



# Creating Change

Strategy 2025 - 2029



FAITH  
HOUSING  
AUSTRALIA

This land was, and always will be,  
Aboriginal land.

Faith Housing Australia respects the deep  
connection and sovereignty that Aboriginal and  
Torres Strait Islander Peoples have to Country.

We acknowledge this land as home, holding places  
of profound cultural significance, rich history and  
enduring relationships.



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*Front Cover image: Fresh Hope Communities' Pendle Hill project envisions an intergenerational community providing seniors living, residential care, affordable housing and community.*



**Untitled Landscape 2015 – Sumi Ink on Arches Paper  
by Artist Nicole Chaffey**

Nicole Chaffey is a descendant of the Gadigal and Biripi peoples of Eastern New South Wales. She has been living on Awabakal lands for the last 24 years.

Chaffey is an award-winning Australian Aboriginal Artist. Her abstracted landscapes are explorations of identity, culture and storytelling.

While her work is constrained within the stylistic conventions of European Painting, the visual connection to Aboriginality lies within the subject matter, which is the relationship to the Australian landscape.

Chaffey completed a Masters of Philosophy at the Wollotuka Institute, the University of Newcastle in 2015. She is currently the Murrook Curator Director at the Murrook Culture Centre. To view more of her work, please see [www.nicolechaffey.com/portfolio](http://www.nicolechaffey.com/portfolio)

## | An Unseen Pillar

**Imagine a world** where the faith sector withdrew its social service programs, community housing, schools, hospitals and advocacy. The impact would be profound.

Faith communities and organisations fill critical gaps, supporting people who might otherwise be overlooked. Their absence would overwhelm government resources, forcing public agencies to scramble to fill the void. Communities would feel the loss deeply.

Without the faith sector, many would lose access to essential support systems. Public services would buckle under strain, leading to longer wait times, reduced quality of care, and higher costs for taxpayers.

The sense of community and belonging fostered by faith-based initiatives would vanish, leaving a void in our social fabric. These organisations do more than provide material aid; they create spaces for connection and mutual support.

Recognising the invaluable contributions of the faith sector, it's clear that their continued presence is vital for the health and resilience of our society.

**“As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”**

**Nelson Mandela**

*Images, Right: (top to bottom) Wesley Community Housing tenant Kelly and son. Residents and family of the Lac Viet Housing Co-operative celebrate the opening of their homes designed by Stanton Dahl Architects. Hume Community Housing customer Frederick.*

Our members provide homes for

# 62,700

people across the housing continuum



In nearly

# 50,000

dwelling across urban, suburban and regional Australia



Plus support for

# 83,800

clients through specialist homelessness services





# Creating Change

As Australia faces a national housing emergency, the role of the faith sector in housing provision is more crucial than ever. The Creating Change 2025 - 2029 Strategy is a collaborative effort to address pressing challenges in housing and social services.

At Faith Housing Australia, transformational change is guided by compassion, grace, and respect for human dignity. Our unwavering commitment to social and housing justice ensures everyone deserves a safe, secure, and affordable home.



**The Hon Rob Stokes**  
Chair



**Rose Thomson**  
CEO



As a peak body for the faith housing sector in Australia, we aspire to build a Centre for Excellence for all those interested in social and housing justice.



*“We can start with housing, the sturdiest of footholds for economic mobility. A national affordable housing program would be an anti-poverty effort, human capital investment, community improvement plan, and public health initiative all rolled into one.”*

**Professor Matthew Desmond**  
Maurice P. During Professor of Sociology, Princeton University

Our diverse faith traditions call us to care for the marginalised and provide sanctuary for people experiencing homelessness. Our faith calls us to step up in times of crisis. Not to look on, or look away, or criticize from the sidelines, but to intervene with our resources, our ingenuity and our passion to help governments solve shared social challenges.

As a peak body, we act as a catalyst for change - fostering creative collaborations and partnerships both between our members and beyond. We envision a future where homelessness is eradicated, housing insecurity is a thing of the past, and communities flourish.

Guided by our values and vision, let this strategy be a beacon of hope, creating a more just, compassionate, and inclusive society for all Australians. Join us on this transformative journey.



**Images, Left:** (left to right, top to bottom) Good Housing resident Tracey with CEO Antony Anisse. Mission Australia's Youth Foyer Townsville. Homes NSW CEO Rebecca Pinkstone connecting with Jewish House CEO Rabbi Mendel Kastel. St Vincent de Paul Society Housing Australia's Burreaneer SAHF homes. Seniors housing in Cabramatta designed by Stanton Dahl Architects. Mission Australia CEO Sharon Callister, Minister Rose Jackson and others cut the ribbon on Midtown Macquarie Park. BaptistCare's Gimbawali Place in Carlingford. Salvation Army Housing CEO Chris Karagiannis and Officers open new homes at Ingle Farm.

# | The Change We Want To See

Throughout 2024, the Board and members of Faith Housing Australia have engaged in extensive consultations. These discussions have shaped the following priorities of our Creating Change 2025-2029 Strategy.

## Imagining the future...

1. Housing is upheld as a human right
2. Transformed lives by providing all with a safe, secure and affordable home
3. Structural inequality is addressed by improving the physical, social, emotional and spiritual health of our communities
4. Faith-based Community Housing Providers are recognised, well-funded and their impact is evidenced in research
5. Partnerships between government, public and not-for-profit sectors effectively leverage resources, knowledge and expertise to successfully address the housing crisis
6. Faith communities are recognised as places of belonging, connection and joy – especially for people on the margins
7. Places of worship recognised as critical social infrastructure, with homes connected to faith communities valued for their social capital
8. Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples in need of housing have access to safe, secure, affordable and culturally relevant homes
9. Australia is an international leader in homelessness prevention and housing justice.

## To realise this change...

1. Faith leaders champion housing justice with unwavering commitment
2. Faith groups mobilise for action, driven by compassion and social justice
3. Faith communities steward resources, repurposing underutilised land and assets to meet housing needs
4. Faith-based Community Housing Providers expand across Australia, delivering homes and holistic support
5. Organisations share knowledge and expertise, forming partnerships to scale housing solutions
6. Governments reform policy and legislation, delivering significant and sustained investment to fix our broken housing system
7. Philanthropists act as catalysts, providing seed funding for innovation and change
8. Investors unlock housing projects and initiatives nationwide
9. People across Australia unite in a movement for housing justice, amplifying the voices of people most in need.

# Our Vision and Values

## Vision

Faith in action - homes for all

## Values

Committed to a lived expression of our shared values



### Social Justice

Pursuing what is fair, equitable and inclusive, and considering the rights and aspirations of others.



### Compassion

Responding with grace, kindness, and concern, to serve and help others.



### Respect

Believing in the richness of diversity and the right of the individual to be heard and treated with dignity.



### Integrity

Being honest, transparent, reliable and accountable within our membership and broader collaborations.

***Faith Housing Australia - in pursuit of housing justice***

# Our Key Priorities

**CHAMPIONING  
HOUSING  
JUSTICE**

**CONNECTING  
FOR  
IMPACT**



**CATALYSING  
CHANGE**

*Image: Uniting NSW.ACT Bowden Brae Normanhurst Affordable Housing.*

# CHAMPIONING HOUSING JUSTICE

## Strategic goal

**Amplify** our strong, consistent voice, advocating for homes for all.

## FHA's role

As an **advocate**, we will champion bold, courageous and equitable change.

## Lead strategies

1. Advocate for a holistic human rights framework for housing.
2. Demonstrate the value of the faith housing sector to meet housing needs across the continuum.
3. Influence policy direction to deliver a thriving housing system and conditions for sector growth.
4. Promote diversity and inclusion, prioritising marginalised and vulnerable populations and addressing systemic inequities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

*Images, Faith in action: (left to right) Fresh Hope Communities' Nightingale Marrickville. Salvation Army Housing breaks ground in Toowoomba and Chermside Affordable Housing. Anglicare Sydney's Port Kembla Social Housing opened by CEO Simon Miller. Good Housing's Tahmoor Specialist Disability Accommodation. Mission Australia's Midtown Macquarie Park. Muslim Women Australia CEO Maha Abdo takes FHA team through Mawaddah Village. St Agnes' Care and Lifestyle's Emmaus dementia village. Fresh Hope Communities' CEO Dan Dwyer and dignitaries open Marrickville Affordable Housing.*



# CONNECTING FOR IMPACT

## Strategic goal

**Harness** the unified power of a diverse membership to build capacity and leverage collective wisdom and resources.

## FHA's role

As an **incubator**, we will accelerate the growth and work of our members.

*Images, Membership connections: (left to right) Minister Rose Jackson and BaptistCare CEO Charles Moore with group. Members attend Vertical Villages research launch. Uniting NSW.ACT's Simon Furness at our CEO Breakfast. Jewish House CEO Mendel Kastel. Habitat for Humanity Australia's Paul Mulroney celebrates the opening of Wirrawee Gunya Dharruk. Mission Australia CEO Sharon Callister and Tone Wheeler, Principal of Enviro Studio. Anglicare Sydney Housing Team led by Rob Burnelek. Muslim Women Australia CEO Maha Abdo. Mark Nutting in conversation at FHA AGM.*

## Lead strategies

1. Grow the faith housing sector through knowledge exchange, innovation and best practice.
2. Commission research and develop models from practitioner-based evidence to improve service effectiveness.
3. Convene opportunities for dynamic member partnerships and consortia to sharpen capability and outcomes.
4. Engage faith communities and provide expertise to revitalise underutilised land and assets for community benefit, including housing and services to support residents.





# CATALYSING CHANGE

## Strategic goal

**Advance** collaborations to deliver housing at scale and solutions to break cycles of homelessness and poverty.

## FHA's role

As a **catalyst**, we will drive system-level change and unlock new horizons.

## Lead strategies

1. Attract and mobilise resources from diverse sources, including governments and agencies, philanthropic funders and private sector partners.
2. Initiate and coordinate projects and pilot programs that remove barriers to housing delivery and demonstrate replicability.
3. Build effective coalitions to shape a more collaborative, informed and sustainable housing sector.
4. Establish evaluation frameworks to track progress and ensure accountability, raising the reputation of the faith housing sector.

*Images, Member Project Pipeline: (left to right) Gunyah Masterplan Dubbo by Marra + Yeh Architects. Northsea by Traders in Purple. Habourside by Scalabrini. Carlingford Seniors by BaptistCare. Pendle Hill Intergenerational Community by Fresh Hope Communities. Charlestown by Uniting NSW.ACT. Jasmine and Jacaranda by Good Housing. Canvas Bonnyrigg by Traders in Purple. Raymond Terrace by Hume Community Housing.*



# The FHA Housing Continuum

The housing continuum ranges from homelessness to home ownership, distinguished by varying degrees of security of tenure and assistance at each stage.

A well-functioning housing continuum would be in balance, and necessary interventions would ensure appropriate homes and supports at all points to meet the community's needs.

Faith Housing Australia's members are meeting housing needs across this continuum, partnering with all levels of government, private financiers, and property developers to deliver much-needed homes.

Faith-based organisations are leaders in specialist homelessness services, disability supports, out-of-home care (foster care), support at home (home care), aged care, and retirement living. They also provide emergency relief and informal support to prevent homelessness, with a local presence in communities across Australia.

# A Rich Legacy

The history of housing and homelessness services in NSW stretches back over 200 years, beginning in 1815 with Wesley Mission. Mission Australia's journey started in 1862 when Benjamin Short, moved by the poverty he saw, founded the Sydney City Mission to offer a range of services for disadvantaged individuals.

In 1952, the Scalabrinians arrived to support migrant communities making Australia their home. Muslim Women Australia, representing more than 72 ethnicities, has proudly reached its 40-year milestone. Jewish House has just celebrated 40 years too.

BaptistCare has marked 80 years of dedicated service, The Salvation Army Australia over 144 years, and the St Vincent de Paul Society Australia an impressive 170 years. These are just a few examples of the enduring commitment to people in need.

We stand on the shoulders of those who have come before us, continuing their legacy with unwavering dedication for the long haul.





# FAITH HOUSING AUSTRALIA

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