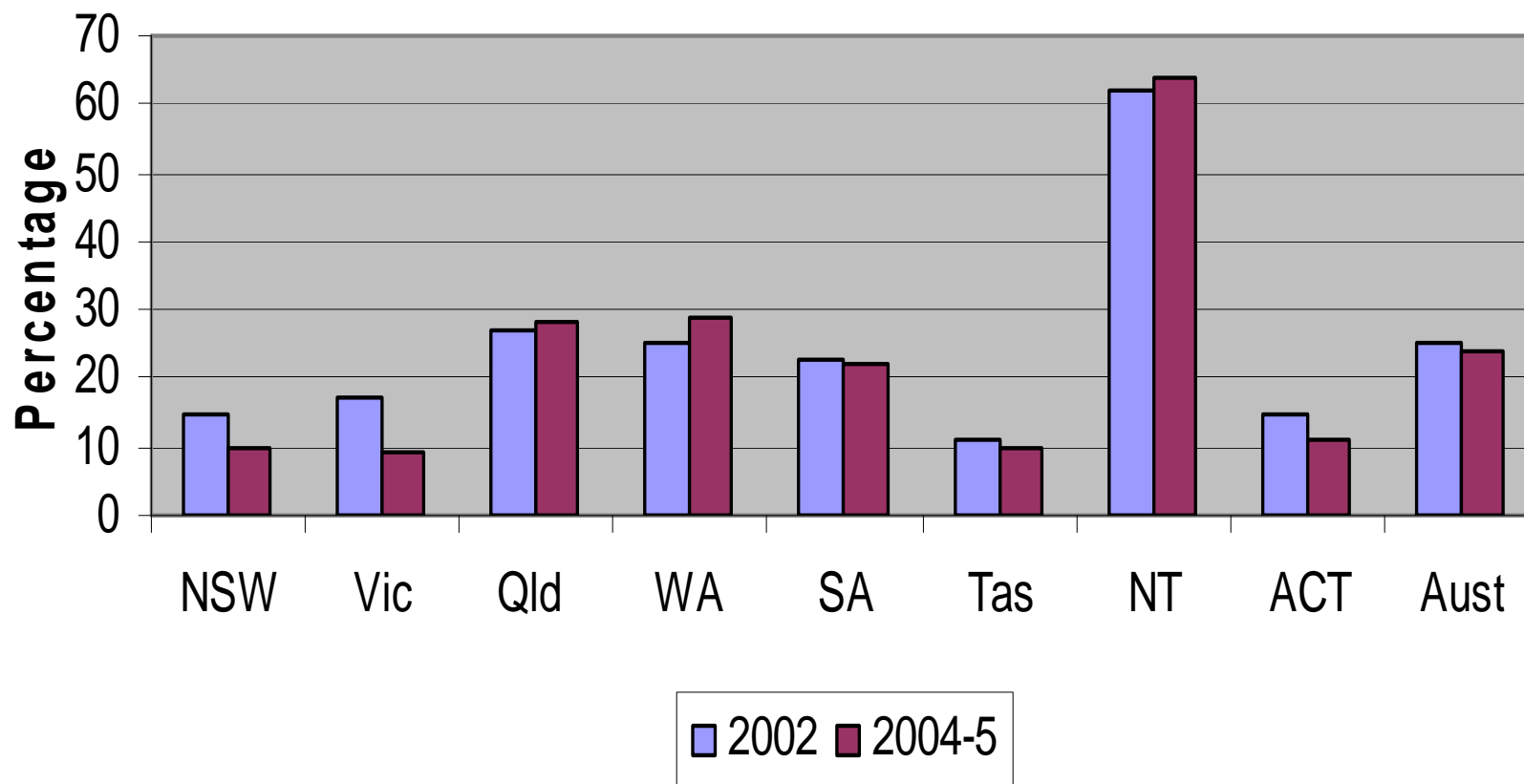


- 9 towns of 1,000-2,000
- 50 localities of 200-999
- 570 places <200
- 80% Aboriginal people live outside urban centres
- 40% growth over past 2 decades



Source: ATSI 2001 Community Housing and Infrastructure Needs Survey
Map by ATSI

Proportion of Indigenous people 15 years and over living in overcrowded housing by State/Territory





Needs

- Complexity of needs – urban and remote
- Major capital investments serviced land, new construction and major R&M
- Hidden needs - young families; visitors, 'itinerants'
- National audit



NT Housing needs

- Estimates by Territory Housing to meet current unmet need is **5,000 dwellings** over the next **3-5 years**
- Total unmet housing and housing related infrastructure costs is estimated to be **\$2.3b.**
- Federal government commitment \$800M over 4 years
 - Approx. \$200m is new / additional \$



A new approach

- New arrangements e.g. commission, new funding model
- Long term policy and planning commitment v's electoral cycle and political imperatives
- Engagement of business sector – technical and professional expertise
- Genuine engagement and partnership with Aboriginal people & organisations