MEDIA RELEASE

NSW GOVERNMENT & COMMUNITY HOUSING SECTOR CELEBRATE

MANAGEMENT TRANSFER OF 14,000 TENANCIES

For immediate release   **10 October 2019**

The NSW Government and 10 community housing providers today celebrated the successful management transition of some 14,000 tenancies over the past 12 months, including the delivery of private rental assistance, to the community housing sector.

The Thank You event at NSW Parliament was to thank Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ, formerly FACS) and Land and Housing Corporation (LAHC) staff for a seamless transition and successful partnership under the Social Housing Management Transfer (SHMT) program.

It was co-hosted by the NSW Minister for Families, Communities and Disability Services Gareth Ward MP and Bridge Housing, with representatives from all the providers, as well as DCJ and LAHC staff, and the Community Housing Industry Association (CHIA NSW) in attendance.

Nine providers won competitive tenders to manage housing portfolios across Sydney and NSW for the next 20 years. The program was completed when Hume Community Housing assumed tenancy management of the Maitland/Port Stephens area in early September.

Speaking at the event, Minister Ward said: "What we're celebrating today is the successful implementation of the management transfers program which resulted in the transfer of approximately 14,000 properties to community housing management."

Having had a look at the experiences of other jurisdictions, not just in this country but around the world, who have done this, it is commendable the way in which staff have gone about this transfer and the smooth transition that has occurred. You are to be commended for your passion, your dedication to helping vulnerable people and to making this transfer work."

CEO John Nicolades said: "This program represents the biggest single transition of social housing tenancies ever to the community sector anywhere in Australia. It has built the capacity of housing providers to operate at scale and enabled many more residents to experience the high customer service standards enjoyed by community housing tenants."

"On behalf of all the providers who've participated in this ground-breaking program, I thank the Minister and NSW Government for investing in our well-established, well-regulated sector to house some of the most vulnerable people in the State."

The community housing providers managing public housing under the SHMT program are:

- Bridge Housing, in partnership with the Women's Housing Company: 1,200 properties on the Northern Beaches, Sydney
- Community Housing Limited: 1,400 properties on the mid-North Coast
- Compass Housing Services: 1,800 properties in the Hunter and North Coast
- Homes North Community Housing: 1,700 properties in Northern NSW
- Hume Community Housing: 2,200 properties in Maitland and Port Stephens
- Link Housing: 1,800 properties on the Upper North Shore, Sydney
- Mission Australia Housing: 1,060 properties in Coffs Harbour and Bellingen
- Southern Cross Housing: 960 properties in the Shoalhaven
- SGCH (St George Community Housing): 1,400 properties in Northern Sydney.

Learn more about the program. https://www.facs.nsw.gov.au/housing/living/management-transfer-program

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