



# Eastern Disability Housing Network Strategic plan 2019-2021

## ***Acknowledgements:***

EDHN Steering Committee (August 2019): Peter Johnston (MetroAccess Officer, Knox City Council), Jenny Tomlin (Manager, Options for Community Living, Araluen), Sue Chapman, Claudia Godtner, Sue Considine, Jenni Hauwert-Swistak, Matthew ETTY-Leal, Tania Curlis, Shelley Haysom-Brown, Catriona Knothe, Joan Reid, Sue Considine, Thomas Yardley, Christianne Bramblebee.

Report produced by Krista Mogensen, Chain Reaction Communications

# Eastern Disability Housing Network

## *Strategic plan 2019-2021*

The Eastern Disability Housing Network (EDHN) has developed a three-year strategic plan to support its members and stakeholders in their goal to secure appropriate and affordable housing for adults with disabilities.

This plan was developed from:

- a planning workshop with EDHN members
- survey responses from EDHN members
- feedback from EDHN members including the EDHN Steering Committee.

### ***Background, challenges & changes:***

The Eastern Disability Housing Network (EDHN) was set up in 2014. It is supported by Knox City Council, through its MetroAccess officer Peter Johnston, and Araluen Housing Services through its manager Jenny Tomlin (formerly Harrison's Uniting Care).

As it enters its fifth year, the EDHN has reviewed its impact and relevance to members of the network and identified the following challenges and goals:

- keeping the EDHN vibrant, useful and alive
- attracting new members and meeting the needs of members
- supporting carers who may be exhausted, isolated and already over-committed
- forming strong links with the business, corporate and philanthropic sectors
- collaborating with other councils, disability housing organisations and networks
- strengthening its advocacy impact (at local level, and local, state and federal government level)
- applying for project and capacity building grants to secure and extend its scope.

In 2020, the Victorian Government-funded MetroAccess program is expected to end. Knox City Council and Araluen Housing Services have committed to the ongoing support of the EDHN.

# EDHN Strategic plan 2019-2021

<b>Vision</b>	An inclusive community, where all people with disabilities have access to appropriate housing
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<b>Mission</b>	Empower network members through information, skills and advocacy opportunities to secure appropriate housing for people with disabilities
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<b>Outcomes</b>				
Sustainable network	Valued information & support	Promotions and useful skills*	Strengthened advocacy	Pathways to housing
<b>Actions &amp; initiatives</b>				
<p><b>Identified</b> person/s to 'hold the work'</p> <p>Members <b>convene</b> &amp; minute <b>meetings</b> via Steering Committee</p> <p><b>Review</b> &amp; allocate 'Actions &amp; initiatives' <b>regularly</b> to reflect priorities, feedback &amp; new information or developments</p>	<p>Provide up-to-date <b>NDIS, Centrelink &amp; Carers Vic</b> information – at <i>every meeting if required</i></p>	<p>Offer <b>media training</b> – for radio, local/state/national media, online news – identify key messages</p>	<p><b>Collaborate</b> and bring together similar groups &amp; networks (via social media, MetroAccess), eg: Northern/ Whittlesea group</p>	<p>Develop bank of ideas on <b>diverse housing options</b>, and different multiple funding models, eg: shared equity, home sharing, public/private partnerships, intentional community cooperatives, plus legal templates</p>

<p>Increase <b>size of Steering Committee</b> (eg: 15 people) recruiting for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>lived experience of disability</li> <li>carer roles</li> <li>social media interest/expertise (facebook, twitter)</li> <li>communications interest/expertise (website, writing, photography)</li> <li>senior business experience &amp; connections</li> <li>philanthropic experience &amp; connections</li> <li>local government</li> <li>service providers</li> </ul> <p>Create and maintain matrix of current committee skill sets</p>	<p>Provide update on <b>Knox housing</b> options</p>	<p>Develop <b>storytelling</b> trope – sharing a person’s story, informed consent, key messages</p>	<p><b>Strengthen links</b> with local and other housing groups, eg: Summer Foundation, Interchange Outer East, Manningham Inclusive Community Housing (MICH)</p>	<p>Collaborate &amp; discuss housing options with <b>day services</b>, eg: short-term accommodation trials</p>	
	<p>Identify housing options for people <b>outside</b> the NDIA system</p>	<p>Take <b>photographs</b> for these stories – break down barriers, challenge stereotypes, tell a story</p>	<p>Develop <b>advocacy toolkit</b> of key messages, EDHN members’ stories, 10m presentation, spokesperson (provide further training &amp; support)</p>	<p><b>Document</b>, store &amp; share positive stories of pathways to appropriate housing</p>	
	<p>Provide healthy <b>food</b> and moral <b>support</b></p>	<p>Share both <b>positive and challenging stories</b> to show pathways &amp; share ideas</p>	<p><b>Map</b> potential people/ organisations of influence for contact and presentation, eg: housing providers, developers, businesses, local politicians</p>	<p>Develop <b>media &amp; presentations kit</b> of key messages as ‘elevator pitch’, stories with photographs (<i>see above</i>) and <b>media diary</b> coinciding with particular events*</p>	<p>Strengthen links with local <b>real estate agents &amp; agencies</b></p>
	<p>Consider annual or biannual housing, carers, <b>expo</b></p>	<p><b>Healthy food</b> meeting planning</p>	<p>Strengthen links with <b>NDIA &amp; Local Area Coordinators (LACs)</b></p>	<p>Contact &amp; collaborate with <b>new entries</b> to housing development</p>	

<p><b>Communicating with members</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• collect &amp; review meeting feedback</li> <li>• use 'BCC' on emails</li> </ul>	<p><b>Visit</b> successful communities and independent housing alternatives</p>		<p>Make presentations to <b>service clubs</b>, seeking grants, donations, EDHN membership or other support</p>	<p>Roles and responsibilities of support workers</p>
<p>Explore <b>video links, Skype</b> or <b>online</b> or <b>podcast</b> of meetings</p>	<p>Include mental health and disability</p>		<p>Identify and connect with lecturers and researchers in <b>academia</b>, eg: Melbourne Disability Institute, University of Melbourne</p>	
<p>Consider additional meeting elements &amp; formats, eg: <b>Q&amp;A session</b>, an '<b>open mic</b>' segment to share news &amp; <b>workshops</b> or working <b>groups</b>, <b>brainstorming</b> sessions</p>	<p>Explore possibility of producing a <b>Housing Book</b> to navigate the housing sector, &amp; independent living skills for new environment</p>		<p>Connect with other disability, housing, homelessness &amp; family violence-related <b>organisations</b>, eg: Council for Homeless Persons (CHP), Domestic Violence Victoria (DVVic), Women with Disabilities Victoria (WDV), EDVOS.</p>	
<p>Consider additional <b>meeting options</b> – eg: 'offsite' monthly café gathering</p>			<p>Connect with &amp; present to other <b>relevant groups</b>, eg: iU3A, Knox Volunteers, Skills Bank, Eastern Volunteers</p>	

<p>Explore feasibility of <b>website – as portal &amp; repository</b></p>			<p>Connect with and present to local <b>councillors, local members</b> of state and federal parliament</p>	
<p>Apply for project <b>grants</b> or capacity building grants, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ILC grant for capacity building – (apply August-October 2019 for 2020 delivery)</li> <li>• Philanthropic grants</li> <li>• Local business awards &amp; grants</li> </ul>			<p><b>Present to local schools</b> and special schools to inform &amp; support parents from the beginning of the housing journey</p>	
<p><b>Projects</b> – identify small ‘chunked’ SMART* projects that members can undertake and are not overwhelming, eg:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 story-telling IVs</li> <li>• 1 presentation to a service club, etc</li> </ul> <p><i>*SMART: ‘specific, measurable, achievable, realistic &amp; time limited’</i></p>		<p><i>*sourced from within EDHN, via Knox City Council or externally</i></p>	<p><i>*supported by Knox City Council communications team or externally</i></p>	