



Therese has pioneered the food-sharing project for Murwillumbah and surrounds.

A very sweet reward

Meet Therese, the pioneer of the 'Front Fence Free Food' project in Murwillumbah. Therese worked with volunteers to purchase and plant 100 fruit trees in her neighbours' gardens. The idea is simple - plant a fruit tree, vine or herb inside your front fence, and invite community members to freely pick it!

The program has been a huge success. It spreads generosity, saves money and reduces food waste. Therese says that every neighbourhood should have a similar program to bring neighbours together and improve mental and physical wellbeing.

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Minister's message

Welcome to the June issue of *Your Home* for 2022.

It has been a busy few months since I began my role as the Minister for Families and Communities and Minister for Disability Services. I have loved getting out to see all the great things happening in communities around the state.

With COVID restrictions easing, many communities, including the Poets Corner community in Redfern, have been able to properly reconnect. After a long time apart, it is so uplifting and rewarding to come together for special community events.

It is wonderful to see tenants steering their own projects to improve their homes and local communities. Tenants such as Therese, who has pioneered the 'Front Fence Free Food' Project in Murwillumbah, show great care and generosity to their neighbourhood.

Some tenants have, sadly, been impacted by the floods in Northern NSW. The Department of Communities and Justice and the NSW Land and Housing Corporation are arranging repairs to these tenant's homes while they live in temporary accommodation. Please reach out to your local housing office if you are experiencing any ongoing issues due to the floods.

I hope you all stay healthy and have a safe and happy winter.

Warm regards,

Natasha Maclaren-Jones

Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services

Reconnecting in Redfern

After months apart, the Poets Corner community in Redfern recently got a chance to come together and celebrate their Community Day.

The event was hosted by RedLink, and the DCJ Housing tenancy team had a great time helping on the day too.

Rayma, a Wiradjuri woman, opened the event with a traditional dance and smoking ceremony.

This was followed by the Acknowledgment of Country by Auntie Mindalaya Read.

After the ceremony, the tenants enjoyed an OzHarvest lunch and the desserts kindly donated by the Maronites.

A raffle was drawn to end the day and lucky residents got to take home a selection of prizes.

Having been apart for so long due to COVID, the event proved a great success in allowing residents to reconnect with each other and their local service providers.



Furry friends

We've long loved pets for their friendship and fun, but did you know that they can also have positive health benefits?

Caring for a pet can reduce stress and encourage you to be more active outdoors. Pets can even help children with their social and emotional skills.

If you're wondering whether you can keep a pet in a DCJ or AHO property, the answer may be yes! Just make sure that you are ready to love and care for your pet, and you meet the following conditions:

- Your property is suitable for the animal
- The pets do not interfere with the reasonable peace, comfort and privacy of neighbours
- You comply with the Companion Animals Act 1998 and do not have a restricted or dangerous dog according to this Act.

For more information on the Companion Animals Act and keeping a pet as a DCJ tenant, visit <https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/living/rights-responsibilities/pets>

Keeping warm safely this winter

As the temperature drops, many of us turn the heater up. It's great to be able to stay warm and cozy at home, but it is also important to be safe.

Here are some tips to keep in mind:

- Take extra care when using heaters, electric blankets or open fires.
- Clear the lint filter of your clothes dryer every time you use it.
- Don't overload power points and turn off appliances when you're not using them.
- Never leave cooking or any other open flame, including candles, unattended.

Working smoke alarms save lives!

For repairs and maintenance call **1800 422 322**.

In an emergency, call **Triple Zero (000)**.

Fighting flu season



The flu virus is most active in the winter months. As we move around more freely this year, flu infections will circulate.

To help prevent the spread:

- Cover your mouth and nose when you sneeze or cough.
- Wash your hands regularly.
- Avoid close contact with others.
- Get the flu shot.

Annual flu shots are recommended for everyone over 6 months of age. Check your local GP or chemist to see if they are offering it.

You may be eligible for a free flu shot if you are a senior, child, pregnant, Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander, or have a certain medical condition.

For more info, visit <https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/vaccines/influenza-flu-vaccine>



Tenant tips!



Three gardening hacks

1. Keep weeds under control and conserve water by laying old newspapers around your plants. Hold newspaper in place with grass clippings or mulch.
2. The best time to garden is after the rain. The soil will be softer for easy weeding, digging and planting.
3. The easiest way to weed a larger area to make a new garden is to lay a 3 x 3m plastic tarpaulin, black side up, on wet ground (after rain). The sun's heat will 'cook' any weeds or grass underneath. Then, lightly fork the top layer of soil, ready for planting.

Thank you so much to Therese (pictured on this issue's cover) for these great gardening tips.

Have a story for *Your Home*?

Are you part of a community group, garden, or initiative that you think should be featured in *Your Home*?

Submit your stories, ideas, tips and jokes to:
your.home@facs.nsw.gov.au

If your story is selected, you could win a \$25 voucher.

Contact us

If you need to visit a DCJ office in person, please call ahead and make an appointment. You can also contact us by downloading the *MyHousing app*, online or over the phone.



Download the *MyHousing app* from the App Store or the Google Play Store.



MyHousing Online Services
www.facs.nsw.gov.au/myhousing



Housing Contact Centre 1800 422 322
24/7 for general enquiries

Interpreting

If you would like someone who speaks your language to help you over the phone, call All Graduates on **1300 652 488** before calling the Housing Contact Centre.

Arabic

إذا كنت ترغب في أن يساعدك شخص يتحدث لغتك عبر الهاتف، اتصل بـ All Graduates على الرقم **1300 652 488** قبل الاتصال بمركز اتصال الإسكان.

Persian

اگر دوست دارید شخصی که به زبان شما صحبت می کند از طریق تلفن به شما کمک کند، قبل از تلفن به مرکز تماس مسکن با All Graduates از طریق شماره **1300 652 488** تماس بگیرید.

Simplified Chinese

如果您需要能说您的语言的人在电话中为您提供帮助，请在打电话给住房联络中心之前先拨打 **1300 652 488** 联系 All Graduates。

Spanish

Si desea que alguien que hable su idioma le ayude por teléfono, llame a All Graduates al **1300 652 488** antes de llamar al centro de contacto para asuntos de vivienda.

Traditional Chinese

如果你需要講你語言的人通過電話幫助你，請先撥打 **1300652488** 致電 All Graduates 翻譯公司，然後再致電房屋署聯絡中心。

Vietnamese

Nếu quý vị cần người nói cùng ngôn ngữ với quý vị giúp đỡ qua điện thoại, hãy gọi cho All Graduates qua số **1300 652 488** trước khi gọi cho Trung tâm Liên lạc Gia cư.