

habitat for humanity news 2023

January 2023

Habitat for Humanity launches Murray Bridge building project

Four young people in Murray Bridge will have an opportunity to transition to a new life with secure accommodation under a project announced by Habitat for Humanity South Australia today.

Habitat for Humanity South Australia, a not-for-profit organisation which supports the construction of housing for homeless and disadvantaged people, will transform a duplex in Murray Bridge into four studio apartments.

The project will involve renovating the existing two-unit duplex, and adding new bathrooms, kitchens, toilets, and fencing to the property in Jarvis Street, at a capital cost of around \$163,000.

Habitat SA's Executive Officer, Louise Hay, said the initiative "will help youth who have been under guardianship to transition into a stable, safe, and affordable home that they can call their own".

"Statistics show this group are highly disadvantaged and are over-represented in a variety of areas including homelessness services, health system and the justice system," Ms Hay said. "These studio apartments will provide housing for young people and give them the opportunity to develop the life skills needed to maintain a successful tenancy in the future," she said.

Work on the new housing project, the second such project undertaken by Habitat SA in Murray Bridge, is expected to start in February and be completed by October this year. On completion of the construction work, ongoing support for the residents to increase their skills and confidence will be provided by Baptist Care.

October 2023

Habitat opens applications to assist a disadvantaged family into affordable home ownership

A disadvantaged South Australian family will have the opportunity to gain access to a new house with the opening today of applications for Habitat for Humanity South Australia's home ownership support scheme.

Habitat SA's Executive Officer, Louise Hay, said the not-for-profit organisation, which is committed to building safe, decent, and affordable homes in partnership with families on low incomes, is inviting applications from families seeking a transformative opportunity to achieve homeownership.

“Our home ownership scheme aims to build strength, stability, and self-reliance through shelter, making home ownership accessible to disadvantaged families,” Ms Hay said today.

“Earlier this year, we proudly assisted the Lovett family into their forever home in Two Wells. With the incredible support of HPG Homes and the Habitat SA community, the Lovett family now enjoys a beautiful, purpose-built accessible home that meets their unique needs,” she said.

“We are now looking to offer this same opportunity to another family in need and are encouraging people to send in an application by the deadline of 3rd November 2023.”

Habitat SA's selection guidelines include:

- Homeowners are expected to contribute a minimum of 200 hours of "sweat equity" during the construction of their home.
- Habitat SA houses are sold to owner-occupiers only.
- Applicants must be on a low income and not currently own a house.
- Priority is given to those experiencing exceptional circumstances such as disability, serious health issues, or domestic violence.
- Applicants must obtain a home loan for the purchase price of the home, with guidance available on exploring financing options.
- Habitat SA maintains a non-discriminatory policy in the selection process, considering neither race nor religion when choosing families.
- Ms Hay said Habitat SA is accepting applications from disadvantaged families who are in need of a hand up into homeownership, adding “its important to note that this is not a giveaway program; it's a once-in-a-lifetime chance to make homeownership a reality.”
- The contract price for a Habitat SA home is substantially reduced with the build cost of the home being no more than 75% of market value. Habitat home owners may be required to utilise the shared equity home loan from HomeStart to finance their house and land purchase.

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Habitat SA is dedicated to making homeownership dreams come true for families in need. We encourage all eligible families to seize this opportunity and take the first step towards a brighter future.

Spring 2023

Master Builders South Australia Magazine Feature Article

Master Builders SA members HPG Homes/Hot Property Group and Habitat for Humanity South Australia recently handed over the keys for a beautiful purpose-built home in Two Wells to the Lovett family.

Robert and Kiera, along with their children Connor (9), Declan (7) and Evie-Lee (3), relocated from Port Lincoln to Adelaide to be closer to medical treatment for their two sons. Connor was diagnosed with the incurable condition leucodystrophy. Further testing also revealed that their other son Declan also had the condition.

As an added blow, Robert has also been diagnosed with lymphatic cancer and resigned from work in 2021 to help care for Connor and Declan.

Finding a suitable home that would meet their family's needs and improve the quality of life for their two terminally ill sons seemed out of reach until Habitat SA contacted the family to coordinate a loan with HPG Homes managing the project.

Materials and labour from building suppliers and contractors was provided at a discount rate or donated.

The home has been built with their sons' health needs in mind. This included wider doorways, and large sized bedrooms and bathroom to accommodate Connor and Declan's equipment.

Master Builders SA is extremely proud of all involved in this special project to help this deserving family.

It is a true display of what can be achieved through industry and community collaboration.

The above text and images are taken from the Master Builders SA Spring Magazine feature article.

May 2023

A Mother's Day Gift of Safe and Secure Housing

Providing shelter for their family is every parent's dream. Next week, one Adelaide family will achieve that goal, and celebrate Mother's Day, when Habitat for Humanity South Australia hands over the keys to the Lovett family's new home in Two Wells.

But, behind the joy of securing their own home is a story of resilience and heartache for the Lovett family.

The joy is the opportunity to be a beneficiary of Habitat SA's home building program which provides access for disadvantaged families to secure and affordable housing through the generosity and innovation of partners in the building and finance sectors, in this case HPG Builders and HomeStart Finance, respectively.

The Lovett family has experienced more tough times than most. The parents, Kiera and Robert, have three children, two of whom have a rare medical condition, leukodystrophy, the prognosis for which is that the two boys will not see adulthood. Compounding this heartache has been Robert's cancer diagnosis.

On any measure, the Lovetts qualified for Habitat SA's support to secure safe and affordable housing.

Habitat SA's Executive Officer, Louise Hay, put it simply: "The medical challenges the Lovett family face are so grave that, ultimately, depending on Robert's future, it's possible that Kiera will become a single Mum with a daughter to care for."

"With the official handover of the house to the Lovetts almost coinciding with the 14 May, we like to think this new house is one of the most precious Mother's Day gifts any Mother could receive," she said.

Kiera said "moving into our new home is a gift to us and the kids, it will be such a huge weight lifted off our shoulders, we can go about prioritising our children's future." Ms Hay said Habitat SA "is extremely grateful for the incredibly generous support for this project that has been provided by HPG Homes – which did not charge any fees related to the house construction – and financiers, Homestart – which reduced the family's financing costs through a shared equity arrangement."

Habitat SA supports disadvantaged South Australians through its home building program and its 'Brush with Kindness' program that provides minor home renovation and gardening services. Habitat SA also helps reduce building and renovation costs through selling donated building supplies and furniture at heavily discounted prices in its ReStore shop at 102 Port Road, Alberton.

Note: Media representatives are invited to attend the dedication and handover of the Lovett's home on Tuesday 16 May, 2023.

The Member for Light, Tony Piccolo MP, representing the Minister for Human Services, Nat Cook MP, and the Deputy Mayor of the Adelaide Plains Council, Marcus Strudwicke, are attending the event.

Baptist Care's role will include supporting young people to develop the skills they need to successfully transition to adult life, such as self-care, home management, budgeting and financial literacy, and confidence for independent living.

Baptist Care's support will also involve the provision of culturally responsive and culturally safe approaches; supporting positive family and community connections, and fostering connections to post care services and other supports.

Other project partners include the SA Housing Trust, Department of Child Protection, Rural City of Murray Bridge, Cornerstone Housing and ac.care.