



Amélie Housing
Building hope through housing

Issue No. 6

AMÉLIE NEWS

Spring 2023



SLEEPING OUT TO RAISE VITAL FUNDS FOR VINNIES HOMELESSNESS SUPPORT SERVICES

On 25 August, Amélie team members Poppy, Rachael, Gloria, Irina and Robin participated in the Western Sydney Vinnies Community Sleepout to raise awareness about homelessness and the lack of affordable housing, while raising vital funds for Vinnies homelessness support services.

Both Rachael and Poppy were fortunate to be named raffle winners

on the night, meaning that Rachael got to spend the night sleeping in the Vinnies van, while Poppy was able to sleep out on a mattress!

Participation in the Community Sleepout provides all participants the opportunity to gain a deeper appreciation for what it is like to experience homelessness on a nightly basis. When reflecting on her experience, Amélie's Rachael Carney

highlighted just how many 'decisions people need to make when trying to find a safe space to sleep, where they will be protected when out in the elements'.

A round of applause to the team for so passionately advocating for this worthy cause!

Together they exceeded their fundraising goal of \$500, raising a total of \$693.

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A MESSAGE FROM THE CEO, GRAHAM WEST



The change of season brings with it a sense of renewal and anticipation for the warmer and more festive months that lie ahead.

As I reflect on the last few months, I want to acknowledge the great work that has taken place across Amélie & SVDP Housing. Our team is strong, capable and heart-led, and we are constantly looking for opportunities to improve outcomes for our tenants and those who are vulnerable in our community, as demonstrated by our team's recent involvement in the Vinnies Community Sleepout. Events like these not only enable us to raise awareness about homelessness and a lack of affordable housing, but they also enable us to connect to purpose.

At Amélie Housing, we acknowledge that a collective and community effort is central to driving social change and we are committed to playing our part in doing this. As I read through the many events we have hosted recently across our communities, I am aware of the many connections that have formed through these initiatives and it reminds me that there is strength in unity. It has been wonderful to witness these moments of partnership and togetherness. With optimism and confidence, I look forward to what is ahead for Amélie/SVDP Housing and for our tenants. The future is bright!

Warm regards

Graham West
CEO, Amélie Housing



COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Unity: Athol Park gets a fresh spin with new lines and an outdoor revival!

Residents of our Athol Park complex were grateful beneficiaries after Amélie Housing SA was recently awarded a grant from the City of Charles Sturt, with funds being used to purchase brand new clotheslines at their residence. After years of wear and tear, the old fold up lines were replaced with sleek new rotary ones, providing tenants with ample hanging space for their washing.

Greg Shar, who coordinates our SA St Vincent de Paul Society volunteer men's group, was once again generous with his time; pulling together a team of skilled volunteers, full of enthusiasm, to assemble the clotheslines and revitalise their outdoor space.

The group was comprised of retired professionals, including police officers, plumbers, carpenters, and electricians, who took the time out to share their skills and provide a show of support for residents of Athol Park. From digging holes and avoiding any utilities, to mixing concrete and ensuring straight edges were levelled, all volunteers had a specific role assigned for the day.

Our Arborist, Boss Tree Removals, also generously provided us with a couple of truckloads of mulch to enhance the associated garden space; which our team promptly spread throughout the area. As the before and after photos show, the results speak for themselves; and we're thrilled with the outcome!

A big thank you to everyone that made this project possible, with special recognition to Greg and his team – Dave, Vinnie, Graham, Gerry, Bob, David and Peter. Even our Asset Coordinator, Joe, got in on the action and provided support, although there are rumours that he disappeared from the tools for a moment. Nevertheless, he redeemed himself by bringing some much-needed coffee and donuts for the team. Great job, everyone!



Out with the old, in with the new!



Hard at work: Volunteers at Athol Park



Cheers to a Successful Morning Tea: Celebrating Community Partners and Connection in Forbes

On Friday 20 October, we were delighted to host a morning tea at Forbes Lachlan Aged Care Units, attended by 18 people, including several of Amélie's Housing Officers, three of the St Vincent de Paul Society's Forbes Conference members, and a journalist from the Forbes Advocate Newspaper, who was able to get some fantastic insights into the work that we do; and the Point of Difference program that the Society offers to support those in housing stress.

Many thanks to those that came along on the day, and to our wonderful Housing Officers who helped out with the morning tea. The gathering was a great success, and we were thrilled with the turnout.



Building Thriving Communities in Dubbo

Amélie Housing hosted a second Point of Difference (POD) program event for SAHF tenants in Dubbo on Tuesday 24th October.

POD events are designed to connect tenants to St Vincent de Paul Society Conference members who offer companionship and support to tenants as they seek to foster the development of strong, safe and engaged communities.

At our Dubbo event, Amélie tenants gathered around a cuppa

to meet Tailored Support Worker, Amanda Dwyer, along with Rhonda Gleeson (Conference President of the Dubbo Conference), Ian Wray (Regional Council President for the Castlereagh Region of the Bathurst Central Council), and Sue Stoddart, who represented the Dunedoo Community.

We are grateful to all those who attended this event for making it such a special opportunity to connect - especially to those that travelled to be there on the day.

Learn and Earn with CHIA NSW's Cadetship Program!

Are you interested in pursuing a career in community housing? Learn and Earn with CHIA NSW's Cadetship Program!

The Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA) of NSW is offering a fantastic cadetship program for the third year running – an opportunity to learn and earn at the same time!

Successful cadets will receive paid employment, as well as training in application/allocation services, tenancy, property, and

asset maintenance management. Additionally, cadets will undertake a CHC42221 Certificate IV in Housing over a 12 month period.

For further information on the Cadetship Program, including details on how to submit your application, please visit the CHIA NSW website:

<https://communityhousing.org.au/cadetship>

Best of luck with your application!



HOME HINTS AND TIPS

Top 10 Spring Cleaning Tips for a Fresh Home

As the blossoms bloom and the weather warms up, it's the perfect time to rejuvenate your living space with a spring cleaning spree. We've gathered the top 10 tips to help you refresh your home this season.

1. Declutter with Purpose:

Start by decluttering each room. Go through items one by one and decide if they still serve a purpose or bring you joy. Donate or toss what you no longer need.

2. Think Green While You Clean:

Opt for eco-friendly cleaning products to keep your home and the environment happy. You can also make your own cleaning solutions using simple ingredients like vinegar and baking soda.

3. Make Walls and Windows Shine:

Don't forget your walls and windows. A good wash can brighten up your living space. Use a microfibre cloth and a mixture of water and a small amount of dish soap for the best results.

4. Wipe Down Surfaces: Dust and grime can accumulate over the winter. Wipe down all surfaces, from countertops to shelves. A clean surface makes your home feel fresh and inviting.

5. Tackle Cupboards and Drawers:

Spring cleaning is the perfect time to tackle those cupboards and drawers. Empty them out, wipe down the interiors, and only put back what you use and love.

6. Review Your Wardrobe: It's time to bid farewell to winter coats and heavy jumpers. Pack them away and make space for your spring and summer wardrobe. While you're at it, consider donating clothes you no longer wear.

7. Ventilate and Refresh: Open up your windows to let in the fresh air. This simple step can make a big difference to the atmosphere of your home. Add a houseplant or two for a natural touch.

8. Clean in Zones: To avoid overwhelm, clean one room or area at a time. This way, you can see your progress and stay motivated.

9. Don't Forget the Floors: Vacuum and mop your floors. For a natural, effective cleaner, mix equal parts of water and white vinegar.

10. Celebrate Your Achievements: After a successful day of spring cleaning, take a moment to admire your efforts. Put the oil diffuser on, relax and enjoy your refreshed space!



FOR REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE: Call 1800 950 575

Feedback and Complaints

Amélie Housing takes feedback, complaints and appeals seriously. If you would like to lodge a complaint, appeal a decision, or provide feedback on what we do well or what we can improve, there are several ways you can do this:

- **Use our online Feedback form**
(Go to <https://bit.ly/ameliefeedback> or scan the QR Code).
- **Call us on 1800 950 575 (free call).**
Note: Some charges may apply for mobile users.
- **Access independent support.**
If you need assistance in making a complaint, appealing a decision or providing feedback you can ask a nominated person to help you. You will just need to provide consent for staff to talk with another nominated person on your behalf.

Your voice matters to us. For more information or for assistance, please speak to our staff.



ONLINE
FEEDBACK FORM