

Regional Association of Neighbourhood and Community Houses

Strategic Plan

2013 - 2015

The overall vision for this strategic plan is to continue enhancing the capacity of the Neighbourhood Houses in the RANCH region and to ensure the ongoing sustainability of RANCH as an important sector asset.

Statement of Purposes

- To work towards the empowerment of Neighbourhood Houses within RANCH's six local government areas.
- To foster, develop and maintain effective relationships between all Neighbourhood Houses in the region.
- To provide a forum for support and discussion on issues relevant to the Neighbourhood House sector.
- To strengthen the capacity of Neighbourhood Houses to undertake sustainable community development work in their communities
- To encourage and support good, ethical governance in Neighbourhood Houses within the RANCH region.
- To encourage Neighbourhood House participation in the development of government policies that relate to the Neighbourhood sector.
- To provide and foster professional development for Neighbourhood Houses in the RANCH region, including committees of management, paid staff and volunteers.
- To act as a resource, advocate and advisory body to relevant federal, state and local government authorities.
- To exchange knowledge and information at a regional state-wide level.
- To liaise with the Victorian Neighbourhood House peak body.

Key Achievements 2012 – 2013

- Developed the professionalism and expertise of the Committee of Management
- Strengthened the RANCH committee and Network through development of policies and specific governance practices
- Changed the Constitution to better reflect the current practices of the Network and comply with the revised Act.

Challenges Ahead

- Levering additional funding to allow the Networker to effectively work across the large geographical region that RANCH covers.
- Overcoming the tyranny of distance and increasing the participation by members in RANCH meetings and activities.

KRA 1. SECTOR CAPACITY BUILDING (in the RANCH region)

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>1.1 Strengthen the understanding and practice of community development in Neighbourhood Houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Promote CD practice and understanding via network clusters – attendance at Clusters by Networker • Facilitate the sharing of good CD stories among Neighbourhood Houses via General Meetings. • Provide support and/or resourcing to selected Neighbourhood Houses for CD projects or initiatives, this may include specific professional development. 	<p>Networker</p> <p>Committee and Networker</p> <p>Committee and Networker</p>	<p>Two years</p> <p>Nov 2014</p>
<p>1.2 Enhance the capacity of Neighbourhood House governance bodies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establish a bank of Neighbourhood House staff, committee members and sector practitioners who would be able to provide induction for new committee members on an as needs basis. • Increase access to professional development opportunities by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - encouraging greater committee participation in RANCH meetings and activities - the Networker attending each Neighbourhood House committee at least once per calendar year - encouraging the inclusion of a RANCH report on the agendas of individual Neighbourhood House committees 	<p>RANCH Members Sub-committee</p> <p>Clusters and Networker</p> <p>Networker</p> <p>Networker and Committee</p>	<p>March 2015</p>

KRA 2. PARTNERSHIPS WITH LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
<p>2.1 Strengthen the relationships with local governments in the RANCH region</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Re-establish cross-council / RANCH meetings • Encourage joint professional development opportunities. • <i>Encourage the development of Neighbourhood House policies and MOU's.</i> 	<p>Networker</p> <p>Networker, Committee, Clusters</p> <p>Networker, Cluster, Individual and Council</p>	<p>2014</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>As opportunity arises</p>
<p>2.2 Advocate the value of Neighbourhood Houses</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participate in relevant council planning opportunities and promote the ways in which RANCH and Neighbourhood Houses can contribute to Council objectives. • Showcase successful RANCH and Neighbourhood House community development successes 	<p>Networker</p> <p>Networker</p>	<p>PRIORITY</p>

KRA 3. NETWORK SUSTAINABILITY

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
3.1 Increase the capacity of the Networker	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Expand paid hours to 20 hours per week, to be reviewed in 12 months. Develop an evidence-based case for external funding to support ongoing increased Networker hours. 	Committee, Networker, Networker, Committee	Oct 2014 Oct 2015
3.2 Promote the value of RANCH to network members	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enhance promotion via the RANCH website by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> providing web training for the admin worker so that the site can be updated as needed including podcasts of RANCH professional development sessions 	Committee	Once website completed
3.3 Develop a Network Charter	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider existing models and develop draft in consultation with members. 	Networker, RANCH Sub-committee	Oct 2015
3.4 Increase participation in RANCH meetings and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revise the structure of RANCH meetings and incorporate the: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> inclusion of a professional development section elimination of RANCH operational information inclusion of a team building time or activity a time limit and content criteria for Neighbourhood House “round robins” Increase access by members to RANCH meetings by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Encouraging use of Skype facility providing training on use of existing technology 	Committee Networker, Committee, Individuals	Aug 2014 Ongoing

Strategies	Actions	Responsibility	Timeframe
3.5 Enhance the capacity of the RANCH governance body	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Allocate time for regular team building activities / time. • Develop and endorse job descriptions for all committee positions. • Develop RANCH induction kit. 	Committee, Networker	Dec 2014
3.6 Carry out the outstanding agreed recommendations from the RANCH review (2011)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incorporate outstanding recommendations into Networker and RANCH committee work plans. 	Committee, Networker	