

For immediate release

Monday, 27 May 2013

HomeStart appoints Maria Palumbo to its Board of Management

HomeStart is pleased to announce the appointment of Ms Palumbo to the Board for a term of three years. She brings a wealth of experience earned from a strong background in housing and finance. Ms Palumbo is the Chief Executive Officer of Common Ground, an organisation that provides affordable rental housing in mixed community settings to low income people and those at risk of homelessness, in combination with personal support to create pathways to independent and fulfilling lives for tenants.

Prior to this, she spent seven years in senior roles within Housing SA at the Department of Families and Communities. These include Director, Community Partnerships and Growth where she was responsible for strategy, regulation and funding of community and affordable housing and Director, Homelessness and Community Programs where she over saw Community Housing and Homelessness Strategy.

In addition she has developed capital project proposals for new homelessness supportive housing projects under the Federal Government's 'A Place to Call Home' initiative and was the Executive Manager, Business Services at Uniting Care Wesley for five years.

Ms Palumbo is passionate about affordable housing and social justice and holds a Bachelor of Commerce while being a qualified accountant.

HomeStart CEO John Oliver says, "Ms Palumbo is a very welcome addition to HomeStart's Board of Management. Her commitment, unique experience and valuable skills will continue to assist us to realise our reason for being, which is to make home ownership achievable for more people in more ways".

HomeStart makes home ownership a reality for more South Australians in more ways. We are a statutory authority that reports to the Minister for Housing and Urban Development. We were created by the South Australian Government in 1989 as a response to high interest rates and a lack of affordable home loan finance at the time. Since then we have helped over 62,000 households into home ownership.