

December 2018

NSW Family and Community Services transfers 1,875 Sydney properties to Link Housing

On 3 December 2018, around 3,000 people living in public housing in the Ryde, Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai local government areas will have their homes transferred to community housing provider, Link Housing.

The transfer of these tenancies is part of the NSW Government's Social Housing Management Transfer (SHMT) program and is the first and largest transfer in Sydney.

Link Housing CEO Andrew McAnulty recognises the significance. "The SHMT program delivers on the NSW Government's Future Directions for Social Housing in NSW strategy that sets out the Government's vision for social housing over the next 10 years. It is a step in the right direction to delivering better outcomes for those in housing need and living in social housing."

NSW Minister for Family and Community Services, Pru Goward, said, "By transferring management to Community Housing Providers such as Link Housing, we are harnessing over \$1 billion of additional funding over 20 years that will improve the experience of people living in social housing. I am delighted that as part of the transfer, tenants will have the support and services they need to improve their lives. I am very pleased that the NSW Government has partnered with Link Housing to deliver these services to tenants in the Northern Suburbs."

Social housing is a critical issue for a growing number of Australians, due to increasing housing stress and cost of living pressures. In the Northern Sydney area, the waiting periods for social housing can be as high as 10 years plus. Link Housing is helping to address housing shortage by reinvesting its surpluses into social and affordable housing, which is a solution to housing stress experienced by families and individuals in NSW.

Link Housing CEO Andrew McAnulty commended the government for its forward-thinking approach in enabling the expansion and impact of the community housing sector through its innovative tenancy transfer program.

"Community housing providers, like Link Housing, are in a unique position to implement real change to social housing. Link Housing supports the government's mission to create a stronger, more diverse social housing sector in Australia. Link Housing looks forward to working closely with the Department of Family and Community Services (FACS) as it initiates the first Sydney tenancy transfers," said Andrew McAnulty.

The NSW Government is committed to increasing the number of properties managed by community housing providers from 19 to 32 per cent and awarded Link Housing the tender to manage the Ryde, Hornsby and Ku-ring-gai tenancies in October 2017. This area includes 1,875 social housing tenancies. The transfer will result in more responsibility for Link Housing, a company that has grown three-fold in the past 18 months.

Link Housing CEO, Andrew McAnulty, shares his vision. "We must do more. Recent research from the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute (AHURI) estimates that another 727,300 social housing properties in Australia and 212,700 in NSW will be needed by 2036 to ensure adequate housing for low-income earners. Transfers of properties to organisations like Link Housing increases the capacity to deliver more of this critical public infrastructure."



Link Housing is a not for profit organisation with a charitable mission to provide safe and affordable homes to strengthen lives and communities. The organisation has been providing community housing for 34 years.

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Media inquiries

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