

League Legend to join forces with ACHL

Rugby League legend David Peachey spoke of shared aims and philosophies when he addressed the tenants and staff of Affordable Community Housing Limited (ACHL) at its annual general meeting this week.

David outlined the work of the David Peachey Foundation that helps young indigenous youth reach their full potential whether in educational, sport or cultural endeavours.

"We also provide educational scholarships and overseas exchange opportunities for school students, we allocate sporting grants and we deliver education, health & sports programs in regional & remote indigenous communities throughout Australia," David told the gathering of some 250 ACHL tenants.

ACHL provides affordable housing and other community, financial, sporting and educational support programs for its tenants in 16 local government areas throughout the Sydney Basin.

The CEO of ACHL, Andrea Galloway, said because of the parallel aims of both ACHL and David Peachey Foundation it would be beneficial for each organisation to work together to further develop those community support programs.

ACHL's annual general meeting at Blacktown RSL Club heard that the community housing co-operative finished 2010-2011 with a healthy financial surplus giving it a solid foundation to expand its community housing development and tenant engagement programs for 2011- 2012 and future years.

"We have more than 2200 dwellings owned by ACHL or under our management (an increase of 101 properties in 2010-2011) in 16 local government areas from Sutherland to Warringah and between Ashfield and Penrith catering for more than 6000 tenants, and ACHL aims to double the amount of community housing we can provide to those most in need within the next few years"

"Some of the highlights for ACHL's year of operation included the distribution of more than 33 tonnes of food to our tenants; no interest loans to help tenants buy essential whitegoods; a chemists assistance fund to alleviate the cost of non PBS prescriptions; \$117,000 educational financial assistance to tenant families to cover educational costs, and; our physical activity and sporting fund that has helped some 28 families realise their sporting dreams.

"Perhaps one of the most successful programs we run is our tenant employment program where we encourage tenants to work on maintenance programs in and around their homes giving them skills they can use to gain employment," Ms Galloway said.

The ACHL AGM also saw the release of a DVD on the aims and work of ACHL. It is available for viewing at:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gqb3SCHsCvM> or you can go to www.youtube.com and search for ACHL Overview.

Media Release



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Picture: **Rugby League legend David Peachey talks with Affordable Community Housing tenant Dilshad Rizvi of Kingswood and ACHL CEO Andrea Galloway at this week's AGM at Blacktown RSL..**