



A DECENT  
HOME FOR  
EVERYONE

# Housing Trust News

July 2023

I'd like to personally thank each of you for being a part of Housing Trust's 40 year journey. As we celebrate our 40th Year we are proud to be providing more homes to more people than ever. With your help we continue to advocate for more Affordable housing in our community and deliver on our mission of a decent home for everyone.

We kicked off celebrations in June with a stunning photography exhibition "Trust" by renowned photographer Tim Bauer, featuring tenants, former tenants, our staff and community members who have lived experience with housing insecurity.

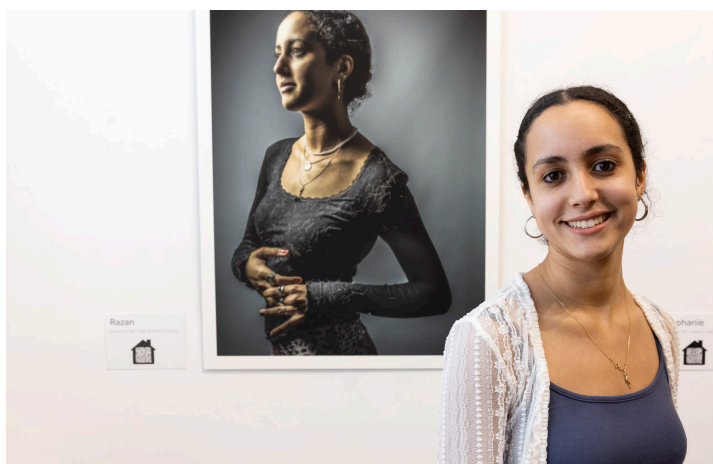
The exhibition attracted hundreds of visitors and I was so pleased to meet and re-connect with so many of you at the events we held at the gallery during the exhibition period.

A special thanks to those of you who participated in the exhibition and so generously shared your stories. A selection of images from the exhibition is now on display for 12 months at Bonacina Way, just outside Wollongong City Library if you'd like to see them up close. You can also see the full gallery on the Housing Trust website. [housingtrust.org.au/about/40th-anniversary/](https://housingtrust.org.au/about/40th-anniversary/)

Stay tuned for more 40th Anniversary events towards the end of the year.

Yours sincerely,

Michele Adair





# \$60,000 raised at HT Charity Golf Day

Our third annual golf day in May 2023 proudly raised over \$60,000 for Housing Trust's Tylah West Education Scholarship Program.

To date the scholarships have assisted 122 tenants and distributed almost \$150,000 in funds, which has helped offset education-related expenses such as school fees, university and TAFE fees, laptops, equipment, internet services, tools, textbooks and work boots.

Housing Trust is excited to have major local sponsors South32 and Commonwealth Bank supporting the scholarship. Their contributions will help us support more customers with their employment, training and education goals.

Stay tuned for next years scholarship applications which open in October 2023.



Applications for TWES open October 2023

## Are you claiming the correct rent assistance?

It's important to claim the correct Commonwealth Rent Assistance (CRA) from Centrelink.

Your CRA is determined by the information you provide to Centrelink. If your information is not up to date you could be entitled to more CRA or you could be claiming too much CRA and potentially incur a debt to repay to Centrelink.

To check you are claiming the correct CRA you can call Centrelink or visit your local Centrelink Office.

### Centrelink Contact Numbers:

JobSeeker Payment (22 or older)	132850
Centrelink Families Line	136150
Disability, Sickness, Carers Line	132717
Older Australians Line	132300

## Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP)

Housing Trust is committed to working towards deepening our connections with and understanding of our First Nations peoples as an organisation.

With the help of external consultants Two Points Co, our Reconciliation Action Plan Committee has commenced work on a Reflect RAP.

Housing Trust encourages any First Nations customers who would like to help consult with us on our RAP Journey to get in touch.

Please contact Jo on 4254 1166 or email [joanne.reed@housingtrust.org.au](mailto:joanne.reed@housingtrust.org.au).



Artwork by JS Koori Design

## TAG

The Tenant Advisory Group met in May in the Housing Trust Board room. It's the first time we have met onsite since 2020 and it was great to have everyone at the offices again. The TAG were able to meet some of our newer staff, discuss policies, and plan for some exciting events for the coming year.

If you would like to be involved with the Housing Trusts TAG, please call Joanne on 4254 1166 for more information.



## NAIDOC Week

Housing Trust participated in NAIDOC Week at Shellharbour NAIDOC Community Day at Shellharbour Civic Centre.

Housing Trust's stall included LEGO activities for all ages and our crew gave away brand new LEGO boxes kindly donated by Good360.



## Policy Update

We have made changes to our **Absence from Property, Commencing a Social Housing Tenancy and Use of Premises Policies**.

You can stay up to date with Housing Trust policies online via our website. [housingtrust.org.au/tenants/policies/](https://housingtrust.org.au/tenants/policies/)



## Inclusion & Diversity

Housing Trust is committed to building inclusive environments for our tenants, staff and the broader community.

We celebrate, value and include people of all backgrounds, genders, sexualities, cultures, bodies and abilities.

When you see this symbol, just like at Housing Trust Head Office, it means that members from the LGBTQIA+ community are proudly welcomed and supported here.





# Community Information



## Gas Rebate

If you are a concession card or health care card holder you may be eligible for a gas rebate on your bill. You must have an account directly with an energy supplier.

Eligible NSW households receive the rebate as a credit on each quarterly gas bill, up to a total of \$110 per year. The amount is calculated daily from the day you call your supplier and apply.

Apply via Service NSW website.

## First Lap

Parents, guardians and carers of children aged 3 to 6 years who are not enrolled in school, can apply for a \$50 voucher towards the cost of swimming lessons.

Make sure you take advantage of this great initiative before it expires 30 June 2024. T&C's apply.



## Empowering social housing tenants to own their own home

Head Start Homes, is a not-for-profit community services organisation that offers public, social and affordable tenants free support across their entire homeownership journey.

If you would like to know more checkout [www.headstarthomes.org.au/apply](http://www.headstarthomes.org.au/apply) or call Kate on 0416 196 912.

You can also easily express your interest by clicking on the - I want to express my interest - link on their website - it should take less than 5 minutes.

## Mobility Parking Permit

Did you know that Mobility Parking Permit holders can park in metered, coupon or ticket parking areas at no charge in council and on-street parking areas? If you're a permit holder, you can park in time-limited parking areas for longer time periods too. For example, if a signpost states a parking time limit of 30 minutes, if you hold a mobility parking permit, you can park for up to two hours. For more information please go to [www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/health-conditions-and-disability/disability-parking-permits/using-your-permit](http://www.nsw.gov.au/driving-boating-and-transport/driver-and-rider-licences/health-conditions-and-disability/disability-parking-permits/using-your-permit)



## Good Shepherd Financial Independence Hub

Good Shepherd offer a Financial Independence Hub (FIH) which provides support to people of all genders, over the age 18 who have experienced financial abuse, and/or the financial impacts of family and domestic violence. FIH provides over-the-phone and video call support (with in person option available).

You can call the Financial Independence Hub on 1300 050 150 or email them at [fih@goodshp.org.au](mailto:fih@goodshp.org.au).

**We love your feedback! Please reach out to us should you have any concerns.**

Level 7, 5 Bridge Street (PO Box 1) Coniston NSW 2500

P: 02 4254 1166 | E: [info@housingtrust.org.au](mailto:info@housingtrust.org.au) | [housingtrust.org.au](http://housingtrust.org.au)