



Dear [[first_name]],

Opportunity to be involved in the BTH Advisory Group!

Are you a past or current participant of Better Together Housing with a desire to make a difference in the lives of older women? Are you interested in providing feedback and guidance on how we can improve what we do to support people? Do you have some time and energy to ensure that women's voices are heard in decision making at Better Together Housing?

As part of our commitment at Better Together Housing to keep our co-design principles alive, we have created an Advisory Group structure to provide a structure for feedback, and some strategic direction. This Advisory Group is made up of our key partner Regional Hosts, the University of the Sunshine Coast, our co-creators Coast2Bay and Sundale, Zonta, and current or past participants in the program.

We have had until recently two very committed and energised participants who have been a part of the program since its inception, and who have been instrumental in co-creating the model as it exists now through their passion, input and generous sharing of personal experience. We are so very grateful for all their work. Unfortunately, they are both unable to continue in this role into the future and we wish them all our love and luck in their personal journeys from this point on.

We are therefore strongly inviting current participants and/or supporters to extend an expression of interest to be involved in this group. The time commitment is not too demanding, with meetings once every two months.

If you think this might be you, please contact us at info@bettertogetherhousing.com.au now!

Better Together Housing in Mackay

The Mackay Regional Hosts for the Better Together Housing project, Greater Whitsunday Communities (GWCommunities), have commenced in their region. Operating since 1974, GWCommunities is a strategic regional social planning and community development organisation, working with groups and individuals to address social issues which affect them. As a trusted and independent organisation, GWCommunities have a long history of supporting some of the region's most complex social issues, including housing stress and affordability.

A project like Better Together Housing has never been more relevant in Mackay. With current rental vacancy at an all-time low of just 0.5 percent. According to the Mackay Local News there are just '136 houses and 116 flats available for rent in Mackay's total market of 12,800 rental properties' (Page 1, 26/02/2021). Rents in Mackay have also risen 10% and are expected to rise as much as 20%, as demand increases with 7000 people relocating from southern Australia in the past 12 months.

Project Worker Lauren Pattie is excited to be a part of the project and looks forward to implementing a community development approach to connect and support women over 55 in Mackay to explore and improve their housing options through Better Together Housing. You can contact Lauren in Mackay on lauren@gwcommunities.org.au.

Members Only Events

Date Claimers!

- 24th March
- 31st March
- 7th April

We are beginning the much awaited round of in person Get it Togethers for 2021! Health Directives have prevented this from happening in 2020, and we are excited to meet again, build relationships and meet the social and housing needs of our members. This is a great opportunity to support members to create their online profiles and have a run through of what is possible on the new site. Members of the team will be there with Laptops to assist! We are very excited to be partnering with the Zonta clubs across the Sunshine Coast to support and host this important element of the program. These are informal morning teas, and will be hosted in local cafes. All registered members will be sent details separately on location and timing.

See you there!

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