

COMMUNIQUE

March 2022



Update on Reform

So far in 2022, the Housing Connect Reform project has:

- *appointed a lead change manager to assist organisations move to Housing Connect 2.0*
- *continued to progress the selection process for a developer for the online portal.*

Housing Connect Grant Deeds extended

To support the transition to Housing Connect 2.0, the Department of Communities Tasmania will extend the current Housing Connect Front Door and Support service Grant Deeds for an additional 12 months until 30 June 2023.

This will provide funding certainty to support planning and ensure that Housing Connect can continue to provide services during the transition period.

This month the Tasmanian Government announced significant changes to departmental structures to deliver better services and outcomes for Tasmanians. This includes the creation of a housing authority including a new board, subject to the passage of legislation. We expect changes to begin from 1 July with the anticipated completion by the end of September 2022. After this time, the Department of Communities Tasmania will no longer exist. If applicable, we will be seeking legal advice on the transfer of all contract arrangements to the new housing authority and will provide updates when available.

Lead change manager

We are pleased to announce the recruitment of a change manager to support services transition to Housing Connect 2.0. Please welcome Louisa Vanderkruk who will start in the reform project team 28 March 2022.

Louisa has significant experience in change management and communications, including working for the Department of Education as a senior communications officer and project manager, and as the organisational change lead with the Department of Justice.



Online portal

Portal developer

The process to select a developer for the online portal is nearing completion.

The evaluation committee has selected a preferred proponent.

The procurement report will now be progressed through its approval processes.

Portal working group

The inaugural meeting of the Housing Connect portal working group was held on 1 March 2022 and will continue to meet regularly over the coming months.

The working group will help the project team design the portal content for phase one, ensuring it is easy to navigate for users.

Phase one is due to commence by the end of 2022.

Community of practice

The community of practice working group has reconvened for the year and is meeting monthly in 2022.

The working group will focus on progressing four key streams of work:

- practice framework - including practice tool development, and trialling, refining and informing content development for the practice framework
- workforce development – informing the development of the Housing Connect 2.0 induction training package, under the direction of the workforce transition working group
- Housing Connect 2.0 partnerships – mapping and establishing partnerships for governance and operations and
- monitoring and evaluation – developing the monitoring tool to enable an action research approach for Housing Connect 2.0.

More information

If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Belinda Jones at belinda.jones1@communities.tas.gov.au

For more information on the Housing Connect Reform, visit the Housing Connect website at www.communities.tas.gov.au/housing/housing-connect