

Panellist Profile

Approved Professional Advisory Panel – Community Housing Futures

Business Name	Gadens		
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Business Status	<input type="checkbox"/> Individual consultant <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Consultancy firm <input type="checkbox"/> Association/group of individual consultants		

Introduction Summary

Gadens is a leading law firm, and has operated in Queensland for more than 30 years working on many city shaping projects. We have 25 partners and over 230 employees in our Brisbane office and a network of 100 partners and over 800 staff across our Sydney, Adelaide, Melbourne and Perth (associated) offices.

We are relationship orientated and focussed on client service. We are also proud of our extensive pro bono program and support of First Nations initiatives, and are passionate supporters of emerging and established artists.

We provide a quality offering in core legal areas such as property and construction law, planning and environment, banking and finance, commercial matters, contracting arrangements, risk advisory and dispute matters.

We have also assisted a variety of government and private sector initiatives involving the delivery of social and affordable housing, including the role and responsibilities of CHPs. We can bring deep understanding of the legal frameworks in which CHP entities operate, including funding and finance matters, business advisory and planning, property work, risk management and transactional and disputes work.

Sector Knowledge

We understand the significant challenges faced by CHPs in trying to address rising homelessness and crisis accommodation needs, in the context of soaring inflation, dramatic rental increases and mortgage stress. We are keen to support and grow our presence in the community housing sector and undertake work that will assist to alleviate this problem.

We understand that CHPs will be witnessing these problems, but operating in an environment where funding sources are finite, construction costs are rising, there are many stakeholder interests to be met and the various bodies providing funding to the CHP sector have their own requirements and interests, which are not always aligned. There is also significant competition for new sites for development or to acquire sites being disposed of by organisations that would be immediately suitable for accommodation.

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Gadens has been increasing its focus on the CHP sector and the regulatory context over the last few years, through its work with QShelter and with State Government agencies looking to facilitate development of social and affordable housing developments. This experience allows us to assist CHPs with government funding, understanding and interpreting legislation impacting their operations and changing regulations and requirements affecting the property and construction industries. We can assist with any form of transaction undertaken by a CHP, from a matter involving a single dwelling through to complex development arrangements, business reorganisations or establishment of charitable trusts or investment vehicles.

Skills	Offered?	Summary of demonstrated qualifications, consultancy skills and consulting track record
Finance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Gadens has a strong reputation in funding and finance related matters, with a large banking and finance practice. Our lawyers specialise in all aspects of finance transactions for property and corporate financing. Our team regularly advises borrowers, lenders and intermediaries, including key Australian and multinational corporates, major Australian and international banks, the mortgage industry, private equity houses and other specialist financial institutions.
Business Planning	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Gadens corporate team advises on corporate governance, corporate structures and ownership arrangements, establishment and registration of charitable entities, trust structures, taxation issues and all general business and commercial issues. Our broad experience across a variety of industries means we have extensive knowledge of the key issues likely to be faced by CHP in their day-to-day operations (e.g. governance, board processes, ownership changes or investment) or as they establish new business functions and/or entities to grow their business or provide a source for funding or cooperation.
Property Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Our team is one of the largest specialist property, construction and planning teams in Brisbane. We advise across the entire property lifecycle, including due diligence and acquisition, planning and environment, construction and development, sales transactions, tax and structuring, finance, leasing and debt recovery. We also have experience advising on the specific tenure and transaction requirements which are customary in the CHP industry.
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	Our corporate lawyers are risk experts and regularly draft risk management processes and risk mitigation strategies, undertake risk reviews for clients and implement business processes aimed at reducing risk for our client's businesses. They also advise on all relevant issues which can be a source of significant risk for an organisation, including regulatory issues and licensing, WH&S, employment, taxation and litigation.