

Corporates Cooking for a Cause in SA



IN SOME of the busiest areas of Adelaide a revolution in community housing is quietly taking place.

Common Ground Adelaide is the first of its kind in Australia, mirrored on the original Common Ground project in New York founded by Rosanne Haggerty, a former Adelaide Thinker in Residence.

The project is about providing affordable accommodation and support services for tenants in three locations: Franklin Street, Light Square and Port Augusta.

Executive manager of operations at Common Ground, Sally Langton, said one of the most pleasing aspects has been seeing so many lives positively changed.

"With a program like this, it's always going to be about the individual lives that you impact," she said.

"Without singling out any one story, the combination of somewhere stable to live, nutritious food, support and education make anything possible."

South Australian energy company Santos has thrown its considerable weight behind the project.

As Common Ground Adelaide's first community partner and its largest corporate donor in Australia, Santos is providing \$3 million over five years.

"We are proud to be supporting Common Ground and their unique, effective approach to reducing homelessness in Adelaide," Santos' manager of

community and corporate responsibility Beth Worrall said.

Corporate social responsibility is nothing new, nor is company team building, but businesses are now seeing benefits in combining both.

OzHarvest recently launched its corporate engagement program Cooking for a Cause in Adelaide, and already companies such as Commonwealth Bank, ANZ, General Electric, and now Santos have had a taste.

Santos and Common Ground recently cooked for 100 tenants, as well as Santos staff and other community members.

Light Square provided the setting and local food identities Callum Hann and Themis Chrissydis provided the menu.

"We've had a great response to our Cooking for a Cause program, and while we tend to hold these team building sessions in the OzHarvest commercial kitchen, the Santos and Common Ground event is a good example of our flexibility," OzHarvest state manager Hayley Everuss said.

"It's really up to you and the needs of your business. The great thing is that we now have a program for doing it."

Santos' Chris Marks, Maria Palumbo from Common Ground Adelaide, and OzHarvest founder and CEO Ronni Kahn at the recent Cooking for a Cause event in Adelaide.

