



Community Housing provides 132,000 affordable homes across Australia

Friday, 10 May 2024

A [new report](#) shows Australia's community housing industry continued to expand in the 2021-22 financial year, increasing the supply of much-needed social and affordable rental housing nationwide. The sector is now providing over 132,000 homes for lower-income households struggling in the private market.

The 2022 Industry in Profile report, published by the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA), provides a detailed look at the size and scope of the not-for-profit community housing sector. Drawing on data from over 100 of the largest community housing organisations (CHOs), the report finds:

- Community housing organisations were managing 132,417 social and affordable rental homes as of June 2022. This represents an increase of over 10,000 homes compared to the previous year.
- The sector generated \$2.49 billion in revenue in 2021-22, an increase of over \$60 million from the prior year. Rental income comprised nearly half (48%) of the sector's revenue.
- Community housing organisations collectively owned 40,740 of the properties they managed, an increase of 1,200 from 2020-21. This represents 31% of the total CHO housing portfolio.
- There were nearly 6,000 new homes in the development pipeline across 60 community housing organisations as of June 2022. This construction and acquisition activity will continue to grow the community housing stock.
- The sector held \$20.5 billion in assets as of June 2022, a significant \$5 billion (33%) increase compared to the previous year. Nearly \$14 billion of this was in land and buildings.

"These results demonstrate the community housing sector continues to make important strides in addressing Australia's shortage of social and affordable housing," said Wendy Hayhurst, CEO of CHIA. "CHOs are combining government investment, private finance, and their own equity to deliver thousands of new affordable rental homes each year for lower-income families and individuals."



Community housing is an important part of efforts to tackle housing stress and homelessness across Australia. Community housing organisations provide subsidised rental housing to very low, low and moderate income households who cannot access appropriate housing in the private rental market. Tenants are charged rents based on their income, typically between 25-30%.

"Having a safe, secure and affordable home is essential for people's health and wellbeing and their ability to engage in work and the community," said Hayhurst. "For too many Australians on lower incomes, these basic housing needs are out of reach in the private market. Community housing plays a vital role in filling this gap."

Community housing organisations operate across all states and territories, from major cities to regional and remote communities. The sector works in partnership with governments, the private sector, and support services to deliver housing solutions tailored to local needs. This includes housing for key groups like seniors, people with disabilities, and women and children facing domestic violence.

The 2022 Industry in Profile report highlights the sector's continued growth trajectory, but notes more government investment is crucial to meet the rising need. An estimated 640,000 new social and affordable dwellings are needed nationwide over the next decade.

"Community housing is the most cost-effective way for governments to boost the supply of social and affordable housing," said Hayhurst. "Community housing organisations can leverage additional private finance and build housing at scale. With greater government investment and policy support, our sector is ready to make an even bigger contribution to improving housing outcomes for vulnerable Australians."

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