

Media Release

Wednesday 30 November 2016

Tenant Stories reflect Silver Linings

Access Community Housing Company (ACHC) will celebrate 25 years working in community housing with the launch of a book, *Silver Linings*. The book is a collection of tenant life stories, telling of their trials and tribulations. Over 60 people will join in the celebration that will bring together tenants, existing and former staff and board members, as well as community and business representatives. Some of the first committee members, including committee member, Tilda Manning, will be at the event to reflect on what has been achieved over the 25 years of providing tenancy management in the region.

Access Community Housing started operating on the 20 September, 1991 with the office being opened by the Hon Keith de Lacy. At that stage the organisation had 40 properties and today it has 570 properties. "Demand for social housing continues to outstrip the number of houses that are available", says the Chair of nine years, Michael Healy. "Access Community Housing is keen to partner with government and the private sector to respond to the growing need to support vulnerable people into housing. We recognise the importance of having a roof over your head". ACHC is the largest community housing provider in far north Queensland and today employs 20 staff.

Several awards will be presented at the event and these have been sponsored by Grant Thornton and Reef City Maintenance. "The awards are being presented to some of our young tenants who have shown talent in sport, academically and in cultural areas, and this provides them with an opportunity to grow that talent and interest", said CEO, Donna-Maree O'Connor. "It is great that our partners see the benefit of sponsoring these young people", she said.

The event starts at 5.30pm, Wednesday 30 November at the City Church, Little Pease Street, Manoora

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