

MYPLACE

NEWSLETTER FOR TENANTS AND RESIDENTS OF HOME IN PLACE
ISSUE FOURTEEN

Home
in Place



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CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER
HOME IN PLACE



Tenant Satisfaction Survey

Thank You and What's Next

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who took the time to complete our recent Tenant Satisfaction Survey.

Your feedback is incredibly valuable and plays a vital role in shaping the services and support we provide across our communities.

We are pleased to share that the survey is now finalised, and we are carefully reviewing the insights you've provided. The information gathered will directly inform how we improve our services, ensuring they better reflect your needs, priorities, and experiences. Our commitment is to use your feedback to drive meaningful improvements and to foster an organisation that continually strives for excellence in service delivery.

For those tenants who requested follow-up contact as part of your survey response, please be assured that our team will be reaching out to you directly. We appreciate your willingness to engage further and look forward to those conversations.

Encouragingly, many of you expressed interest in greater opportunities for engagement and practical support. In response, we are exploring a range of initiatives such as handyman workshops, financial

management sessions, and other programs designed to support tenants in navigating the changing economic environment. These activities will be tailored to your interests and needs, helping to build skills, confidence, and community connection.

We also want to highlight the continued success of our Pantry services, located at 123 Community Hub and The Meeting Place. These vital community resources provide access to low-cost essential grocery items, helping to ease cost-of-living pressures for many households. We encourage you to make use of these services and share them with others in the community who may benefit.

Thank you once again for your participation and ongoing engagement. Together, we are building stronger, more responsive services for everyone.

Winter Fire Safety Reminder

As the temperatures drop and we all look for ways to keep warm, it's a great time to think about fire safety at home. Simple precautions—like keeping heaters clear of flammable items, never leaving cooking unattended, and checking that smoke alarms are working—can make a big difference in keeping you and your household safe.

For more tips on staying fire-safe this winter, visit www.fire.nsw.gov.au and www.qfes.qld.gov.au.

Stay warm and stay safe.



More homes for more Australians

At Home in Place, our work is not just about managing homes. We are also speaking up about the need for more social and affordable housing across Australia.

Last year, we launched our One in Ten campaign, calling for governments to commit to building one in every ten new homes as social or affordable housing.

Housing was more affordable when governments built affordable homes. For decades, both sides of politics invested in building homes for everyday Australians. Governments built around 15 per cent of all new homes in the 1950s and 1960s, and around 10 per cent in the 1970s and 1980s.

Now they build almost none.

The impacts are being felt right across the country. In Australia, more than 122,000 people are homeless. According to UNSW research, around 10,000 people are becoming homeless every month. Women over 55 are now the fastest growing group experiencing homelessness in Australia.

More than 640,000 households are in housing need, a figure forecast to reach 940,000 by 2041. Social housing waiting lists stretch beyond 10 years in every state and territory.

At the same time, rents have increased by almost 40 per cent in the past three years and around 70 per cent of renters are experiencing financial stress and paying more rent than they can afford.

Through our Modern Homelessness campaign, we highlighted how housing stress and homelessness are affecting more Australians than ever before, across all age groups and backgrounds.

Since then, we have also commissioned new research into the challenges facing young people trying to

enter the housing market, as well as older renters approaching retirement age. The findings show many Australians are already struggling to keep a roof over their heads, with rising rents, housing stress and growing fears about homelessness and long term housing security.

There is a solution. Governments need to build again.

Our One in Ten campaign calls for one in every ten new homes built in Australia to be social or affordable housing. This single change could deliver around 24,000 additional homes every year and help more Australians access safe, stable and affordable housing.

To learn more about our campaigns and research, go to:

▶ **One in Ten and Modern Homelessness**
homeinplace.org/modern-homelessness

▶ **The Exit Generation**
homeinplace.org/exit-generation-housing-crisis

▶ **Retirement Crisis Renters Australia**
homeinplace.org/the-retirement-reckoning



Supporting wellbeing, connection and community

Earlier this year, Home in Place offered two special grant opportunities designed to support tenant wellbeing, social connection and community participation.

The response from tenants was incredibly strong, with 145 applications received for the **Wellbeing Grant** and 22 applications received for the **Spark Grant** before applications closed at the end of April.

The Wellbeing Grant was created to help tenants take part in activities that support physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence and social connection. Applications covered a wide range of interests and activities, including gym and pool memberships, fitness programs, creative workshops, hobby based learning and short courses.

The Spark Grant focused on helping tenants bring simple community ideas to life and create opportunities for neighbours to connect with one another. Applications included ideas such as walking groups, gardening activities, coffee catch ups, movie nights and craft groups.

The strong response to both grants highlights the importance of programs that help people stay active, connected and involved in their communities.

While every application was different, many shared a common theme – creating opportunities to improve wellbeing, reduce isolation, build confidence and strengthen community connections.

Thank you to everyone who applied and shared their ideas. Successful applicants have been contacted directly.

Fringe Festival tickets for tenants

Home in Place partnered with the Newcastle Fringe Festival to provide 50 free tickets to tenant families, helping more people enjoy live arts and cultural experiences across the festival season.

Families attended a range of performances throughout March, including comedy, theatre and music events, experiencing the creativity and energy the festival brings to Newcastle each year.

The partnership helped make live performances more accessible for families at a time when rising living costs can make outings and entertainment difficult to afford.



The Tenant Forums are back!

Home in Place tenants are invited to join us at one of our upcoming tenant forums this June. These events are a great chance to take a break, enjoy a good meal and connect with people and services that can support you.

Each forum is designed to be welcoming, relaxed and easy to take part in. You will hear from a few guest speakers, then sit back while local services come to you. There is no need to move around or feel unsure about where to go. Simply stay seated and have a chat as organisations rotate between tables to share information and answer your questions.

It is a simple, social way to learn what support is available and connect with both Home in Place staff and other tenants.

WHAT TO EXPECT

- Delicious sit-down lunch provided
- Engaging guest speakers
- A simple way to learn about helpful services
- Connect with Home in Place staff and other tenants

REGISTER TODAY

To learn more or to register, go to www.homeinplace.org/tenant-forums-june-2026 or scan the QR code.

THE FORUMS ARE FREE EVENTS FOR HOME IN PLACE TENANTS ONLY. REGISTRATIONS ARE ESSENTIAL.



Forum dates and details

Newcastle and Lake Macquarie Tenant Forum

Thursday 4 June, 11am to 2pm
Cardiff Senior Citizens Centre

Central Coast Tenant Forum

Wednesday 10 June, 11am to 2pm
Central Coast Community Church Wyong

Mid Coast Tenant Forum

Thursday 11 June, 11am to 2pm
St Johns Anglican Church Memorial Hall Taree

East Maitland Tenant Forum

Thursday 18 June, 11am to 2pm
Kurri Kurri Bowling Club

Upper Hunter Tenant Forum

Wednesday 24 June, 11am to 2pm
Senior Citizens and Community Centre Muswellbrook

QUEENSLAND TENANTS

While Queensland will not host a large tenant forum this year, the team is currently planning smaller engagement activities across a number of communities.

Details will be shared once plans are finalised.



Could a young person in your life benefit from a Grow a Star scholarship?

Grow a Star is a youth mentoring and scholarship program created by Home in Place to help young people pursue their goals in education, sport, music or the arts.

The program supports young people aged 10 to 18 who may be facing financial or personal barriers that make it harder to take part in the activities they love.

Scholarships can help cover things like school costs, uniforms, sporting fees and equipment, music lessons, instruments, tutoring, excursions and more.

Over the years, Grow a Star has helped hundreds of young people build confidence, stay connected to their communities and work towards their goals.

One of those young people is 17-year-old **Hayley from Glendale**, who recently **received a scholarship to support her development as a sprinter** after standout performances at the NSW Athletics Country Championships.

Fourteen year old **Jarvis is chasing his dream of one day playing in the NBL**. Thanks to a Grow a

Star scholarship, he has been able to continue training and competing with the Newcastle Falcons while balancing school and early morning training sessions.

Sixteen year old **Makenzie is pursuing her passion for music** through the Music Program at Alesco. Her scholarship recently helped her purchase a new electric guitar and equipment to continue building her skills and confidence as a performer.

Applications are open to young people who are engaged in education, training or employment and can demonstrate how the scholarship would benefit them.

The next Australian application round opens on the 1st of September and closes on the 30th of September.

To learn more about the program, read inspiring Star Stories or apply, go to www.growastar.org



Science, fun and hands on learning

Home in Place recently partnered with the University of Newcastle's SMART Team to deliver an exciting hands on STEM experience for tenant families, thanks to support through an Inspiring Australia NSW 2026 Regional STEM Community Activity Seed Grant.

Held on Monday 20 April, the Forces in Action! event welcomed primary school aged children and their families for a morning filled with science, laughter and interactive learning.

The high energy show brought science to life through a series of fun demonstrations exploring the invisible forces that shape the world around us. Children watched cups of water spin upside down without spilling, experienced the power of a vortex cannon and cheered as mini rockets blasted into the air.

After the show, families had the chance to take part in hands on science stations where children could experiment, explore and build confidence through play based learning.

The event was designed to make science more visible, accessible and engaging for families across regional communities, while encouraging curiosity and interest in STEM subjects including science, technology, engineering and maths.

Home in Place Events and Partnerships Manager Michelle Faithfull said the program was about creating opportunities for young people to experience learning in a fun and welcoming environment.

"At Home in Place, we believe opportunity should be accessible to everyone. Experiences like Forces in Action! help break down barriers and open doors to learning, creativity and future pathways that may not otherwise be within reach," she said.

"By working alongside Inspiring Australia and the University of Newcastle SMART Program, we're not just delivering an event, we're creating moments of connection, inspiration and possibility."

Cooking Corner

Simple winter warmers with five ingredients or less, perfect for cosy nights and easy cooking.

RECIPES ADAPTED FROM TASTE.COM.AU

CREAMY TOMATO SOUP Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

2 cans diced tomatoes
1 brown onion, chopped
2 cups vegetable stock
1/2 cup thickened cream
1 tbs olive oil

STEPS

1. Heat oil in a saucepan and cook onion until soft.
2. Add tomatoes and stock. Simmer for 15 minutes.
3. Blend until smooth.
4. Stir through cream and serve warm.

SLOW COOKER CHICKEN CASSEROLE Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS

500g chicken thigh fillets
2 carrots, chopped
2 potatoes, chopped
1 packet French onion soup mix
2 cups water

STEPS

1. Place all ingredients into a slow cooker.
2. Stir well to combine.
3. Cook on low for 6-8 hours.
4. Serve hot with bread or rice.

CHEESY BROCCOLI PASTA Serves 4

INGREDIENTS

300g pasta
1 head broccoli, chopped
1 cup grated cheese
1/2 cup cream
Salt and pepper

STEPS

1. Cook pasta according to packet directions.
2. Add broccoli for the last 3 minutes of cooking.
3. Drain and return to saucepan.
4. Stir through cream and cheese until melted.
5. Season and serve.

BEEF AND POTATO BAKE Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS

500g beef mince
4 potatoes, thinly sliced
1 cup grated cheese
1 jar pasta sauce
1 tbs olive oil

STEPS

1. Preheat oven to 180 °C.
2. Cook mince in oil until browned.
3. Layer potato, mince and pasta sauce in a baking dish.
4. Top with cheese.
5. Bake for 40-45 minutes until potatoes are tender.

APPLE CRUMBLE Serves 4-6

INGREDIENTS

4 apples, sliced
1 cup rolled oats
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/2 cup plain flour
100g butter, melted

STEPS

1. Preheat oven to 180 °C.
2. Place apples in a baking dish.
3. Mix oats, sugar, flour and butter together.
4. Sprinkle over apples.
5. Bake for 30 minutes until golden.

Puzzle Time



Crossword

ACROSS

2. Covered outdoor area attached to a house
3. Storage space with doors
7. Large comfortable chair for one person
8. Chair with a reclining backrest
10. Dining room storage furniture
13. Appliance used for baking and roasting
14. Storage area for food and groceries
15. Appliance used to brown bread
17. Backless seat often used in kitchens
18. Furniture often used for work or study
20. Device used to tell the time
21. Appliance used to mix or puree food
22. Passage connecting rooms in a home
24. Border used to display a photo

DOWN

1. Plates bowls and cups collectively
4. Sliding storage compartment in furniture
5. Cooking pot with a handle
6. Window covering that rolls or folds
8. Soft floor covering found in living areas
9. Soft support placed on couches or chairs
11. Appliance used to boil water
12. Furniture used to store clothes
16. Handheld device used to control a television
17. Kitchen fixture used for washing dishes
18. Mat placed near an entrance
19. Wall storage for books or decorations
23. Light used beside a bed or couch

Word Scramble

Things that make winter a little cosier.

1. **OUSP**
2. **MTHREOS**
3. **RETHERA**
4. **NAEBLKT**
5. **LAHWS**
6. **DONOA**
7. **LOGEVS**
8. **TOH CCOOHALTE**
9. **SWLO ROEKOC**
10. **LOTEW**

Riddles

1. The more you take, the more you leave behind. What am I?
2. What belongs to you, but other people use it more than you do?
3. What has branches, but no fruit, trunk or leaves?
4. What can fill a room but takes up no space?
5. What gets bigger the more you take away?
6. What occurs once in a minute, twice in a moment but never in a thousand years?
7. What is always in front of you but can't be seen?

CROSSWORD ANSWERS
ACROSS 2. VERANDA 3. CUPBOARD 7. ARMCHAIR 8. RECLINER 10. SIDEBORD 13. OVEN 14. PANTRY 15. TOASTER 17. STOOL 18. DESK 20. CLOCK 21. BLENDER 22. HALLWAY 24. FRAME
DOWN 1. CROCKERY 4. DRAWER 5. SAUCEPAN 6. BLIND 8. RUG 9. CUSHION 11. KETTLE 12. WARDROBE 16. REMOTE 17. SINK 18. DOORMAT 19. SHELF 23. LAMP
WORD SCRAMBLE 1. SOUP 2. THERMOS 3. HEATER 4. BLANKET 5. SHAWL 6. DOONA 7. GLOVES 8. HOT CHOCOLATE 9. SLOW COOKER 10. TOWEL
RIDDLES: 1. FOOTSTEPS 2. YOUR NAME 3. A BANK 4. LIGHT 5. A HOLE 6. THE LETTER M 7. THE FUTURE



Photo Gallery

Tenant Christmas Events







In the Pipeline

As demand for affordable housing continues to grow across Australia, Home in Place is continuing to work with governments and development partners to help deliver more homes in communities where they are needed most.

A number of major affordable housing projects are currently in the pipeline across Western Australia and New South Wales, helping increase the supply of secure and affordable homes for people experiencing housing stress.

RIVERVALE, WESTERN AUSTRALIA

Construction has officially begun on a major new affordable housing development in Rivervale, near Perth.

The project will deliver 171 affordable apartments in a 12 storey building, including a mix of one and two bedroom homes in a well connected inner urban location close to transport, services and employment opportunities.

The development is being delivered through the Australian Government's Housing Australia Future Fund and is expected to welcome its first residents in early 2028.

Once completed, Home in Place will provide tenancy and asset management services for the building.

PORT MACQUARIE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Home in Place has been awarded a contract by Homes NSW for the delivery and management of 94 new affordable housing dwellings in Port Macquarie. Construction is expected to begin in mid 2026, with completion anticipated in the second half of 2028. The development is being funded by the Australian Government's Housing Australia Future Fund.

NEWCASTLE, NEW SOUTH WALES

Home in Place has also been selected as the preferred partner for a significant affordable housing project in Newcastle on the former heavy rail corridor. The proposed Rail Bridge Row development includes plans for 48 affordable apartments in a mix of one, two and three bedroom homes, close to transport, employment and essential services.

These developments represent hundreds of new affordable homes that will help support individuals, families and workers struggling to find secure housing.

They also reflect the broader message behind **Home in Place's One in Ten campaign**, that Australia needs more affordable homes, built at scale, to help address the growing housing crisis.

Stay in Touch

HOME IN PLACE CUSTOMER CALL CENTRE 1300 333 733

BUSINESS HOURS FOR ALL GENERAL TENANCY ENQUIRIES OR 24/7 FOR EMERGENCY TENANCY AND MAINTENANCE ISSUES.

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