

How connections can make a difference

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Wentworth Community Housing



Acknowledgement of Country

I would like to acknowledge and pay my respects to the traditional custodians of the land on which we meet today the Gumbaynggirr people. This land has always been and always will be Gumbaynggirr land. I recognise the strength and resilience of all Aboriginal people, for they hold the memories, the traditions, the culture and hopes of all Australia. I pay my respect to elders, past, present and future and acknowledge the light and potential within all Aboriginal children. I would also like to acknowledge all Aboriginal people here with us today.

Who is Wentworth Community Housing?

We are a registered Tier 1 not-for-profit housing company, committed to providing secure, appropriate and affordable housing across Western Sydney.

We are the only Western Sydney Community Housing Provider whose services reach across the full spectrum of housing need from homelessness services, to social housing and affordable housing.



What was the issue?

- 2010 funding under Ending Homelessness from Rudd Government
- Aboriginal people not connecting with services
- High hidden Aboriginal homelessness
- Aboriginal people not identifying as being homeless

How did we address these issues?

- Aboriginal assertive outreach team established
- Connected with community in their space with the support and blessing of our Elders, re-established links with Aboriginal service providers
- Walking beside our community members

John's story

- Aboriginal man in his 40's who had been homeless for several years
- Served in armed forces, volunteer fireman, permanently employed
- Lost employment and life fell apart
- Now

Jenny and family's story

- Large family unit of mum, 4 males and 3 females
- Family home destroyed by former partner
- Family unit maintained despite rough sleeping
- Family housed but this was not the end
- Now

Mary and David's story

- Mary 31 and David 32 were a couple who had been homeless for 2 years from country NSW following family breakdown
- No connection to local community
- Reluctant to engage
- Now