

Housing Trust News



Tylah West Education Scholarship 2025 recipients

Empowering Customers

Congratulations to our 2025 TWES recipients

Congratulations to our 2025 Tylah West Education Scholarship (TWES) recipients. This year, we awarded 42 scholarships, totalling \$35,250.

Now in its 9th year, TWES honours Tylah West, a young Aboriginal trainee at Housing Trust. With support from Tylah's family, the scholarship helps mitigate the cost in pursuing education, training and workplace opportunities.

A special thanks to our major sponsors CommBank, GM3 and donors from our annual Golf Day. Since the scholarship started, we've supported 214 recipients with nearly \$250,000.

This year we had applications from diverse ages and backgrounds including Libyan, Indian, Syrian, Congolese, South African, and Tongan.

Next year marks the 10th anniversary, so stay tuned for big celebrations in Tylah's honour!



HT Connect is a relaxed setting where you can chat with us, ask questions, and get support. Whether you need referrals to places like My Aged Care, community transport, or just want to know about activities and programs in the area, we've got you covered. We'll send you an SMS to let you know when a HT Connect is coming to you.



Acknowledgement of Country

Housing Trust acknowledges the people of the Dharawal and Yuin nations, Cultural Custodians of the lands, waters and sky where we work and provide homes. We recognise their deep connection to the coastal areas stretching from south of Sydney Harbour to beyond the Shoalhaven River and throughout the escarpment. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, acknowledging their continual care and stewardship of these lands, waters and sky throughout generations. Housing Trust extends a warm invitation to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples, as we work together towards harmony on lands that were never ceded. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.



CEO Message

It's been a busy time at HT. Since my last note, we have

had two projects, The Bower and Northsea, reach completion, adding another 27 homes to the HT portfolio, most importantly providing greatly needed new social and affordable rental homes for our local community.

We've celebrated our ninth annual TWES presentation with 42 recipients receiving support to achieve their education and employment goals. This is a truly great day, and one where I'm constantly reminded of just how important the foundation of a safe, secure and affordable home really is. Leonardo Da Vinci said, "Learning never exhausts the mind" and this has been so true for me, as I've been able to meet with so many of you at various HT Connect events and TAG meetings. Thank you for welcoming me so warmly into your homes and your communities.

We've recently worked with our team and our Board to update our Strategic Plan for the period 2025–2028. HT continues to work hard to deliver our mission of a *decent home for everyone*. The changes and updates that we did make include a broader focus on partnerships, a new standalone pillar for 'Our People' and importantly, the replacement of one of our values from Collaboration to Empowerment, demonstrating a shift for both our people and our customers to enhanced autonomy, choice, and responsibility. Scan the QR code below to read the full Strategic Plan.

Caring for and protecting our people, their families and our customers happens every day. We're constantly listening and learning – I hope you see and feel this, and I also hope that you continue to feel safe and supported in sharing your story and your journey with us, whatever it is.

On this note, you will soon receive an invitation to participate in our tenant satisfaction survey. There are a range of ways you can do this, either on paper, online or over the phone. I hope you will take the time to tell us how we are going; what we could do better and what we're doing well! There are some great prizes on offer for just taking part.

Until next time, my very best wishes.

Amanda



HT Customers Trish & Marianne



Thankyou

We want to give a big thank you to HT customers Trish and Marianne. They've worked hard over the years to advocate for other tenants on the HT Tenant Advisory Group (TAG). They've tackled issues ranging from water bills to community concerns.

After years of active membership, they're now retiring from TAG. As they move on to new adventures, we're looking for new TAG members to join the fun and keep making a difference. If you're passionate about helping our customers and want to be part of a great community, we'd love to have you on board.

Trish and Marianne's journey with HT isn't one they'll soon forget. To read their full story, please scan the QR code or visit our website housingtrust.org.au.



International Women's Day

HT celebrated International Women's Day by supporting the Illawarra International Women's Day Lunch for the fifth consecutive year. It was a great event that truly aligned with our values. We were thrilled to see several exceptional women awarded scholarships to pursue their passions and where they've really excelled.

Dignity for All

Northsea is Australia's first mixed tenure building to combine commercial, private, social and affordable housing around a single core, with no segregation of lifts, lobbies and shared resident facilities.

Sandra, who has been a HT customer for 12 years, said Northsea was a transformative development.

"This is more than just housing, it is about people, it's about self-esteem, it's about being part of the community, it's about being treated with respect and dignity," she said.

Now working as a mental health peer support worker, Sandra credited stable housing with helping rebuild her life.



"It is the cornerstone of how we live, having housing, decent, affordable housing," she said.

HT chief executive Amanda Winks said the project was "a beacon of hope".

"I hope this is the last time this is seen as an innovation, and I really hope that this is the blueprint for housing moving forward the way that it should be done."



The Bower

9 new homes for women-led households in Dapto

The Bower, has opened its doors in Dapto. This development features nine brand new 1 and 2-bedroom townhouses designed especially for women-led households.

The project was assisted with funding by the Federal Government's \$10 billion Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF), and through a Wollongong City Council Grant from the Commonwealth Government's Building Better Regional Cities program.

The Bower ensures safe, secure, and affordable housing for over 25 years. We're excited to see the positive impact this will have on our community.



The Grass is Greener

We're excited to share that HT has received \$9,000 in grants to purchase a new ride-on mower and trailer for our Lawns and Gardens Program, saving significant time on each lawn we cut. Scan the QR code to read the full story on our website.



If you need help to understand this newsletter, please contact the Telephone Interpreters Service on **131 450** and ask them to contact us for you at no cost. You can also come into the Housing Trust Office and ask for assistance in your language.

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Community Noticeboard



Scam Awareness

Stop, Check, & Protect

Scams are getting more and more sophisticated and costing Australians billions of dollars each year.

Scam Watch have 3 simple steps can help stop scammers.

STOP: Don't give your money or your information to anyone if unsure.

CHECK: Ask yourself if the message or call is fake.

PROTECT: Act quickly if something feels wrong.

Contact your bank if you notice unusual activity or if you think you've given your details to a scammer. Seek help and report the scam to Scamwatch.

When you report scams, you help stop the scam and warn others.



Climate Research

The University of Sydney is inviting social housing customers to participate in a study on how climate change affects their home. The goal of the research is to make these homes more comfortable for residents.



As a participant you would share your experiences regarding home comfort and air quality. This valuable information would then be used to improve homes across Australia.

Participants will receive a gift voucher as a token of appreciation.

Want to know more?

Contact Dr. Shamila Haddad via email Shamila.Haddad@sydney.edu.au

NSW Government Rebates



Feeling the pinch? The NSW Government offers rebates to help families, concession card holders, and retirees save on their electricity bills.

Follow the QR code for more information.



UOW Free Tax Clinic

The University of Wollongong (UOW) has opened a free student led tax clinic for eligible residents and businesses. You can get help face-to-face, over the phone, or online. Bookings are essential. Apply online at uow.edu.au/business-law/tax-clinic/



HT Policies

We've recently made some changes to our tenancy related policies. We encourage all of our customers to stay up to date with HT policies via our website. We're here to help, so if there's anything you're unsure about, please reach out to us.



We love your feedback!

Please reach out to us should you have any concerns.

Dharawal Country

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