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MEDIA RELEASE: Evolve Housing raises awareness about the 116, 000 rough sleepers in Australia for Homelessness Week

This Homelessness Week, community housing provider Evolve Housing is raising awareness about the challenges faced by Australia's 116, 000 rough sleepers, and the need to provide affordable housing to prevent the problem from worsening.

Homelessness Week, which will run from 1-7 August this year, aims to educate the community about homelessness, with the 2022 theme being: 'to end homelessness we need a plan'.

As one of the largest community housing providers in Australia, Evolve Housing has a front-row seat to the devastating impacts of homelessness and the need to prevent it through the provision of housing.

The organisation provides subsidised housing and support services to more than 10, 000 residents, many of whom were previously homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Of Evolve Housing's social housing cohort, approximately 12% were previously homeless.

One of the programs that Evolve Housing assists former rough sleepers through is the NSW Government-funded Together Home program, which is managed by Evolve Housing in the Western Sydney, South Western Sydney and Nepean Blue Mountains regions.

The program, launched in 2020, secures private market rentals to be used as stable housing for those experiencing homelessness for a period of two years.

Evolve Housing program manager Dyana Selim said that Together Home, and programs like it, have a life-changing impact on participants and emphasised the importance of a holistic approach to support.

"We all can play a pivotal part in reducing homelessness and it begins with understanding people's vulnerabilities and working collaboratively by ensuring the right tailored supports are in place," Ms Selim said.

In Together Home, this support may address participants' physical and mental health issues, lack of social connection, training and education, or employment prospects.

The ultimate goal of the program is to improve participants' wellbeing and stabilise their lives so that they can stay off the streets and maintain their own tenancies long-term.

Since its launch, Together Home has supported more than 990 people across the state. Evolve Housing has been funded for 127 packages, each of which helps to support one client for up to two years.

"It's been an absolute privilege for Evolve to be delivering this program and we are so proud of the achievements made by our participants of the program," Ms Selim said.



NSW Government Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services Natasha Maclaren-Jones agrees that the program has a strong impact: “Together Home not only provides a stable place to live, but also ensures there are wrap-around supports to help people rebuild their lives and reduce a return to rough sleeping.”

For more information about Evolve Housing and its services, visit www.evolvehousing.com.au.

For more information about Homelessness Week, visit Homelessness Australia at <https://homelessnessaustralia.org.au>.

About Evolve Housing

Evolve Housing is one of the largest Community Housing Providers (CHP) in Australia. We manage more than 4,000 properties, housing more than 10, 000 residents. We believe in everyone’s right to a home –somewhere they can feel safe, secure and engage with the community. We provide our residents with support and opportunities to help them maintain their tenancies, improve their well-being and enhance their ability to participate within their community and the broader economy.