Strategic Plan 2027-2032

Pomona & District Community House

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Pomona & District Community House (PCH) is a not-for-profit regional neighbourhood centre offering a range of support to Pomona and surrounding Noosa hinterland communities.

Acknowledgement *of Country*

Pomona & District Community House acknowledges the Kabi Kabi/Gubbi Gubbi peoples, the traditional custodians of the land on which we gather and work. We pay our respects to their Elders, ancestors, land and seas.

Pomona & District Community House acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander People's ways of knowing, being and doing and respect their continuing contributions to Country, life and education.

Our Story

Grounded in grassroots action, PCH is place-based and community-led. PCH grew from a group of community members coming together in 1995, working collectively to advocate and secure an ongoing location for community members to connect, share and learn. That spirit of collective action continues to shape the organisation today.

As a neighbourhood centre, PCH provides a welcoming and inclusive place where people of all ages, backgrounds and life circumstances can belong. It creates opportunities for people to build relationships, develop skills, access support and contribute to community life, guided by the principles of social justice and equitable access to all community members.

Pomona & District Community House remains committed to supporting a connected, caring and inclusive community, where everyone belongs and diversity is recognised as a source of strength.

Our Vision: *Our Why*

Be a valued space at the heart of a vibrant and caring community, where people gather, connect, support one another, and flourish.

Our Purpose: *What We Do*

Pomona & District Community House (PCH) strengthens communities by creating warm welcoming opportunities for people to connect, participate and support one another. Through inclusive, collaborative and community-led approaches, we respond to local needs while building the social, cultural and environmental strengths that help our community thrive.

Our Core Practice Frameworks: *How We Work*

- Community Development[1]
- Relational Strengths-Based[2]

See Glossary overleaf.

Our Values: *How We Do It*



Our Strategic Priorities

Where We'll Focus

A Diverse, Connected and Inclusive Community

- Strengthen social cohesion and connections[5]
- Community needs addressed through collaboration, capacity building, advocacy and action[6]
- Community access, information and outreach
- Indigenous and multicultural narratives
- Young People

Thriving and Sustainable Community Spaces[7]

- Care for the building and surrounds
- Care for the natural environment
- Utilising digital environments to build commiunity spaces

Organisational Resilience

- People
- Effective, transparent and accountable governance
- Funding and innovative resourcing
- Sustainability and succession planning
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Increasing organisational visibility

Our Progress: How We Deliver & Reflect

Each year PCH's Annual Operational Plan will guide how the organisation will deliver on our Strategic Plan. We will monitor, evaluate and reflect on our achievements and learnings. We will report to our funders periodically, and to the community through our annual report and communications.

Glossary of *Terms*

1. Community Development

Community Development refers to a range of processes led by members of a community who have identified a concern or aspiration for their community. The community may be place-based in a geographical area or a community of people that have a shared identity or association. Community members are seen as experts in their own lives and locality, and the process values their knowledge and wisdom. [A]

2. Strengths-Based

Leveraging community assets and supporting community learning and capacity building to support communities to realise their strengths, take control of decision-making, and address issues, such as discrimination and inequity. [B]

3. Social Justice

The pursuit of fairness and equal opportunity across society, regardless of someone's background or identity. [C]

4. Sustainability

Sustainability means making decisions that strengthen the organisation, community and the environment for the long term. It takes a holistic approach by balancing social wellbeing, environmental responsibility, organisational capability and financial stewardship to ensure the work remains relevant, resilient and responsive.

5. Social Cohesion

Social bonds, or the 'glue' that connects people. Societies with higher levels of social cohesion are documented as generally being healthier, more resilient to external shocks and crises, and experiencing higher economic growth. [D]

6. Community Capacity Building

This concept recognises that a community has inherent strengths, skills and capabilities, which can be built upon to enable communities to resolve common issues through collective action. 'Community capacity' is how a community is empowered to deal with its own issues and expansion, rather than having to rely upon outside organisations. [E]

7. Places and Spaces

The physical, outdoor and digital environments that enable people to connect, participate, learn and belong. They include welcoming buildings, gardens and outdoor gathering places and online platforms. Informal 'third spaces' are also important and can be thought of as 'community living rooms' or places to 'just be'. They provide neutral, inclusive environments where everyone is welcome and relationships can develop naturally.

References

[A] State of Queensland (Department of Treaty, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Partnerships, Communities and the Arts) 2025. Neighbourhood Centres: Initiative Guidelines, Specifications and Requirements. p10.

[B] Centre for Social Impact, 2023. Five Critical Elements for Building Thriving Communities. Accessed online at www.csi.edu.au/news/five-critical-elements-to-building-thriving-communities/

[C] OXFAM Australia, 2026. What is social justice? A complete guide. Accessed online at www.oxfam.org.au/blog/what-is-social-justice/

[D] United Nations, 2023. Social Cohesion: Concept and Measurement. p9.

[E] Australian Council of Social Service, ACOSS Sector Development Glossary, March 2010. Accessed online at acoss.org.au/images/uploads/ACOSS_Sector_Development_glossary.pdf

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