



FAITH
HOUSING
ALLIANCE



2022-23

FAITH HOUSING ALLIANCE

Annual Report

FHA.org.au



“The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends towards justice.”

Dr Martin Luther King Jr

“There is no power for change greater than a community discovering what it cares about.”

Margaret J. Wheatley



“Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success.”

Henry Ford



Front Cover Image: Co-founders of Good Housing Sam Graiche and Antony Anisse with resident, Tracey, at the launch of Red Robin and Blue Gum, Hornsby, NSW.

(Top to bottom) 1. The Rev Fr Dr Shenouda Mansour, General Secretary of the NSW Ecumenical Council is greeted by FHA Ambassador Brian Murnane. 2. FHA Board Chair Rob Stokes visits Fresh Hope Communities' Marrickville housing project. 3. CEO of Aboriginal Community Housing Industry Association Lisa Sampson, FHA CEO Rose Thomson, Shelter NSW CEO John Engeler and Eleri Morgan-Thomas past Executive Director of Partnerships at the Department of Communities and Justice.

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Acknowledgement of Country

Faith Housing Alliance is honoured to work on the ancestral lands of the Darug people and pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging.

We acknowledge the land is, was and always will be Aboriginal land and respectfully support the continuation of the cultural, spiritual and educational practices of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

We recognise the Darug People as the Custodians of the land, seas and waterways and celebrate their history, stories and enduring culture.



FHA Board Chair, Rob Stokes and FHA CEO, Rose Thomson.

Report from the Chair



The past 12 months have been a year of conclusions and commencements.

The global pandemic has abated, but we are now left with the consequences of COVID, with disrupted supply chains, labour markets and migration flows, turning a simmering housing market failure into an acute housing crisis.

In NSW, the Social and Affordable Housing Fund committed by the former Government has concluded, with Faith Housing Alliance members accounting for more than two-thirds of the more than 3,300 new homes already delivered under the program. The new NSW Government is suggesting it plans to ramp up the delivery of social and affordable housing through its new agency, Homes NSW.

Nationally, NHFIC has morphed into Housing Australia with a new mandate to implement the Housing Australia Future Fund and expand the role of the community housing sector. Further, the Social Housing Accelerator has seen more than \$610 million directed towards increasing the supply of social and affordable housing in NSW alone.

Our Board has also seen endings and new beginnings, with the retirement of long-time Board Chair Rob Burnelek. I am grateful for

Rob's experience, generosity and wisdom as he handed over the mantle to me earlier in the year. We are also joined by new board members, The Hon. Graham West, CEO of Amelie Housing and St Vincent de Paul Housing, Hajeh Maha Krayem Abdo OAM, CEO of Muslim Women Australia and Simon Furness, Director of Property and Housing at Uniting NSW.ACT. Faith Housing Alliance is blessed to be served by such a strategic, diverse and experienced Board.

I am constantly amazed at the capacity and energy of the Faith Housing Alliance staff. Led by the indomitable Rose Thomson, the combination of Liesel Henn, Amanda Bailey, Raf Rayos and Kathy Goodfellow are one of the most highly effective teams I have observed – being powerful and effective advocates for the interests of the faith-based housing sector.

Our membership has seen significant growth over the past few months. Together with the continuing support of the NSW Department of Communities and Justice, we are using this momentum to redouble our efforts to promote the role of faith-based communities in achieving housing justice. We are identifying more home sites, housing partners and planning pathways to facilitate the delivery of safe and well-supported homes in convenient locations.

As our world becomes more uncertain and less secure, the mission of providing a home for everyone becomes even more important.

The Hon. Rob Stokes
Board Chair

CEO Report

This year, we have placed a strong, focused, and active lens on advocacy for our members as the people they serve experienced rising poverty and cost of living, housing insecurity and affordability, and natural disasters.



I have been so pleased that our member CEOs engaged in informing our policy positions, and their teams have contributed to our submissions to government and attended Faith Housing Alliance capacity-building opportunities.

Our growing membership reflects a broader commitment of those who want to be a part of this important, dynamic community, which has a long and rich history of commitment to the common good.

Mandela said, "As long as poverty, injustice, and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest."

Leadership in the faith sector requires courage, compassion and a bold commitment to speak and act for social and housing justice.

One such leader is Dr Rob Stokes, and I am so grateful that he accepted the role as Chair of the Faith Housing Alliance Board to lead the organisation forward.

He engages readily with our members and advocates on their behalf, recognising that they have a faith-driven compass to see housing for all. He is also passionately committed to thriving cities and regions, well-utilised public spaces, and healthy communities across our nation. His encouragement in our work has blessed our team.

Richard Branson says, "Great leaders are almost always great simplifiers, who can cut through argument, debate and doubt to offer a solution everyone can understand."

It is great to see so much activity in cross-sector engagement to solve the housing crisis. I trust it will move beyond talk to truly innovative partnerships and collaboration, focused on the people most in need of a home.

And with consistent funding by a government committed to such. If we do what we always did, we will get the same or worse results – it will take new and innovative approaches to bring transformational change.

The late Dr Oren Harari said, "The electric light did not come from the continuous improvement of candles."

I hope you will enjoy our Annual Report, and let's be the change as we move forward together in this important work.

Rose Thomson
Chief Executive Officer

26%

increase in membership

9,686

views of Not Just A Roof campaign

207%

increase in website users since October 2022 launch

58%

increase in LinkedIn followers

Our Strategic Framework

OUR VISION

Faith in Action - Housing for All

OUR MISSION

We are a purpose driven faith alliance facilitating the delivery of safe, healthy, secure and affordable housing.






OUR VALUES

Committed to a lived expression of our shared values:

	<p>Social Justice Pursuing what is fair, equitable and inclusive, and considering the rights and aspirations of others.</p>
	<p>Compassion Responding with grace, kindness, and concern, to serve and help others.</p>
	<p>Respect Believing in the richness of diversity and the right of the individual to be heard and treated with dignity.</p>
	<p>Integrity Being honest, transparent, reliable, and accountable.</p>
	<p>Partnership Fostering respectful and inclusive collaboration.</p>
	<p>Innovation Being open, and listening and promoting new and creative ideas.</p>

STRATEGIC PILLARS

Five strategic pillars drive our continued focus for 2023-2027, achieving our vision and mission.

 MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY	 TRANSFORMATIVE ADVOCACY	 POWERFUL PARTNERSHIPS	 INNOVATION	 FIT FOR PURPOSE
We work with our Members to build capacity and a shared understanding of solutions which can help solve community housing needs.	Through transformative advocacy we engage stakeholders to demonstrate how the approach of the faith sector plays a valuable role in the supply of community housing and services that strengthen individuals, families and communities.	We work collaboratively across sectors to build partnerships that will increase and improve housing supply.	We are continually learning, researching and developing ideas to support innovations and thought leadership in faith sector community housing supply and practice.	We ensure that all areas of the organisation and its governance processes adopt recognised good practice.

Our Membership Community



For privacy reasons, Individual Members have not been listed.

Our members are supporting -

More than

14,500 **33,000**

tenants in social and affordable rental housing

clients through specialist homeless services

In more than

12,000

dwellings across urban, suburban and regional Australia

Through the work of more than

30,000

staff and

40,000

volunteers

Faith Housing Sector major contributors in ground-breaking investment

A 2015 collaboration between the NSW Premier, Infrastructure Partnerships Australia and NCOSS established a vision to invest \$1 billion in social and affordable housing to help vulnerable people in NSW. Nearly two decades on, the Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) has delivered the majority of the planned 3,400 secure, quality homes.

This initiative is responsible for the significant expansion of community housing in NSW, with successful community housing providers able to attract private equity, redevelop underutilised land, grow housing options and offer long-term wrap-around services to help break the cycle of homelessness.

The scheme, which will be fully realised by the end of 2024, is a working model and presents important learnings for future investment, such as the Social Housing Accelerator and Housing Australia Future Fund.

Significantly, four members of Faith Housing Alliance – Amelie Housing, Anglicare Sydney, BaptistCare NSW & ACT and Uniting NSW.ACT – have partnered with the NSW Government to deliver housing under SAHF with a focus on supporting vulnerable seniors, single-parent families at risk of homelessness, in unsafe housing or escaping domestic violence.

“The impact of the faith housing sector should not be underestimated. Just four of our members delivered more than 65% of SAHF homes”,

“Faith-based Community Housing Providers have an impressive track record and have access to unique, well-located land assets with existing community connections. They are prime partners for government to not only deliver high-quality housing, but to establish thriving communities in the long-term.”

Rose Thomson
CEO of Faith Housing Alliance

Developments delivered by FHA members offer exceptional amenity, with many meeting the Silver level of the Livable Housing Design Guidelines. Several of these projects have received category nominations and won industry design awards. But beyond these accolades, the feedback from tenants is the true measure of success.

Early evaluations conducted by the University of NSW regarding tenant experiences in their new homes show above industry average satisfaction scores with their housing and with ‘life as a whole’. SAHF tenants demonstrated high levels of satisfaction across a number of personal wellbeing measures, including life achievement, relationships and community connection – a clear example of the central role that housing plays in human flourishing.

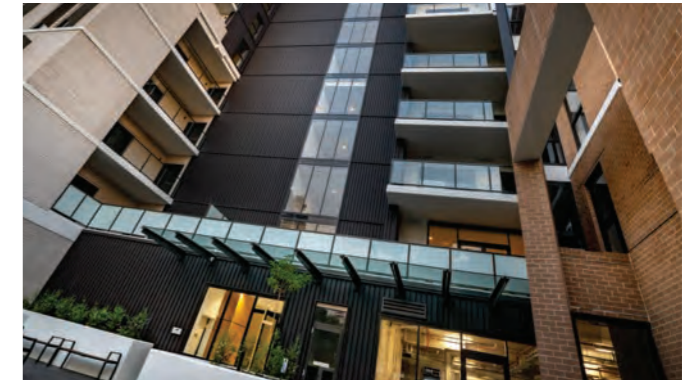
Feedback from FHA members delivering the scheme has highlighted the critical importance of ongoing tenant support. SAHF’s 25-year contract term ensures the extended provision of wrap-around services to empower tenants to lead more independent and satisfying lives.

Their feedback also shared that the complex and expensive bid process should be improved in any future programs to ensure the engagement of more not-for-profit community housing providers.

Faith Housing Alliance is advocating with governments on behalf of all members to increase opportunities for investment to expand housing options for people in need and to support faith-based Community Housing Providers with the policies and contract provisions to transform even more lives and communities.

Examples of housing delivered under SAHF.

1. Anglicare, Calli, Liverpool.
2. Amelie Housing, Cardiff, Lake Maquarie.
3. BaptistCare, Kitty Doyle, Five Dock.
4. Uniting, Bowden Brae, Normanhurst.



Stories from Successful SAHF Partners

BAPTISTCARE'S LARGEST HOUSING DEVELOPMENT UNVEILED

BaptistCare's Community Housing team launched its largest Social and Affordable Housing Fund (SAHF) development in Carlingford, with the final 162 units opening mid-2023.

This historic piece of land for BaptistCare has been home to a constellation of stories, once the site of their first aged care home, now

rejuvenated to serve the community afresh with landscaped gardens, communal areas and playgrounds; a true community of belonging.

Known as Gimbawali Place, the Carlingford location provides homes for seniors and single-parent families and completes their partnership with the NSW Government to deliver 500 new homes.

"The data tells us that an investment in social and affordable housing is an investment in a stronger community and economy."

Charles Moore
CEO of BaptistCare NSW & ACT

AMELIE HOUSING AND ST VINCENT DE PAUL SOCIETY HOUSING

St Vincent de Paul Housing successfully bid to partner with the NSW Government in a \$240 million initiative jointly funded under SAHF to deliver 500 dwellings with coordinated access to tailored support, and their tenants are thriving.

SAHF tenants reported feeling a greater sense of security, higher living standards, increased positive personal relationships and a greater outlook on life. Amelie Housing credits this result mainly to the Tailored Support Coordination aspect of the program providing high-quality tenancy management services and person-centred support facilitation.

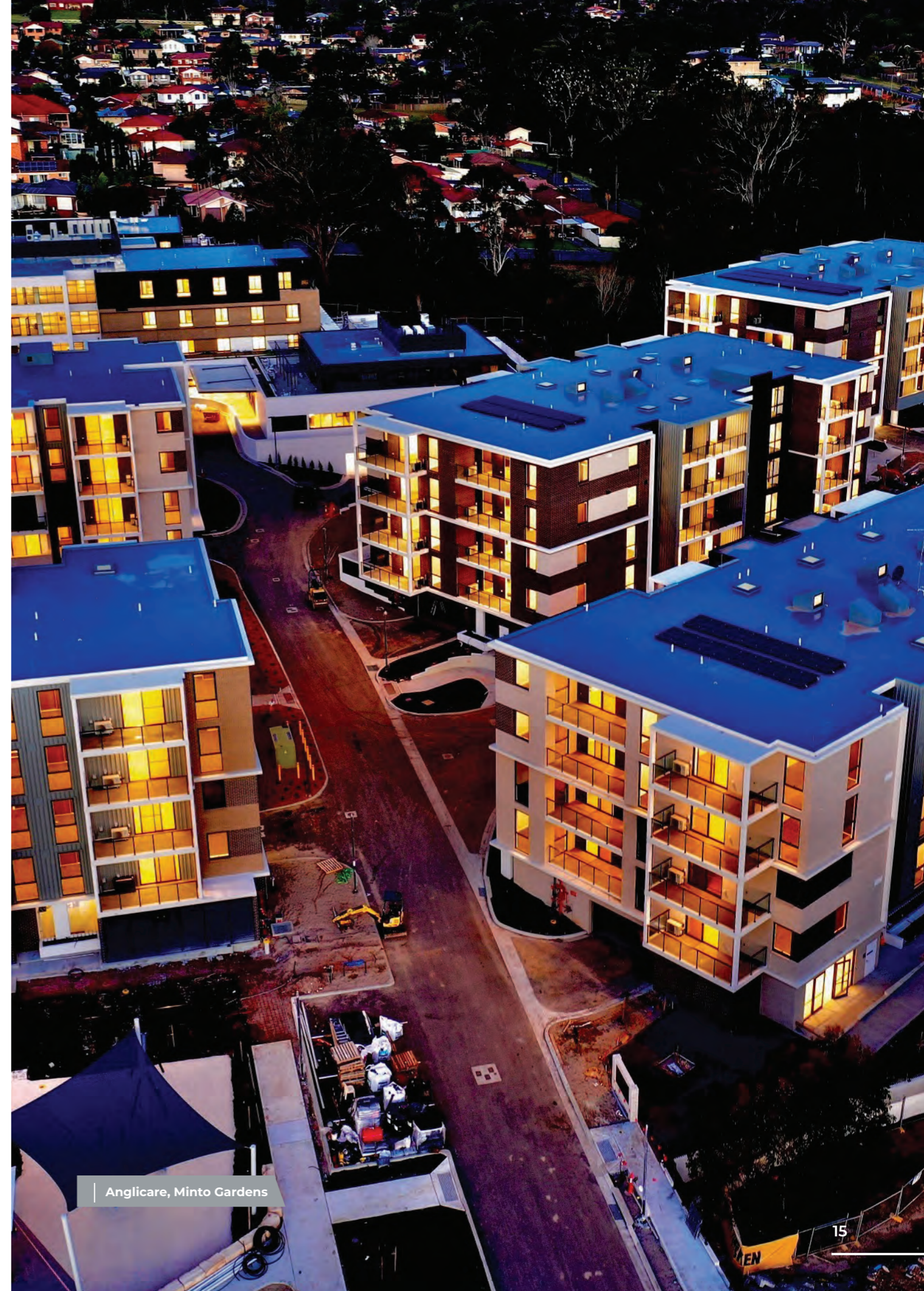
SAHF ANNUAL TENANT SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS IN THE PAST YEAR:

92%

satisfaction with condition of dwelling

88%

satisfaction with overall quality of tailored support services



Anglicare, Minto Gardens

BAPTISTCARE



Arezo's Story

Arezo Younes had hopes and dreams that were being buried under the struggle to meet her caring responsibilities and rapidly rising living costs.

As a single mother to a young son and caring for her ageing mother, the challenges of finding and balancing part-time work to keep up with rent increases in the private housing market were immense.

"I was struggling financially as I was facing a lot of hardship. My rent kept increasing every year; I receive no child support, and living in Sydney has gotten more expensive. Everything has

increased, except the support I have access to," Arezo said.

"I've really struggled to find part-time work so I can also be able to take care of my son."

But then she became a tenant of BaptistCare, moving into their newly completed apartments known as Gimbawali Place in Carlingford, Sydney. The location is designed to create a thriving, multi-generational community, with plenty of green outdoor space and playgrounds for Arezo's son to enjoy.

"BaptistCare staff are like angels sent by God personally to me and my child," she said.
"This housing is the best thing that has ever happened to me as a single mum. I feel like a burden is off my shoulders since moving into BaptistCare. I no longer struggle mentally or financially, and I can go on and focus on my goals and dreams that I have."



Gimbawali Place is designed to strengthen community connections and wellbeing for young and old alike.



Arezo cuts the ribbon at the official opening alongside The Hon Rose Jackson MLC, Minister for Housing and BaptistCare representatives Anne Low and Board Chair Robert Dunn.



WESLEY MISSION

Rosalie's Story

Thanks to Wesley Mission, Rosalie now has a community and wrap-around services from housing to finance, which support her wellbeing. She's also grateful for her new friends who rally around her in the home they share through Wesley Mission. But Rosalie didn't always have this community to lean on.

Rosalie was a high school teacher for most of her working life before a car accident at 43 injured her back and leg. This led Rosalie on a journey that ultimately caused her to lose her career.

Shortly after the accident, the pain from Rosalie's injuries became too much to bear, so she moved to casual teaching. When Rosalie entered her 50s and decided to retire, she discovered there was no financial nest egg to draw on because casual teachers do not accrue superannuation.

Then, more than three years ago, as she struggled to find an affordable rental home, Rosalie ended up settling for a converted garage at the back of someone's house, which did not support her mobility needs.

It wasn't until Rosalie was referred to Wesley Mission and experienced the quality of their wrap-around services that she finally found the support she needed.

Transformation came her way through Kris from Wesley Community Housing, Clara from Wesley Mission's Assistance with Care and Housing program, and Sarah from Wesley Financial Counselling.

Together, Kris and Clara found Rosalie ground-level transitional accommodation property to suit her accessibility needs. In mid-2022, Rosalie finally moved into her new home in Newcastle.

"All of the surfaces are flat. The bathrooms are wet rooms, and she has extra space to move around with her walker," explains Clara.

Wesley Mission organised movers to bring Rosalie's furniture to her new home, purchased her a new bed and fridge and fitted her home with fresh fans and blinds.

Clara also purchased Rosalie a mobility scooter. Rosalie now heads out regularly on her scooter and often meets her new community of friends at the local coffee shop.

"Their support has been invaluable to me. My quality of life has improved enormously. And I'm very happy here,"

Rosalie

Page 18 Image: Rosalie now has a community of support to draw on with the help of Wesley Mission.

Anglicare Research Sheds Light on Plight of Older Women



Launched in October 2022, Anglicare's *More than Shelter Report* highlighted the plight of single older women, often experiencing relationship breakdown, physical health issues, unemployment and domestic violence.

For a number of women who had previously led fairly conventional lives, homelessness was a new and often terrifying experience. The report highlights the significant difference that safe, supported and affordable housing can have on overall wellbeing, physical and mental health, safety, security and sense of belonging.



“Not only is the vacancy rate historically low but so is affordability... Right now, rental arrears are emerging as a major challenge”

Simon Miller
Anglicare Sydney CEO

ANGLICARE 2023 RENTAL AFFORDABILITY SNAPSHOT

Anglicare's 2023 'Rental Affordability Snapshot' demonstrated that there were far fewer properties for rent than in previous years, and of the 11,395 available, only 46 were affordable for people living on income support payments. For some people, such as single parents with one child and single people on Youth Allowance, there was nothing available.

Uniting Speaks Out for Vulnerable Seniors



Single older women are among the most marginalised groups with limited access to safe, affordable housing that is well-located and suitable for their needs.

Uniting NSW.ACT was a loud voice calling for the NSW Government to lower the priority age for social housing eligibility from 80 to 55 years as a matter of urgency.

“NSW needs an extra 12,500 social and affordable homes a year to meet demand. Uniting is also providing affordable rental accommodation for people in need aged 55 and over and delivering 600 social and affordable dwellings on behalf of the NSW government's Social and Affordable Housing Fund.”

Simon Furness
Uniting Director of Property and Housing

The Legislative Council's Standing Committee on Social Issues released their report on Homelessness amongst older people aged over 55 in NSW in October 2022, which included a series of 40 recommendations.



Uniting's award-winning Bowden Brae Retirement and Independent Living Village includes 14 SAHF units for vulnerable seniors.

Direct Advocacy as the Housing Crisis Deepens

Faith Housing Alliance has advocated for direct funding to rapidly scale up the supply of social and affordable rental housing as a priority policy response.

FHA CEO Rose Thomson and Advocacy and Policy Lead, Dr Liesel Henn met with Minister for Housing, The Hon Julie Collins MP, in Canberra on behalf of members in May, strongly articulating the important need for concurrent funding to sit alongside the Housing Australia Future Fund.

Minister Collins sees the faith sector as an essential stakeholder and has opened up opportunities for FHA and members to input to the National Housing and Homelessness Plan as consultation continues. Meetings were also held with the offices of Senator David Pocock, Max Chandler-Mather MP and Senator Jacqui Lambie. We will continue to advocate for continual direct funding annually as a critical infrastructure investment to increase housing supply.

Still at a federal level, FHA also met with Housing Australia (formerly the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation) CEO, Nathan Dal Bon, to present opportunities for connecting FHA member expertise to facilitate growth in housing supply and support better housing outcomes.

We were pleased to see the \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator announcement and delivery of funds to State and Territory Governments that will roll out in the coming months.

Board Chair, Rob Stokes and Rose Thomson have continued to engage with NSW Minister for Housing and Homelessness, Rose Jackson, to help resolve issues experienced by members in putting forward their project bids to the Community Housing Innovation Fund ahead of applications opening for the Social Housing Accelerator.

FHA CEO Rose Thomson and representation from FHA Member CEOs met with NSW Minister for Planning, Paul Scully to discuss opportunities for stronger partnerships with the Faith Housing Sector.

FHA appreciates the support of the Department of Communities and Justice under the State Peaks Program partnership. This year, the partnership extended to new funding under the Community Housing Industry Development Strategy for a capacity-building program for members to help increase supply.



Page 21 Image: FHA CEO, Rose Thomson met with Minister for Housing and Homelessness, The Hon Julie Collins MP in Canberra.

Stronger Together in the Pursuit of Housing Justice

The social and affordable rental housing crisis is much more than statistics – there is a human face to the suffering in our own backyard.

Too many families and individuals are desperate, facing severe housing stress or homelessness. In March, Faith Housing Alliance launched its *Not Just A Roof* campaign to elevate housing as a key State election issue and as an ongoing national priority, with specific attention to the faith sector's unique role.



MEMBER CEO INPUT SHAPES POLICY PRIORITIES

In the last months of 2022, Faith Housing Alliance hosted very valuable roundtables with our member metro CEOs – many of whom lead across national jurisdictions – and also regional NSW CEOs. The insightful reflections of these leaders who gathered around boardroom tables and on Zoom helped to ground the campaign's development.

Collectively, we heard that resourcing is strained, particularly for those providing Specialist Homelessness Services. Many frontline workers are tired, having faced multiple crises of natural disasters and the pandemic and recruiting staff is difficult. Demand for social housing is greater now than in past generations, at a time when social housing stock has dwindled or is ageing. The priority for governments to invest rose quickly in the conversations and had broad consensus.

Regional CEOs shared the challenges of recovering from floods, the impact of population migration to coastal areas during the pandemic, and the strain of engaging construction partners and overcoming supply chain issues to deliver new housing. Indeed, access to trades to repair housing assets was a significant problem.

A clear theme was the critical importance of providing wrap-around supports to tenants tailored to their needs, to prevent people from

cycling back through homelessness. Others shared specific instances of planning constraints that were a roadblock to development and the need for a streamlined approach if we are to try to address the current crisis.

FHA received very positive feedback from CEOs engaged with this process, and they agreed to continue to meet as a forum to guide policy and provide advice specific to the leadership of faith-based organisations with complex and broad portfolios.



FHA Member CEOs gathered in person and online from across NSW. (L-R) Rev Stu Cameron, Chris Karagiannis, Simon Miller, Charles Moore, Dan Dwyer and Rose Thomson.

ENGAGEMENT WITH PEAKS CONFIRMS SHARED PRIORITIES

FHA also consulted with numerous planning and policy leads from across our membership and our FHA Board, all of which informed the development of the *Not Just A Roof* campaign and priorities in the national context.

FHA collaborates closely with other NSW Housing and Homelessness peak bodies and many related social sector peaks. FHA's campaign was designed to link with Homelessness NSW's *Ending Homelessness Together* and CHIA NSW's *Confront the Crisis* with consistent messaging for increased impact.

Not Just A Roof: FHA Policy Priorities

FHA is working to ensure access to safe, healthy and secure affordable rental housing for all.

Not Just A Roof highlights three social and affordable rental housing policy levers to meet the immediate and ongoing needs of the most vulnerable people in NSW and nationwide.

LEVER 01

Rapidly scale up housing supply

Invest in immediate and sustained increase in the supply of social and affordable rental housing

LEVER 02

Ensure extended tenant support

Invest in expanded and sustained wrap-around support services

LEVER 03

Deliver an Integrated planning pathway

Establish a NSW State government led integrated planning pathway to accelerate and sustain housing development

LEVER 1: RAPIDLY SCALE UP HOUSING SUPPLY

Social housing represents only 4.4% of total NSW housing stock, compared to the OECD average of 7%. That means that an extra 70,000 dwellings are required to meet OECD benchmarks.

The Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute recommends that Australia grow social and affordable rental housing by 950,000 dwellings by 2041, including specific targets in regional areas, to meet current and future unmet housing needs.

Delivery of social and affordable rental housing in partnership with not-for-profit Community Housing Providers (NFP CHPs) has demonstrated a variety of benefits in NSW. Faith-based organisations have played a valuable role in developing NSW's social and affordable rental housing.

Recommendations

- Fund innovative partnership arrangements to enable the release and use of faith-based land for the development of social and permanently affordable rental housing by NFP CHPs
- Hold a NSW Housing Accord Summit to ensure broad-based collaboration and accelerate housing supply
- Identify strategic locational priorities across NSW for housing, cross-referencing with NFP CHPs who have suitable land in these priority areas
- Incentivise relocation of trade skills to regional areas and consider regional placement related to skilled trade migration visas

Progress and observed changes

- Enthusiastic engagement with NSW Minister for Housing and Homelessness and case studies to support faith-based partnerships presented
- Federal Government announced \$2 billion Social Housing Accelerator, distributing \$610 million to NSW
- Federal Government announced the development of a National Housing and Homelessness Plan following the commitment to deliver 1 million new well-located homes across Australia – recognising a whole-of-governments response as an early key theme in plan success
- FHA conducted a pilot mapping survey identifying land around places of worship in NSW, overlaid with relevant planning information
- Federal Government announced a National Skills Agreement between Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments to develop skills, including trade skills

LEVER 2: ENSURE EXTENDED TENANT SUPPORT

Research has shown the critical importance of combining safe and secure housing with ongoing support to improve wellbeing and deliver sustainable solutions to end homelessness.

Social and affordable housing delivery models that pair providing a safe and secure dwelling with ongoing support are known to offer notable societal savings, including reduced health, justice, and other costs associated with homelessness. This is distinctive of faith-based organisations, and they have kept these services in place, often without government funding support.

A study by ACIL Allen commissioned by FHA member BaptistCare suggests a three-fold social return on investment (including a range of health, wellbeing, economic, employment and other social benefits) for safe and secure living combined with wrap-around tenant support services provided as part of their faith-based delivery model.

Recommendations

- Continue to employ the NFP CHP delivery model applied in SAHF, coupling housing with wrap-around support, including access to employment services, general and mental health, as well as community building
- Retain funding certainty to remain with tenants who require long-term support
- Introduce more flexible participation options to allow smaller NFP CHPs to tender for distinct components
- Explore innovative funding models for tailored wrap-around tenant support services, including consideration of social impact bonds

Progress and observed changes

- Direct advocacy at federal and state levels to inform key stakeholders of the importance of extended wrap-around supports, with broad agreement. With a current focus on housing supply, further engagement and education on supports is required
- Engagement with the Department of Communities and Justice ahead of CHIF funding to specifically encourage participation from smaller NFP CHPs
- Providing capacity building for our members delivered by key government agencies to encourage collaborations between FHA members for aggregate bids to demonstrate capacity

LEVER 3: DELIVER AN INTEGRATED PLANNING PATHWAY

There is a critical need for State oversight and coordination of the planning process with councils to accelerate social and permanently affordable rental housing delivery and act in the best interest of the people of NSW.

There are examples where well-resourced local councils have made great contributions to the improvements in the design and development of social and affordable rental dwellings. Any State-led planning effort must continue to consult local authorities to garner their support and reap the benefits of their local knowledge and planning expertise.

Research shows that a lack of clarity around the role of local government authorities in addressing homelessness has played a marked role in an uncoordinated response to homelessness.

Recommendations

- Ensure that the Housing SEPP is well-resourced to allow for timely responses to scale up supply
- Develop planning controls to facilitate the conversion of places of worship to include social and affordable housing, such as a specific chapter in the Housing SEPP to unlock faith-owned land
- Mandate waiver of Section 7:11 developer contributions for all NFP CHP social and affordable housing developments
- Allow piloting of targeted affordable rental housing as permissible use in zones that would otherwise not allow
- Consider measures such as inclusionary zoning and simplified assessment criteria for diverse housing types

Progress and observed changes

- NSW Government has announced the merging of the Land and Housing Corporation, Aboriginal Housing Office and the Department of Communities and Justice Housing to become Homes NSW to centralise social and affordable rental housing functions
- NSW Department of Planning, Industry and Environment will establish and mobilise a dedicated Community Housing Concierge service to support CHPs to navigate and resolve complex issues within the planning system
- Issues Paper underpinning the development of the National Housing and Homelessness Plan highlighted planning as one of seven key areas of focus to which FHA made significant inputs after deep consultation with participating members

Aftershock: Addressing the Economic and Social Costs of the Pandemic and Natural Disasters



Faith Housing Alliance joined with NCOSS and other members of the peak coalition to ensure important research provided evidence of the impact of the pandemic across four domains: Mental Health, Domestic and Family Violence, Housing Security, Child Wellbeing and Development.

The research was conducted by Impact Economics and Policy and presented as four reports addressing the economic and social costs of the pandemic and natural disasters on the people of NSW.

Some shocking findings in Report Three: Housing Security reveal how stark the housing crisis has become.

- Homelessness has increased by around 10 per cent in NSW since the start of the pandemic as more people seek assistance from specialist homelessness services.
- There have been an additional 3,700 homeless people in NSW since 2020, with the cost to the NSW economy estimated between \$524.5 million and \$2.5 billion over six years.

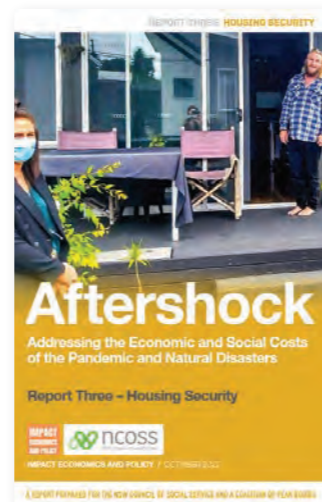
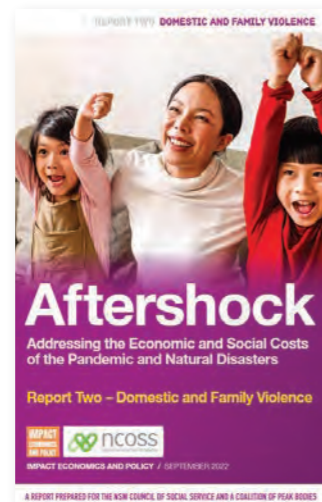
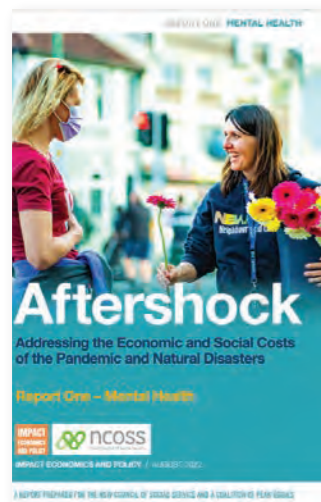
- 54,000 households have entered or experienced a worsening in housing stress since the start of the pandemic, which is expected to cost the NSW economy \$322 million every year through lost productivity and workforce participation.

NCOSS CEO Joanna Quilty said these findings reinforce what most social service workers see and that urgent action is needed.

“The past two years of major disruptions brought by fires, floods and the pandemic have exposed the underlying failures of housing policy in NSW and across Australia,” says Quilty.

“The issue is particularly dire in regional NSW, as the pandemic changed how many of us live and work, and city-dwellers moved to the regions to take advantage of flexible working approaches.

FHA CEO, Rose Thomson, stressed the importance of housing in recovery from any crisis, saying, “It all starts with housing - without stable shelter it all falls apart.”



BaptistCare welcoming the first residents of a new temporary housing site at flood-ravaged Coraki in the Northern Rivers.



Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT team members from the Rae Burgess Centre in Yass delivering food hampers.



Living with Urban Heat: Becoming Climate-Ready in Social Housing

Urban heat is a growing global challenge. In Sydney, its impacts are disproportionately borne by the city’s western suburbs, which can experience maximum temperatures up to 10 degrees higher than those on the coastal fringe.

As the world enters an unprecedented phase of rapid global warming, how can we combine the power of design-led research with the lived experience of local residents to create more liveable and resilient urban environments?

“Over the last half century, the balance of Sydney’s social housing has been pushed to the west, where it can be up to 10°C hotter than the breeze-cooled coast.”

Professor Stephen Healy
Senior Research Fellow, Western Sydney University

Faith Housing Alliance CEO Rose Thomson is on the Steering Committee of the project, which is looking at co-creating climate readiness in community housing to inform better climate-friendly design of new and retrofitting of existing social and affordable rental homes.

Other Community Housing Providers involved in the project include, Bidwell Uniting Church, Link Wentworth and St George Community Housing.

To date, this cross-disciplinary research collaboration has produced:

1. Cooling the Commons pilot study – researchers worked with Western Sydney residents to understand the social and cultural adaptations and practices they use to keep cool.

2. Cooling Common Spaces in Densifying Urban Environments produced design patterns supporting common-based cooling.
3. Researchers are working with Community Housing Providers, Social Housing Advocacy organisations and residents in Western Sydney to co-design cooling solutions for use in social housing contexts.

Research leads Associate Professor Stephen Healy from Western Sydney University and Associate Professor Abby Mellick Lopes from the University of Technology Sydney reported that tenants expend a lot of mental and physical energy during summer to keep their homes bearable while worrying about how much cooling will cost.

“After interviewing vulnerable groups of people in Western Sydney – such as elderly citizens, disability carers and young mothers in social housing – we found people turn to lessons from their parents to find relief from heat.

“This includes soaking sheets in water, directing fans to blow air over them and create cool pockets in the house, confining themselves to cooler rooms, and covering west-facing windows with blankets or aluminium foil.”

The research project is funded through an ARC Linkage grant and will continue until 2026.

More information available at coolingthecommons.com



An architect reviews the Cooling the Commons pattern deck, designed as a prototype decision-making resource for planners, developers and council workers.

NEW MEMBER – JEWISH HOUSE



Confronting Homelessness Through Compassion and Innovation

Larger-than-life Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM brings vibrant and determined leadership to Jewish House, which operates in the eastern suburbs of Sydney. Rabbi Mendel and his team primarily support people experiencing homelessness through a range of accommodation services, including crisis, temporary and transitional housing.

“We are currently sleeping 100 people a night and are keeping 1,000 people off the streets each year.”

Rabbi Mendel Kastel OAM
CEO of Jewish House

Throughout 40 years of service to the community, their approach has recognised that people experiencing homelessness have complex needs and vulnerabilities. Jewish House has provided services to support their clients’ physical and mental needs.

A client of Jewish House shares part of her story -

“I was escaping a family domestic violence situation with my daughter, who is nine. We arrived, and they were very attentive, which was marvellous. We didn’t come with belongings... but they made sure we had everything we needed, including toiletries.

“You know they have a nice shower. We hadn’t had a decent shower in two months. And that was all just ready for us... we automatically felt safe. Clean, safe, clothed and fed.”

“They helped me put together a resume and have given me a few ideas where to look for jobs... And you know, when it comes to looking for a private rental property, I know that Jewish House

will lend some support there in helping me.”

Rabbi Kastel is known for his entrepreneurial, innovative approach to leadership. Jewish House has been very proactive in the homelessness sector, experimenting with new approaches and innovative projects and technology.

Recently, they have launched ‘MyBond’, a collaboration to enable people to access financing for a four-week rental bond while requiring an upfront fee of only one week’s rent, to help people leave dangerous situations sooner.

“People need to have a home, somewhere they can feel safe,” says Rabbi Mendel.

Member for Coogee Dr Marjorie O’Neill, who hosted the launch of MyBond at NSW Parliament House, said addressing homelessness is a NSW government priority.

“However, it is incredibly important that I particularly mention the non-government sector, including Jewish House, a key stakeholder and driver of innovation in this area.”



Rabbi Mendel Kastel delivers a fresh food hamper - his energy exemplifies the way Jewish House has served the community for 40 years.

NEW MEMBER - THE CENTRE DURAL



Dynamic Use of Land Leads the Way for Thriving Community

The Centre is a unique faith community where they understand how places of faith can be used to build thriving, healthy and safe spaces. Their approach encourages the community to have fun in their church building through sports, recreation, hospitality, charity and friendship. This year, they joined Faith Housing Alliance to explore a growing passion for housing justice and fully utilising the potential of five acres of land owned by the church.

The church's work in the community has opened their eyes and hearts to the need for housing. They give away about 50 boxes of produce and pantry staples each week. People take what they need, and no questions are asked of them.

It was meeting with people through this food care ministry that they first heard about the need for housing. And now people are calling the church asking if they do anything.

Senior Pastor Mitch Levingston describes becoming aware of a growing number of women over 55 who were finding themselves homeless after a relationship breakdown or other circumstances at no fault of their own.

"There have been a few people in our community who need housing, and we're helping as much as we can through our extended networks," he said.

"I'd like to think if my Mum were in the same position that her community would support her too."

"There's a binary in the Hills; there are people who have multi-million dollar properties, and there are also people who are struggling," said Mitch.

"We have five acres that were purchased with 'care and concern' in mind. It is quiet and serene and backs onto bushland. We imagine it could be used for housing, perhaps townhouses, to support older women who can't find housing."

Being connected with community needs and taking action is characteristic of the work of this local church in their area. On Sundays, they welcome 150 congregation members, but they are also woven into the lives of their community Monday through Saturday, with many of their people engaged in the church's outreach mission.

General Manager Craig Glasby explains their philosophy -

"Some churches tend to send missionaries out; we just try to bring the people in," said Craig.

In 1994, the church (then Dural Baptist) outgrew the chapel they had on acreage and decided to build a sports centre to better connect with the Hills community. Ten years later, The Centre was so popular that they made a second building to support their growing futsal (indoor soccer) and netball programs.

In 2011, the church was approached by a local who was getting rid of metalworking equipment and wanted to donate it to a Men's Shed, so a new ministry was born. Over the last 12 years, the shed has expanded to include woodwork and supports 140 members. This growing ministry connects multiple churches in the area, provides chaplaincy support, and is one of NSW's largest Men's Sheds.

No stranger to community-focused innovative business models, The Centre team is looking for a partner to take the next step into housing.

"That's what led us to join Faith Housing Alliance. We joined the workshop about using our land for housing justice," said Craig.

"Money is the issue. If someone put \$20 million into our account next week, we would have these houses built in 18 months. But we need a partner."

Making member connections and building the capacity of the faith housing sector through innovation and powerful partnerships are key pillars for FHA, and we look forward to supporting The Centre in their pursuit of housing justice.



The Centre in Dural is an action hub of sports, fitness, church and community.

Mapping Pilot Identifies Well-Located Faith-Owned Land

Faith Housing Alliance has produced a mapping tool to identify the potential for more mission-oriented partnerships to reinvigorate civic spaces and serve the community. Land assets located near places of worship are a potentially rich resource for meeting the broad spectrum of social and affordable rental housing needs in NSW and across Australia.

Places of worship are typically well-located with services and central to the community. They are generally well-connected with invested community members concerned about the land's ongoing management and with an established social license as part of a faith community's services and ministries.

“Every time I travel through regional Australia and see quaint old churches converted into houses, Airbnbs or cafes, I’m left wondering how the people who originally bought, built and supported these places would feel about it. I suspect it’s not the sort of community growth and transformation they intended.”

Rob Stokes
FHA Board Chair

It is estimated that there are currently more than 10,000 faith-owned properties across NSW, including places of worship and facilities such as halls, manses, aged care facilities, hospitals, schools, and childcare centres.

FHA conducted an initial pilot of a mapping tool that harnessed publicly available data sets, identifying and conducting initial analysis on 2,434 parcels of land with self-identified places of worship on them from across NSW.

There can be a range of potential roadblocks around the use of faith-owned land for community housing. These include, but are not limited to, a need for more data, capacity constraints and a complex ownership and decision-making process unique to each religion or denomination.

Due to its relationships, networks and understanding of the faith sector, Faith Housing Alliance is best placed to work with faith groups to deliver innovative and relevant tools to build the capacity of the faith housing sector to address the housing crisis or re-invigorate their land for civic use – often the basis for which the land was granted in earlier times.

2434

parcels of land with places of worship located on them

138

are within 25m of NSW Government land holdings

375

are within 50m of NSW Government land holdings

747

are within 800m of a NSW train station

10

are within Urban Release areas

1373

with R1, R2, R3, R4, R5 or Mixed-Use Zoning

Of those solely within Sydney Metro on sites with Floor Space Ratio assigned

+20K

potential dwellings

+40K

potential bedrooms

From Land to Homes – A Journey of Discovery

As many as 50 churches from a single denomination in metropolitan Sydney alone lie dormant and unused. Meanwhile, there is a shortage of social and affordable rental housing. An innovative Faith Housing Alliance workshop aims to inspire more faith communities to pursue housing justice with their land.

FHA was pleased to partner with the Department of Communities and Justice through their Community Housing Industry

Development Strategy with funding to develop a pilot capacity-building workshop to encourage new supply.

After several months in the office to plan the curriculum, in June 2023, the workshop *Converting Your Land to Community Housing* was piloted.

Delivering the curriculum as a ‘masterclass’, we garnered the skill of the legendary Architect Tone Wheeler, whose passion is social and sustainable design.

“The only feasible way to deliver crisis housing for the lowest 20 per cent of earners is to remove the price of land, which really only leaves religious organisations, governments and philanthropists to deliver this kind of housing.”

Tone Wheeler
President of the Australian Architecture Association and Principal of Environa Studio

The workshop presented three case studies as examples of the development process, from site analysis and feasibility studies to financing, design, approvals, contracting and construction. Guidelines for typical costs and timelines opened participants up to important considerations, and Tone’s good humour helped to make the subject accessible for clergy and housing teams alike.

With excellent participant feedback, FHA plans to run the workshop again and continue building interest from faith communities who want to use their land to pursue housing justice.

94%
rated the workshop as
extremely helpful

100%
said they will attend future
FHA workshops



Stimulated by the content-rich workshop FHA Members enjoyed rich discussion and networking.



Capacity-building workshop presenters and hosts: Cheri Erai-Collins - State Manager of Salvos Housing, Dr Liesel Henn - FHA Policy & Projects Lead, Tone Wheeler - Principal of Environa Studio, FHA CEO Rose Thomson and Steve Bushby, Director of Urban Bio.

Join a Dynamic Membership Community

Our Alliance means not having to go it alone. When we come together as a community of practice, knowledge and expertise can be deepened by interacting on an ongoing basis with people who share the same purpose.

“Wesley Mission is a proud collaboration member of Faith Housing Alliance. Across our community services, from Ballina in the north to Wollongong in the south, our people name safe, affordable and secure housing a number one priority.”



Rev Stu Cameron
CEO and Superintendent, Wesley Mission

MEMBERSHIP BENEFITS

- Advocacy to decision-makers on behalf of the faith housing sector
- Information-sharing and creative partnership opportunities, including with other members, research entities, professional services and funding bodies
- Consultancy services at a discounted rate for affordable rental housing projects and Community Housing Provider registrations
- Access to exclusive member-only events and briefings, and membership rates for the full FHA program of events
- Leadership coaching, advice and mentoring

“Faith Housing Alliance, as a peak body, is uniquely positioned. There’s more of a collaborative approach in the faith sector, and when we come together, we can look at different ways of doing things and offer support to each other.”



Cheri Erai-Collins
Cheri Erai-Collins, State Manager, Salvos Housing NSW, QLD & ACT

MEMBERSHIP TYPES

Faith Housing Alliance has two options when you choose to become a member.

ORDINARY MEMBERSHIP NON-CHP ORGANISATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS

- Ordinary members include individuals and organisations who support our mission and are connected to the housing and homelessness sector.
- This can include churches, planners, community designers and place makers, architects, housing lawyers, social workers, care workers, philanthropists, and foundations, to name a few. This is a good option if you do not qualify as a CH member but still want to be involved.

FULL MEMBERSHIP COMMUNITY HOUSING (CH) MEMBERS THIS IS IDEAL IF YOU:

- Operate as a registered Community Housing Provider; or
- Are in the process of registering under the National Regulatory System for Community Housing.



Become a member today



Social and Affordable Housing Fund roundtable facilitates sharing and learning between members.

Meet the Board

THE HON ROB STOKES

Board Chair

LLM MSc PhD (Environmental & Planning Law)

Dr Rob Stokes is an urbanist and recognised thought leader on sustainable urban development. He served as Australia's first-ever minister for Active Transport with the NSW Government, and also served as minister for Planning, Public Spaces, Cities, Infrastructure, Transport, Education, Environment and Heritage in a political career spanning more than 15 years.

Rob is a regular columnist on cities and planning and has written over 20 articles in referred books and journals. A qualified lawyer, Rob has read sustainable urban development at Oxford and completed a PhD in planning law under a Commonwealth Scholarship.

He was announced as a member of the Albanese Government's Urban Policy Forum in May 2023 and confirmed as Chair of Faith Housing Alliance in July 2023.



HAJEH MAHA KRAYEM ABDO OAM

B Social Work, M Soc Sc (Youth Services), Grad Dip Family Dispute Resolution

Maha is a passionate advocate for social justice and serves as the CEO of Muslim Women Australia (MWA), a representative body for Muslim women working to enrich humanity, advocating for equality and the rights of all women.

Maha represents and gives voice to Muslim women abroad as well as in Australia. She advises government on policy, services and strategies. In 2016 Maha was the NSW Seniors Week Ambassador as well as the BreastScreen NSW Ambassador. In 2015, Maha was a finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Medal; in 2014, she was the NSW Human Rights Ambassador.



ANTONY ANISSE

B Economics/B Laws, Harvard Grad Program in Real Estate Investment and Development

Antony is the Co-Founder of Good Housing and acts as the Chief Empowerment Officer. He is an experienced public-private executive with a record of strong social and economic outcomes in major urban renewal projects, including Parramatta Square, Riverbank and the Civic Link Projects.

He has previously held senior positions in private development firms, Local and State Government, and the Urban Growth Development Corporation. Antony was elected to the Hornsby Shire Council in September 2012, an office he held until September 2017. He had oversight of the formation of new town centres and the creation of new social and recreational infrastructure, including the transformation of Hornsby Quarry and Storey Park Community Centre.



BRAD BRAITHWAITE

Retired from the Board in April 2023

Brad was appointed the CEO of the Hume Community Housing Association in May 2023. Before this, he was the Interim CEO at Anglicare NSW South, NSW West & ACT.

He has a wealth of leadership experience gained as a senior executive and consultant across the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. His expertise is across social and economic policy research and analysis, corporate strategy, serving cross-functional teams, facilitating strategic and operational transformation, and driving business development and IP commercialisation.



ROB BURNELEK

Immediate Past Board Chair

B Eng (Civil Engineering), MBA

Rob is the General Manager of Housing at Anglicare Sydney where he established their community housing operations and now oversees a large development program.

An experienced senior manager in community housing and not-for-profit organisations. In 2013, Rob established the community and affordable housing operations for Salvos Housing Australia across NSW and went on to expand operations to Queensland and the ACT, prior to his role at Anglicare.



CHERI ERAI-COLLINS**Treasurer****B Sc (Finance)**

Cheri is the State Manager at Salvos Housing NSW | QLD | ACT. She works with the senior leadership teams on strategy and business development at Salvation Army Australia and with external partners on new programs and property projects. Cheri is an experienced accountant with almost 15 years working in the Community and Not-for-profit sectors in the UK and Australia.

Her most recent accomplishment is the delivery of the Chermside Salvation Army Complex – a powerful partnership with a \$5.5 million donation from philanthropist Doug Corey through his charity, the Corey Charitable Foundation offering affordable accommodation to applicants who had been sleeping rough.

**LISA ELLIS****Public Officer****B Arts (Community Development)**

Lisa is the Head of Community Housing for Wesley Mission, managing a portfolio of housing which includes crisis accommodation and transitional housing, through to social and affordable housing. She has over 14 years' experience working in Not-for-profit and government organisations including community housing, health services (cancer control and prevention), disabilities and aged care.

Her roles have focussed on operational management, tenancy management, community engagement, quality assurance and risk management. Her approach includes providing community housing with a whole-of-person mindset, rather than a transactional real estate model.

**SIMON FURNESS GAICD****BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering, MBA**

Simon is a member of Uniting's Executive Leadership Team as Director of Property and Housing. He is responsible for the development and life-cycle management of Uniting's large property portfolio which supports the delivery of a wide range of aged care, disability, children and family services across NSW and ACT. He is also responsible for the operation and performance of Uniting's housing services across its 89 villages.

In his earlier career, Simon worked in a range of blue-chip corporations and government authorities whose success depended heavily on infrastructure and property assets. He has enjoyed opportunities that transform property portfolios to improve business performance and create value. His early career was as a British Officer in the Royal Engineers and later the Royal Australian Engineers.

**MARK KHOO FAPI****B Laws (Hons) First Class**

Mark is the Co-Founder and current CEO of WelcomeMat – Australia's first bespoke tenant-matching platform for affordable rental housing. He was a Property Partner at The Salvation Army's award-winning social enterprise law firm, Salvos Legal for over six years, and a senior lawyer working across top-tier national law firms for over nine years prior.

Mark had the privilege of being appointed as an Associate to Justice Murray Wilcox at the Federal Court of Australia and served on the Law Society of NSW's Diversity & Inclusion Committee for three years. Mark is a Fellow of the Australian Property Institute (API) under its Property Leaders Program.

**MARK NUTTING****B Arch (Architecture), MTP (Town and Country Planning)**

Mark has had a long career in the NSW Government advising on housing policy, strategic resource allocation and service improvement. As a former senior officer in the Department of Family and Community Services (and its many iterations), he led the design phase of the housing common access project that is now known as Housing Pathways. He has led housing and homelessness policy reforms, inter-government negotiations, research and funding of social and affordable housing programs.

Mark began his career in community housing helping to establish the Eastern Suburbs Rental Housing Association (now a part of Bridge Housing) in 1983. He is currently the Strategic Planning Manager of the Southern Regional of Councils undertaking advocacy and policy work on behalf of member councils.

**THE HON GRAHAM WEST****B Comm (Management Studies), B IT (Information Technology),
M International Studies with Merit (Human Rights, Public Policy)**

Graham is the CEO of Amelie Housing and St Vincent de Paul Housing. With over 25 years' experience in the NFP and Government sectors as a CEO, Government Minister, Member of Parliament, Board Member and Chair, Graham has a proven track record of achieving transformative outcomes in the social sector, leading and championing change, and advocating for greater investment in social housing and homelessness support services.

He established the End Street Sleeping Collaboration, negotiating an international agreement with NGOs, NSW Government, City of Sydney and the Institute of Global Homelessness to halve street homelessness across NSW by 2025.



Meet the Team

ROSE THOMSON

Chief Executive Officer

AD Arts (Org. Training & Devpt), M Lead (Change Leadership),
Harvard Leadership Program

Rose worked in the higher education sector for 16 years, which culminated in a global role as Director of External Relations at the University of Newcastle (UON).

After ten years at UON, she helped establish the Institute of Civil Infrastructure as Director of Professional Programs for the peak body, the Civil Contractors Federation.

She has considerable senior leadership experience, a proven capacity to work and deliver outcomes in complex and challenging environments and an impressive track record of high-level stakeholder engagement and advocacy on a state, national and international level.



AMANDA BAILEY

Head of Communications and Engagement

Grad Cert (Public Health), MBA

Amanda is an accomplished public affairs executive across strategic communications, public relations and stakeholder engagement. She has more than ten years' experience delivering highly successful campaigns in both the corporate and not-for-profit sectors, focusing on social impact and advocacy.

Amanda led the team to develop Wesley Mission's renewed advocacy strategy, enabling collaborations from service experts and voices of lived experience to launch the 'Put Pokies in Their Place' platform. From a standing start, poker machine reform became a major election issue in the 2023 NSW State Election, with the campaign receiving more than 2,000 pieces of earned media coverage, an estimated reach of more than two billion and leading to significant philanthropic contributions.



DR LIESEL HENN

Policy and Planning Lead

B Com Economics (Cum Laude); M Com Economics; PhD, Public Economics

Liesel is a seasoned global management consultant in both the public and private sectors specialising in strategy and policy formulation, best practice research, stakeholder engagement and driving measurable project results.

She has nearly 30 years of professional experience in Australia, Africa and the United States, managing strategic projects at big four consulting firm Deloitte. She has held senior policy influence and advocacy roles in peak membership organisations.

Liesel teaches in the business school at Western Sydney University and works one day per week with FHA.



KATHY GOODFELLOW

Finance Officer

Assoc Dip Accounting; Grad Cert Commerce

Kathy is a fellow of the Institute of Professional Accountants and is the longest-serving member of the team with ten years' service. She has worked in the not-for-profit sector throughout her career. Kathy works with FHA one day a week.



RAF RAYOS

Administration Officer

B Sc (Legal Management)

Raf completed the Sydney Alliance Internship Program in 2020, where he was part of the team that organised the Oz International Students' Hub - the only grassroots-based hub in New South Wales developed for and by international students.

His advocacy-based, not-for-profit work continued in 2021 at Parramatta Young Christian Workers as Youth Engagement Officer. He now assists the CEO across all portfolios.



BRIAN MURNANE

FHA Ambassador

Brian Murnane is one of the great housing advocates who helped establish Churches Community Housing in the 1990s - what was to later become Churches Housing and is now Faith Housing Alliance.

Since that time, Brian has continued to play a central role with our organisation, serving on the Board for decades and as Board Chair from 2011 to 2015. He continued his service on the Board until January 2022 and now continues his support as our first Ambassador.

Brian has dedicated much of his life to improving housing services and outcomes for our community's most vulnerable and has played an instrumental role in shaping the community housing sector over the last 40 years.

We are very grateful for his long contribution and ongoing work with Faith Housing Alliance.



FINANCIAL REPORT

Assets, Liabilities and Members' Funds

CURRENT ASSETS	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Cash and Cash Equivalents	104,315.49	120,982.28
Others	6,134.98	6,519.53
Trade and Other Receivables	2,750.00	-
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	113,200.47	127,501.81
NON-CURRENT ASSETS	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Plant & Equipment	11,391.13	13,538.56
Right-of-use Assets	5,847.00	22,623.00
Financial Assets	1,000.00	10,000.00
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	18,238.13	46,161.56
TOTAL ASSETS	131,438.60	173,663.37
CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Lease Liabilities	6,369	17,136.00
Other Payables	38,826.48	26,941.09
Contract Liabilities	-	-
Provisions	4,506.43	4,048.51
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	49,701.91	48,125.60
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Lease Liabilities	-	5,953.00
Provisions	-	-
TOTAL LIABILITIES	49,701.91	54,078.60
NET ASSETS	49,701.91	54,078.60
MEMBER FUNDS	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Retained Profits/(Losses)	81,736.69	119,584.77
TOTAL MEMBERS' FUND	81,736.69	119,584.77

FINANCIAL REPORT

Income and Expenditure

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

INCOME	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Government Grants Received (Recurrent)	353,643.51	335,207.12
Other Grants Received	25,480	27,000.00
Interest Income	1,079.68	32.45
Membership Fees Income	13,550	-
Fee for Service Income	-	5,392.50
TOTAL INCOME	393,753.19	367,632.00
EXPENDITURE	2023 (\$)	2022 (\$)
Conferences and Meetings	8,672.92	8,024.48
Contractors and Consultants	18,950	5,300
Depreciation and Impairment	31,369.70	34,295.62
Marketing and Campaigns	32,585	29,060
Projects and Research	-	7,045.45
Property and Office	14,634.35	16,628.56
Salaries and Wages	279,219.26	216,084.40
Softwares Platforms and Website	29,315.92	34,627.79
Other	16,854.12	16,803.84
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	431,601.27	367,870.14
PROFIT/(LOSS) ATTRIBUTABLE TO MEMBERS OF THE ENTITY	-37,848.08	-238.07

Independent Auditor's Report

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Churches Housing Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2023, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the statement by committee of management.

In our opinion, the financial report of Churches Housing Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including;

- a. Giving a true and fair view of the associations financial position as at 30 June, 2023 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- b. Complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report.

We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling Churches Housing Incorporated's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of the Committee of Management for the Financial Report

The committee of management of Churches Housing Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee of managements' responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee of management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee of management is responsible for assessing Churches Housing Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee of management either intend to liquidate Churches Housing Incorporated or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- a. Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- b. Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- c. Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee of management.

- d. Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee of Managements' use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- e. Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee of management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



THOMAS DAVIS & CO



J.G. RYAN | PARTNER

**Chartered Accountants
Sydney 2023**

Statement by the Committee of Management

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2023

The Committee of Management of the Association has determined that these financial statements are special purpose financial statements prepared in accordance with the accounting policies outlined in Note 1 to the accounts.


In the opinion of the Committee of Management of Churches Housing Incorporated (the Association):

- a. The accompanying Statement of Profit or Loss and Other Comprehensive Income gives a true and fair view of the surplus/ (deficit) of the Association for the year ended 30 June 2023;
- b. The accompanying Statement of Financial Position gives a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the Association as at that date;
- c. At the date of this statement, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable; and
- d. The financial statements have satisfied the requirements of the ACNC Act.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Committee and is signed in accordance with subsection 60.15(2) of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2013.



ROB BURNELEK
Immediate Past Board Chair



CHERI ERAI-COLLINS
Treasurer



“Alone, we can do so little; together, we can do so much”

Helen Keller

“Home is a shelter from storms – all sorts of storms.”

William J. Bennett



“The greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members.”


Coretta Scott King

(Top to bottom) 1. FHA Chair Rob Stokes, BaptistCare General Manager of Community Services and Community Housing Robyn Evans, FHA CEO Rose Thomson and BaptistCare CEO Charles Moore at the opening of Gimbawali Place, Carlingford. 2. Uniting NSW.ACT’s Foyer Central residents painting the onsite mural ‘Realise Your Dreams’. 3. Hajeh Maha Krayem Abdo OAM and FHA CEO Rose Thomson at Muslim Women Australia’s community HQ.



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