



Santos CEO David Knox, tenant Mylinda, Minister Bettison and CGA Deputy Chair Mary Patetsos at the opening

## *New beginnings in the city.*

Two new Common Ground developments giving a group of struggling South Australians a fresh start were opened during Homeless Persons' Week. The properties on Crowther Street and Shannon Place will provide stable accommodation for 12 men and women on low incomes who need affordable accommodation close to services.

The housing - worth \$3.38 million in total - was made possible thanks to a State Government investment of more than \$2.04 million and significant financial support from Santos.

Minister for Communities and Social Inclusion, Zoe Bettison, officially opened the buildings during a small ceremony at Crowther Street.

The Crowther Street development comprises seven units. There are five units for Common Ground tenants at the Shannon Place site.



The Basin Haircutters owners Steve Arrizza and Mandy Mattiske

## *Hairdressers help give homelessness the chop.*

The Basin Haircutters at Goodwood have been supporting Common Ground Adelaide for the past two years providing vouchers for tenants for shampoos, cuts and blow dries.

The Basin also offers colour services at discounted prices for Common Ground clients.

Now the salon is putting in place a 'pay it forward program' so anyone can pay in advance for someone less fortunate to receive goods or services for free or at a discount price. Owners Stephen Arrizza and Mandy Mattiske said they had supported a range of

tenants including many preparing for job interviews

"Our support for Common Ground is two-fold. Firstly, we are delighted to offer tenants the chance to receive quality hairdressing services in a friendly and respectful environment," they said.

"We also believe it is important to be positive role models for our employees. Our staff benefit from learning about Common Ground's clients, breaking down stereotypes and having compassion and understanding for all people."

Common Ground tenant James described the service as "awesome".

"I only go in there and have a basic cut but it's nice to know there are people out there who want to help others who are doing it tough," he said.

**The Basin Haircutters are located at 104-106 Goodwood Road, Goodwood. Phone 8271 3428 or visit their website at [www.thebasinhaircutters.com.au](http://www.thebasinhaircutters.com.au)**



Heating and air conditioning can play havoc with your hair causing dehydration. Treat your hair once a week to a deep conditioning treatment. Nak's 60 Second Ultimate Treatment is the perfect rescue remedy.



## Maria's message...

Homelessness happens to individuals. Sometimes it extends to families and even children. But it impacts everyone. More than most of us think.

To quote the founder of Common Ground, Rosanne Haggerty:

*"Permanent supportive housing saves money for communities. ...Reducing the burden on jails, shelters, and local social service sites reducing the high public costs of those systems. At a time of unprecedented strain on local budgets, ending homelessness makes clear financial sense."*

Put simply, if you help someone into a home and work, they start earning money, spending more and paying taxes. Improvements in their health, confidence and social and support networks follow.

It can be really hard for most of us to understand homelessness. Generally, it is complicated and the result of many factors – trauma, domestic violence, family breakdowns, unemployment, mental illness and addictions or a combination of all these things.

But what most people can appreciate is the financial cost of homelessness to the whole community. It's only in the past decade that Governments have been realising the solution to this problem doesn't lie solely in providing shelter for a night. It's about stable housing and addressing the issues that lead to rough sleeping.

Without this progress, our mental health system would be under greater pressure. There's no question permanent supportive housing reduces high use hospital admissions and many types of crime.

When it comes to dealing with homelessness, SA is doing better than every other State. We have led the nation in reducing homelessness and importantly, supporting people to never fall back into the cycle.

While there is still a lot more work to do, we can all be proud of Common Ground Adelaide's contribution to supporting the most vulnerable people into stable housing – not just for a night, but for good.

**Maria Palumbo**  
**Chief Executive Officer**



Hindmarsh SA builders and staff gather below the pine

## Mellor Street marks milestone.

City commuters could have been forgiven for thinking they were seeing things on a foggy July morning as a good luck tradition was carried out on the site of the new Common Ground development in Mellor Street.

Hindmarsh SA – construction company for the seven-storey project placed a small pine tree at the top of the structure.

An ancient construction tradition, the tree is associated with the raising of a building's highest beam or structural element. It's a sign that a construction project has reached its most auspicious point – and a token of goodwill and luck for the building and its residents.

Common Ground Mellor Street will be opened early next year.



## Cooking up a storm.

The Common Ground Adelaide cooking group went into overdrive during July preparing 250 meals for OzHarvest South Australia's THINK EAT SAVE event. Designed to increase awareness about reducing food waste, the event - held at the University of Adelaide on July 21 - was an overwhelming success with 1000 hot and hearty meals made from 'rescued food'. Across the country, 5000 meals were prepared as part of the initiative.

OzHarvest has been supporting Common Ground Adelaide for more than two years. Common Ground staff and tenants who took part in the cook off agreed: It was great to give something back.



## Lecornu lends local hand.

Local furniture company Le Cornu is partnering with Common Ground to help fit out the new Mellor Street complex. Le Cornu will provide basic furniture including lounges, beds and dining sets at discount prices to support some of the most needy tenants moving into the apartments. Profits will be donated.

This initiative is funded by Santos – Common Ground's foundation sponsor.

In the spotlight..



## Giles Turnbull...

Giles joined Common Ground a year ago as Property Manager. He is married with two sons – including a newborn.

### **What does your role involve?**

My role includes collecting rents, property inspections, arranging property maintenance/repairs, producing reports, negotiating and writing Lease Agreements for CGA's Adelaide sites.

### **What do you like about working at Common Ground?**

I work alongside a brilliant team of support workers to help people in need to get housing and maintain their tenancy. It's a really rewarding way to apply my skills.

### **As well as qualifications, what qualities do you need to successfully carry out your role?**

Being savvy in home décor and property maintenance is a must. You also need to be a good communicator. There's so much more to this career path than bricks and mortar.



## *Kirsty on Common Ground.*

Kirsty Dadleh has come on board as Operations Manager for Common Ground Port Augusta. Kirsty has worked at Common Ground Port Augusta for almost two years as The Salvation Army's Service Manager.

She has also recently been appointed as a member of the Aboriginal Community Engagement Group in Port Augusta. Kirsty was nominated for this role which reflects her positive reputation and standing in the community.



## *Down to business.*

A group of tenants have now gained key administrative qualifications – instrumental to their employment prospects and personal development.

The group, pictured with trainer Doris Mantell and mentor Annie Miller, recently completed their Certificate Two in Business through North East Vocational College.

They graduated at a small ceremony at Common Ground Light Square.

The entire group will now be able to go on to study for their Certificate Three thanks to a \$5000 donation from a very generous South Australian supporter.



## *A RAP for reconciliation.*

Common Ground Adelaide is committed to celebrating and building on a culture of inclusiveness and respect for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The organisation recently launched the first stage of its Reconciliation Journey – Common Ground Adelaide Reconciliation Plan 2014 - 2016.

The artwork on the front of the Plan (pictured above) was designed by local Aboriginal artist, Elizabeth Close.

[Click here to see Elizabeth's facebook page.](#)



## *Take a look at our new website*

[www.commongroundadelaide.org.au](http://www.commongroundadelaide.org.au)

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[commongroundadelaide.org.au](http://commongroundadelaide.org.au)

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