

# Safe, Sustainable Neighbourhood Houses Budget Priority Statement 2026/27

## Three steps to optimise resource allocation in the 2026/27 Budget.

### 1. Reallocate committed funding in the forward estimates to this financial year.

**Investment: No additional cost to Government.**

NHT welcomes the Government's commitment to a Needs Analysis of Neighbourhood Houses in response to the expressed need for increased staff to operate safely. While this important work is underway, there is an immediate need to make Neighbourhood Houses and communities safer. We understand that current budget pressures require creative solutions. **We are not seeking additional funding—core funding continues as allocated. Our request is to bring forward the committed funds in the forward estimates (Community Connector) to this financial year.** This, alongside ongoing core funding, will provide immediate relief and safer levels of funding before the Needs Analysis results are available.

### 2. Continue investing in good governance and operational efficiency.

**Investment: Maintain existing funding in real terms – \$149,702 p/a.**

NHT and the sector are committed to strengthening governance and reducing risk by fostering strong clear roles and relationships between operations and governance. This program will deliver safer, stable houses with clear policies, defined roles, and effective oversight. This approach helps the government save money by supporting organisations to operate effectively, share resources, professional development and resolve challenges before they escalate.

### 3. Streamline grant management.

**Investment: Budget saving for Government through streamlining deed management.**

Establish a single, consolidated grant deed for each Neighbourhood House, supported by streamlined reporting.

For more information, please see Investment Summary overleaf, and:

- Attachment 1: Context - Reallocation of committed funding for short-term safety
- Attachment 2: Continue investing in governance and operational efficiency
- Have Your Say Pre-Budget Consultation 2026-27 Submission Form

## Investment Summary

### 1. Reallocation of committed funding

We request the full \$2.654 million committed in the 2026–27 forward estimates to be released now, providing immediate relief and stabilising funding while the Needs Analysis is undertaken. This is in addition to core funding and cost-of-living booster.

Current funding stream	2027/28 Commitment	2028/29 Commitment
Community Connector Program (2024/25 Budget)	\$1,298,000	-
Community Connector Program Extension (2024/25 Budget)	\$708,000	-
Community Connector Program (2025/26 Interim Budget)	\$324,000	\$324,000

### 2. Continued governance funding (NHT)

Current funding stream	2021/26 Commitment	2026/29 Commitment sought
Neighbourhood House Governance Funding <i>This has supplemented NHT's core funding for the last 5 years.</i>	\$100,000 p/a	\$149,702 p/a <i>The salary (in real terms) indexed since 2021, 1 FTE, and on-costs.</i>

To complement this program, NHT is seeking funding from other sources for external specialist governance advice, coaching and resourcing.

### 3. Streamlined grant management

Current funding stream	Wrap into 1 recurring funding process	Unchanged
Complex patchwork of funding, and reporting.	Core funding \$50,000 "cost-of-living" booster Community Connector program funding	Supplemented with other grants, donations, and program funding.