

# Merry Christmas from the Compass Team!

## A Christmas Wish from the General Manager, Operations Queensland

On behalf of the Compass Housing team in Queensland we wish tenants, your families and friends a peaceful, happy and safe Christmas and New Year.

This year our goal was to ensure that the housing we provide is as comfortable, safe, secure and affordable as possible. We were also delighted to meet some really inspiring young people including those who joined the Grow a Star program to pursue their dreams.

On the 9th of December we hosted a Tenant Christmas Party at the Jagera Arts Centre, 121 Cordelia Street, South Brisbane - all were welcome. The party was full of fun, laughter and fabulous food. There was something for everyone, including presents from Santa and his Elf as well as a mobile animal farm for animal lovers.

Next year we are looking forward to a really exciting project where we invest in creating a stronger sense of community across the housing we manage, so watch this space because we would love to hear from you as to how best we can make this happen.

In the meantime, season's greetings to one and all.



Tenant Christmas Party- Jagera Arts Centre, South Brisbane - 9 December



## Tenant Engagement

Compass Housing Services has been hosting tenant engagement morning teas along with our support partner Micah Projects at a large CMSU complex. These morning teas give tenants the opportunity to access Compass support workers and Micah team members to request information of all kinds; maybe support for a challenge they are having and need a referral completed, questions about maintenance and how to go about having items attended to, or discussions relating to concerns they may have in the complex. This service is delivered to enrich a tenant's experience of being housed with Compass.

The Compass support team also attend weekly BBQs at another large CMSU complex with Centacare – Centacare bring food bank items. Tenants take what they need and often they use the groceries to cook meals which they share together – the groceries are fresh produce such as fruit, veg, bakery items etc. This is an opportunity for tenants, Compass and Centacare to come together and hold constructive conversations.

Watch this space next year as the Compass Support team will soon be coming to other complexes to host more events. Talk to your neighbours and let us know if you would like an event at your complex!



COMPASS TENANTS, STAFF AND SERVICE PROVIDERS- WEEKLY CMSU BBQ



COMPASS HOUSING TENANCY RELATIONS OFFICER LAUREN DIXON WITH GRAHAM IN FRONT OF HIS NEW HOME

Prior to being offered a home with Compass Housing, Graham had been sleeping rough. To make matters worse, the boarding house where he had previously been staying, threw away all of his belongings.

Compass staff put together a hamper of new clothes and toiletries to help him settle into his new home.

## It's Storm Season

During an emergency it is important to keep up to date on what's happening in your area. Your emergency broadcaster is ABC Local Radio or ABC News 24.

If your property is damaged in a storm, please ensure that you call State Emergency Services on 132 500.

The Compass After Hours Call Centre can then be contacted on on 1300 333 733



## Stress Less this Christmas

There are many support services available over the Christmas period which are available should you be in need of assistance.

### No Interest Loans

The No Interest Loan Scheme (NILS) NILS offers an affordable alternative to high interest borrowing such as "fast cash, payday loans and schemes like "rent to buy". Most often these loans range from \$300 to \$1200 and can be used to pay for essential goods such as white goods, fridges, washing machines etc.

There are numerous community organisations across the greater Brisbane area which offer NILS loans. For more information visit <http://nils.com.au/>

There is a postcode locator on the web site which will "Find your local loan provider".



### Crisis Numbers

**Homeless Hotline 1800 474 753 confidential 24-hours seven days a week.**

- Up-to-date information on times and locations of food vans and kitchens.
- Information on accessing food parcels and vouchers.

**DV Connect Crisis Support Queensland**

- Womensline 24 hours / 7 days 1800 811 811
- Mensline 9am – 12 midnight, 7 days 1800 600 636
- Sexual Assault Line 7.30am – 11.30pm, 7 days 1800 010 120
- Pets in Crisis - For all enquiries about Pets in Crisis call Womensline 1800 811 811

**Lifeline - Crisis support, suicide prevention. 13 11 14. [www.lifeline.org.au](http://www.lifeline.org.au)**

**Alcohol and Drug Information Service 24-hours a day, seven days a week for information and confidential counselling free call 1800 177 833**

**Kids Helpline 1800 551 800**

**Beyond Blue 1300 224 636**

**13 HEALTH 24-hour general health advice 13 43 25 84**

**Gambling Helpline 1800 858 858**





## Partners in Recovery

The Partners in Recovery program aims to support people with severe and persistent mental health issues and complex needs, along with their carers and families. This is achieved by coordinating support services to address needs and improve overall wellbeing of participants.

Brisbane South PHN Partners in Recovery program works with people who:

- are over 25 years of age.
- have severe and persistent mental health issues.
- have complex needs that require services from multiple agencies.
- require assistance to access the right services to meet their needs.
- require help to organise the services already supporting their needs.

For more information or enquiries about Partners in Recovery please phone Brisbane South PHN Mental Health Services team on 1300 467 265 or complete an enquiry form available at [www.bsphn.org.au](http://www.bsphn.org.au)

## Grow A Star

Grow a Star is an innovative youth mentoring and scholarship program that helps young people from disadvantaged backgrounds overcome the financial or generational obstacles that prevent them from following their dreams.

Grow a Star's focus is to provide targeted funding to support young people who show an eagerness, talent or passion to develop their skills in a chosen field whether that be academic, artistic or sporting.

The funding is intended to build self-esteem, to bring about generational change and to foster future leaders within our communities.

Do you know a young "star"? If so, simply logon to the Grow a Star page on our website - [www.compasshousing.org/community-programs/grow-star](http://www.compasshousing.org/community-programs/grow-star) and tell us about them via the Referral and Expression of Interest form.



## Grow A Star- Babil Thomas

Babil is a talented and determined young man whose family resettled in Australia two years ago after fleeing from persecution and discrimination in their home country Congo.

While working to overcome a lack of confidence and coming to grips with the English language, Babil also completed Year 12 at Yeronga State High School, thriving in his favourite subject, Music.

Thanks to some targeted investment from Compass Housing's Grow a Star program, Babil has purchased the necessary software program to progress his music career and potentially gain entry into university.

