



Australasian **Housing** Institute
Supporting housing professionals

Proposed Strategy Plan 2014-2016- Discussion Paper



A paper for members to discuss and provide feedback



Proposed Strategy Plan 2014-2016

Introduction

The Australasian Housing Institute first fired up in the year 2000 with the aim of providing support, fellowship and recognition for housing professionals. The AHI is the only professional association representing housing professionals across both Australia and New Zealand. We are unique in a way that we are the only association that covers the Community Housing sector, State Housing authorities and the Private sector. No other association can do this the way the AHI does, therefore maintaining the need for the AHI to exist.

We are a not for profit organisation and deliver benefits to 500 members and the broader social housing industry.

It's simple really, by making housing a great profession, we motivate and improve ourselves and attract other great people, to do a better job for the hundreds of thousands of people in across Australia and New Zealand who struggle to find safe, secure, affordable, accessible and sustainable homes.

In a time of systemic failure in housing markets to provide housing affordability and security of tenure, governments are challenged in directing resources to need. With the continuing shift of direct human services delivery to the non-government sector, a stronger housing profession is needed now, more than ever. In our second decade, we need to re-load and fire up with renewed energy for the future.

With this new strategy we plan to re-brand the Institute, create a new modern website, provide more power to the local branches, provide better value proposition for our members, introduce further professional development opportunities for our members through various technology means ie webinars and online discussion forums.

Mission

Our mission is to support, enable, connect, inspire and acknowledge social housing professionals across Australia and New Zealand.

Purpose

The AHI has a unique purpose and a unique challenge over the next three years and beyond in fostering collaboration and capacity building of people working across the whole of the social and affordable housing sector.

While unique, we are by no means alone. For the AHI to prosper we must work closely with our key partners: non-government housing peaks, community housing providers, indigenous housing providers, Shelter, Tenants Union, AHURI, New Zealand, State and Territory housing & community services authorities, Chartered Institutes of Housing-UK & HK.

Each of these partners has key roles in the sector, but none want to do what AHI wants to do - provide opportunities for collaboration, professional development, recognition and inspiration across the whole social housing sector across Australia and New Zealand.

Value

As the housing sector changes, the AHI is changing as well. We are doing more and providing increasing value to the sector and the community:

SEMINARS: We are rolling out an outstanding series of practical and convenient professional development programs where you participate with new friends in getting to the heart of the current big issues.

EVENTS: We are promoting an enhanced series of local, State level and national events, such as breakfasts, lunches and dinners with key people of expertise and influence, such as Ministers, CEOs, Sector leaders, International Visitors.

COMMUNITIES OF PRACTICE: We are establishing facilitated sector wide communities of practice; working groups on hot issues and niche areas, both face to face and through secure internet meetings. We need to provide opportunities for our more isolated regional colleagues to step in and get heard.

PUBLICATIONS: We will continue to produce the successful HousingWorks and HousingPeople to keep everyone up to date with people, policy, practice and sector change.

PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION: We will support you with a simple, self-serve approach to recognition and accreditation of your own professional development program that will help you focus on your goals and career satisfaction. And of course we continue our popular awards program.

Through these programs we are fostering collaboration and enthusiasm amongst people from government/ non-government housing and support providers, consultants, contractors, researchers, and clients who aspire to improving housing for all.



Objectives

We are re-launching the AHI

- It's a full-on upgrade
- We're on a new housing pathway
- We're vesting in besting

TO PARTNERS: We will be reaching out to all our sector partners to explore our complementary roles, and understand your hopes and expectations of the new AHI.

TO SPONSORS: We have designed a new comprehensive, integrated and transparent approach to sponsorship, generating revenue to invest back into supporting social housing professionals. We will be catching up with all our valued sponsors to demonstrate our value and find out what you need from us to continue your support. We will ask for nothing for nothing.

TO MEMBERS: We will be re-engaging with all of our members through our re-vitalised local branches. More autonomy, more guidance and support, more opportunities to meet new (and some old) housing people from different backgrounds to your own. And of course they get to meet you. More opportunities and support for regional members to get involved.

The AHI will be looking to generate the right rhythms for you to choose between high-octane project and events based activities, or just the occasional outing when something sparks your interest.

Our aim is for you to value your membership, not just by how well we provide opportunities for you, but how we help you to support your colleagues and the profession.