

February 4, 2021

## Minister offers support for Social Futures mission on homelessness.

Social Futures is providing important support to vulnerable people in Tweed Heads according to the Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services, Gareth Ward.

"I'm proud of the NSW Government's strong partnership with Social Futures as we work together to deliver better outcomes for some of the state's most vulnerable people," Mr Ward said.

"Whether its people experiencing homelessness or young people engaged with the youth justice system, their work is changing lives and it was great to see that first hand today."

The comments came as Mr Ward, along with State Member for Tweed, Geoff Provest visited Social Future's offices in Wharf Street, one of two sites the social services organisation operates in Tweed Shire.

"The NSW Government is working hard to help people break the cycle of disadvantage and Social Futures is an integral part of that," Mr Provest said.

"As the local MP I see the outstanding work Social Futures is doing in our community every single day, changing lives one person at a time."

Social Futures is expanding its homelessness programs to meet considerable demand for emergency accommodation and social housing.

While at the office Mr Ward spoke to staff working in three key programs supporting the homeless and those living in housing stress at all stages of their journey. Assertive Outreach, which engages with people currently sleeping rough; Connecting Home an early intervention program and Opportunity Pathways – which helps people in social housing find work and training. )

"There is still a lot of unmet demand in the Shire," says Tony Davies, Social Futures CEO, "...we estimate more than 80 people need assistance finding a place to live, and we are working hard to find those people accommodation to meet their needs."

In 2020, Social Futures programs, in collaboration with the Department of Communities and Justice, Health NSW and the Momentum Collective have supported 109 people into transitional or crisis accommodation and 77 into permanent housing.



Social Futures is the business name of the Northern Rivers Social Development Council, Ltd. ACN: 612 367 192

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While the region has pockets of wealth, the Northern Rivers is characterised by limited stocks of affordable housing (especially in the coastal areas), leading to difficulties for many in vulnerable communities to find suitable accommodation.

**ENDS.**

**Media enquiries:** Russell Woodruffe | Brand and Engagement Officer | |  
[Russell.Woodruffe@socialfutures.org.au](mailto:Russell.Woodruffe@socialfutures.org.au)

**Interviews:** Tony Davies, CEO – please call Russell on the above coordinates.

**Photo credit:**

**Note to editors:**

1. Social Futures is a community service organisation based in Northern NSW. We have more than 40 years' experience as a regional leader, advocating with the communities we work in; working in partnership with others; and providing services that promote inclusion, fairness and social justice. Our work encompasses homelessness and housing supports, youth and family services, programs that promote genuine participation for people with disability, community sector support, professional development, and systemic advocacy.



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