

# Housing Trust News

Issue 09, April 2018 Newsletter

## *Hello and Welcome!*

Our tenants are always our first priority, and we're getting on with the business of building more homes in our community. I announced at the Homelessness NSW conference that the Housing Trust will work with Local Government and other partners to create a solid plan of action for 5000 extra social and affordable homes in the next decade.

Creating 5000 homes is a big task, but an important one given the great need in our area. It is also important that we remove the stigma that blames the person instead of the failures of our economic and social policies for homelessness.

The 2016 Census figures show that NSW recorded a 37% increase in homelessness in the last 5 years - the largest in Australia. The data also showed that there

were 1,013 homeless people in the Illawarra, with the largest increases coming from people sleeping rough and living in overcrowded dwellings.

We are always working to acquire more properties, and you can read about our 25 new homes in Bulli in this newsletter - you can also take part in our competition to name these homes. We are continuing talks with Council about our development in Dapto, and the plans for our homes in Flinders and Corrimal are awaiting development consent.

It has been wonderful to meet many of you at Housing Trust events. Please remember that you can always contact me if you have any feedback or issues - my email address is [CEO@housingtrust.org.au](mailto:CEO@housingtrust.org.au)

Michele Adair, CEO

### 2016 Census Figures - Illawarra



151 people living in improvised dwellings, tents or sleeping out



235 people in supported accommodation for the homeless



237 people staying temporarily with other households



166 living in boarding houses



11 in other temporary lodgings



220 living in 'severely' crowded dwellings





# Tylah West Scholarship Update

Our Tylah West Scholarship winners have started using their scholarships to buy items to help with education, training and employment. If you are undertaking education, training or employment in 2019, keep an eye out as the next round of the scholarships will open later this year.



## Tenant Advisory Group Update

The Tenant Advisory Group (TAG) advises the Housing Trust on policy and procedures. The group's genuine input into the decision making processes of the Housing Trust is greatly valued.

A new subcommittee has been formed, and the members will provide advice to the Housing Trust on our new buildings and renovations, ensuring that they meet the needs of our tenants and our community. The committee will use their lived experience to help the Housing Trust.

If you are interested in being part of the TAG or the new subcommittee, contact Joanne on 4254 1121. The next TAG meeting will be on Wednesday 9th of May, at 10am.



TAG subcommittee member selecting paint colours

## Smoke free homes pilot program

The Housing Trust is piloting a program to make our homes smoke free, starting with tenant engagement and consultation at our Central Gardens complex. Tenants will be very involved in the implementation of this program.

Preventing smoking in our homes stops other residents being exposed to dangerous second-hand smoke, and ensures our homes are safer and cleaner without the dangers of lit cigarettes and nicotine staining.

To assist residents, we have partnered with Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District and will supply residents who would like to quit smoking with patches and other cessation assistance. Six people have already signed up for this program.





# Grill'd Local Matters winners!



Michele received \$300 on behalf of the Housing Trust from Grill'd Wollongong as part of their Local Matters initiative.

Thanks to everyone who ate a burger and voted for the Housing Trust.

The money will be used to purchase much needed supplies for crisis accommodation.

Thanks Grill'd Wollongong for your support!

## Name the new Housing Trust homes in Bulli

Housing Trust Board Members and staff recently had a preview of our new homes in Bulli. We will be providing 25 more homes to people in need when renovations are completed in the next few months.

The new complex has 20 one-bedroom units and 5 two-bedroom villas, and has lovely lawns and gardens for the residents to enjoy. It is well located in a quiet area close to shops, doctors and other facilities. The homes will be available to people 55 years and older on the social and affordable housing waiting list.



We are looking for a name for this new complex. The name could draw on a range of elements, including geographical locations, notable people, Indigenous values, local heritage, sayings or landmarks that reflect the place we all call home – the Illawarra.

The competition runs from April 26<sup>th</sup> to May 9<sup>th</sup>, and the winner will receive a **\$250 Bunnings voucher** and an invitation to the exclusive opening event.

You can enter online - [www.housingtrust.org.au/bulli-naming-competition/](http://www.housingtrust.org.au/bulli-naming-competition/)



# Opportunities and Events



## Savers Plus

Earn up to \$500 in matched savings for education costs!  
Call Jo on 4254 1121 for details.



## Kidsfest Shellharbour

24<sup>th</sup> May, 10am  
Communities for children picnic at Blackbutt Reserve. Come along and enjoy lots of free activities.



## Switched on Seniors Class

4<sup>th</sup> June, 10am  
Learn to use your computer or electronic device. Call Jo on 4254 1121 to book your place.

# Feedback, Complaints and Appeals

We welcome feedback, complaints and appeals as they provide an opportunity for us to learn from your experiences and improve the way we deliver our services to you and other tenants. You can write a letter or email us with any feedback or complaints, or you can complete the form on our website.

# Seniors Festival

Our residents had a wonderful time at the Premier's Gala Concert, even getting to meet Marcia Hines!

The free bus took everyone to Sydney, where they viewed the expo and watched the concert. This trip was part of the Seniors Festival, and the Housing Trust plans to run a similar trip next year. Thanks to everyone who came along!



## Next Issue:

Look out for our next issue in mid-2018! To stay up-to-date, check our website or Facebook page. If you would like to see any items in our Housing Trust News, please contact us. We would love to hear from you!



Like us on Facebook to keep informed of free activities, events and training opportunities: [www.facebook.com/TheHousingTrust/](https://www.facebook.com/TheHousingTrust/)

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