



A message from our CEO Scott Langford

This is an amazing city with many people striving to help make it a great place for everyone. Working together with our customers, communities and partners, 2019 has proved to be a rewarding and exciting year.

We started the year by establishing a new Northern region and satellite office in St Leonards to service the 1,400 new customers as part of the Social Housing Management Transfer program. We also reached close on the Social and Affordable Housing Fund Phase 2 which will allow us to deliver 260 new homes.

We are currently delivering Australia's largest community housing pipeline of social and affordable projects, developing over 1,000 new dwellings by 2023.

This is underpinned by \$410 million of senior debt commitments from the National Housing Finance and Investment Corporation, Clean Energy Finance Corporation and Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

We are delivering projects like Foyer Central which will provide a home for young people to pursue education, training and employment or our development at Gibbons Street in Redfern that is setting a new standard for design, creating great sustainable and affordable homes for 160 households. In fact, we have 200 units under construction which will be delivered this financial year. You can read more about this work in the articles below.



Last week, we were pleased to launch our new five year strategy which continues our focus on creating great places for everyone.

We are pursuing four strategic outcomes and are committed to providing place based, customer centric services that deliver positive social and economic outcomes for individuals, families and communities.

As the year draws to a close, I want to say thank you for your support and partnership. When we create shared value together, we amplify our impact. This year we have grown to provide a place to call home for 1 in every 460 Sydneysiders – that's 11,000 people!

Let's see what we can achieve together in 2020.

Have a safe and happy end to the year and I look forward to catching up in the new year.

Scott

Foyer Central starts construction

On 4 December, Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, the Hon. Gareth Ward officially marked the start of construction of SGCH's Foyer Central project.

“Foyer Central is based on the internationally recognised youth foyer model which is designed to break the cycle of disadvantage,” Mr Ward said.

“This new property is more than just a roof over a young person’s head. It gives them a solid foundation for life by providing all the supports they need to thrive.”

Foyer Central is located on City Road, Chippendale and will deliver accommodation and support for vulnerable young people to live, learn and prosper.

Partnerships have made this project a reality as it is being delivered by SGCH with the NSW Government, City of Sydney, Uniting and Social Ventures Australia.

SGCH Group CEO, Scott Langford said, “Foyer is the culmination of a collaborative effort across government, private and the not for profit sector. This draws on the expertise of experienced partners to deliver outcomes.”

The five-storey building will provide 73 units - 53 self-contained student style accommodation and 20 affordable housing units. This project is aimed at tackling youth homelessness by providing independence and opportunities to realise potential.

This building will be energy efficient with a 7-star rating under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS) and is due for completion in early 2021.



Scott Langford & the Hon. Gareth Ward, with (L-R) Tracey Burton - Uniting, Isaiah Dawe, Scott Hutchinson - Hutchinson Builders, Cllr Phillip Thallis - City of Sydney, David Thrift - SGCH, Renee Wirth - SGCH, Anita Le Lay - Uniting at the Foyer Central event.

SGCH Strategy launch and Year in Review 2019

On November 28, SGCH launched its Strategic Plan 2024 to members and stakeholders at our annual general meeting, followed by a lunch with keynote speaker Simonne Bailey from Jahama.

Over the course of our 35 year history our strategy has evolved to respond to changing environments whilst remaining linked by a continuous thread of service to customers and the community.

We continue on our path towards ‘great places for everyone’. We fundamentally believe that SGCH improves the quality of life for our customers and communities.

[Read more](#)





Artist impression of Gibbons Street, Redfern

New community housing for Redfern

In September 2019, our new flagship development was approved by the Independent Planning Commission. Located at 11 Gibbons Street, Redfern this innovative, sustainable 18-storey development will provide 160 units. The development includes ground floor retail space, a SGCH management office and a community hub.

The project was made possible due to City of Sydney's commitment to sell the land, previously a council depot, at a concessional price to enable SGCH to deliver this high number of much needed social and affordable housing to the City's CBD.

Through our established partnership with Clean Energy Finance Corporation (CEFC), this building will be energy efficient with an 8-star rating under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS), our highest rated building to date.

SGCH is working with Joe Hurst from the Boomali Aboriginal Artists Co-Op to incorporate Aboriginal art as part of the building fabric, including the brick façade, lobby and the communal open space. The site is part of a state significant area known as the Redfern Waterloo Growth Centre. The development is the outcome of a detailed Design Excellence pilot program SGCH were invited to participate in with the NSW Government Architects.

Lendlease are the appointed builders for Gibbons Street and commenced works in October.



Cheryle, at 255 Hoxton Park Road, Cartwright

More than 320 new 7-star affordable homes for Liverpool

In the Liverpool LGA we have 257 new 7-star NatHERS properties under construction to provide social and affordable housing.

The properties are across six sites in the suburbs of Cartwright, Casula, Liverpool, Miller and Moorebank. The first property will be available in January 2020 and the others in stages by June 2020.

Following approvals, we will start construction on another building in Liverpool early next year, providing another 39 new 7-star NatHERS properties for social and affordable housing.

Earlier this year we completed our first new property in the Liverpool area at Hoxton Park Road, Cartwright. This property has provided 31 new social and affordable homes to individuals and families.

When all properties are completed by 2022, we will support more than 1,200 people in affordable housing in the Liverpool LGA.

"The unit was stunning, beautiful...and I couldn't believe we could live there." Cheryle, resident of Hoxton Park Rd, Cartwright

A tribute to retiring Directors

At our recent AGM, we farewelled three retiring Directors; Dennis Cafe, Salah Kahil and Graham Rowilson. Collectively, Dennis, Salah and Graham have contributed 65 years of service to SGCH and the broader community housing sector.

As the company's original tenant Directors, Salah and Graham have provided enormous insight into the customer experience and ably assisted us with embedding the customer voice into our governance.

As former Chair and SGCH staff member, we have greatly valued Dennis' professionalism, wisdom and insight along with his stewardship of the organisation through more than a decade of growth and change.

Dennis' long-standing contribution was recognised at the AGM with the announcement of his appointment as SGCH's inaugural Life Member. Graham's commitment to our organisation, from co-operative to the large company we are today, was recognized with a Lifetime Service Award.

Salah received the Tenant Director Service Award, acknowledging his contribution to SGCH and commitment to his fellow customers.

Dennis, Salah and Graham were all involved in the Board's recent process of review and renewal, where they crafted a vision for the future and captured it into the new SGCH strategic plan. They acknowledged that as SGCH grows and the scope of our operations increases, the role of the customer voice in our governance is integral.

Dennis, and in particular Salah and Graham, played an active role in developing the best methods for engaging with and receiving feedback from our customers.

We thank Dennis, Salah and Graham for their years of dedicated service and wish them all the very best for the future.



Scott Langford and David Thrift with retiring Directors (L-R) Graham Rowilson, Dennis Cafe, Salah Kahil.