

Media Release

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Sharing meals and making friends

South Australian residents from all walks of life are coming together for a shared meal thanks to Junction Australia's Sharing Meals Making Friends initiative.

Wanting to make stronger connections with their neighbours and local community, thirty-five residents took the opportunity to share a meal with those around them. Every meal was supported by Junction Australia with a grocery gift voucher to help with meal costs.

"The initiative is really about tenants engaging with each other and building social networks", said Junction Australia CEO, Maria Palumbo.

"We want all of our tenants to feel as though they are part of a wider community, and encourage them wherever we can to reach out and develop new connections."

Junction Australia is a leading provider of integrated affordable housing and community services and today has over 1700 homes across South Australia.

Tenant Sue-Anne Dunn from Christie Downs, said she was delighted to have been able to participate.

"I had a wonderful day with my friends and neighbours, it was such a brilliant lunch. One of my neighbours has since called me a few times to thank me" said Sue-Anne.

"I'm not generally the type of person that asks for help, but after the luncheon I'd feel comfortable to do that now if I needed."

Sue-Anne believes that she would never have been able to organise a lunch such as this. "I was a ward of the state from the age of 10 days old. This is the first stable home I've had and the first and only time I've invited people over for a luncheon".

Ms Palumbo said Junction Australia is proud to provide more than just a roof over people's head.

"Community support programs such as Sharing Meals Making Friends encourage social inclusion and provide a sense of friendship and safety between tenants," Ms Palumbo said.

"We look forward to continuing to work closely with our Community Housing tenants and providing them with more programs like this."

Junction Australia is a trusted provider of a wide range of community support services and high quality, affordable housing that currently manages 1,700 homes across South Australia. We firmly believe that by working together we can take steps that enable people to navigate their way from 'Crisis to Connectedness'. Our clients are supported to overcome barriers, access opportunities and pursue their hopes and dreams.

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