

Housing Connect 2.0 Communique

Update on Reform, December 2022

Since our last update:

- The Tasmanian Government's statutory housing authority Homes Tasmania commenced on 1 December 2022.
- The Housing Connect theory of change has been enhanced to better describe what improvements clients can expect from services.
- Work on the Housing Connect Portal is progressing including providing an information system that is easier to use and more efficient for clients and staff.

Homes Tasmania

Tasmania's new statutory housing authority, Homes Tasmania, officially commenced operations on 1 December 2022.

Homes Tasmania provides a dedicated focus on housing and homelessness services. It will increase the number of social and affordable homes and have a market-wide view of Tasmania's housing challenges and opportunities.

Homes Tasmania is governed by a skills-based Board, appointed by the Minister for Housing. The members of the Board are:

- Michele Adair, Chair
- Tim Gourlay, Board Director
- Daryl Lamb, Board Director
- Robert Pradolin, Board Director
- Alice Spizzo, Board Director
- Ellen Witte, Board Director.

You can read more about the Board members on the Homes Tasmania website, <https://www.homestasmania.com.au/about-us/About-Homes-Tasmania/Our-Board>

The independent chair of reform steering committee, Tracy Matthews will be meeting with the Board to discuss the reform with them and to provide a briefing on the progress to date.

Peter White has been appointed Acting Chief Executive Officer for Homes Tasmania. A national recruitment process for a CEO is currently underway, and the position is expected to be announced in early 2023.

Housing Connect theory of change

The Housing Connect theory of change provides the goals and outcomes of Housing Connect 2.0.

Since our last communicate, the project team has been reviewing the document to make it more user-friendly and to clearly describe the short-, medium- and long-term improvements that clients can expect from Housing Connect and specialist homelessness services.

The next stage of development is consultation with the community of practice working group to design the indicators and tools to measure improvements for clients. These will be incorporated into the new Housing Connect Portal.

Staffing model and position overviews

The Housing Connect Reform Steering Committee endorsed the Housing Connect 2.0 staffing model and position overviews at the November meeting.

The position overviews and staffing model were developed in consultation with the community of practice working group and will remain live documents that can be continually improved as the Housing Connect 2.0 practice framework develops.

The position overviews provide a guide for organisations about the roles and responsibilities of coaches and managers/leaders in Housing Connect 2.0. Position overviews will not replace position descriptions currently in place.

Housing Connect Portal

The Portal project team is developing one easy-to-use online form that consolidates all our housing application forms. This will make it much easier for people who need housing assistance to apply online and be more efficient for Housing Connect staff to manage.

People who need housing assistance will be able to see their applications details in one location with a dashboard format being developed for the Portal.

Social housing six-monthly reviews and applicants' change of circumstances processes are also in the Portal development pipeline.

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) has been briefed on the strategy to improve our data collection by developing a Tasmanian platform that can replace the Specialist Homelessness Information Platform (SHIP) system and have offered Homes Tasmania support during the transition process.

More information

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Belinda Jones at belinda.jones@homes.tas.gov.au

For more information on the Housing Connect 2.0, visit the Housing Connect website at <https://www.homes Tasmania.com.au/housing-and-homelessness/housing-connect>

*The project team wishes you a safe and happy holiday season.
We look forward to working with you in 2023.*