



# COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT AUSTRALIA

## Terms of Reference

### Community Development Australia – Community Housing Provider (CHP) Network

August 2024

**Purpose:** Community Development Australia (CDA) is a national network of Community Development (CD) practitioners and stakeholders committed to advancing the quality of life of people living in community housing. By sharing practice wisdom, insights, evidence and expertise in CD theory and practice, CDA aims to influence future practices and foster meaningful collaboration across the sector.

**Overview:** CDA recognises the critical role of Community Housing Providers (CHPs) in fostering thriving communities and reducing social inequalities. CHPs are essential to affordable and social housing, encompassing responsibilities such as housing provision, management, tenant support, amplifying tenant voice, building partnerships, advocacy, and community development initiatives.

**Community Development within CHP Context:** Intentional activities within CHPs are designed to improve resident wellbeing, including community building, engagement, capacity building, cultural programs, safety initiatives, sustainability, impact measurement, health programs, services, and advocacy. Consideration given to context related to Tiers, operating environment and organisational capacity.

**Objectives:** Identify and respond to sector needs, offering capacity-building support through education and advocacy.

**Governance:** A Steering Committee oversees leadership, governance, strategic initiatives, advocacy, membership coordination, and strategic direction. CHIA represents community housing for broader sector representation.

**Participants:** Open membership for CHPs and collaborators involved in intentional and collaborative activities, including tenant engagement initiatives.

**Governance Structure:** The Steering Committee sets agendas, participates in planning, and reviews the network's remit.

**Meeting Frequency:** Meetings are held online every six weeks, with additional meetings for specific projects.

**Communication Plan:** Meetings are minuted or recorded, invitations sent via Microsoft Outlook with Teams links, agendas, minutes, and relevant resources. CDA webpage exists to strengthen and promote presence and brand conveying our mission, membership, contact details, history, projects, resources and other components as deemed appropriate.

**Costs and Fees/Dues:** No costs or fees for participating members or their organisations.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The Steering Committee surveys members to evaluate CDA network effectiveness. Findings are distributed and discussed among CDA network members.

**Reporting:** Produced reports are available to the CDA network and discussed.

**Review and Amendments:** The Terms of Reference reviewed annually in July.

**Steering Committee membership** (*alphabetical order at July 2024*):

- Wendy Hayhurst – CHIA National
- Maree McKenzie – CHIA NSW and Homes North
- Krystal Moores – Home in Place
- Steve Neale – Community Housing Limited
- Jesse Taylor (*Founding Coordinator*) – Mission Australia Housing
- Adam West – CHIA NSW