

Introducing New Women's Housing Company Board Directors

We're pleased to announce the appointment of three new Directors who bring a wealth of experience and knowledge to our Board.



Stacey Hooper

Stacey has spent over 13 years in the financial services industry with extensive financial and risk management experience across large, SME and start-up organisations.



Sharanya Srikanth

Sharanya is an IT leader with a passion for driving business transformation and empowering companies and people through technology.



Claudia Certoma

Claudia brings to the Board skills and experience across commercial law, governance, risk and compliance, property and projects development, corporate, property and project finance and public private partnerships (PPPs). You can find full details of all our Board members on our website: <http://www.womenshousingcompany.org.au/>

Together Home

The Women's Housing Company has successfully housed 5 women as part of the NSW Government's Together Home Program. The \$36 million initiative has been set up to secure homes for hundreds of people experiencing street homelessness, in response to COVID-19.

Together Home uses a Housing First approach, which offers stable housing along with tailored support. One of our new tenants is already expressing an interest in studying and gaining employment now they have a safe place to live.

We will house and support 10 women as part of the program.

For more information see <https://www.dcj.nsw.gov.au/news-and-media/media-releases/securing-housing-for-the-homeless>

NEWSLETTER SPRING 2020

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Please contact Fiona on **8202 9312** or **Fiona@womenshousingcompany.org** if you'd like more information about any of the articles in this newsletter.

BUSINESS HOURS:

9.00am – 4.30pm
Monday – Friday

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

Phone: 02 8202 9313

Email: repairs@womenshousingcompany.org

Website Form: www.womenshousingcompany.org

After hours emergency repairs: 1300 556 057

Our offices
remain closed
due to
COVID-19

Women's Housing Company

Suite 901, Level 9, 418A Elizabeth St, Surry Hills NSW 2010

T: 02 92811764 or 1300 942 111 (outside Sydney)

E: contact@womenshousingcompany.org **Interpreter:** 131 450

www.womenshousingcompany.org

CEO Message

With the Spring Newsletter, I'd like to acknowledge everyone's hard work to stay COVID safe, as well as share some exciting updates. We continue to deliver our services remotely, focussing on essential services and maintenance of homes and common areas. It's been six months where we have all had to manage in a COVID environment and are closely monitoring public health advice regarding opening our offices for face to face services.

The COVID health crisis has also been an economic crisis and the impact on women has been great. The demand for more affordable housing continues and the Women's Housing Company is pleased to share that we have just purchased two blocks of units in Campsie which will provide new housing for 16 women. This will be available before the end of 2020.

The Board plays a critical role in governing the organisation. Leanne Hillman resigned as a Director after a decade of service and we are in her debt for the amazing contribution she made over that period. Following a competitive recruitment process, we have three new Board members who bring new skills and energy to the Board – welcome Claudia Certoma, Stacey Hooper and Sharanya Srikanth.

And finally, the WHC AGM is scheduled to be held at noon on 18 November 2020. Due to the extraordinary circumstances presented by the COVID-19 pandemic and for the continued safety of everyone in our community, this meeting will be held virtually using an online portal. Information will be sent to Members and will also be available on our website.



I look forward to when we can again meet face-to-face for celebrations and activities. In the meantime, do not hesitate to contact the Women's Housing Company for any assistance we can provide and stay healthy and safe.

Best regards,

Debbie Georgopoulos
CEO WHC

Staff Updates



Tenancy Manager, Lauren Wilson

Lauren joined the team in August and is managing tenancies in the Inner West. Lauren has worked in the property industry for 15 years and has a tremendous depth of knowledge on residential tenancy management.

Bringing a friendly and empathetic approach, Lauren's skills and experience are a great addition to the Tenancy Team.



Case Manager, Talieh Akbari

Talieh joined the team in September as the Case Manager for the Together Home Program. Talieh said: "After spending most of my life in the social work and housing fields, I found helping vulnerable people

is meaningful and rewarding. I love being involved in humanitarian fields, and the Together Home Program is a great opportunity to provide a new and safe home for homeless people"

Donations

We'd like to extend a warm thank you to all of the generous supporters who have helped with donations and fundraising over the past few difficult months including Treak Real Estate, Alex Makes Meals, the Older Women's Network and Victoria B.

Tenant and Community Engagement Consultation

Tenant Advisory Group (TAG) consultation and review of the forthcoming Tenant and Community Engagement Strategy 2020-2023 has now been completed, with generous pro-bono assistance from management consultants, Iceni.

The new strategy will launch later in the year and has been designed to achieve tenancy sustainment through four main approaches:

1. Enable a strong tenant voice
2. Strengthen community connections
3. Build skills and capability
4. Engage and communicate effectively

It's through generous funding from supporters like Iceni that we have been able to deliver a program of wellbeing activities and workshops at our Women's Hubs in Woolloomooloo and Chester Hill and more recently, online.



Introducing Our New Chief Operating Officer

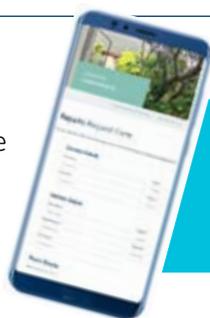
Kathleen Cain

Following the success of her role as Project Director, Programs and Systems, Kathleen has been appointed in the new role of Chief Operating Officer. Kath said, "I'm excited about the new role with the Women's Housing Company and looking forward to helping the business continue to grow whilst providing excellence in service and tenant engagement."

An organisation focussed on the housing needs of women is unique and provides opportunities to design and deliver best practise in the housing sector. The future of the WHC is looking very bright."

More Free Phones

Thanks to Ecstra Foundation, we have more free phones to give away. Get in contact if a basic smartphone could help you get online (max. of one per household).



See back page for How To Use MyGov and More details



Fire Safety

The annual smoke alarm inspection plays an important role in keeping your home safe. We send a letter and SMS text reminder with appointment details. Please make sure you are at home for this important appointment. If you are unable to attend, please contact us to arrange an alternative time.

What's On

Please contact Fiona on 9281 1764 or Fiona@womenshousingcompany.org for information

Exclusive WHC Pop Up Wardrobe

11am–12.30pm Friday 16 October, Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre, 756 Darling St, Rozelle



We're excited to offer another Exclusive WHC Pop-Up Wardrobe at the Rozelle Neighbourhood Centre. Strict COVID-19 Protocol will be in place, with only one person at a time, being allowed to browse. A seated area with tea will be provided while you wait. Bookings essential.

Being Supported Peer Support Line

Call 1800 151 151
10am–4pm & 6pm–10pm



Being Supported is a free, non-crisis phone and online support service (warmline) delivered by trained staff who have lived experience of mental health issues. It's for anyone who is needing someone to talk to. No referral required.

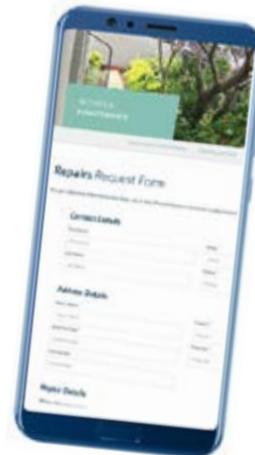
How To Use MyGov and More Workshop

10am–2pm, Thursday 26 November, Woolloomooloo with lunch and free phone/data giveaway

If you want to make the most of your smartphone but don't know where to start, please join us at our Women's Hub in Woolloomooloo. We will help get you online so you can learn how to:

- Download apps
- Access MyGov, My AgedCare, and NDIS online
- Make Medicare claims online
- Set up online banking and utility accounts
- Shop online for groceries and other essentials

Using step-by-step guides, you will learn how to use your new device at your own pace. Lunch will be provided with strict physical distancing in place. You can join online, if you can't come to Woolloomooloo. Contact us for more information or to reserve your spot.



Dress For Success

Dress For Success is the one-stop shop for brand new work clothes and a range of free employment supports including:

- One-on-one career coaching
- Job-focused webinars and workshops
- Resume and cover letter assistance
- Virtual mock interviews

Sign up to the newsletter at www.sydney.dressforsuccess.org for the latest on forthcoming events or contact us for a referral to the new pack and send clothing service.



COVID Hardship Support and No Interest Household Relief Loans

In collaboration with the Australian Government, Good Shepherd is providing free financial support over the phone and No Interest Loans of up to \$3,000 towards rent, utility bills, bond, body corporate fees and council rates. For more information call **1300 121 130** or visit www.householdrelief.org.au