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ESG: A guide to conversation

Seminar 3

An ESG Reporting Standard for Australian Community Housing



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SGS Economics and Planning acknowledges the First Nations Peoples of Australia and on whose Country we live and work.

SGS Planning and Economics acknowledges that the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples of Australia are one of the oldest continuing living cultures on Earth, have one of the oldest continuing land tenure systems in the World, and have one of the oldest continuing land use planning and management systems in the World.

We pay our respects to the First Nations Peoples, past and present, and acknowledge their stewardship of Country over thousands of years.

Overview

This guide is for CHO employees and teams seeking to champion the ESG Reporting Standard for Australian Community Housing.

01

Anyone can make a difference

Reflect on current practice, identify where the information sits, source feedback, suggest future changes or improvements

02

Anyone can promote awareness

Have a conversation about the benefits and what the Standard means in practice, connect your colleagues to resources

03

Anyone can get started today

Familiarise yourself with the Standard, understand how it relates to your organisational function, create time for a conversation, ask questions

Base your conversation around these themes

Every conversation is an opportunity to gauge how your colleagues and your organisation understand the ESG Reporting Standard.

The ESG Standard:

01

Showcases the sector's performance on the issues that matter

In language + metrics that are recognised by the community housing and other sectors

02

Contributes to long-term sector growth

Bridge the gap in how impact and value are communicated; timely alignment with current and forthcoming sustainability reporting standards (Australia and global standards)

03

Encourages a proactive approach to risk management

Identify areas warranting greater strategic focus; alignment with business priorities

Questions you can ask...

If your organisation is an early Adopter / Supporter

Why do you support an ESG Reporting Standard for Australian community housing?

How do you think ESG reporting can improve the way we work?

The impacts we have?

Which criteria are already report on?

Which identified data gaps will we prioritise for Year 1 reporting?

Who will lead the reporting process? Who will support?

How will we ensure it is collaborative?

Questions you can ask...

If your organisation is not sure about becoming an Adopter / Supporter

What have you heard about ESG?

Which aspects appeal to you?
Are you unsure of?

Where do you think we can do better on sustainability and social outcomes?

What should our role be in improving sustainability?
Positive community impact?

How do these themes shape your role?

Could we work together to 'test drive' parts of the ESG reporting standard?

e.g. map criteria to potential sources of information; reach out to existing reporting roles

Recognising common concerns

Who gets to decide what ESG 'means'?

What does ESG have to do with sustainability?

How can we smoothen the transition phase?

When will we know that ESG reporting has 'worked'?

Through continual improvement, sustainability will be embedded in your organisation. It's too important to be dismissed as 'just' another task or project!

Beyond the conversation

Internal momentum

- Reflect on the interface between the Standard's criteria and your role / service
- Centralise internal comms and resources
- Host a session to explore what people think
- Identify other ESG ambassadors

Sector momentum

- Share progress with your sector colleagues
- Share how your organisation is engaging with ESG with your wider stakeholders

Other channels

- Newsletters – *What is your organisation's position?*
- Memos – *What initiatives are starting soon?*
- Website – *Why is your organisation committed?*
- Social media – *What positive impacts are you creating for community?*

Thank you.
Questions?

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