

What is Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania (NHT)?

NHT is the peak body for the 35 Neighbourhood Houses around Tasmania. The Houses and NHT are all part of one united Network that works together as a whole to improve the wellbeing of Tasmanian communities.

All Neighbourhood Houses share the same goals – to support people, connect community, and create opportunities for people to learn new skills and give back to their community.

The core business of each House is community development. Community development is about people coming together around a common issue or opportunity and then working together to do something about it.

Working "with" not "for" – that is the core of community development.

What NHT is:

NHT is an incorporated association and the 35 Neighbourhood Houses are its Members. It is governed by a 10 member Board who are elected by, and are from, our Member Houses. This ensures that the governance and work of NHT is always focussed on the issues that really matter to Houses.

Everyday Neighbourhood Houses are bringing people together in community gardens, play groups, cooking classes, community sheds, vocational training, access to counselling, community lunches, food cooperatives, and much more. They are all run by the community for the community, and offer a welcoming safe space to connect with others and spend time.

The House is:

- “ our community's glue.”
- “ that central meeting place that is the doorway to friendships, information, support and fun.”
- “ somewhere I could take a chance and try and learn new things.”

What NHT is not:

- We are not in authority or 'in charge' of Houses
- We are not part of government



WHAT WE DO

We provide a wide variety of useful resources and offer support to the network in its community development work. These include:

Resources

- confidential phone/email support to Managers and Boards
- template policies and procedures to adapt
- a handbook for Boards
- induction kit for House volunteers and staff
- toolbox full of guides, templates and checklists to help run the House
- provide regular news, information and updates for Houses via e-newsletters, NHT website and Facebook page
- resource library located at the NHT Hub

These resources are available on our website.

Networking and events

- the annual NHT Conference as a three day training and development opportunity for House staff and volunteers
- regular regional meetings of Houses
- Neighbourhood House Week

Training

- face-to-face governance training with House Boards
- specific training to meet the demands of the network, such as First Aid, using social media, mental health awareness, and community gardening workshops

Advocacy and Lobbying

- Lobbying local, state and federal governments on behalf of our members on common issues, including funding and resources
- Liaison with Houses' major funding body, the Department of Communities Tasmania
- Promote Houses and their achievements through reports, events and marketing material

But there is more ... we also:

- Source project funding for common House priorities and training needs
- Negotiate group buys for common House needs, such as HR advice and support
- Support Houses to measure and report on their impact in communities
- Partner with other Organisations to meet the needs of Houses

