

foundation focus

Newsletter for Foundation Housing tenants 📍 Autumn 2021

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We believe everyone deserves a voice and are focused on promoting diversity and transparency with our tenants and residents. This includes our First Nations tenants and we're working hard to facilitate their involvement in a First Nations Focus Group, which we hope to have up and running later in the year.

Tenant Involvement Project

Foundation Housing is committed to involving tenants and residents in helping shape the decisions, programs and services that impact them.

As a tenant, it is important for you to be involved in the decisions Foundation Housing makes that impact you. Through meaningful tenant and resident engagement, powerful outcomes and benefits can be created. As a result, a new Tenant Involvement Project will be co-designed with Foundation Housing tenants and residents over

the coming months, starting in March 2021.

We are starting with a review of Foundation Housing's current suite of tenant and resident advisory groups in the following ways:

- The purpose of the groups
- Ways that tenants and residents can be involved in these groups
- How we can ensure everyone is represented and has an equal voice

The new Terms of Reference and Code of Conduct for the tenant and resident advisory groups will

be developed and implemented by June this year.

In the process of gaining more knowledge about your needs, we're also looking forward to identifying opportunities for people to develop new skills and be part of the decision-making process.

We are seeking expressions of interest from tenants and residents who would like to be part of this project.

Please contact Neal Bodel on Neal@foundationhousing.org.au

Maintenance Manager Launches

We're thrilled to announce the launch of our Maintenance Manager app and can't wait to see the improvement in service to our tenants. The new app ensures greater ease and convenience to report maintenance queries and issues. This change is all about improving service efficiency, enhanced communication and customer service for our tenants and the ability for quick and easy feedback about work orders and completed jobs. There may be some hiccups as the roll out continues and we thank you for your patience in this early stage.

Please contact the Property Services team at repairs@foundationhousing.org.au or on **1300 895 205** if you have any queries about this new system.



Jorgen brings Noongar language to life

When Jorgen moved into his accommodation in early 2020 he was initially very quiet and reserved. Twelve months on, he is an inspiration to his peers.

As a Noongar Marmun (man) and with a strong connection to Waylalup (Noongar word for Fremantle), Jorgen came to Foundation Housing to discuss how he could work with the Aboriginal community and provide pathways to assistance, especially regarding drug and alcohol issues.

Jorgen came up with an initiative to create and distribute posters around Fremantle about Aboriginal Culture, including information about the six Noongar Seasons and Noongar words and their interpretation.

With support from Foundation Housing's Community Engagement team, Jorgen reached out to local organisations, businesses and the Mayor of Fremantle to discuss the posters and the importance of preserving the Noongar language.

In his quest to dispel the stigma associated with speaking the Noongar language, he also gained the attention of the Fremantle Herald newspaper and was

featured as the 'poster boy for reconciliation' in February 2021.

As well as commencing his Diploma of Mental Health, Jorgen has recently secured part time work as an Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Engagement Officer.

Congratulations Jorgen for this initiative and for your enthusiasm and energy in keeping your language alive.



Good luck Jorgen in your new role as an AOD Engagement Officer



"I find gardening therapeutic"

Great Gardens Initiative: **Planting for the future**

When Robert moved into his home in Forrestfield, the garden consisted of very few plants apart from some towering palm trees. Not that you would know this from the lush oasis adorning his front yard now.

Robert's front garden has a bit of everything including elephant ears, frangipanis, passionfruit vines, roses, geraniums and palms. Cultivated through his own hard work and resources, Robert has created a beautiful garden for his extended family of nieces and nephews who live with him.

"I find gardening therapeutic and it helps to alleviate stress," shares Robert.

Proudly Aboriginal and originally from Katanning, Robert moved to Perth in 1991 but his connection to his country is

strong and evident from the range of statues and windmills adorning his garden.

"They remind me of the country," he says.

There's no denying Robert's garden sets the tone for a loving family environment.

To thank Robert for the wonderful work he has done in his garden, Foundation Housing awarded Robert with a voucher as a winner in the 'Great Gardens' competition.



First **Steps** into home ownership

Many Australians aspire to home ownership and our tenants are no exception.

First Steps is a program intended to provide information and mentoring support to tenants who have the financial means and desire to own their own home.

The original program included a series of workshops followed by one-on-one mentoring and some setting of aspirational targets. This was made possible with funding support from Beyond Bank, who have provided sponsorship as well as program mentors from amongst their staff.

The impact of COVID-19 meant the workshops had to cease so the program has now been remodelled to focus on 1-1 sessions being run with our project partner United Way WA.

Anyone interested in this personalised and supportive program can contact Allan Wilkerson at allan@foundationhousing.org.au and a referral will be arranged to United Way for an initial assessment.





Michael at the 'Good Neighbours' lunch with Neal

Michael's 10 Year Anniversary

One of our complexes in Dawesville will soon celebrate its 10-year anniversary and tenant Michael shares his experience of life in the complex.

In June this year, I will celebrate being a tenant of Foundation Housing for 10 years. Dawesville is a place of tranquil beauty and

it only took a week after my first viewing to sign the lease. When I first moved here, the nearest bus stop was on Old Coast Road, which was quite a hike from the units.

Getting on well with most of my nine neighbours is one of the most pleasurable aspects to living here. While we don't live in each other's pockets we chat, have coffee and BBQs together.

"Each one of us owes a debt of gratitude to Foundation Housing."

Thank you,
Michael



Noticeboard

Elevating our housing options

Providing more homes for people in need is part of our vision and 'Elevate by Foundation Housing' is a new initiative that provides brand new, affordable homes for people on low to moderate income. We're in the process of purchasing just over 100 properties for this program, which will be rented at 25% under the market value and will prioritise essential workers. New social housing is also being delivered as part of this program, which will

be allocated in the usual way via the Department of Communities waitlist. For more information about this program, please visit www.foundationhousing.org.au/looking-for-housing/elevatehousing

Do you know your watering days?

Now that Autumn is here please make a note of your allocated watering days and visit www.watercorporation.com.au/save-water/watering-days

Need to report a repair?

For all maintenance requests and emergencies, please contact us on **1300 895 205** or email us at repairs@foundationhousing.org.au

Portfolio Changes

We've recently made some changes to the portfolios of our housing coordinators to balance out the management responsibilities of staff. Rest assured your service will not be altered but please get in contact with your housing coordinator if you have any queries.

What would you like to read about?

This is your newsletter. We welcome your ideas, letters, photos and stories. Please get in touch at communications@foundationhousing.org.au



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