

MEDIA RELEASE

HUME HOUSING WELCOMES FIRST TOGETHER HOME CUSTOMERS

14 AUGUST 2020—Earlier today, Hume Community Housing officially welcomed the first of their new customers under the **Together Home** partnership with the NSW Government.

Hume customer, Ruby, will sleep safely tonight in her own bed after moving into her fully furnished unit in Fairfield. She and her brother have been sleeping rough without a stable home for several years and are appreciative of the support they are now receiving.

Together Home aims to secure properties from the private rental market for people who have been sleeping rough. By partnering with community housing providers, Together Home also provides access to the services people need to maintain their tenancy, improve their health and wellbeing, and move towards community participation and inclusion.

Hume CEO, Nicola Lemon, said Hume is working with the Department of Communities and Justice to support 14 people, during the next two years, who have been sleeping rough in Southwest Sydney.

The program's 'housing first' approach is based on the belief that a stable home is the foundation for success.

"We work with each person to understand what type of housing will best meet their needs. Then, with support partners we offer a range of services to wrap-around each person to give them opportunities to prosper," Ms. Lemon said.

"Having a stable home makes you part of a community and provides you with a sense of belonging. For someone who has experienced homelessness, this combination of home and services can be life-changing."

Hume offers a range of housing options from temporary accommodation, private rental assistance, to social and affordable housing.

"We support a wide range of customers in applying for a housing option that matches their needs, including seniors, youth and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander housing options."

Together Home builds on the NSW Government's response to COVID-19, which included increasing the supply and flexibility of temporary accommodation and the expansion of assertive outreach across the state.

"The Together Home initiative is particularly important, because the ongoing pandemic has made those without a home the most vulnerable in our society," Ms. Lemon said.

With Hume and local support partner Neami National backing her, Ruby will now embark on an intensive two-year support program provided by Hume designed to help her maintain her tenancy.

"Our goal is for Ruby to achieve long-term secure housing and the opportunity of a brighter future by working with Ruby to pursue her goals."

"The NSW Government's commitment to halving the number of people who are rough sleeping by 2025 must be applauded," Ms. Lemon said.

"Unfortunately, demand for housing still outweighs the supply, so we are urgently calling for governments at all levels to invest further in social housing."

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