

## Minister Zoe Bettison

Minister for Social Housing

Thursday, 4 September, 2014

### Residents at Common Ground Port Augusta are getting back on their feet

Social Housing Minister Zoe Bettison says about half of tenants that have lived at Common Ground Port Augusta have gone on to gain employment.

Ms Bettison is in Port Augusta today to celebrate the one year anniversary of the opening of the Augusta Terrace site – Common Ground’s second development in Port Augusta.

“Comprised of 20 one-bedroom units, Augusta Terrace provides on-site support for tenants who are extremely vulnerable and at high risk of homelessness,” Ms Bettison said.

“This is done in partnership with the Salvation Army which provides on-site support and case management for tenants.

“Common Ground not only puts a roof over a persons head, it's gives vulnerable South Australians a home and connects them to the services they need to get their lives back on track.

“This includes helping residents into employment by supporting them to undertake training and skills development programs.”

Ms Bettison said Common Ground’s other site in Port Augusta located in Boston Street is now mostly home to low-needs tenants who are working or engaged in education or training.

“These two great facilities really illustrate what can be done to help disadvantaged South Australians when the community, business and government sectors work together to address complex social issues,” Ms Bettison said.

“This is a really innovative way of helping people break the cycle of homelessness.”

Operations Manager Kirsty Dadleh said today’s anniversary was an opportunity to thank everyone who had contributed to the success of Common Ground Port Augusta.

“Half of the people who have come to live at Common Ground Port Augusta have gone on to get jobs – many in the mining industry and in local businesses,” Ms Dadleh said.

“Local small businesses have been fantastic in supporting us including offering traineeships to a couple of our younger tenants.

“We’ve also had a lot of other people who have got on their feet and have now moved into private rental or public housing.

“The success of Common Ground Port Augusta is attributable to the whole community.

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“Helping people to help themselves – whether it be to learn new skills or to stay healthy is at the heart of what we do. It’s incredible what a person can do when they have a home and support around them.”

Common Ground is proudly supported in South Australia by its founding sponsor, Santos.

Common Ground Port Augusta was jointly funded by State and Federal Governments with contributions of \$2.8 million each. The State Government also provides \$250,000 a year in ongoing funding.