

# habitat for humanity news 2020-2022

**November 2022**

## **ReStore reduces landfill & housing costs**

The twin goals of creating a market for high quality building materials and furniture that would otherwise have gone to landfill, and reducing costs for home builders and renovators, have been met by Habitat for Humanity South Australia's new social enterprise, ReStore.

Celebrating its six-month anniversary today (Friday), ReStore Manager, Sarah Taylor, estimates that the business, best described as “an op shop for building materials and furniture”, has diverted more than 100 truckloads of useable goods and materials away from landfill.

The new and ‘gently used’ products, which are surplus to requirements for builders, tradies, retailers and the general public, are donated and then sold at around half the retail price by ReStore, which is located at 102 Port Road, Alberton.

Ms Taylor said ReStore had been well supported by the business community and the public since its official launch on 4 May this year.

“Major retailers, for example, may have had a ‘spring clean’ of their existing stock and ReStore has provided a socially responsible option to sell these goods rather than take the easy disposal option and send them to landfill,” Ms Taylor said.

“We have picked up 103 truckloads of goods including office and home furniture, building materials, plumbing supplies and tiles. As well, various builders and suppliers have delivered a total of 46 pallets of goods and materials; 162 sheets of gyprock and 124 filing cabinets to our store,” she said.

Habitat SA's Executive Officer, Louise Hay, said ReStore's success underscored Habitat for Humanity's mission “to bring communities together to help families build strength, stability and self-reliance through shelter”. “At a time when inflation is pushing prices higher and higher, we are selling products at around half their retail cost which is a real bonus, particularly for low-income people, as they build or renovate their accommodation,” Ms Hay said. “As an example, through winter, we were able to support many people to access low-cost insulation, which helps them keep their homes warm, and reduces their energy costs.” The large volume of donations has created a ‘good problem’ for ReStore

in needing space in which to sort and store goods before they are placed on display.

“We would love to speak to anyone – a company, local council or a member of the public – who has some unused space in which we could store our goods as they transit to ReStore,” Ms Hay said. “So, this is a shout out to anyone who could help with storage space to help a social enterprise that is helping the public,” she said. Ms Hay said “ReStore’s success is founded on the generosity of our major sponsor, the Ian Potter Foundation, our building industry donors, and an enthusiastic team of volunteers working with ReStore’s two staff”.

## **May 2022**

### **ReStore reduces housing costs**

A novel way to reduce the costs of housing construction will be launched in Adelaide tomorrow with the opening of ReStore, a retail outlet offering lower prices for building materials and furniture.

An initiative of not-for-profit group, Habitat for Humanity South Australia, ReStore will sell new, or ‘gently used’, items that have been donated by building companies, businesses and individuals. The goods, including paving and landscaping materials, tiles and flooring items, bathroom fittings, lighting and door hardware will generally be offered at around half the retail price.

Habitat SA's Executive Officer, Louise Hay, said the new premises at 102 Port Road, Alberton, would meet a key need for people building, or setting up, a house while also being beneficial for the environment. “ReStore will sell building materials that may be left over after a major construction job,” Ms Hay said.

“These surplus materials, which are brand new, often end up in landfill because builders don’t have the time to find another home for them. “People will be able to donate these goods to ReStore and, because they have been donated, we will be able to sell them at less than the retail prices. “We are also receiving a lot of furniture which may be second hand but is of very good quality - we call it ‘gently used.’ “I think our store manager, Sarah Taylor, summed it up best when she said recently: ‘If I wouldn’t have an item in my own home, then we won’t be offering it for sale in ReStore.”

“Sarah is keen to hear from any businesses or individuals that may have products to donate and can be contacted on 0412 794 460 or [staylor@habitat.org.au](mailto:staylor@habitat.org.au)

“ReStore is a social enterprise and the funds generated will support Habitat SA's projects in South Australia.” ReStore is the latest initiative of Habitat SA. Habitat for Humanity is an international organisation which supports home building in many undeveloped countries around the world. Habitat’s work in South Australia includes a small-scale home building program, a home maintenance program called ‘Brush with Kindness’, and disaster recovery work. Habitat SA volunteers

worked for 18 months cleaning up properties in the Adelaide Hills after the 2019-20 bushfires.

## **August 2020**

### **Milestone reached in bushfire recovery efforts**

Habitat for Humanity South Australia's bushfire recovery program reached a major milestone on Friday having now supported 100 families affected by the 2019 Cudlee Creek bushfire that devastated communities in the Adelaide Hills.

However, the clean-up effort remains substantial and Habitat SA volunteers, who have been active in the Hills since mid-February, are likely to be working on the fire ground for the rest of the year.

To date, more than 150 volunteers have made a substantial contribution to the recovery effort. Regular tasks include removing damaged fencing, dragging burnt trees into 'burn piles', and planting trees and shrubs to replace lost vegetation.

Habitat SA's Executive Director, Ben Sarre, says while the group has helped 100 families so far there are many more property owners who need support.

State Government statistics record that 98 homes were destroyed and a further 56 were damaged in the Cudlee Creek bushfire. More than 500 non-residential buildings were destroyed or damaged as the blaze consumed more than 23,00 hectares of land including farming, wine, tourism, and forestry activities.

"The Hills may look green again after pastures have grown and some trees have re-shooted but the loss of homes and infrastructure damage, and in many cases the emotional toll for landowners, remains," Mr Sarre said.

"We encourage landowners to get in touch with Habitat SA if they want help to get back on their feet," he said.

"Landowners have been very appreciative of the work by our volunteers. They are often surprised at how much can be achieved by a team in a day, and frequently comment that they can now see a way forward where previously the clean-up challenge had seemed almost insurmountable."

"While we do have a dedicated and hardworking core group of volunteers, we are also keen to recruit new volunteers who don't mind getting their hands dirty to help a fire-affected family."

Habitat SA has been helping Hills' families continuously since mid-February, adjusting its operating model due to COVID-19 by implementing smaller teams of volunteers, social distancing and appropriate hygiene controls. Habitat SA works closely with the Lobethal Recovery Centre and other not-for-profit organisations to leverage the respective skills and the contribution of each organisation.