



Neighbourhood Houses Tasmania Projects Governance and Disaster Management

NHT has received funding from the Department of Health and Human Services to undertake two new projects that will run until June 2022.

1. Governance Project – *to assist and support House boards to practice the best possible community-led governance.*

2. Disaster Management Project – *to assist and support Houses to reduce the trauma of people who experience a disaster by providing effective disaster preparedness, relief and recovery support.*

The projects will build on existing resources such as the Handbook for Neighbourhood House Boards and the Community Development in Action Handbook.

What will the projects involve?

Houses will be consulted to identify the needs and potential responses for each project.

Governance activities will build on community-led approaches. Disaster management work will draw on the local knowledge, relationships, problem solving and co-ordination capacity of each House.

A Reference Group for each project is proposed - consisting of a board member and a manager from each region.

What are the projects aiming to achieve?

Governance Project will:

- identify and respond to the governance needs of Houses
- develop, pilot and deliver professional development modules including 'new board member induction program' and a 'new board member induction kit' for use by each House
- develop other governance tools, resources and templates to assist Houses comply with their legal requirements and community expectations
- respond to other governance needs identified in consultation with Houses

Disaster Management Project will:

- build capacity of Houses to use their community development, local knowledge, problem solving and local co-ordination skills in a disaster preparedness, relief and recovery setting
- develop a disaster management and planning guide with resources for Houses
- increase the awareness of the key local disaster planning and recovery role Houses can provide within the Network
- build on the disaster preparedness, relief and recovery experiences of Houses who have been involved in disasters in recent times

What is next?

Mick Gordon has been employed as the Project Officer. His first priority will be to establish the two Reference Groups and start the consultation process with Houses. Expect to see Mick soon to hear about the two projects with the Network.

Please contact Mick on 0417 330 354 about either project. He is available on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays.