2023-2026 STRATEGIC PLAN

4 step process to developing our Strategic Plan

Development of this Strategic Plan included background information, contributions and depth of knowledge through

Managers Meetings

Inputs from CHN Southern member house Manager meetings and anecdotal feedback from cluster meetings and Networker visits

Governance Committee Workshops

Intensive workshop with all Governance Committee reviewing feedback and resources

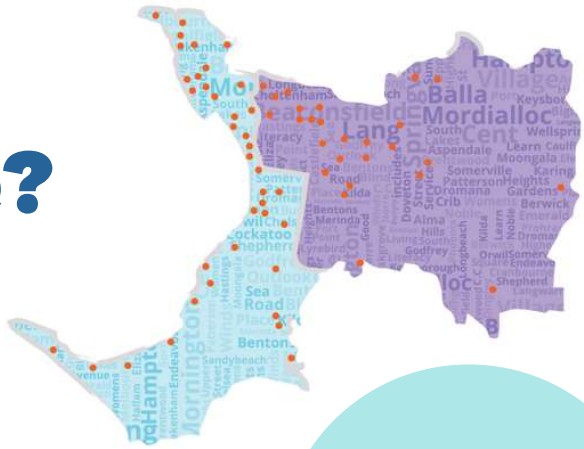
Stakeholder Interviews

Interviews conducted with key stakeholders

Environmental Scan

Scan of current approaches and issues

CHNS Who we are?



Community House Network Southern (CHNS) is one of 16 Regional Networks in Victoria

CHNS members are all NHCP funded houses and centres

CHNS is the largest network servicing Victoria

CHNS Committee of Governance are voted in representatives from the 72 member Houses

8 Neighbourhood House cluster groups represent the 10 LGA's

CHNS covers 10 local government areas (LGA's) all with different funding and project approaches for NHCP funding

There are 400+ Neighbourhood/ Community Houses across Victoria

16 Regional Networks

- **Community House Network Southern**
- Central Highlands Association of Neighbourhood Houses
- Community Houses Association of Outer Eastern Suburbs
- East Gippsland Network of Neighbourhood Houses
- Goulburn North East Association of Community Centres
- Mallee Neighbourhood House Network
- Neighbourhood House Gippsland
- Neighbourhood House Barwon
- Network of Inner East Community Houses
- North East Network
- Network West
- Regional Association for Neighbourhood Houses and Community Houses
- South West Neighbourhood House Network
- Upper Murray Regional Neighbourhood House Network
- Wimmera West Grampians Neighbourhood House Collective

Networks range is size from 229.5km2 in Melbourne's inner north to 40,049 sq kms in the Mallee. The number of Houses range from 7 in SouthWest to 72 in Southern Region. Neighbourhood House Networks connect Houses and local communities at a regional level and work collaboratively with DFFH, Local and State Governments & NHVic

Regional Networks Purpose and Funding

Networks play a strategic consultative role as a result of their extensive knowledge of the Neighbourhood Houses(NH's) in their region and come together with Neighbourhood Houses Victoria (NHVic) to work collaboratively on developmental strategies for the whole sector.

Purpose is to facilitate

- Regional collaboration on issues, needs and projects
- Individual support and resourcing to Houses
- Representation and advocacy on Regional issues and needs to Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, Local and State Governments
- Early identification and support of NH's experiencing difficulty

The range and priority of services undertaken by Networks is directed by their membership and includes:

- Service and Program Planning/development
- Community Development Practices
- Governance, Management and Resourcing

Funding

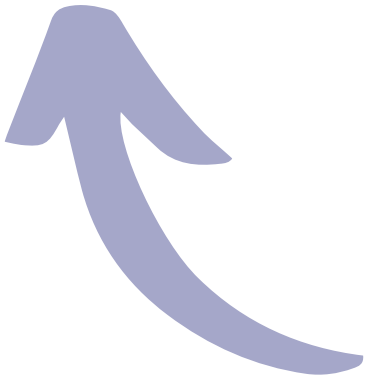
The DFFH provides recurrent core funding for Network activity through the NHCP, based on a formula relating to the number of Houses and their location.

- CHNS is a legally Incorporated Association in the Victoria Southern Region.
- CHNS members are only Neighbourhood Houses who are in receipt of NHCP funding.
- CHNS employs two part time Network Managers to carry out the operations of the Association.

Our Values and Principles

Our values are aligned with the expectations of funding bodies including:

- Responsiveness
- Integrity
- Impartiality
- Accountability
- Respect
- Leadership



Our principals are aligned with the Neighbourhood House sector:

- Community ownership
- Community participation
- Empowerment
- Access and equity
- Lifelong learning
- Inclusion
- Networking
- Advocacy
- Self help
- Social action

Mission - Vision - Goals

Our Goals

Strategic Direction: A Leader in Networking and Building Healthy and Engaged Communities

Goal 1 **Build an awareness of and identity for CHNS as a network that strengthens the values of Neighbourhood Houses**

- Build a strong brand for CHNS that is valued in the community and the sector
- Collaboratively work with regional networks to build awareness of the vital role Networks play in the Neighbourhood House sector
- Maintain a strategic consultative role with stakeholders

Goal 2 **Build and facilitate collaborative partnerships to support CHNS goals**

- Develop and implement a stakeholder strategy to ensure regular and effective engagement
- Consult with other partners in regards to important issues and/or opportunities

Goal 3 **Foster and deliver quality member engagement, training and support**

- Analyse trends to be proactive in delivering support and training
- Research and deliver evidence-based training and resources
- Strengthen active involvement in membership of CHNS

Our Goals

Strategic Direction: An Outstanding Organisation

Goal 4 Develop Sustainable Systems and Practices

- Improve access of resources and materials for members
- Establish effective partnerships for delivery of training and materials
- Maintain and improve quality and currency of databases, website and communications

Goal 5 Build Stable and Diversified Financial Capacity

- Gain and maintain sufficient resources for delivery of CHNS mission and strategy
- Research and coordinate alternate funding opportunities for network members
- Establish member groups to identify asset-based opportunities/training for the membership

Goal 6 Support and Develop Our People

- Review CHNS Governance including roles, skills and terms
- Review CHNS Constitution in line with revised Neighbourhood House Guidelines and the CHNS Strategy
- Define roles of Network Managers and hours required to deliver strategic targets
- Clarify roles of DFFH and NHVIC and requirements
- Provide training and support for CHNS Network Managers and Committee of Governance in accordance with the requirement of their roles