

Events

Christmas activities and volunteer opportunities

If you are keen to get involved in a community Christmas lunch benefiting not only you but the people you can get to know, head along to one of the events below.

Photo competition:

The person who sends in the most creative photo from a community lunch will win a \$50 voucher and be featured in our next newsletter!



Looking to 2025

Next year is going to be one of our best yet. With an increased focus on empowerment, connection and purpose, we look forward to ramping up events, increasing access to support and taking all measures to ensure the WHC tenant community get the best out of life.

We encourage you to join our Facebook page or to call our customer service team to check in on any events coming up in the new year.



Business Hours: 9.00am – 4.30pm Monday – Friday
Customer Service: Phone: 02 9281 1764 Email: contact@womenshousingcompany.org
Repairs and Maintenance: Phone: 02 8202 9313 Email: repairs@womenshousingcompany.org
Website Form: <http://www.womenshousingcompany.org.au/tenants/maintenance>
After Hours Emergency Repairs: 1300 556 057 **Translations and Interpreter:** 131 450

Christmas Day Events

INNER CITY

Wayside Chapel

29 Hughes Street, Potts Point
11:30am – 2:00pm

EASTERN SUBURBS

Bondi Surf Club

Queen Elizabeth Drive, Bondi Beach
11:00am – 2:00pm

INNER WEST

Bill Crews

180 Liverpool Road, Ashfield
11:00am – 2:00pm

Street Heart, Corner Wentworth

Park Road and Bridges Road, Glebe
2:00pm – 5:00pm

SOUTH WEST SYDNEY

Salvation Army

42 Raymond Street, Bankstown
6:00pm – 8:00pm

Liverpool Uniting Church

28 Pirie St, Liverpool
11.30am – 2pm

PARRAMATTA

Parramatta Town Hall

182 Church St, Parramatta
10:30am – 1:00pm

WESTERN SYDNEY

Mama Lana's Community

Foundation, 56 Woodriff St, Penrith
11:00am – 3:00pm

NORTHERN BEACHES

Mowana Christmas Lunch

Tramshed, Lake View Room, Narrabeen
11:30am – 3:30pm



NEWSLETTER SUMMER 2024

Annual General Meeting



This year's AGM was again held at the Redfern Community Centre and welcomed the Hon. Rose Jackson, who spoke about the importance of increased housing, particularly for women, answering questions from the audience. Thank you to all our tenant community members who attended. We were also fortunate to hear from one member, Kerina, who spoke about the difference the WHC has made in her life.

We also announced the 16 scholarship recipients, funded by our Patron, the Hon. Ros Kelly AO, with funding to support broad learning and employment aspirations, including wood working tools, tutoring, laptops, courses, and sporting opportunities. With 83% of past scholarship recipients reporting improved financial stability and all experiencing enhanced confidence, we can't wait to see the impact of this round.

Our Annual Report is now available to view on our website – scan QR code.



16 Days of Activism

Our team and the tenant community united to raise awareness and say, "Stop Violence Against Women and Girls" at today's Western Sydney March.



Christmas closing hours

The WHC will be closed on Wednesday, 25 December 2024, and will reopen on Monday, 6 January 2025.

For emergency repairs, call 1300 556 057.

If you are experiencing hardship during this time, we recommend seeking services on <https://askizzy.org.au/>

If you are struggling and need to talk to someone, call Lifeline on 13 11 14.

CEO Report

Since I started in the CEO role in August this year, it has been great to connect with so many of the amazing women who call one of our properties home. We have such a wonderful diversity of women with different experiences, ages and talents. I'm looking forward to getting to know more of you.



One of the sites I visited was our South Granville site, where we shared scones and recipes for spinach and other produce from the community garden. I enjoyed meeting our tenants and hearing about their experiences of social housing and the new community they are forming.

As part of the 2020-2026 program to develop social housing for older women, we opened a new property in St Mary's with the help of Homes NSW and TAFE NSW. So far, 71 units have been delivered with 4 more projects in the pipeline creating a total of 106 units. Older women are among the fastest growing

groups of homeless people in NSW, and they deserve housing that is beautiful, well designed, fit for purpose and safe. A place they can call home. Feedback from the women who viewed the property has been heartwarming.

As we wind down for the year, I want to thank our tenants, partners, supporters, Board and staff for contributing to our impact this year. We housed and supported more than 2000 women and children through our housing and homelessness services. We continued to work hard to grow our

property portfolio, empower women and improve the quality of the homelessness and tenancy services we provide.

I want to thank our tenants and clients who participate in our tenant activities and programs and play an important role in creating connected communities.

I also want to thank the Women's Housing Company staff who work tirelessly to help our tenants and clients. I admire their dedication and commitment to supporting women to resolve their homelessness and live in safe and affordable homes.

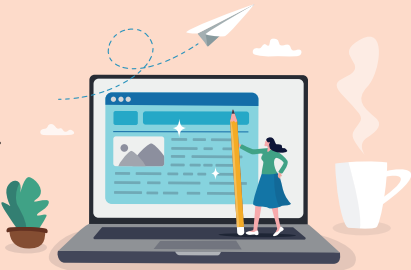
On behalf of The Women's Housing Company, I want to wish all our tenants, partners, supporters, board members and staff a safe and restful Holiday Season. It has been an eventful and impactful 2024 and we look forward to continuing this important work in the new year.

Nada Nasser - CEO



We want to hear from you!

Do you enjoy writing? Are you good behind the camera?
We want to ensure our newsletter reflects the news you want to see. We are looking for individuals keen to contribute to our future newsletters. Successful contributions will be recognised with vouchers.
If this sounds like you, email Libby libby@womenshousingcompany.org.



Preparing for Summer's predicted weather

The Bureau of Meteorology (BOM) has forecasted that Greater Sydney and surrounding areas will experience severe winds over the next few months. All tenants are to take precautionary measures to ensure the safety of their property. To prevent any potential damage or injury, it is crucial that you secure any loose items on your property that the wind could blow over.



Please take the following actions:

- Ensure balcony items are securely fastened or removed entirely.
- Pot plants, statues, or other objects must be removed from balcony railings or concrete pillars, as they can easily be displaced by the wind.

Managing your rental payments

At WHC, we understand that life can throw unexpected challenges your way, making it difficult to keep up with financial commitments. If you're behind on your tenant payments (rent, water, or rechargeable maintenance), there's no need to worry – we're here to support you with a solution that works for you.

- Here's How We Can Help:**
- Flexible Repayment Plans: to fit your circumstances.
 - Connections to Support Services: referrals to financial counselling and other relevant support.
 - Practical Guidance: discussions to help you better manage your arrears and stay on track moving forward.

Reach out to our team today to explore your options and find out how we can assist you. For more details, refer to our new Rent and Non-Rent Arrears Policy. Scan QR to view.

We're here to help – let's work together!



Women's Housing Company will shortly be adding a button to the front page of our website to enable tenants or others to easily pay rent, water, arrears, bond, or maintenance by credit or debit cards. Keep an eye out for the 'Pay a Bill' button.

Purposeful Pathways

Purposeful Pathways is a program designed to support women in our community identify their purpose and connect them to jobs, study, or volunteer opportunities. Based out of the Cumberland Women's Health Centre, we have fortnightly events and 1-2-1 sessions with participants.

Meet Celeste, our Purposeful Pathways Coordinator. Celeste has been supporting people to enter employment for over a decade and is excited to dedicate her time to women. If you want support to find your reason for jumping out of bed in the morning or to overcome whatever is holding you back from reaching your goals, book in time with Celeste and feel supported on your journey. Contact Celeste on 0411 287 757.



IMPACT



2000 WOMEN & CHILDREN housed and supported through social and affordable housing, crisis and transitional accommodation and homelessness services.

4 IN 5 OF OUR TENANTS say they are satisfied overall with Women's Housing Company.

43 TENANT ENGAGEMENT EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS HELD These include an International Women's Day Celebration, wellness programs, digital literacy, tenant consultation meetings and much more.

327 WOMEN & CHILDREN who are homeless or at risk of homelessness supported through our Specialist Homelessness Services

84% OF WHC TENANTS say they are satisfied with the condition of their home

DISABILITY INCLUSION PLAN developed for WHC Specialist Homelessness Services

\$12,000 IN SCHOLARSHIPS awarded to 26 women and children to promote education and training and empower women.