

STREETS ahead

DECEMBER 2021



DIXIE'S STORY

Dixie is a Gooreng Gooreng, Kabi Kabi woman, born in Brisbane. Dixie moved to family in Redfern at the age of 18 and made her family life there, attending TAFE to get the skills she needed to activate her passion for community work. Dixie is a mum of six, has 30 grandchildren and recently became a great-grandmother. She still lives and works in Redfern.

Always interested in serving her community and working for better outcomes, Dixie works for Women's Legal Service NSW and previously held roles at Rape and DV Service Australia. She was a founding member and early worker at Mudgin-Gal Aboriginal Womens Service. Mudgin-Gal (meaning Womens' Place) was the first service for Aboriginal Women managed and staffed by Aboriginal Women, incorporated in 1992.

Dixie has had a 32-year career dedicated to outcomes for Aboriginal women. Dixie strongly believes in the value of education. At the age of 30, and by then a single parent, Dixie studied for her first degree in Aboriginal Community Education.

Celebrated by her community, and more widely, Dixie has been the recipient of many awards over the years. Most recently, she was nominated for an International Womens' Day award in 2021 and was also nominated for NSW Aboriginal Woman of the Year the same year, for her services to women and her community.

Now her children have left home, Dixie has downsized to her apartment at Gibbons Street, Redfern but she has no plans of slowing down. She is proud of her new home and has worked with other Elders in the building to help the younger generation understand lockdown and the importance of staying put and getting vaccinated:

"Our young people are very respectful, they also want to get back to their jobs and education, so I've got no problems pulling them up and reminding them – just stay home for now, please, we need to keep safe, many Elders won't survive this virus."



During lockdown, Dixie noticed the number of Elders looking after children and stepped in to help. Working with the City of Sydney, Dixie is working on a program to support these people and use technology to stay connected:

"There are so many grandmothers struggling at the moment to keep their grandkids safe and going to school. The kids' parents have their own struggles and it's leaving older women with the tough job of raising their grandchildren. Whatever I can do to help them I will."

Dixie considers herself a 'part time worker' now but with her huge understanding of her community and her experience, she's not stopped looking for opportunities to do more:

"I will always be an advocate for safer communities, free from domestic and family violence. Safe and secure housing is the basis for this and something we all need and are entitled to. I will never shy away from asking for that for other women, and also asking others to both enjoy and respect their housing."

"Thanks to SGCH, I have a safe house in a beautiful community. Redfern is my home and a place I want to keep working for a long time."

SUPPORT DURING THE HOLIDAY SEASON

We understand this time of year can be difficult and expensive and SGCH would like to support our customers in the best way possible. If you start to experience financial stress or anxiety, please give us a call first to talk about how we can help you or to set up a payment plan.

Please be reminded that if you stop making rent and water payments, you are breaching your lease agreement.

You can also speak to our staff who can offer support services if you feel that you need extra assistance over the holiday period.



ABORIGINAL PLACE NAMES

In November 2020, Australia Post updated the addressing guidelines to include Aboriginal Place Names. SGCH operates all over Sydney, and across many traditional lands. As part of our commitment to Aboriginal people, 194 suburbs and their

traditional names have been added to our database. We will include Aboriginal Place Names in all our correspondence to you as an acknowledgement of the traditional owners and their connection to country.



NEW KEY WORKER HOUSING NOW AVAILABLE IN WESTMEAD

Affordable units in the heart of Westmead are now available. Close to hospitals, transport, schools, and university. There are two bedroom, one bedroom and studio options available in a beautiful secure building that also features a pool and BBQ area.

You may be eligible if you are:

- an essential worker (working in health care, hospitals, police, fire, teaching, childcare)
- currently employed, and earn less than \$67,800 for singles, \$101,700 for couples, \$122,000 for a couple with one children

INTERESTED? Contact SGCH to find out more: T: 1800 573 370
E: westmead@sgch.com.au

EVENTS AT SGCH

At the start of 2021, the SGCH Community and Place team were excited to get back out with communities. The team organised a range of activities and events across sites to connect people, promote health and wellbeing outcomes and work with the Local Tenant Groups.

A number of exciting events and programs have been held throughout the year including Harmony Day, health and wellness programs and training sessions on digital technology, energy savings and English classes.

When Sydney went into lockdown in June, the team needed to move all activities online. Re-launching the CPP Zoom Studio, we offered eight interactive programs each week. Thank you to everyone who joined us throughout the year online and in person and we hope to see even more of you in 2022.

Our Facebook Group called 'Get Involved @ SGCH' gives you more opportunities to connect online and is a great way to share information about your community and suggest activities you would like us to run. If you are interested in joining you can find the group at link.sgch.com.au/InvolvedFB

To stay informed about the latest programs, activities, events, or ways you can Get Involved, join the 'Get Involved @ SGCH' Facebook group, email the team at getinvolved@sgch.com.au or call them on **1800 573 370**.



The two activities I have enjoyed the most are the special days such as 'R U OK DAY' and the Youth 4 Unity workshops. I enjoyed 'R U OK DAY' as I got to try all the different activities at one time as this ran for 2 hours. The 'Youth 4 Unity Workshops' were interesting as you got to learn new things about different activities such as how to do a cover letter/resume, how to organise an activity and learn about different strategies such as confidence and how to identify strengths.'

SGCH YOUTH GROUP TO HOST YOUTH FESTIVAL

Earlier this year SGCH, in partnership with the Bonnyrigg Youth Council (BYC), were awarded the Youth Opportunities Grant by the Department of Justice (DCJ) to establish youth groups across SGCH communities under the Youth4Unity program.

Now, we are excited to announce that BYC and SGCH will host a Youth Festival in June 2022!

The festival will bring together youth from all over Sydney for a fun day out and will be a chance to recognise the contribution and achievements of the SGCH Youth Groups. The festival will include a range of activities led by our youth group members like tree tops walks, bowling, canoeing, and recreational activities. We will also have several employment related skills like leadership training, Responsible Service of Alcohol and Responsible Conduct of Gambling, and first aid.

The Youth4Unity program aims to upskill youth aged 12-24yrs through a range of skill based and educational programs, all while having fun and meeting new people. Partnering with BYC and The Y NSW (YMCA) the groups will have a chance to participate in a range of youth-led activities for youth to develop lifelong skills that will help achieve their full potential.

If you're interested in joining or finding out more about your local SGCH Youth Group, contact the Community and Place team on 1800 573 370 or email getinvolved@sgch.com.au



AN UPDATE FROM OUR TENANT COORDINATION PANEL (TCP)

In 2022, the TCP aim to create a list of concerns from our fellow tenants, their problems, challenges and where they see opportunities to improve their lifestyle and community.

The TCP is made up of 10 SGCH tenants and we will work together to create a list of priority areas of concern to work on.

The TCP are **your** advocates at SGCH, and we believe that we're all in the same boat and should all be rowing in the same direction, UP. We want to influence achievable outcomes, for improving our lives and contributing to making our homes great places to live.

How are we going to make progress in these areas?

1. This TCP needs to be visible and available. We will make ourselves visible by visiting our communities and **listening and learning** about your most pressing concerns.
2. We will try to increase our knowledge of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities at SGCH.
3. Work with **SGCH and their tenants** as a team, committed to the same results.
4. Learn more about processes and systems at SGCH and sharing this with our fellow tenants.



Every initiative the TCP takes and the progress we achieve cannot be done like coaches on the sidelines. We're all on the same field of one big team, from the newest tenant, whatever their needs, at any age, with all backgrounds, right up through all areas of SGCH as an organisation, including Directors, management and staff. We're in this place together to try to make our homes a greater place to live.

Mike Bottari, Chair of the TCP

THIS NEWSLETTER IS GOING DIGITAL

We're increasingly going digital to provide you with a better experience, more interactive features and ways to keep you directly update about topics that interest you. To stay up to date and receive this newsletter via email, please visit www.sgch.com.au/digital-newsletter/ to securely enter your details. Everyone who registers will have a chance of winning one of five \$50 gift cards.

Don't have an email or want a digital newsletter? No problem, we will continue to send a printed copy to customers who prefer this option.

