

Australia

Country Profile

📍 Capital • Affiliates and Chapters



Queensland
1. South East Queensland
2. Gympie

New South Wales
3. Quirindi
4. Lachlan

South Australia
5. Adelaide

Victoria
6. Bayside
7. Mornington Peninsula
8. Ballarat
9. Bendigo
10. Baw Baw
11. Geelong
12. Whitehorse
13. Shepparton

Canberra

A COUNTRY, a huge island and a continent, today's Australia is a modern, prosperous and increasingly cosmopolitan nation. The economy is diversified and dynamic, and features world-class sources of minerals, commodities and agricultural products.

Yet within a country of plenty, not everyone benefits. An estimated 100,000 people are homeless or live in sub-standard conditions. A further 200,000 families are on waiting lists for publicly-funded housing, many spending up to half of their income on temporary, inadequate accommodation.

Because public housing assistance cannot keep up with demand, families are forced into a "poverty trap": unable to save enough for a down payment or mortgage payments for their own homes because incomes are eaten away by excessively high rents.

HFH Australia completed its first house in the early 1990s. It currently has affiliates in four of the country's six states with chapters in Lachlan and Quirindi in New South Wales; Bayside, Mornington Peninsula, Ballarat, Bendigo, Baw Baw, Geelong, Whitehorse, and Shepparton in Victoria; Adelaide in South Australia; and South East Queensland and Gympie in Queensland. A steering committee has been formed to start a new affiliate in Perth, Western Australia.

The greatest obstacle to facing low-income families in Australia is the high cost of land, making purchase impractical for homeowners. Australian affiliates overcome this obstacle through securing land donations.

HFH Australia builds and renovates homes using the traditional Habitat model where partner families are required to invest 500 hours – "sweat equity" – into building their home. It takes approximately six to nine months to complete the houses.

Habitat homes in Australia average approximately 100 sq. m. They are wooden frame structures fitted with wall cladding and concrete or wooden floors.

HFH Australia also supports Habitat activities in the Asia-Pacific region through extensive fund-raising and volunteer mobilization.

Habitat Highlights

- HFH Australia's 53rd house completed in January 2005.
- HFH Australia won 2004 Prime Minister's Award for Excellence in Community Business Partnerships for New South Wales in the medium-business category thanks to partnership with PMI Mortgage Insurance.
- Secured funding for 450 homes in East Timor and 300 in Cambodia over the next three years. Funding also secured to build 475 homes in the Philippines over the next three years.
- Around 15 volunteer teams expected to travel to Fiji, Samoa, East Timor, India and elsewhere in the next 12 months.



HFH Australia

PO Box 1154, Parramatta, NSW 2124, Australia Tel: +(61) 2-9635-0199 Fax: +(61) 2-9635-0299
Email: info@habitat.org.au Website: www.habitat.org.au

COUNTRY FACTS

Area: 7,686,850 sq. km.
Population: 20,291,937
Capital: Canberra
Ethnic groups: Caucasian 92%, Asian 7%, aboriginal and other 1%
Religions: Anglican 26.1%, Roman Catholic 26%, other Christian 24.3%, non-Christian 11%, other 12.6%
Languages: English, native languages

HABITAT FACTS

Families Helped
53
Cost Of One House*
US\$68,890

As of April 2005

* international sponsorship cost