



ANNUAL REPORT 07/08



we're housing people

“HomeGround gets people housed and keeps them housed.”

Building support

Elsewhere in this annual report we expressly acknowledge the collaborative efforts of HomeGround’s supporters and partners in our work this year.

However, I would like to further emphasise the value we place on working with these individuals and organisations. Without this assistance we would have had far less success in bringing solutions for homelessness into prominence during the past year. Thank you for your contribution to our work and I hope it is the foundation for greater things in the future.

Directors

I would like to acknowledge two directors who helped establish the firm base on which HomeGround now stands - Greg Larsen and Susan Wardle, who are both leaving the Board later this year. Greg and Susan have made a powerful contribution over six years, starting from the commencement of HomeGround in 2002. The Board will miss their wisdom and commitment.

All our directors have made an outstanding contribution this year, and we have all benefited from the leadership our committee chairs: Guy Gilbert (Finance), Nikos Thomacos (Client Services), Michael Wright (Governance), Robert Turnbull (Independent Chair of Audit and Risk) and Greg Larsen (Housing Taskforce).

We have also benefited immensely from the wise and focussed counsel of Neil Chatfield, Sally Parnell and Owen Donald. The Board looks forward to supplementing the extensive experience, skills and dedication of this magnificent group of people with additional directors who will bring new skills, experience and perspectives to our deliberations.

Governance Review

The Board engaged Steve Bowman from LifeMastery Australia in 2007 to work with us to review and strengthen the connection between our mission, strategic plan and HomeGround as an organisation.

During the past year, as a result of the review, an action plan encompassing leadership, tools, governance and training has provided HomeGround with a higher level of strategic awareness and focus.

Pathways in and out of homelessness

This year saw the launch of the book *On the Outside* by Guy Johnson, who was previously the CEO for one of HomeGround’s predecessor organisations, Argyle Housing. *On the Outside*, based on Guy’s PhD studies, drew on HomeGround’s extensive data on the experience of people with homelessness. This book articulates the common pathways by which people move in and out of homelessness.

It also draws on the daily experience of HomeGround clients and staff. It supports our efforts to develop solutions such as Supportive Housing, to alleviate homelessness and to prevent it from becoming a long-term experience.

Management team

The Board, along with our CEO, Stephen Nash, has worked with a professional senior management team over the past year. The team, consisting of Julia Canty-Waldron (Client Services), Alison Hill (Organisational Development) and Ted Ryan (Corporate Services), supports Stephen and the Board in carrying out our work.

The next steps

HomeGround gets people housed and keeps them housed. This is what is required to end homelessness. After reading the rest of this report we hope you will be as excited as we are about our work.

The past year has brought many successes and the year ahead promises many more. HomeGround will continue to deliver on our commitment to those who are homeless or at risk of homelessness.



Peter Clark