

Christmas Carnival

Did you know that Compass holds a state wide Christmas Carnival?

This is a great opportunity for you and your family to join fellow Compass Housing tenants and staff in a day of fun, live music and fantastic food. Last year saw a record attendance at the famous event right across the state, as children of all ages enjoyed rides, show bags and giveaways. **The 2016 Christmas Carnival will be bigger and better. Don't miss out!**

To RSVP simply call 1300 333 733. You will need to tell us which of the five carnival locations you will be attending and the names and contact details of any family members or guests who will be coming along with you.

Central Coast Tenant Christmas Party- 10 December 10:00am- 2:00pm
Terilbah Reserve The Entrance North
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Broken Hill Tenant Christmas Party - 14 December 11:00am-2:00pm
Broken Hill Aquatic Centre

***ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SIGNED IN BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OVER 18
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Dubbo Tenant Christmas Party- 16 December 5:00pm-7:30pm
Elston Water Park, Cnr Gipps and Cobra Streets, Dubbo
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Hunter Area Tenant Christmas Party- 17 December 10:00am- 2:00pm
Newcastle Foreshore Lawn and Ampitheatre
NOBBYS BEACH END

Upper Hunter Tenant Christmas Party- 22 December 10:00am- 3:00pm
High Brook Park Footy Fields, Muswellbrook
Bring your swimmers, there will be waterslides and rides!
***ALL CHILDREN MUST BE SIGNED IN BY A PARENT OR GUARDIAN OVER 18
THIS EVENT IS OPEN TO THE GENERAL PUBLIC

Santa's helpers are very keen to know how many children will be joining us so RSVP soon.

Please let us know of any special dietary requirements too.



Grow a Star - Providing Opportunities for our Youth

Grow a Star is a youth scholarship and mentoring program run by Compass Housing. Grow a Star's focus is to provide targeted funding to support young people who show an eagerness, talent or passion to develop their skills in a chosen field and help them to fulfil their dreams. So far, Grow a Star has helped hundreds of young people by providing laptops and tutoring, musical instruments and opportunities for talented young sports people to compete at all levels.

Do you know a young person who could benefit from a little help through Grow a Star? If so, please contact the Grow a Star Coordinator Shane Marshall on 1300 333 733 or at shanem@compasshousing.org

grow
a star

Award Winning Compass

Compass Housing has been recognised in this year's Australian Business Awards, taking out top honours in three categories of the prestigious prize.

Compass Housing was awarded:

- 'Employer of Choice' for the second year in a row thanks to its dedication to its staff.
- 'Business Innovation' for a ground breaking tenant participation program.
- 'Community Contribution' for an industry first community 123 Hub initiative that has been linked to drastic crime reduction in Broken Hill.

The Australian Business Awards Program Director, Ms Tara Johnston, said 'for over a decade, The Australian Business Awards have recognised organisations that prioritise innovation and technology as drivers of local and international markets'.

Compass Housing's Group Managing Director, Greg Budworth said 'I am immensely proud that Compass Housing has been chosen for these awards as they provide welcome recognition of the hard work and innovation that underpins our work.'

'As a community housing provider with over 30 years of experience, Compass is constantly looking for ways to improve our service delivery to allow for not only better social outcomes for our tenants', but better working conditions for our staff', said Mr Budworth.

For more information on The Australian Business Awards and the 2016 winners, including Compass Housing's honours go to www.australianbusinessawards.com.au



Compass Housing's Group Managing Director, Greg Budworth

Sustainable Future

If each of us aims to run a sustainable household, which means thinking about the type and amount of resources we use, how we recycle and dispose of materials, the steps we take to manage and conserve the natural environment we all depend on, we are not only conserving energy, we are saving money too.

If we consider our purchases carefully, a lot less waste will end up as landfill and pollution. Every year, each Australian generates more than 2000 kg of rubbish. In NSW alone, we throw away \$2.5 billion worth of edible food a year.

Appliance replacement offer

The NSW Government are offering discounts on new energy efficient fridges and TVs. New appliances can cut your energy bills, improve your household and family living costs and help protect our environment.

They are offering a 40% discount on the cost of a fridge or a 50% discount on the cost of a TV.

If you're eligible you can:

- Choose from selected energy efficient fridges and TVs from our retail partner The Good Guys
- Have your new appliance delivered to your home and installed
- Have your old appliance removed and recycled

Conditions apply

To be eligible you must own either a fridge six years or older, a plasma or cathode ray tube television and want to replace them. You need to be a NSW resident and hold one of the following valid concession cards:

- Pensioner Concession card
 - Health Care card or Low Income Health Care card from Centrelink
 - Veterans' Affairs Gold card
- Commonwealth Seniors Health card holders are not eligible for this offer.



To apply online, go to the Office of Environment and Heritage website.

<http://www.environment.nsw.gov.au/households/appliance-replacement-offer.htm>

Health Corner Tackling Tobacco

Compass Housing, has joined forces with Cancer Council NSW and its 'Tackling Tobacco' program, in a bid to help tenants quit smoking for good.

With the average price of cigarettes expected to hit \$40 a pack due to a 12.5 per cent tax increase announced in the 2016 Budget, a pack-a-day smoker could soon be stumping up almost \$300 a week to fuel their habit. This increase in cost will mean that some smokers living in social housing will be spending more on cigarettes than rent.

According to Cancer Council NSW, disadvantaged groups are far more likely to smoke and often smoke more heavily than other groups due to it being seen as a 'community norm'. Figures show that around 70% of homeless people and 65% of vulnerable young people smoke, compared to under 16% of the general population.

Compass Housing's General Manager of Operations NSW, Lisa Tierney, said that helping tenants quit smoking was important to not only their health, but their ability to maintain a tenancy.

'Cancer Council's Tackling Tobacco program, along with Compass' regular interactions with tenants will mean that people who are trying to kick the habit will have access to things like nicotine patches and addiction counselling programs' said Ms Tierney.

Cancer Council NSW's Regional Manager, Shayne Connell, said that they 'were excited to work with Compass Housing to address smoking and to give tenants the support they need to quit and to denormalise smoking in the community'.

Mental Health

October was Mental Health Month, a national campaign that promotes the importance of early intervention for positive mental health.

The WayAhead website (www.wayahead.org.au) has a comprehensive directory for mental health services.

There are also 24 hour counselling services available including:

- Mental Health Line 1800 011 511
- Lifeline 13 11 14
- Beyondblue 1300 22 4636
- headspace 1800 650 890

UP&UP and Compass "In The House" Program

The team at Compass Hunter would like to acknowledge the great work of Shane Kennedy through the Up&Up program and thank him for his support of Compass Housing's In The House program.

Shane is a youth and community worker, graffiti artist, Hip Hop MC, and wellbeing speaker who has been designing and facilitating Graffiti Art Programs and Hip Hop music workshops with young people for over 16 years, working to engage and inspire young people of all abilities to recognise their own unique capabilities and strengths. Shane was recently awarded Youth Sector Worker of the Year in Newcastle at the Regional Youth Services Award. He was also nominated for NSW Youth Worker of the Year 2015.

Shane is pictured to the right with KiDream and Compass tenant Scott Fotheringham at a DJ'ing workshop. Scott is now furthering his skills and passion for DJ'ing and is also volunteering with Up&Up, inspiring other youth with his positivity and tenacity.



Pictured L-R are Shane Kennedy, Newcastle Scratch Academy founder, KiDream and Compass Housing tenant DJ Xtractwobeats (AKA Scott F)

Message from Lisa - Lisa Tierney is Compass' General Manager of Operations NSW

I would like to thank all the tenants who have provided feedback at the tenant forums this year. Your information has been fed into the New South Wales Advisory Committee and Compass is currently addressing your queries and suggestions for improvements. Without your feedback, the areas of maintenance, tenant safety and anti-social behavioural issues cannot be addressed.

I encourage all tenants to continue to call the 1300 number and talk to our friendly customer service centre for all queries you might have.

As this year is drawing to a close I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families a very safe and happy Christmas.





Tenant Incentive Scheme

The Compass Housing Tenant Incentive Scheme (TIS) has been set up to reward our best performing tenants.

How the Program works

Every month, Tenancy Relations Officers give each tenant a score based upon their tenancy performance, according to set criteria i.e. on time rent payments, invoice payments, bond payments and for maintaining dwellings that are clean and tidy.

The best performing tenants are invited to attend special events and tenants who reach gold, silver and bronze status are put into a draw to win cash prizes at the end of each year.



Celebrating TIS Recipients

Whale Watching Cruise at Nelson Bay

On Friday 8 October, TIS recipients from the Upper Hunter and Central Coast were picked up by buses and taken to Nelson Bay for a fun day on the water.

The Compass tenants were treated to a gourmet lunch and presented with TIS certificates in acknowledgment of the high tenancy standard they had maintained throughout the year. After lunch, they set sail on a Moonshadow cruise for some whale watching.



Smokey Texas BBQ Lunch - 23 September 2016

Compass would like to thank tenants Rasta and Jude for sharing their hospitality and cooking skills with fellow Compass tenants and staff at a Smokey Texas BBQ Lunch on the NSW Central Coast.



In the House - Hunter

Board members and staff of Compass Housing enjoyed an amazing In The House session with the self-named "Tighes Hill Buffers"

This extraordinary group of tenants assisted in writing a recent, successful grant application to have safety improvements made within their complex and a graffiti-proof fence installed.

The grant totalled \$50,000! Congratulations to all involved.

Family Fun Day and BBQ - 28 September 2016

Hundreds of people including Compass Housing tenants and the general community, turned up to enjoy all of the fun events on offer at the Family Fun Day and BBQ at Hunter Park in Muswellbrook.

There was a petting zoo, face painting, karaoke, an Aboriginal artefacts display and family games. Dora the Explorer, Minnie Mouse and Mickey Mouse and Peppa the Pig made an appearance too. A variety of support services were in attendance on the day as well.

