

COMMUNIQUE

November 2022



Update on Reform

Since our last update:

- *The Tasmanian Government has established a statutory housing authority. Homes Tasmania will commence on 1 December 2022.*
- *More opportunities to improve Housing Connect 2.0 have been identified which will change the implementation timeframes.*
- *Local software development company Geometry has been contracted to develop the Housing Connect Portal and a new information platform will be developed.*

Homes Tasmania

Tasmania's new statutory housing authority, Homes Tasmania, will commence on 1 December 2022.

Homes Tasmania will be governed by a skills-based Board, appointed by the Minister for Housing.

The Homes Tasmania Board under the Ministerial Statement of Expectations, must prepare a corporate plan each year (covering a three-year outlook), outlining:

- the Authority's objectives, policies and programs
- the strategies and targets for achieving those objectives and
- the Authority's financial plans.

It is essential that the Homes Tasmania Board is appropriately briefed on Housing Connect 2.0 and satisfy themselves with the scope of the proposed reform including assessing potential opportunities to improve outcomes for Tasmanians who need housing support and assistance.



Improving Housing Connect 2.0

Recent advice has shown that the scope of the Housing Connect portal can be expanded so that one system can provide assistance to clients while also collecting our national data requirements.

This improvement will fundamentally improve our effectiveness and efficiency working with clients.

The Housing Connect Steering Committee has supported a 12-month extension to implement Housing Connect 2.0 from 1 July 2023 to 1 July 2024 to:

- establish the governance for Homes Tasmania
- expand the scope of the Housing Connect Portal so that it incorporates national data requirements and can provide a more user-friendly system to replace the Specialist Housing Information Platform (SHIP).

To align with these new opportunities, the Request for Grant Proposals will now be released in 2023.

Existing Grant Deeds will be extended with indexation for another 12-months (2023-24).

The Housing Connect Reform project team will work with organisations to progress the workforce transition plan in the interim.

Housing Connect Portal

Tasmanian software development company Geometry joined the Portal team in July 2022. Work on the portal development is progressing well with valuable input on the design from the portal working group.

The working group includes members from the Housing Connect Front Door, Housing Connect Support and crisis/transitional accommodation providers, Brotherhood of St Laurence, the soon to be Homes Tasmania and Geometry.

Extending the implementation timeframe of Housing Connect 2.0 creates an exciting opportunity for the portal development.

The newly built Housing Connect information platform will deliver a tailor made, single technology solution across Housing Connect 2.0. The new system will be a simplified, intuitive and efficient system that includes:

- the Housing Connect portal (Client)
- the Housing Connect information platform (Worker)
- a direct feed to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW)
- the decommissioning of SHIP.

Workforce Induction Training Package E-Modules

The Housing Connect Steering Committee has endorsed the outline of the induction training package.



The outline for the e-modules has been developed by the Brotherhood of St Laurence in consultation with the community of practice working group and the project team. The e-module training package for workers will cover the context, practice approach and benefits that Housing Connect 2.0 will deliver to Tasmanians.

The next step is to engage a developer to build and deploy the training package. A preferred supplier has been selected and contract negotiations will commence shortly.

Staffing Model and Position Overviews

The Housing Connect 2.0 Steering Committee has endorsed the staffing model and position overviews.

These documents provide an overview of the staffing structure and roles and responsibilities of Housing Connect 2.0.

Members of the community of practice working group provided detailed feedback on the initial drafts, and their feedback was used to refine the documents.

The staffing model and position overviews will remain live documents that will be continually improved as the practice framework for Housing Connect 2.0 is developed.

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 2.0, visit the Housing Connect website at www.communities.tas.gov.au/housing/housing-connect