

## Purpose of this bulletin...

Welcome to the 4th Hunter Residences staff bulletin, keeping you up to date with the redevelopment program and the transfer of services to the non-government sector.

### Features:

- Update on Hunter Residences redevelopment project
- Christmas celebrations at Stockton
- Update on food services at Stockton

## Happy New Year

We hope you had a chance to relax over the festive season and found time to be with family and friends. We continue to appreciate all your hard work throughout 2017, and look forward to a great 2018!

## A big thank you

We would like to acknowledge and thank Brett Ryan for all his work and support as Director Disability LRC. Brett is now taking a break and will return on 1 February 2018 as Director LRCSSL-SS Business and Transition Services.

In addition, we extend our thanks and appreciation to Garry Leahy as Director LRCSSL-SS Business and Transition Services. Gary will commence leave in February to return as Manager Human Resources, Hunter Residences.

Brett and Garry have both made a significant contribution to the operation of Hunter Residences over the past year and we look forward to continuing our work with them after they take well earned breaks.

## Introducing the Director, Hunter Residences

On 8 January 2018, Karin North commenced as Director, Hunter Residences.

Karin brings with her a broad capability skill set within Disability Operations and years of experience in disability services across several business streams and Districts.

Karin originally started her career as a nurse at Stockton Centre, and was most recently the Director Disability, Hunter Central Coast, where she led the transfer of disability services to non-government service providers. She brings with her a wealth of knowledge and leadership to support the Hunter Residences' management team.

## Redevelopment update

### Progress so far

The Deputy Secretary Disability emailed staff before the Christmas break about the redevelopment program. To make sure the update is received by all staff, we've reprinted the key points below.

The Hunter Residences redevelopment program is well underway, with construction of the first 11 homes now completed, and 62 people have moved into their new homes.

In February 2017 we selected Home4Life to develop the remaining homes, and have achieved these key milestones to date:

- purchased land for most of the remaining properties, at locations chosen by residents and their families

- completed designs for 70 per cent of the remaining homes
- Home4Life has started submitting the designs for council approval.

Despite careful planning and progress to date, the redevelopment will not be completed by 30 June 2018 – when it was expected that all FACS operated disability services would have transferred to non-government operators.

### **Hunter Residences will continue to operate after 30 June 2018**

Hunter Residences will continue to operate, with staff employed by FACS, beyond 30 June 2018, until the project is completed. It is expected that the first homes will be completed in late 2018 with the remaining to follow.

Work will continue on this project until the homes are delivered and everyone has been safely moved into their new homes.

### **Updating residents and their families**

We have written to families and guardians to both update and assure them that FACS will continue to operate the Hunter Residences until the redevelopment is complete. If you receive any questions from families and guardians, you can direct them to contact FACS by phone: 1800 379 284 or email: [ServiceDeliveryTransfer@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ServiceDeliveryTransfer@facs.nsw.gov.au)

### **Mobility Pathway**

You now know that the Hunter Residences redevelopment program will continue after 30 June 2018 along with your role in FACS.

Because of this, the participation of the majority of Hunter Residences staff in the mobility pathway is changing. We need to keep your skills and experience to successfully deliver the program, so staff will no longer be pathway participants. We have written individually to affected staff to inform them of this decision.

Also, as part of the program extension, we are consolidating the operational structure. You may notice that we're recruiting new staff to complete this process.

We will keep you informed about the redevelopment program when information becomes available.

If you have any questions, please speak to your line manager, or email the Working Together team at:

[workingtogether@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:workingtogether@facs.nsw.gov.au).

### **Keeping you informed**

We will keep you informed about the redevelopment program, and other issues affecting you, through this Bulletin. You can also find information about the redevelopment program on the Working Together website at:

[workingtogether.facs.nsw.gov.au/reforms/large-residential-centres/hunter-residences-redevelopment/](http://workingtogether.facs.nsw.gov.au/reforms/large-residential-centres/hunter-residences-redevelopment/)

## **Christmas at Stockton**

On Tuesday 12 December 2017, the Stockton Centre hosted a Christmas event in the recreation hall. About 60 people attended a very festive morning to celebrate the Christmas period.

People were supported by day program and accommodation staff that ensured everyone had a fun time.

The recreation hall was transformed into a Christmas wonderland via the talents of Community Support Worker Eva Grant who decorated the stage with a reindeer, Santa, various presents and twinkling lights.

Andrew G, known as 'the bald guy with the bongos', had the place jumping with his brand of entertainment – a mix of upbeat Christmas carols, rock and popular music. Andrew is a real Stockton favourite, always very popular.

Party food was also on hand to provide a festive morning tea and included party pies, small quiches, jelly, custard, cake and soft drinks. Everyone enjoyed the treats.

Santa and Mrs Claus arrived in a decorated buggy to spread the Christmas cheer and have their photo taken. Clowns and elves joined in to provide laughter, bubbles and fun. In line with tradition, Santa and Mrs Claus delivered fairy floss to each unit. Fairy floss at Christmas is a long standing practice at Stockton, Kanangra and Tomaree, so people look forward to it every year.



## Holiday at Umina Beach

One of the residents had a five day holiday on the NSW central coast supported by Delightful Tours. He stayed at a villa at Umina Beach, and enjoyed activities like a ferry ride to Palm Beach with the wind in his face and a visit to the Lion's Sensory Garden in Ourimbah (pictured below).



## Food services, Stockton

Prior to closure, food services at Stockton Centre had packaged food in storage such as tinned fruit and vegetables, pastas, spices, baking good and sauces. Kitchen staff delivered any items that could be used to other group homes, and donated the remainder to OzHarvest.

## Supporting staff through the reforms

Working Together is providing information and support to staff as we implement major reforms. A dedicated website is located at [www.workingtogether.facs.nsw.gov.au](http://www.workingtogether.facs.nsw.gov.au)

You'll find information about the reforms and how they affect you.

You can also sign up to receive a regular email highlighting new information added to the site.

If you have specific questions not addressed on the website, you can email them to [workingtogether@facs.nsw.gov.au](mailto:workingtogether@facs.nsw.gov.au)