

AROUND THE HOUSE

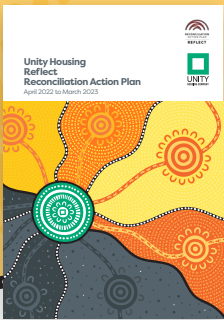
SPRING 2022 EDITION 24



New plan reflects our commitment to reconciliation

During National Reconciliation Week in May, Unity Housing was proud to launch our first Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) called *Reflect*.

The plan is an important step in our reconciliation journey and will help us make sure that our services are more culturally appropriate and accessible for our Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander tenants; strengthen existing relationships and build new ones with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and organisations; and increase opportunities for Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander people.



Our *Reflect* RAP is available at www.unityhousing.org.au. If you have any questions or feedback, please contact Andrew Davis at a.davis@unityhousing.org.au or phone 0439 821 137.

Currently, more than 530 (around 12 per cent) of our tenants identify as Aboriginal and/or Torres Strait Islander.

Congratulations Kunyi

Congratulations to our tenant Kunyi who has been awarded the Premier's NAIDOC Award 2022.

Kunyi hails from Yankunytjatjara country and has been recognised for significant achievements in improving the lives of Aboriginal people in South Australia.

Kunyi is a respected and admired indigenous Australian artist who addresses concepts such as healing and reconciliation. With more than 70 pieces of art and stories to her name, Kunyi's work has been published and exhibited at Adelaide's Migration Museum as part of the *My Paintings Speak for Me* exhibition which travelled across SA.



Kunyi holds a Bachelor of Arts in Aboriginal Studies from UniSA and is also a qualified nurse and midwife. With three children of her own, she has also fostered and provided respite to more than 40 Aboriginal children, giving them a loving secure space to grow and thrive.

Congratulations Kunyi – we are very proud of your achievements.

“It's unbelievable.” Kunyi says. “I was very surprised. It's really good that Aboriginal people nominated me. It makes me feel very special.”



FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Welcome to our eventful September edition.

The launch of Unity's Reconciliation Action Plan comes at the time when our new government announces plans for a referendum; changes to the constitution to give the first settlers of our country a voice in Parliament and other improvements to their lives is perfect. The new Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service is already a start for our Aboriginal tenants. Let's get familiar with the plan and act on it.

The life story of Kunyi is heartwarming and inspiring. Changing so many lives for the better is an achievement hard to match.

Good news that Neighbour Day is an annual event. It gives tenants new bonds and happy memories.

Recently, Unity sought your opinions and feedback about the services they provide through a survey (issued by SMS, email or hard copy) and they are very thankful to the many tenants who took time to respond. As you can see in this issue, Unity provides us with not only a home but also opportunities to further our talents: arranging entertaining and creative events; giving us tips for savings, safety and health; and how to interact in helpful ways. As Unity will be doing more surveys in the future, please do take the few moments needed to respond and provide the feedback that they need. The more tenants that take part in the surveys the better their services will be.

Are you ready to create your artwork for the 2022 Christmas card and have you submitted your recipes for The Community Cookbook?

You can visit the outstanding SALA Festival exhibition until 16 September on Unity's website or at Café Outside the Square in Whitmore Square. Let us know what your impressions are.

Taking part in greening Australia with Canopies for the Community is a great move.

Go digital and receive *Around the House* in your inbox.

Enjoy all the news!

Thank you, **Giselle**

**Please send your contributions to
editor@unityhousing.org.au**



Port Augusta

Neighbour Day keeps communities connected

Neighbours are connecting with one another more than ever before. Every year, together with our tenants and others in the community, we host a range of events for our tenants to get together and celebrate Neighbour Day. This year, we held events in Port Augusta, Naracoorte and Adelaide metro areas.

Our annual Neighbour Day celebrations are becoming a regular feature in our calendar of tenant activities, with tenants getting involved in planning a range of activities including morning teas, come and try activities, and meet and greets in parks and streets.

Thank you to everyone who attended to celebrate their community and make neighbourly connections.



Fulham Gardens



Naracoorte



Tenants Rob and Sharon fill out our 2022 Tenant Survey.

In June and July, 723 tenants (24%) responded to our 2022 Tenant Survey about your satisfaction with our services, your social media usage and communication preferences.

Thank you to everyone who responded. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and we will use your feedback to improve our services to you.

SURVEY RESULT HIGHLIGHTS



90% of survey respondents are satisfied with the services Unity Housing provides



89% of survey respondents are satisfied with the condition of their home



85% of survey respondents are satisfied with repairs and maintenance



57% of survey respondents use social media



25% of survey respondents want to receive our tenant magazine *Around the House* by email instead of in the post



“Since Unity has taken over I’m quite satisfied how quickly they return my calls and answer any questions that I have, be it maintenance or financial.”



“I believe that Unity does an amazing job. I have a disability and I couldn’t get housing. My carer and I submitted an application and we were successful. Thank you, Unity.”

Five \$100 vouchers were up for grabs for completing the survey. Congratulations to the following prize draw winners:

Justin, Mawson Lakes
Kylie, Elizabeth Downs
Linda, Clapham
Marion, Clapham
Virginia, Elizabeth East

Showcase your artistic talents on the front of our 2022 Christmas card

This year we will include all artwork entries on the front of our Christmas card to become one big beautiful collection of all your submissions!

Fill out the entry form below and send us your Christmas-inspired artwork. Use any medium you like – the sky is the limit!

Christmas Card Artwork Entry and Consent Form

I agree that my artwork may be used for Unity Housing marketing purposes and on the Unity Housing website and that my artwork will remain the property of Unity Housing.

PLEASE PRINT

Name:

Address:

Phone:

Email:

Signature:

Date:

Secondary contact (in case we can't reach you)

Name:

Number:

- Open to all Unity Housing tenants
- Dimensions: from A5 (14.8cm x 21cm) up to A3 (29.7cm x 42cm)
- Take your completed artwork to your nearest Unity Housing office along with the completed entry form
- Entries close Friday 14 October

All artwork submitted must be the artist's own original work. Christmas card production costs will be the responsibility of Unity Housing. For more information or if you need assistance to get your artwork to an office, please speak to your Housing Officer.

PLEASE CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE





image: istock

Free support to manage your bills

Free energy audits are available through Uniting Communities for anyone wanting to get their electricity, gas, water and telecommunication usage as low as possible.

Energy advisors can visit you in your home, speak to you over the phone or via a video call and work with you to:

- identify areas of high usage;
- develop strategies to reduce your energy consumption; and
- check if you are eligible for concessions and financial assistance.

The ConnectEd service aims to increase knowledge, skills and resources for people to manage utilities including electricity, gas, water and communications.

To find out more or to make an appointment, you or your support worker can email connected@unitingcommunities.org or phone 08 8202 5128.



State-wide art attack

SALA FESTIVAL 2022

SALA Festival is once again turning our beautiful state into one big gallery. It is the largest community-based, visual arts festival in Australia and our ever-growing online and gallery exhibitions feature mixed medium artworks by 20 established, emerging and hobbyist tenant and staff artists.



Some of the participating artists at the launch of our SALA Festival exhibition at Café Outside the Square on 5 August.

GALLERY EXHIBITION

WHEN: Until Friday
16 September

WHERE: Café Outside
the Square – 34 Whitmore
Square, Adelaide.
Monday to Friday,
9am to 2pm

ONLINE EXHIBITION

WHEN: Until Friday
16 September

WHERE: Available
to access from any
device at any time
via the QR code
(right)



Get involved to support the artists by:

- visiting the gallery at Café Outside the Square
- viewing the online exhibition via the QR code and leaving a comment of support before you exit the online exhibition
- buying some artwork

Most of the artwork is available for sale and all proceeds go directly to the artists. If you would like to make a purchase, please purchase from the café Monday to Friday between 9am and 2pm or contact Gabby at g.parente@unityhousing.org.au or 0427 445 723.

We need YOUR RECIPES!

The Community Cookbook is underway but there is still time to submit your recipes.

Share your own family cooking tips and any special story related to your recipe that is meaningful, cultural, has family ties, is fun and most all – delicious.

A limited number of printed cookbooks will be available in November and if you send us a recipe we'll make sure you receive a copy. A copy will also be available on our website so anyone, anywhere and at any time will be able to download a PDF version of the cookbook.



Thank you to all our tenants who have submitted a recipe so far – like Amanda from Millicent who shared her grandmother's nut loaf recipe with an extra tip on how to bake it even without a nut loaf cooking tin.

image: istock

Send us your recipes by
Friday 30 September

Email: south@unityhousing.org.au
Hand deliver: 1/506 Brighton Road, Brighton SA 5048
Post: Reply Paid 76995, Brighton SA 5048

Need some help? Call Annie on 8198 1666

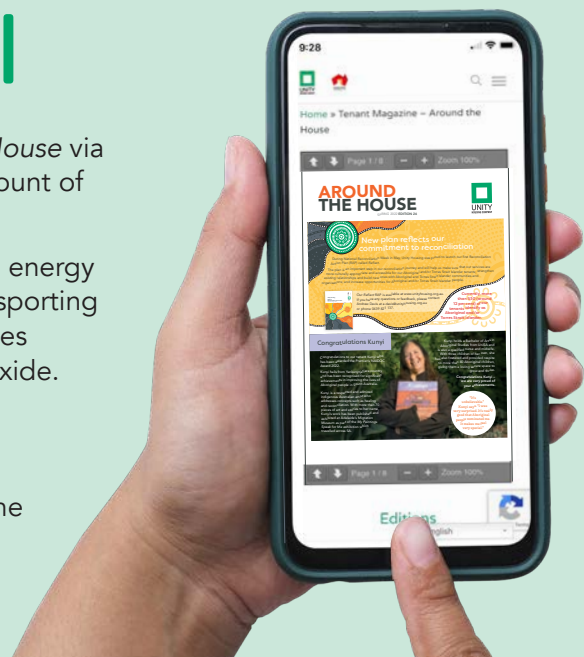
Let's go digital

By choosing to receive your editions of *Around the House* via email, you help the environment by reducing the amount of paper we print.

Reducing the use of paper saves trees and conserves energy used in converting those trees into paper and in transporting paper products. In addition, when paper rots, it creates methane gas which is 25 times as toxic as carbon dioxide.

So what are you waiting for?

Email editor@unityhousing.org.au with your full name and preferred email address and enjoy reading *Around the House* from your inbox.



Improve electrical safety at home with THESE TIPS



Power boards and double adaptors should be avoided where possible. If a power board is required, use one that has inbuilt overload protection and switch it off when you're not using it.

Regularly check power boards for discolouration, cracks and brittleness, and check all cords and leads for exposed wiring, fraying and damaged shielding. Replace immediately if they look damaged.

Use chargers or charging devices under close supervision and avoid charging devices overnight.

Always use power points for hot water units, ovens, heaters, air-conditioners, fans, blenders, mixers, fridges, washing machines, dryers and freezers. Remember that an extension lead, power board or double adaptor will draw a high electrical current and are the common cause of power outages and fires due to overheating.

Ensure any appliances purchased second hand come with a test tag (pictured) to confirm it is safe. If not, you should arrange to have the appliance tested before use by contacting an electrician or reputable electrical test and tag company.

Avoid running extension leads under carpets and furniture or through doors or windows.

Plugs and cords should only ever be replaced by a licensed electrician as with repairs to any electrical equipment. Immediately report any sparking or tingling from light switches, power points or light fittings to your Housing Officer.



Using multiple electricity plugs and an overloaded outlet increases the risk of a fire in your home.



A test tag is placed on an item once it has been inspected and approved by an electrician.

If you have any questions or would like to talk about any of this information in more detail, please contact your Housing Officer.

LAUNCHED

Aboriginal Language Interpreting Service

A new interpreting service is helping Aboriginal people make informed decisions about critical matters that will have a significant impact on their lives.

The ALIS interpreters – including community elders and traditional knowledge holders – are highly trained and qualified and speak a range of Aboriginal languages, including Alyawarre, Anmatyerre, Eastern and Western Arrernte, Pintupi-Luritja, Pitjantjatjara, Warlpiri, Yankunytjatjara, and others.

The interpreters work face-to-face in Adelaide and Port Augusta, and work over the phone with people who live elsewhere.



For more information or to make a booking visit <https://translate.sa.gov.au/ALIS> or phone ALIS on 1800 280 203 (Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm).

BEND IT LIKE

BECKHAM

at community street soccer

Adelaide's Community Street Soccer Program is a fun and exciting initiative of The Big Issue that uses the power of sport to change lives.

The Big Issue provides equipment, dedicated coaches and support staff. During the free two-hour sessions, players take part in training and a friendly match. You don't need to have any experience playing soccer as the program caters to all fitness levels and abilities. Support staff also work closely with participants, linking them with services that address their individual issues and needs.

It's a great opportunity to get active, make new friends and seek support in a fun and safe environment.

Where and when to play

Adelaide CBD

Where: Adelaide City Football Club
Wita Wirra (Park 18)
Hutt Road, Adelaide

When: Wednesday 1pm – 3pm

Port Adelaide

Where: Alan Iverson Reserve
Langham Place, Port Adelaide

When: Monday 11am – 1pm

Both locations are open to men and women.
For more information phone **08 8359 3450**.



The Unity Housing team: Jacob, Danielle, Margot, Mark and Anthony.

CONGRATULATIONS to Unity Housing's triumphant team

In July, a Unity Housing team competed in The Big Issue's Annual Street Soccer Tournament in the south parklands, Adelaide CBD.

Our team played three 20-minute games and won their last game which was a great result considering the group had never played together and had lost their goal keeper the day before to an injury.

At the event there was free coffee and pizza, takeaway from OzHarvest, and a UniSA physiotherapy marquee to help with any injuries.

One of our tenants, Jacob, who participated showed some real talent with a soccer ball. This was the first time he had been to a community activity with Unity Housing and it was really pleasing to see him having fun and engaging with others.

Although there were a lot of tired legs at the end of tournament, everyone enjoyed themselves and there were many memorable moments shared amongst the group.



CALLING ALL GREEN THUMBS

We are excited to launch the official logo for our new environmental project called Canopies for the Community – a community-based campaign in the western Adelaide region.



This exciting project aims to increase tree canopy coverage, reduce the temperature in and around suburban homes, and provide an opportunity for neighbours to come together in their own street to plant more trees which will create more homes for our wildlife.

To get the ball rolling, we recently held three tenant street meets in Royal Park, Seaton and Kidman Park and invited tenants to get involved and ask them what they think about the project. Tenants are keen to be involved and we'll be working with both learner and experienced gardeners to get their plantings started. We'll report back in future editions of *Around the House* to showcase these success stories.

If you live in the western Adelaide region and would like more information about the project or would like to become involved, please contact Andrea Brunt on 0417 624 687.



Unity Housing tenant, Aaron, is taking part in this important project and encourages other tenants to get involved.

FOOD TRUCK VISIT leaves a great flavour

In June, The Terrace Boarding House hosted the WienerBago mobile food truck as a special food event for tenants.

Wienerbago served delicious German style hotdogs with a side of chips. This was the first time The Terrace had a food truck visit and it was a huge success, with 35 tenants receiving meals on a very cold day. Despite the bad weather, many tenants stayed around to socialise and be part of the event, and it was really pleasing to see tenants chatting and laughing together while enjoying a meal.

At the event, tenants had the opportunity to complete a survey about what types of programs and activities are important to them. Tenants who completed the survey then went into a draw to win a lucky door prize which was won by Stephen.

While tenants were completing the survey, Unity Housing staff spoke about possible programs that could benefit tenants, including having a men's group and a fortnightly van trip to Aldi which would give tenants the opportunity to buy affordable food.

Sharon Hunkin from the South Australian Housing Authority also attended and enjoyed chatting with tenants.

As the event was such a success, Unity Housing would like to organise another food truck event later in the year.

Tenant Barree said, "I thought it was great and I really loved it. The different food options were really tasty."

The Terrace tenant, Michael, enjoys a gourmet hot dog from the food truck.

