



Australian Government



Housing Australia

Statement of Intent for Housing Australia

This 2024 Statement of Intent (Statement) responds to the 2024 Statement of Expectations which outlines the Government's key priorities and objectives for Housing Australia.

In providing this Statement, Housing Australia acknowledges the functions, powers, activities and governance arrangements of Housing Australia as set out under the *Housing Australia Act 2018* (Housing Australia Act) and the *Housing Australia Investment Mandate Direction 2018* (Investment Mandate), as well as Housing Australia's independence as a corporate Commonwealth entity.

The purpose of Housing Australia is to improve housing outcomes by helping more Australians to access affordable, safe and secure housing.

Housing Australia plays a key role as the Government's national housing authority. Housing Australia lends monies and provides grants to help finance social and affordable housing, including the critical infrastructure needed to unlock and accelerate new housing supply to deliver key Government housing programs. It does this through a number of programs: the Affordable Housing Bond Aggregator (AHBA); the National Housing Infrastructure Facility (NHIF); the Housing Australia Future Fund Facility (HAFFF); and the National Housing Accord Facility (NHAF). Housing Australia's Capacity Building Program also supports eligible community housing providers (CHPs) with access to business advisory services and other assistance in capacity building in significant part to support these CHPs to successfully access the above programs.

Housing Australia will demonstrate delivery against the Statement of Expectations and take into account the Government's policy priorities and objectives in the performance of its statutory role by:

- continuing to embed and sustain a culture of accountability, including through ensuring the Accountable Authority Instructions, the risk management framework and training on it are fit for purpose.
- continuing to meet and comply with accountability, management, performance and reporting requirements specified in the *Public Governance, Performance and Accountability Act 2013* (PGPA Act) and reporting obligations outlined through the Investment Mandate, Housing Australia Act, PGPA Act and the Statement of Expectations.
- managing financial matters with care and diligence in accordance with the applicable obligations of the PGPA Act and the Housing Australia Act.
- engaging collaboratively and regularly with the responsible Minister's Office, Treasury and other government stakeholders (including the Minister for Finance and the Department of Finance from 1 July 2024 through the Special Investment Vehicle (SIV) joint responsibility initiative). Housing Australia will also provide timely information to the above stakeholders, as relevant, in relation to its significant activities, events or issues in such a manner as to ensure the Government is able to fulfil its accountability to the Parliament and the community.



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- remaining disciplined, agile and flexible in design and delivery to implement Government housing programs effectively and efficiently. Housing Australia has demonstrated this through the delivery of the Regional First Home Buyer Guarantee three months ahead of schedule and the opening of the first round of the HAFFB and NHAF 38 days after the Investment Mandate registration. The design of the HAFFB and the NHAF balance multiple policy objectives and the program strategy will continue to be refined over the five-year roll-out to deliver on the Government's program objectives.
- working with the private sector, CHPs and all levels of Government to encourage private sector participation in financing social and affordable housing projects and contribute to the development of the scale, efficiency and effectiveness of the community housing sector in Australia.
- making reasonable efforts to facilitate equitable support across Australia (including in regional, rural and remote areas). This will include identifying, in each State and Territory entities that may be assisted or benefited by being provided finance under Housing Australia's social and affordable housing programs and promoting programs to those entities.
- continuing to administer home ownership programs in a manner that supports ongoing integrity, equity and transparency.
- reviewing on a regular basis its governance and policy suite so that all policies including the Accountable Authority Instructions and the risk management framework are fit for purpose and support accountability and integrity across decision-making and practices.
- maintaining up to date matrixes of the Board and management's skills mix. The skills matrixes will be periodically reviewed to ensure Housing Australia has the appropriate skills and expertise to administer its programs. A current skills matrix for the Board was provided to the Minister in April 2024 and the Board will continue to do so as a minimum of annually or in advance of scheduled expiration of a Board member's term.
- seeking opportunities to partner and participate in knowledge sharing with other SIVs where alignment provides value for money and contributes to the outcomes of each relevant SIV's mandate. Housing Australia actively engages with SIVs as part of broader partnerships with CHPs, financiers, developers and other stakeholders.

Housing Australia looks forward to continuing to work with Government and all stakeholders to deliver on the Government's housing agenda.

28 June 2024