



## A message from our CEO

COVID-19 has impacted all of us and changed our daily lives. I hope you are managing well. Since March, there has been rapid change and a flood of information to navigate as the pandemic unfolds. As CEO of SGCH my focus has been on;

- The safety of our customers, staff, contractors and partners
- Support for our customers
- Ensuring our organisation weathers this event and is in a position to help individuals and communities recover.

I am confident in the measures and response we have put in place as our teams adapt to new ways of working to serve our customers. We have advocated for housing security as the 'stay at home' directive has become widely accepted as the best defence against COVID-19. You can keep up to date with our response [here](#).

We have put in place a hardship policy to support those who will need a rent reduction due to financial hardship resulting from COVID-19. In addition, over the coming months we will be working on programs and links to other supports that will assist our customers to cope and recover from this crisis. It is clear the impacts of this event will be deeply felt across the whole community and economy.

As we look further ahead, we must prepare now for a second wave of social and economic problems the pandemic will bring.



There is a real danger of mass housing insecurity and disruption so we must grasp the policy nettle and balance the value of a house as both a home and an asset.

**If the right settings are put in place and community housing providers will be well placed to serve as a partner with government, community and the private sector to create a resilient housing system that gives everyone the security of a safe and affordable home.**

Housing security can not be allowed to remain a privilege in a post COVID-19 world. As we start to settle into a new normal, or 'business as unusual', through Keyhole I wanted to share some of our achievements from the past quarter. Together with our fantastic partners, we are continuing to deliver new homes and connect people to opportunity. We remain focused on 'great places for everyone'.  
Scott Langford.



## New homes across Liverpool

This year, SGCH has delivered 64 new social and affordable homes in Cartwright with an additional 91 soon to be tenanted in Moorebank, Miller and Liverpool.

Each development holds a 7-star rating under the Nationwide House Energy Rating Scheme (NatHERS), indicating high levels of energy efficiency and comfort for residents.

New tenants have expressed a sense of safety, security and pride in their new homes.

Another new resident, Natalie\*, who is just about to move into her Moorebank unit said:

*"I can't stop crying. Thank you so much. I never dreamt that I would ever live in something this nice. When I am settled in, I am inviting [the SGCH girls] in for a big Lebanese feast to celebrate."*

To learn more about the new developments, visit our [website](#).

*\* Name changed for privacy reasons*

*Amy\* is excited to move into her brand-new unit in Moorebank after struggling with homelessness. After fleeing a violent relationship, Amy and her adult son Chris\* found themselves couch surfing, staying in refuges and in temporary accommodation before being offered a unit through SGCH. When Amy stepped into her unit for the first time, she questioned if she was in the right place. It took much convincing by SGCH staff for Amy to realise she was standing in her new home.*

*She cried and thanked SGCH staff. She will be moving into the unit one week before she is set to go in for surgery and is grateful, she has such a comfortable place to recover.*

*\*Names changed for privacy reasons*



## Homing in on Homelessness

In February, SGCH teamed up with Chatswood police to assist the North Sydney Local Government Area in the street homelessness count. Our Housing Pathways Team Leader Jake Chaszczewski and Head of Northern Region Renee Wirth teamed up with representatives from Chatswood Police to pound the pavement, counting the number of people sleeping rough. Our team used a specialised app from Department of Communities and Justice to conduct the count, which prompts the user with questions for relevant data like sleeping conditions and notes locations.

Jake said the SGCH Northern team will use the information collected to help those affected by homelessness in northern Sydney.

“We will use the information collected to engage with the people who were sleeping rough,” he said.

“We’ll offer housing assistance in conjunction with SGCH’s monthly homeless case coordination meeting.”

The count is part of the NSW Premier’s commitment to halve street homelessness by 2025. Councils in the Northern Region will use the information gathered during the count to set a baseline number of people sleeping rough and to monitor progress toward the Premier’s commitment.

During the health pandemic, we continue to collaborate with specialist services and partners across Northern Sydney to respond to homelessness and ensure we are delivering responsive housing and support services to rough sleepers.

We continue to operate under the NSW Government’s Housing Pathways system for assessing applications for social housing assistance including Private Rental Assistance (PRA) products for people experiencing homelessness or at risk of homelessness.

## Construction underway in the heart of Redfern



On 12 February, we welcomed the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Gareth Ward and City of Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore to officially mark the start of construction at Gibbons Street, Redfern. Key project partners including the City of Sydney, Department of Communities and Justice, and the Clean Energy Finance Corporation were guests at the event and saw the progress as this former City of Sydney depot site begins its transformation to an 18-storey, 162 apartment complex for social and affordable housing.

SGCH CEO Scott Langford said the development is a unique opportunity to deliver socially sustainable development within the City of Sydney.

“Gibbons Street will provide long term social and affordable housing in a high demand location,” he said.

“Once complete, it will give residents excellent access to public transport and employment opportunities. It’s bringing people one step closer to unlocking opportunities and a safe home.”

Progress on site continues with the appointed builder Lendlease adapting work practices to safely incorporate social distancing requirements. This includes the number of people on site over extended hours and staggered breaks.

The building will also include ground floor retail and commercial space, a SGCH management office and a community hub. Construction is estimated to be complete mid-2021.

Welcome to

# SGCH's Strive Scholarship Ceremony 2020

Primary and Secondary round

Missing your photos on social media?  
Use #Strive2020



## Strive Scholarships

Our Strive Scholarship program provides financial assistance to individuals who need financial support with their education and extracurricular activities. On 22 January, we held our annual Strive Scholarship awards ceremony to celebrate the 195 primary and secondary students who received a Strive scholarship.

Our application round for the tertiary scholarships has recently closed and we are working to assess these. We will not be able to hold an awards ceremony for our tertiary cohort this year, however we look forward to sharing and celebrating their achievements with you.

For more information about Strive, please visit us [here](#).

## Keeping in Touch

We want to check we've got your details up to date and capture your preferences for keeping in touch.

[Please fill out this short survey](#)

## Support for OzHarvest

We work together to help people have a sustainable, safe and affordable place to call home. Even with this as a foundation, for some of our customers – and many other low-income Australians – it's hard to find and afford good quality food. With such a devastating summer followed by coronavirus, food security remains an issue for too many people.

To play our part in achieving food security, SGCH CEO Scott Langford, SGCH team members Andrew Brooks and Kevin McCarthy and our partners Rommel Harding-Farrenberg and Dominic Fussell were signed up for the OzHarvest CEO Cookoff for Food Crisis Relief. Originally planned for March 30, the Cookoff event has been postponed because of the coronavirus.

Demand for support from OzHarvest has increased as we've seen supermarket panic buying and shortages of essentials. You can still help by making a donation and sharing the cause with your network. Donations over \$2 are tax deductible. [Click here to donate](#).