



Network West Strategic Plan 2016- 2019

MISSION:

Strengthening Neighbourhood Houses in the western region of Melbourne using a community development framework

Strategic Priority 1: Strengthen community development knowledge and practice of member organisations

Objective 1: Build capacity of Network West members in community development knowledge and practice

- Deliver two Innovation Tours per year.
- Deliver one region wide sector event to highlight good practice and innovation in community development, dependent on funding.
- Engage with Neighbourhood House Coordinators and their Committees of Governance to foster community participation and local leadership through committee positions, volunteering or auspicing groups or projects.
- Source and partner with providers to deliver a tailored training program for NH workforce with the aim to increase qualifications and capabilities in Community Development.

Objective 2: Create networking opportunities between members, partners and stakeholders

- Update members on sector information via regular website and Facebook updates and monthly e-newsletters.
- Promote AGM as an inter-sectoral networking event.

Strategic Priority 2: Enhance quality governance and organisational practice within Network West and member organisations

Objective 1: Identify good practice models in governance for members to utilise

- Research and collate data on different governance models, innovative programs and projects, workforce skill development and make available on website.
- Clarify what constitutes a “Neighbourhood House” within the context of Network West membership criteria.
- Keep membership informed about developments in the Neighbourhood House sector including funding opportunities, working with NHVic, DHHS and relevant stakeholders.

Objective 2: Identify good organisational practice for membership to apply/replicate as required

- Organise or link with existing professional development opportunities that address sustainable funding, resourcing (e.g. social enterprise) and partnership grants for the sector.
- Identify projects, in priority areas as identified by members, that have potential to be replicated across membership, for example:
 - Hard to reach learners e.g. North Melbourne Language and Learning - Community Learning Champions model
 - Mental health e.g. Farnham St Partnership
 - Homelessness and isolation e.g. West Footscray Neighbourhood House - Soul House

Objective 3: To support members to develop and maintain good governance and organisational practice

- Promote good practice as identified in Objective 1 & 2.
- Continue to support Houses to utilise the Governance Tool.
- Partner with Volunteer West to facilitate good practice in volunteer management.
- Facilitate access to governance training for community leaders and workforce.
- Develop and promote a Strategic Planning tool, resources and support for member organisations.
- Facilitate mentoring opportunities between member organisations in governance, organisational and project practice.
- Link all work to Communications and Promotions Plan including e-newsletter.

Strategic Priority 3: Improve linkages, collaborations and partnerships to strengthen learning, ideas and innovative work within Network West and with its members

Objective 1: Act as a conduit between Neighbourhood Houses Victoria, funding bodies and Network West membership

- Share information and resources with membership via monthly e-newsletters and website (as per Communication and Promotions Plan).
- Report to Combined Network meetings re: issues arising for members whilst adhering to privacy and confidentiality.

Objective 2: Develop strategic relationships to improve delivery of organisational strategic priorities

- Attend and participate in Combined Network meetings and local cluster NH networks
- Liaise with DHHS regional representatives
- Liaise with Volunteer West to link in with their work on volunteering
- Facilitate partnerships between member Houses (as per SP2 Objective 2 & 3)

Strategic Priority 4: Raise the profile of the members and Network West and articulate the value of the work undertaken

Objective 1: Document social impact of community development practice of the membership

- Work with NHVic to develop and pilot a model that measures social impact for the sector.
- Collect and collate social impact stories and data for the above action.

Objective 2: Develop a promotions plan for Network West

- Develop a Communications and Promotions Plan
- Improve and maintain existing communications tools (e.g. newsletter, website and social media as per SP1)
- Present at relevant meetings and conferences to elaborate on the work of Network West and its members.
- Utilise AGM as a promotional tool and invite key stakeholders
- Organise and deliver tours of the network for strategic stakeholders
- Invite key stakeholders to attend and participate in the region wide sector event that highlights good practice and innovation in community development.

Strategic Priority 5: Advocate for the priority issues of the members and lobby for change through local, sector and state wide campaigns

Objective 1: Create a campaigning strategy

- Collate information on how to undertake a successful advocacy campaign and provide this to members via website.
- Work with peak bodies to deliver successful campaigns on identified issues.

Objective 2: Respond to priority issues as identified by members

- Identify emerging and priority issues for members through Network West annual survey, NHVic annual survey, collating up to date data and needs assessments undertaken by Network West members.
- Inform membership of sustainable funding strategies via monthly e-newsletter.
- Organise NDIS information dissemination and training of membership with key partners.
- Organise workforce professional development focusing on working with diversity.