



# CORNERSTONE COMMUNITY

NEWSLETTER MARCH 2020

## Homes4Good



**W**elcome to the autumn edition of the Cornerstone newsletter!

- The last release of the National Rental Affordability Index showed that Adelaide is the second fastest growing unaffordable city in Australia when it comes to private rental.
- A lack of housing affordability in the private rental market affects thousands of families who are finding themselves without enough money to manage their high electricity bills, feed their families and access other basic necessities.
- To combat this, Cornerstone Housing is excited and pleased to announce that we are partnering with Shelter SA, the peak body for housing in South Australia. Shelter SA is launching Homes4Good – a housing program asking benevolent investors to lease their properties out at below market rent to help those in need to find stable accommodation and step into the private rental market.
- Cornerstone Housing will be responsible for the tenancy and property management of the Homes4Good dwellings.

**'A lack of housing affordability in the private rental market affects thousands of families who are finding themselves without enough money to manage their high electricity bills, feed their families and access other basic necessities.'**

This is still a new program, with both Cornerstone and Shelter SA seeking more landlords who are willing to participate in the program.

If you are interested in keeping updated with this initiative, visit [www.homes4good.com.au](http://www.homes4good.com.au) for more information.

We are committed to providing long-term affordable housing, and we look forward to providing successful outcomes for prospective home owners and tenants who participate in this program!



## To build a home

**Othow has recently moved out of his Cornerstone unit that he called home for seven years.**

He has been successful in building a beautiful new home in a quiet cul-de-sac in great neighbourhood in Adelaide's northern suburbs – only 15 minutes away from his work at Adelaide Poultry and two doors down from his best friend.

Othow was born in Ethiopia. He has a wife and two young children who are in the process of moving from Ethiopia to Australia. Othow said this has been a long and expensive process. He believes in the end it will be worth it as he loves Australia and feels, although it is expensive, it will be much better for his family in the long run.

One Cornerstone worker Matt has been incredible in helping Othow out so many times. Matt originally helped to settle him into his Cornerstone home and assisted him with furniture and maintenance needs. Matt also helped him to get settled into local church The Ark Salisbury Lutheran.

'It was the people from the Lutheran church that got me connected to Cornerstone in order to get a home to start with, and they were a great help to me', he says.

Othow decided to stay in his Cornerstone home until he could save up enough money to buy his own place.

Many people came and went from the nearby units where Othow was living, but the whole time he had a plan to work and save hard.

He received the first home buyers grant of \$15,000 for building a new home, which was a great help, and he managed to save up for a deposit.

'Once people get into community housing, [it] is a great opportunity for them to save up the deposit they need to buy their own home', he says.

'If someone has it in their heart to buy a house, they can do it. They need to make the decision, come up with a plan, and then stick to it!', he says.



**'If someone has it in their heart to buy a house, they can do it. They need to make the decision, come up with a plan, and then stick to it!'**



## Invoices by email

In the move to become more efficient and reduce our carbon footprint, we are now emailing all invoices to our tenants who supply us with an email address.

If you have not supplied us with an email address and would prefer to receive your invoices by email, please contact Housing Services. Please also keep us updated if your email address changes.

If you require a copy of the SA Water bill, this can be supplied on request by our Finance team.

## 2020 Tenant Survey

Please participate in our upcoming tenant survey.

Your feedback is important to us and helps our organisation serve you better.

Plus, you could win one of three Westfield gift cards valued at \$200 each.



## The Home Program

In South Australia there are just under 200,000 rental households. About 92% of these desire to own their own home, but about half of those don't believe it's possible for them.

Home Ownership Matters Inc is an independent, non-profit community initiative directed toward educating, informing and equipping people toward home ownership. They deliver integrated information and education through the Home Program.

The Home Program is perfect for those desiring to own their own home but lack the knowledge and confidence to move forward.

The Home Program is free and open to all.

There will be 10 public workshops throughout the year:

- Southern metro: April, July, October
- Northern metro: May, August, November
- Central metro: March, June, September, December

To find out more, contact:

**Home Ownership Matters Inc**  
**08 7221 2800**  
**[info@homeprogram.org.au](mailto:info@homeprogram.org.au)**

# Moving on ...

One of our tenants Diane was recently offered a home through LHI Retirement Services that will better suit her current needs, so, sadly, that means she will be moving on from Cornerstone Housing after seven years. Here's what she has to say about what Cornerstone has meant to her ...

**I've needed stability, support, consideration, and maintenance both physically and spiritually. I have received spiritual support from my congregation at Glynde Lutheran Church, as well as encouragement from my friend Dan at Cornerstone Housing!**

Cornerstone Housing has been instrumental in giving me a great home. My grandies could come to play, I had a garden area big enough to grow my own vegetables and enjoy the outside space, and I was close to Linear Park where I could enjoy daily walks.

Currently, I volunteer two days a week at Lutheran Community Care at Blair Athol with clients in need. I love to provide them with hope and practical support. My life at the LHI Retirement Village is just beginning!



## Save money! Health and wellbeing



**Save money and support the fundraising efforts of our sister organisation, Teen Challenge SA, by**

**purchasing a digital Entertainment Membership.**

Entertainment Memberships can start anytime and are packed with thousands of substantial savings on dining, travel and fun family activities. The digital membership is easy to download to start using instantly. New offers are added weekly for ongoing value all year round.

Visit [www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/1662s18](http://www.entertainment.com.au/orderbooks/1662s18) to purchase a membership today!

**In the interest of health and wellbeing, if you are feeling unwell, please remember to notify staff before your inspection so alternative time can be arranged.**

How do I keep myself and others from getting sick?

- Wash your hands frequently with soap and water (eg before and after eating as well as after attending the toilet).
- Use hand sanitiser after touching public spaces.
- Cough and sneeze into your elbow.
- Avoid contact with others who are unwell.
- Keep family members, including children, at home if they are unwell.

If you are concerned about the new coronavirus, please visit [www.health.gov.au](http://www.health.gov.au)



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