

MEDIA RELEASE

Tuesday, July 26, 2016

Embargoed until 10am, August 2

Sabrina lends her green thumbs to those in need

Perth garden guru Sabrina Hahn has designed and planted a stunning garden more than 20 metres above the street in a 10-storey, 70-apartment project designed to house people on low incomes.

The affordable housing complex on Bennett Street in East Perth marks a new era in affordable housing provision in Western Australia.

Ms Hahn said she was excited to be involved in the complex, designed to make the lives of disadvantaged people better by giving them access to a high standard of accommodation.

“I understand that many of the people coming to live at Bennett Street have faced some adversity in their past, such as social disadvantage or family breakdown,” she said. “I hope the garden is a healing place where they can connect to nature a bit.”

The popular garden specialist chose a selection of flowering natives to attract birds, citrus and herbs, along with waterwise plants, that will perform well on the city terraces.

Ms Hahn’s interest in using gardens to promote wellbeing and social inclusion, and also sustainability, made her an obvious choice to design and deliver this unique city space that will become the ‘back yard’ of the 70 people who are making it their home.

The \$26 million 10-storey complex was funded by Foundation Housing, with a \$1.7 million contribution from the WA Housing Authority, and will open to coincide with Homeless Person’s Week on August 2.

Foundation Housing Chief Executive Officer Kathleen Gregory AM said the complex sets a new standard in its accommodation provision for people who struggle to find a home that meets their needs and is affordable.

“Many of our tenants have been through a very stressful time and studies indicate that gardens such as the one designed at our Bennett Street complex are likely to have a calming effect and provide a restorative environment for people.”

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Foundation Housing is one of WA's largest developers and managers of affordable housing for people in need, managing over 2000 homes around the state.

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Media interview and vision opportunity

The Bennett Street complex will be officially opened by Hon Colin Holt MLC, Minister for Housing, on Tuesday, August 2.

Media are invited to attend the launch of the Bennett Street complex. Following the opening ceremony, which will include a speech by Foundation Housing CEO Kathleen Gregory, media are invited to tour the complex.

Time: 10am – 11.30am

Date: Tuesday, 2 August

Location: 67 Bennett St, East Perth

To register your attendance please contact Donna Cole, LastSay Communications – 0419 901229, donna@lastsay.net.au