

## Melbourne Hosts International Housing Partnership Leadership Exchange

The 12<sup>th</sup> Annual International Housing Partnership (IHP) Leadership Exchange took place in Melbourne, Australia in early October, bringing together leaders from 50 premier housing and community development organizations in Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, and the US. The meeting opened with a traditional “Welcome to Country” ceremony by an Indigenous Elder and a tribute to Nazha Saad, former CEO of St. George Community Housing, and Don McBain, CEO of Ontario Aboriginal Housing Services, both of whom tragically passed away this year. The opening session featured an engaged discussion that framed the context for the meeting, centering on



*Mike Mantle, Larry Swanson, and Scott Langford*

the increasingly dynamic and uncertain political, economic, and operating environments in IHP countries. Structured around key trends across the four countries, the three days of meetings featured discussions on changing demographics; technology; changing funding dynamics; adaptability and capacity; and urbanization.

Mike Mantle of Morgan Stanley, which was this year’s global sponsor for IHP, participated in a discussion that focused on the new aggregated approaches to raise capital being led by IHP members in their countries. HPCanada is looking to create a sector bank in Canada to help fund housing at scale; Housing Partnership UK is leading the development of a sector bond vehicle for housing associations; PowerHousing Australia is engaged with a government-led effort to develop a bond vehicle; and in the US, HPN is working with 22 members to create an impact investment fund.

The exchange also included site visits to developments in the Melbourne area owned and managed by Haven; Home, Safe; Housing Choices Australia; Women’s Housing; and Port Phillips Housing Association. The closing dinner took place at Victoria Parliament House. The day following the core exchange, more than 20 attendees traveled to Bendigo, a city in Central Victoria about two hours from Melbourne and home of Haven; Home, Safe. In Bendigo, CEO Ken



*Judy Line and Karen Hemmingson*

Marchingo (also a former IHP Chair) and his staff hosted the group at their office, arranged for visits to two developments, and provided a tour of the city, ending with a regional wine tasting and dinner.



*Larry O'Brien, Julie Quaass, and Nick Proud – past and present CEOs of PowerHousing Australia*

Scott Langford, CEO of St. George Community Housing in Sydney, chaired the exchange in his role as chair of IHP for 2017. Neil Hadden, chief executive of Genesis Housing Association in London, was elected IHP chair for 2018, and Linda Mandolini, CEO of Eden Housing, was elected vice-chair. For more information about IHP and the 2018 IHP Leadership Exchange to be held in Manchester, England, contact [Manuel Muelle](#).

Managed since 2003 by the Housing Partnership Network (HPN), IHP brings together the executives of the leading housing nonprofits in the US, Canada, United Kingdom, and Australia through four networks - HPN, Housing Partnership UK, Housing Partnership Canada, and PowerHousing Australia. The participating organizations have a collective portfolio of more than 1 million affordable homes serving more than 2.5 million people.