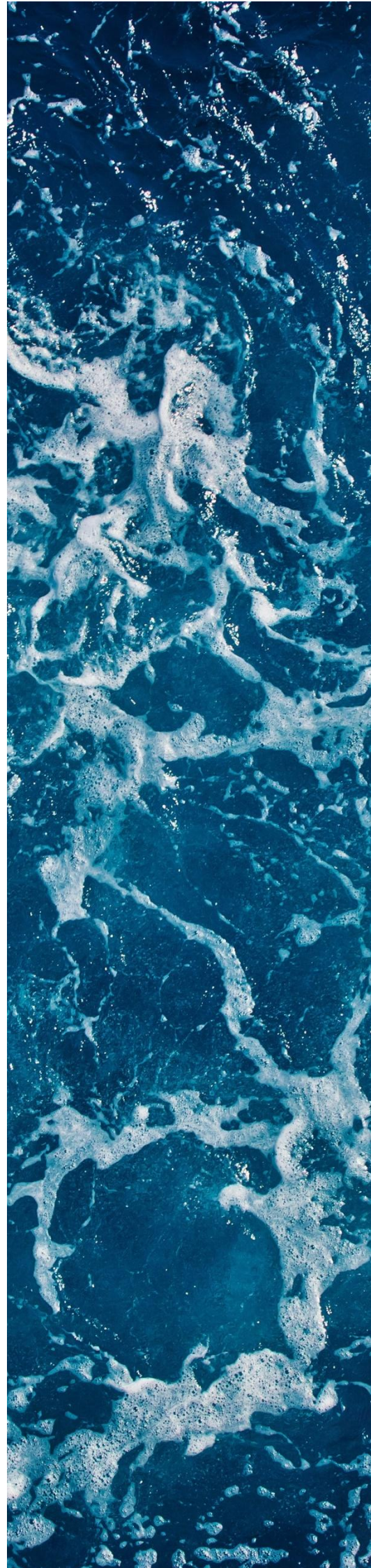


WATERMARK SEARCH INTERNATIONAL CANDIDATE BRIEF

Chief Executive Officer
Australian Community Housing Ltd
June 2025



Presented by Watermark Search International.
Trusted for over 40 years, focused on the future.



About Australian Community Housing

Background

Australian Community Housing (ACH) is the newly unified national body formed from the joining of PowerHousing Australia and the Community Housing Industry Association. These two organisations have come together to create one, single united voice for community housing members across Australia. Australian Community Housing represents and supports the growth of the community housing sector across Australia, advocating across all levels of Federal and State Governments for sustainable, funded, affordable housing solutions for low and moderate-income households.

As the inaugural CEO, you will be an integral part of the strategic planning process to be undertaken for Australian Community Housing. This will occur in conjunction with the Board in the second quarter of 2025.

Board Members

The CEO reports to Board of Directors, through the Chair, Rebecca Oelkers.

The Board of Australian Community Housing comprises eight members who were elected at a Special General Meeting prior to the merger. Four representatives came from the Boards of both PowerHousing Australia and the Community Housing Industry Association.

Current Board Members are:

- Rebecca Oelkers, Chief Executive Officer, Brisbane Housing Company (Board Chair)
- Andrew Elvin, Chief Executive Officer, Coast2Bay Housing Group
- Andrew McAnulty, Chief Executive Officer, Link Wentworth Housing
- Chris Smith, Chief Executive Officer, Foundation Housing Ltd
- Geoff Slack, Chief Executive Officer, YourPlace Housing
- Joseph Achmar, Acting Chief Executive Officer, St George Community Housing
- Judy Line, Chief Executive Officer, Women's Housing Limited
- Stacey Northover, General Manager of Housing Services, Believe Housing

Website - australiancommunityhousing.org.au

Purpose of the Chief Executive Officer Role

The CEO is the strategic and operational leader of Australian Community Housing and will provide a strong public focus on the issue of housing need, delivery and investment at the highest levels of Federal and State Governments while advocating for the continued delivery of community housing across Australia.

The CEO is responsible for advancing the mission of Australian Community Housing by:

- Representing the sector nationally and internationally
- Leading policy development and advocacy
- Supporting member organisations through services, partnerships, peer networking and capacity building
- Ensuring the financial sustainability and operational excellence of the organisation

Key Responsibilities

1. Strategic Leadership

- Lead the successful integration of the two founding organisations.
- Develop and implement strategic and business plans aligned with ACH's mission and Board directives.
- Foster a shared vision for the future of community housing in Australia.
- Monitor sector trends and policy environments to identify opportunities and risks.
- Position ACH as the authoritative voice on community housing in Australia.

2. Advocacy and Influence

- Act as the national voice for community housing providers.
- Drive bipartisan, evidence-based advocacy that influences housing policy and funding.
- Influence government policy through constructive engagement with both state and federal Ministers, MPs, and officials.
- Represent ACH in the media, public forums and key sector events.

3. Member Services and Sector Development

- Deliver high-quality services and support to members.
- Develop a stakeholder strategy to guide partnerships and collaborations.
- Facilitate peer exchange, professional development, and best practice sharing.
- Develop and implement sector-wide workforce and governance initiatives.

- Engage with adjacent sectors (e.g. superannuation, construction and social services) to amplify impact.

4. Organisational Management

- Lead and manage ACH's staff and operations.
- Build and lead a cohesive, values driven team and foster a strong inclusive internal culture.
- Ensure sound financial management, compliance, and risk oversight

5. Governance and Board Relations

- Work closely with the Board to shape and deliver strategic priorities.
- Ensure transparent, effective governance and reporting.
- Support the Board in fulfilling its role as a strategic partner.

Key Attributes and Skills

- Proven senior executive experience, ideally as a CEO or divisional leader.
- Understanding of the housing sector or closely related field.
- Proven leadership in a complex, member-based or advocacy organisation.
- Strong strategic thinking and policy development capabilities.
- Excellent stakeholder engagement skills across both Federal and State Government, business, financial, property, construction and social sectors.
- Strong advocacy and communication skills, with the ability to influence government and media.
- Experience in organisational change, team building and culture development.
- Data literate and able to translate evidence into compelling policy arguments.
- Politically balanced, with a track record of bipartisan engagement.
- Calm under pressure, with a sense of urgency and purpose.
- Collaborative, service orientated and member driven.

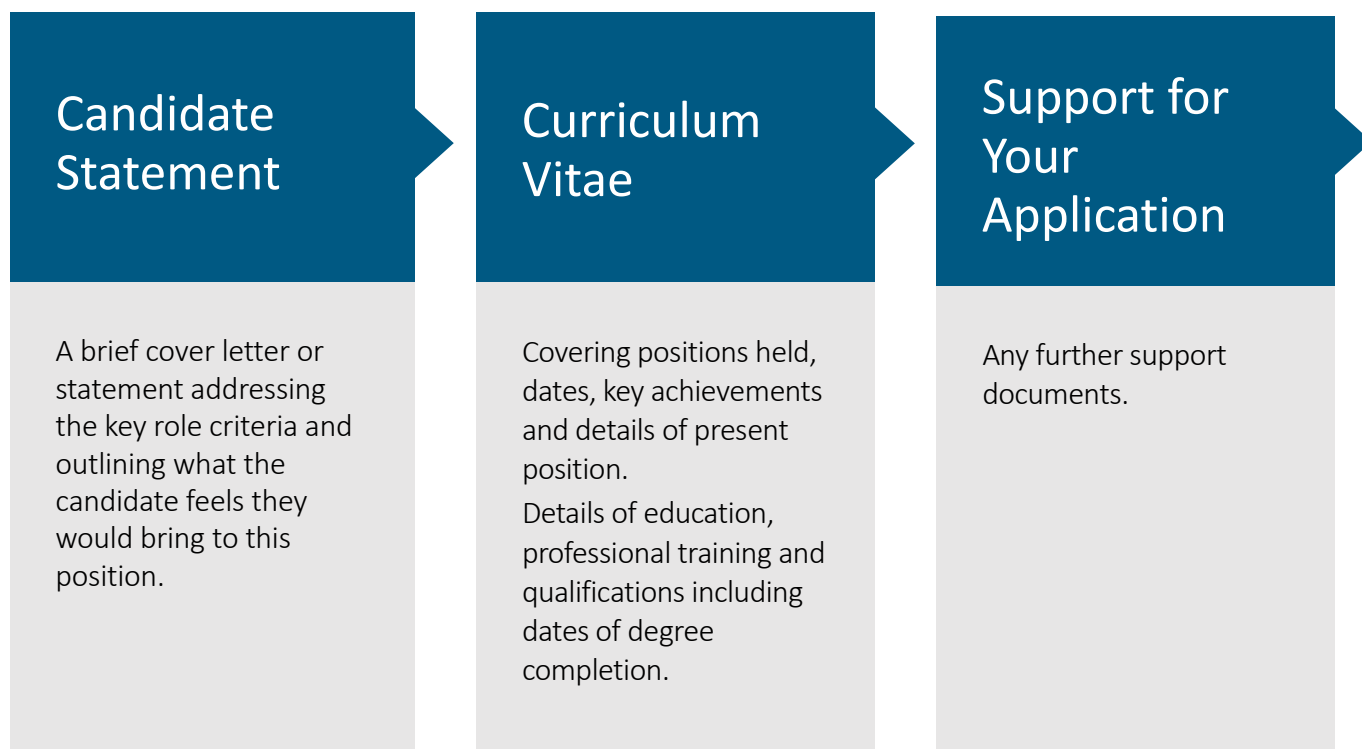
Location

Canberra (preferred) with flexibility for Sydney-based candidates. Regular travel to Canberra, Sydney, Melbourne and other locations will be required.

How to Apply

An executive search is being undertaken by Watermark alongside the public advertisement.

Applications for the position will need to include the following:



For a confidential discussion please call Alison Myatt, of Watermark Search International, who are leading the search on behalf of Australian Community Housing Ltd.

Alison Myatt

Head of Research
0412 630 817

Claire Crawford

Partner, Executive Search
02 9233 1200

Daniel Nicholls

Partner, Executive Search
02 9233 1200

Georgina Southwell

Executive Search
02 9239 1223

Please send your application quoting **Ref No A005976** to Watermark Search International [via this link](#). We will reply to the email address used for your application.

Closing date: Sunday 20 July 2025 at 11:59pm AEST

Contact Us

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