

ARRUAL REPORT 2014.



UNITY HOUSING.





Unity Housing Chairman, Frank O'Neill welcomes guests at the opening of the new affordable housing development in St Clair as Unity Housing CEO Matthew Woodward looks on.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES.

CHAIRMAN & CEO REPORT.

Unity is a medium sized social enterprise organisation, which manages a property portfolio of over \$450 million. It has a net equity capacity of \$77 million, an annual turnover of \$20 million and employs 60 staff.

Unity now ranks among the top 100 companies registered in South Australia.

Our primary aim is to provide affordable and sustainable housing for vulnerable people and people on low incomes, particularly those living with disabilities or experiencing homelessness.

Over 2013-14 Unity continued to consolidate its role as the largest community housing provider in SA with more than 500 new homes added to its portfolio.

This now consists of 2000 units of accommodation, housing over 4,500 low income South Australians.

This growth has included:

- Construction of 29 affordable housing developments at St Clair, Adelaide;
- Construction of 42 units of key worker accommodation in Bowden, Adelaide;
- Construction of 100 houses across nine SA regional centres;
- Successful tender for 250 Transitional Housing Properties providing accommodation for some of South Australia's most vulnerable;
- Addition of over 100 new properties to our fee-forservice property management program to privately owned affordable NRAS properties.

This development program which has delivered \$78m in new housing, underpinned by \$38m of Unity debt facilities, is now coming to completion.

As well as this significant expansion, a key focus at Unity in 2013-2014 has been the consolidation and further development of infrastructure, systems and staff capabilities to ensure a platform for both delivery on existing commitments and for future growth.

This work was recognised in Unity's accreditation as a Tier 1 Provider under the new National Regulatory System and our continuing accreditation under National Community Housing Standards. Unity has also committed to the implementation of a new business IT system, which will significantly enhance the organisation's effectiveness and capacity.

Tenants remain at the core of all we do, and Unity's growth has been achieved in the context of continuing to deliver responsive and professional services to the many vulnerable adults, the majority of people we accommodate.

To ensure tenants receive the support necessary to sustain their tenancies, Unity has also continued to develop close working relationships with support providers and formalise Memorandum of Understandings (MOUs) with 42 organisations that provide support to Unity tenants. The quality services provided by our support partners ensure the best possible outcomes, as we work together to respond to the needs of our tenants.

A key element of Unity's commitment to the creation of housing that is not only affordable, but also socially and financially viable, is recognition of the importance of balanced and functional communities.

Unity continues to grow its extremely successful "Community Connect" program which focuses on supporting tenants to participate in community based activities and their integration into local communities.

Unity recognises that it is part of a national response to the critical shortage of affordable housing supply in Australia and looks forward to continuing to work with partners in the private housing and finance sectors. We also continue to work with colleagues in Public Housing and NGOs across Australia as we seek to deliver housing to ensure that all have access to adequate and affordable accommodation. As part of this commitment we provide ongoing support to the Venture Housing Company in Darwin.

This extensive list of achievements over the past 12 months, is largely due to the efforts of our skilled and committed staff who have consistently delivered exceptional outcomes.

The contributions of a professional, multi-skilled and committed Board of Directors has not only provided crucial guidance and structure to Unity over the past 12 months but has also established sound governance and a strategic platform to take the organisation forward.

We appreciate what the Staff and Directors have achieved and thank them for their passion and commitment.

Chairman, Board of Directors Francis O'Neill Chief Executive Officer
Matthew Woodward

ABOUT

Unity's vision is to create opportunities for people to live in affordable and sustainable houses of their choice. Established in 2008, Unity is an independent, not for profit statewide organisation with the capacity to deliver at scale and increase the supply of affordable housing for families and individuals on low incomes in South Australia.

Unity has a long and strong history of providing housing to some of the most vulnerable people in our community. We have built a reputation as a leader in the sector through continuous improvement, evidence based practice and innovation.

The state's largest and most innovative provider of affordable and social housing, Unity currently manages more than 1,950 properties, providing accommodation to over 4,500 people per annum.

Unity seeks to build balanced and functional communities through its diverse housing portfolio of low income, affordable and high needs housing. It delivers a continuum of housing options including: a boarding house program which provides an entry point for highly vulnerable people into low cost, safe and secure accommodation; a community housing program which offers accommodation to people on low incomes, living with a disability or experiencing homelessness; and an affordable housing portfolio providing opportunities for people who may not otherwise be eligible for subsidised housing. Affordable housing meets a broad spectrum of need in the community, including retirees, young couples and individuals as well as families who struggle in the private rental market.

Unity has an active property development program, delivering more than \$77 million in affordable properties since 2011. With strong organisational and staff capacity, and a growth pipeline, it continues to respond to its strategic goal of increasing affordable housing supply.

The establishment of a new division, delivering fee for service property management to over 280 privately owned affordable National Rental Affordability Scheme properties, has laid a solid foundation for continuing expansion of Unity's business platform.

Tenants remain at the core of all we do, and Unity's growth has been achieved in the context of delivering a responsive and professional service to the many vulnerable adults who are accommodated by Unity each night.

Unity has also continued to develop close working relationships with support providers and we now have formalised Memorandums of Understandings (MOUs) with over 50 organisations which provide support to Unity tenants.

The quality services provided by our support partners ensure the best possible outcomes for our tenants.

GOVERNANCE

Board of Directors

Frank O'Neill, Chairman Richard Willson, Company Secretary-Director Ben Brazier, Director Josephine Tiddy, Director Sacha Wainwright, Director Leigh Garrett, Director Fairlie Delbridge, Director

Chief Executive Officer

Matthew Woodward

ACCREDITATION

The provision of outstanding service is central to all that Unity does and the organisation has an ongoing commitment to quality improvement.

Unity strives for best practice in the delivery of its housing services and has adopted a number of frameworks and strategies in order to achieve this.

Over the past three years Unity has devoted significant time and resources to meeting established benchmarks for best practice in organisational governance, management and service delivery.

Unity is approved by the SA Government as a Preferred Growth Provider, is accredited under the National Community Housing Standards and is one of a small number of organisations accredited under the National Regulatory System as a Tier 1 provider.





COMMUNITY HOUSING.

Community housing is the cornerstone of Unity's overall housing portfolio. The core of our work is the provision of accommodation for people on low incomes, living with a disability or experiencing homelessness.

In the last year, Unity provided safe housing with sustainable rents to more than 3,500 people living in 1,300 properties.

We are proud to have created a portfolio and tenant mix that mirrors the diversity of our community with a variety of cultures, family structures and age groups.

Our high occupancy rates are a key indicator that Unity has created a sustainable housing model and in the coming year we will have an increased focus on tenant engagement and community participation as we seek to achieve our goal of "affordable housing, sustainable communities".

With the bulk of this portfolio focusing on vulnerable people experiencing homelessness and/ or living with a disability, Unity's model incorporates integrated support through its external and independent partner agencies.

A large range of options are provided to people at risk of homelessness and wanting to break the cycle of homelessness.

The Community Housing division continues to focus on further developing our service model to ensure positive outcomes across the entire property portfolio for tenants, neighbours, and our local communities in general.

Unity conducts extensive research into best practice models and implementing new and innovative solutions in collaboration with support agencies.



CO-ORDINATED SUPPORT MODEL

Unity's tenant group typically experiences multiple issues, such as: mental illness, substance abuse, gambling addiction, premature ageing and personality disorders.

Many have suffered significant grief and loss and have endured a cycle of homelessness and dependence on health and welfare agencies.

During the early 2000s it became clear that the provision of housing and support for people with high and complex needs should be separated but with strong relationships and co-ordination between the providers.

Unity's model is evidence based and has evolved over the past few years as the research from the psychiatric disability field (and others) has been adopted for the social housing sector.

Central to Unity's service model is our capacity for creative, individualised and holistic responses rather than a 'one size fits all' model.

Partnerships are crucial to Unity's success. We link tenants to community based support through our many partner agencies, providing a mix of tenancy and social support which is the key to independent living for many of our tenants. Unity places a high value on the development of positive and enduring relationships between ourselves, tenants, support agencies and local communities.

Unity has a comprehensive range of partnerships across the metro and regional areas underpinned by Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), contracts and partnership agreements and is committed to a business model which empowers people and builds social cohesion by working in a collaborative, inclusive and co-operative manner.



AFFORDABLE HOUSING.

Over the past three years Unity has built more than 300 new properties, providing affordable accommodation and long term tenancy rented to low income people at less than 75% of the market rent.

Unity's affordable housing portfolio provides access to high quality, well located housing for people who struggle to afford private rental but may not otherwise be eligible for subsidised housing, such as public housing.

In 2014 Unity expanded the geographic spread of this program into the northern country region of SA delivering over 100 housing opportunities for low income working people across 11 communities and establishing a new office in Port Augusta to service these properties.

This portfolio contains a wide range of property types to meet the broad spectrum of need in the community, including retirees, young couples, individuals and families. The properties include one, two, three and four bedroom options.

Over 50 properties developed to specifically target aged people and those living with a disability.

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"I would like to take this opportunity to thank the management of Unity Housing for allowing us to live in one of your properties. Indeed, you were used by God to bless us in this country. You are such a great help for new migrants like us. Thanks for giving us a good reference to move into the property we are living in. God bless us all and more power to you and the Unity Housing family!"



"The thing my family and I appreciate about Unity is that they are so easy to talk to. Unity is very accommodating – their staff members are approachable and very nice people."



PROPERTY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM.

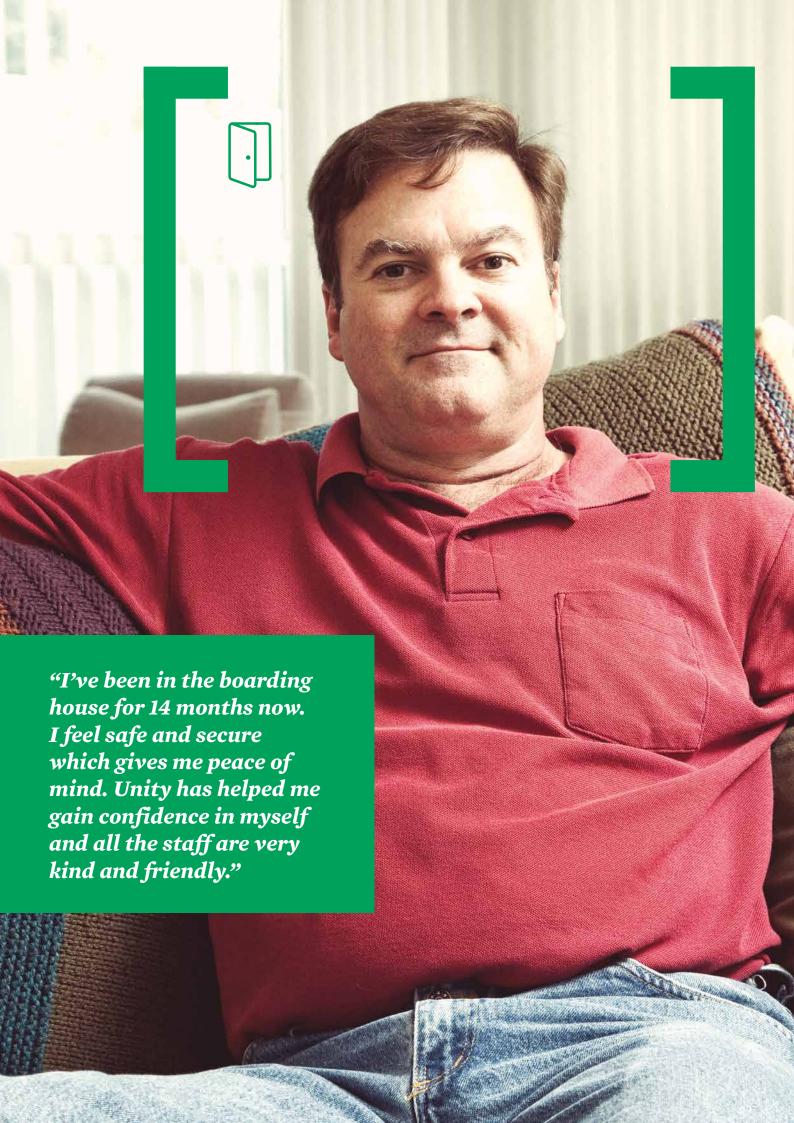
Unity's Property Development Program has delivered \$77 million worth of property developments since 2011, in partnership with a wide range of stakeholders and funding sources underpinned by Unity debt and equity.

Key partners include the Commonwealth Government through the provision of infrastructure and NRAS funding; the State Government through grant funding, NRAS contributions and land partnerships; local government through land contributions and partnerships; community groups; local Church/parish support and a wide range of other local businesses and community groups.

The key to bringing these parties together to achieve such successful outcomes has been Unity's commitment to a consultative, co-operative and partnership based approach to harnessing the expertise and capacity of government, developers and a range of other partners.

Whilst this portfolio is largely focused on providing affordable accommodation to low income working people, it also includes over 50 properties developed to specifically target aged people, and those living with a disability and linked to services providing clinical and psychosocial rehabilitation in addition to support for individuals in a community setting.





BOARDING HOUSES.

Unity's Boarding House Program provides an entry point for highly vulnerable people into low cost, safe and secure accommodation. It provides housing for people who are marginalised due to a range of social factors including family breakdown, financial management issues, domestic violence, mental health issues, social isolation and drug and alcohol misuse.

The boarding house service model is a springboard from which, once settled, people can transition to more stable and independent accommodation options in the community.

Successful boarding house programs and similar accommodation rely heavily on collaboration, partnerships and creative property and tenancy management solutions.

Unity has established successful partnerships in tenancy support and community engagement and continues to focus on formalising these relationships through well defined and tenant-focused memorandums of understanding (MOUs).

Through its five boarding houses Unity provides accommodation to 170 people every night, the majority males but with two boarding houses specifically targeting women. Most tenants are over 45 years of age, unemployed and on incomes less than \$15,000 a year – usually government benefits.

A major focus for the Boarding House Program, in collaboration with key support agencies, continues to be the development of pathways for tenants from boarding house environments into long term affordable housing in the community.





Through its five boarding houses Unity provides accommodation to 170 people every night.

PROFESSIONAL PROPERTY AGE

As a licensed land agent, Unity offers a professional property management service for owners of NRAS investment properties. This provides the opportunity for Unity to support private investors to build their housing portfolios while facilitating low to moderate income earners to access well located and affordable rental housing.

Unity is highly skilled at identifying and selecting the right tenant for a positive long term outcome for the landlord, the tenant and the local community. Our experienced team is highly respected as a specialist property manager in this field.

Unity is currently contracted to manage over 280 properties across the suburbs of Evanston Gardens, Munno Para West, Morphett Vale, Northgate, Huntfield Heights and in Murray Bridge in regional South Australia and intends to actively expand this program over the coming year.



Unity Housing manages over 280 properties across South Australia.











COMMUNITY CONNECT.

Unity's Community Connect Program seeks to make a long lasting difference to people's lives. The Program's model is holistic, evidence-based and designed to help tenants develop new skills, boost their confidence and increase their capacity for sustainable community living.

The Community Connect model is how we implement our long-standing Community Engagement and Participation Framework which includes initiatives from regular and relevant communications such as the tenant newsletter, "Around the house", to tenant consultations and social events.

Unity also has a successful grants and partnership history and strategy which enhances our ability to offer longer term community development and skills building projects. The grants and partnerships approach is driven by the needs of tenants and taps into local facilities and services. It uses a strengths-based methodology, ensuring that we focus on what people or communities are doing well and take into account their assets. Every person and all communities have strengths to build upon.

The outcomes generated by our grant and partnership-funded initiatives support tenants to make a range of improvements to their own lives but they also contribute to building more secure tenancies and, in turn, sustainable communities.

> **Community Connect in the City** is a project introduced to grow community relationships. One of our most successful social occasions is the Bocce and Brunch event in the eastern parklands for tenants and the locals.



SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR PARTNERS.

Partnerships are central to Unity's service model and success, allowing us to deliver creative, individualised and holistic housing and social service solutions for tenants. Unity places a high value on the development of positive and enduring relationships, which are underpinned by Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs), contracts and partnership agreements. The quality services provided by our support partners ensure the best possible outcomes for our tenants.

Adelaide City Council

Adelaide Hills Council

Alexandrina Council

Anglicare SA

Australian Refugee Association

AV Jennings

Bank mecu

Barkuma Incorporated

Bedford Group

Bendigo Bank

Build Tec Group

Calvary Lutheran Family Support

Cambodian Association of SA Incorporated

Catherine House

Cedars North, Glenside

Centacare Catholic Family Services

Central Domestic Violence Service

Centrelink

Chinese Welfare Services of SA Incorporated

City of Charles Sturt

City of Marion

City of Onkaparinga

City of Salisbury

City of Victor Harbor

Clare and Gilbert Valley Council

Clare Community Mental Health Services

Common Ground

Community Accommodation and Respite Agency (CARA)

Community Living and Support Services (CLASS)

Community Living Options (CLO)

Community Sector Banking

DeafCanDo

Department for Communities and Social Inclusion (DCSI)

Department of Families, Housing, Community Services and Indigenous Affairs (FAHCSIA)

Department of Planning, Transport and Infrastructure's Community Grants

Devine Homes

Disability SA

District Council of Peterborough

EBL Disability Services

Families SA

Felixstow Mental Health

Fleurieu Homelessness Support Service

Glenside Hospital

Hindmarsh

HomeStart Finance

Housing Choices Australia

Housing SA

Hutt Street Centre

Individual Supported Accommodation Services (ISAS)

Inner Southern Homelessness Service

James Nash House

Job Prospects (SYC)

Junction and Women's Housing

Leedwell Strategic

Life Without Barriers

Lutheran Community Care

Mental Illness Fellowship (SA)

Minda Incorporated

Murraylands Homelessness Service

NEAMI

Northern Domestic Violence Service

Offenders Aid and Rehabilitation Services of South Australia Incorporated (OARS)

Orana

Outer Southern Generic Homelessness Service

ParaQuad SA

Personal Helpers and Mentors (PHaMs) Programs

Questus

Regional Council of Goyder

Renewal SA

Rossdale Homes

SA Health, Mental Health Services

Salvation Army

Service to Youth Council

Southern Domestic Violence Service

Southern Fleurieu Mental Health Service

Southern Junction **Community Services** St John's Youth Service Street to Home The Salvation Army The Wyatt Benevolent Institution Inc. Towards Independence **Uniting Communities** UnitingCare Wesley Country SA UnitingCare Wesley Port Adelaide University of South Australia Vietnamese Community in Australia, SA Wahlstedt Quality Homes Westpac



AFFORDABLE HOUSING. COMMUNIT

AFFILIATIONS

Australian Housing Institute Australian Institute of **Company Directors** Australian Institute of Management Business SA Community Housing Council of SA Housing Industry Association Master Builders Association of SA PowerHousing Australia Real Estate Institute SA (REISA) South Australian Council of Social Service (SACOSS) Urban Development Institute of Australia

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS.

STATEMENT OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2014

TOTAL INCOME	20,638,850	12,424,770
Other income	768,120	807,212
Government capital grants	7,578,235	68,545
Government recurrent grants	1,694,468	1,706,048
Housing rental income	10,598,027	9,842,965
Income	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

Expenses	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Administration expenses	1,509,143	1,726,785
Capital contributions paid to State Government	1,355,522	1,035,222
Property expenses	4,358,605	4,287,145
Staffing costs	4,412,438	3,868,193
Depreciation expenses	83,396	67,439
Interest expense	878,235	951,898
Other expenses	466,139	351,881
TOTAL EXPENSES	13,063,478	12,288,563
Net Operating Profit	7,575,372	136,207
- Less Transfers to provisions	(120,560)	(26,727)
Net Profit for the Year	7,695,932	162,934

TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE	7 695 932	147 934
Net gain on revaluation of land & buildings	-	(15,000)
Other Comprehensive Income	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

This is an abridged version of the financial statements of Unity Housing Company Ltd for the year ended 30 June 2014. The full set of financial statements and accompanying notes are obtainable upon request from Unity Housing.

INCOME FOR THE YEAR

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 30 JUNE 2014

TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	5,490,925	5,474,421
Other current assets	237,797	83,742
Trade and other receivables	2,817,107	1,545,970
Cash and cash equivalents	2,436,021	3,844,709
Current Assets	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

TOTAL ASSETS	101,150,144	86,021,759
TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS	95,659,219	80,547,338
Intangible contractual right	6,135,925	6,135,925
Fixed assets	89,523,294	74,411,413
Non-current Assets	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	4.649.371	2.145.526
Other liabilities	587,452	555,747
Provisions	379,588	462,593
Bank loans	2,003,175	411,944
Trade and other payables	1,679,156	715,242
Current Liabilities	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

Non-Current Liabilities	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)
Maintenance provisions	1,777,372	1,658,744
Tenant service provisions	190,376	253,995
Other provisions	211,185	30,981
Bank Loans	18,616,770	13,923,375
TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	20,795,703	15,867,095
TOTAL LIABILITIES	25,445,074	18,012,621
NET ASSETS	75,705,070	68,009,138

TOTAL EQUITY	75,705,070	68,009,138
Asset Revaluation Reserve	1,867,736	1,867,736
Retained Earnings	73,837,334	66,141,402
Equity	2014 (\$)	2013 (\$)

2014

In 2014 Unity Housing Company recorded a profit of \$7.696M which included \$7.578M in Government grants to finance development works of \$35M currently being undertaken by the company. These development works underpin Unity's commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing to the South Australian community.

The property portfolio managed by Unity Housing Company now totals more than \$450M as at 30 June 2014. As the largest community housing provider in South Australia, the company returned in excess of \$1.3M in recurrent capital contributions to the South Australian Government from its social housing portfolio rental income.

This year Unity Housing
Company continued to invest the
revenues generated by its activities
into infrastructure and best
practice property management,
achieving Tier 1 registration
under the National Regulatory
System for Community Housing.



Safe, secure and sustainable accommodation for people on low incomes.





UNITY HOUSING .ORG.AU

CENTRAL OFFICE AND GENERAL ADMINISTRATION

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NORTH

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PORT AUGUSTA

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THE TERRACE BOARDING HOUSE

260 South Terrace, Adelaide SA 5000 T 08 8232 5459 F 08 8232 4582 E theterrace@unityhousing.org.au

OFFICE HOURS

Unity's office hours are 9am to 5pm, Monday through Friday.