

Building Community Support for Community Housing TOOL KIT

Why do some people oppose affordable housing?



TENANT CASE STUDY

HOW COMMUNITY HOUSING SUPPORTS LOCAL WORKERS AND THE LOCAL ECONOMY

Carleen is 38 years old. She is a Registered Nurse at St Vincent's Hospital in Darlinghurst, earning an award wage of \$1,200 per week. This means Carleen is a Low Income worker, and could affordably pay \$375 per week in rent. There are some places in Greater Sydney where she could affordably rent, but these areas are generally a long way from where she works.

Carleen managed to find a one-bedroom unit in Randwick after applying for more than 30 units, and is paying a median rent of \$525 per week for the area.

Carleen also is a shift worker and doesn't want to live too far away from where she works. She doesn't own a car, and Randwick is an ideal location for Carleen to access the hospital by public transport, even if she has a very early or late shift.

She is already paying almost 45% of her weekly income on rent, and has just received notice that her rent will increase to \$550 per week, almost half of her weekly earnings. With all of her other expenses, she is unable to save much for a holiday let alone a deposit to purchase her own unit somewhere not too far away from the hospital.

Carleen is worried that rents will keep increasing and she will have to look for a place much further out, making shift work more difficult. She has heard about a special Affordable Housing program for low income workers run by a local community housing provider where she could pay a discounted rent if she's eligible. While she is hopeful, Carleen has started looking at advertisements for jobs in Liverpool and the Central Coast.

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