



# fact sheet

## Community Renewal in Miller



### Miller Background

Miller is a suburb typified by high unemployment and welfare dependency. In addition, critical services and infrastructure have been lost from Miller in recent years, compounding the social and economic problems of the area.

### Our Plans

To regenerate the community at Miller, the Department of Housing has embarked on a long-term program to:

- get people to work
- get the community to work
- build a future for young people
- provide access to services
- make Government work better for the community.

Underpinning these strategies are the beliefs that only a comprehensive, inter-agency approach has any real chance of tackling the problems in Miller and that ultimately, the community needs to take responsibility for what happens in their own neighbourhood.

*“Community Renewal is about reclaiming communities for people ...communities where no one is left out.”*

Community renewal is about partnerships between communities and service providers, it's about recognising the benefits of diverse communities, closing the gap between the socially included and the socially excluded, responding to peoples needs for stable, well balanced communities, and building community confidence.

The process of community renewal is ultimately about community re-engagement of disadvantaged communities with each other, with services and employment, and with the broader community.

**“It's our best opportunity to restore pride and a 'sense of place' to dislocated communities.”**

### Problems with the estate model

About 30% of New South Wales public housing is located in estates where there are more than 100 properties. These estates were developed from the 1950s to the mid 1980s and many experience similar problems including:

- housing which is poorly designed and maintained
- poor access to necessary services such as health services, transport and family support
- concentrations of disadvantaged families who are stigmatised by the rest of the community
- problems with crime and personal security.

### Key strategies of Community Renewal

- make client service staff more accessible and visible so they can respond to problems quickly
  - work with the Police to identify trouble-spots and ways to reduce criminal activity
- improve housing so it better meets contemporary standards so residents want to stay
- improve social mix through identified sales and use housing associations to diversify management
  - work with groups of residents so they can develop new skills and help prioritise work
- link residents with training and employment opportunities
  - encourage other service providers to work in partnership with residents and the Department.

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## Empowering Residents

While providing leadership, strategies and resources to support the community at Miller, the long-term aim of the Department is to empower residents by handing responsibility for what happens in their community back to them.



## Where We Are Heading

Under the program the following initiatives will be implemented:

- improving access to employment opportunities
- improving community cohesion by developing services and infrastructure in the area
- enhancing the feeling of safety and security in the community
- improving the health and well being of residents
- empowering the community to respond to change by encouraging community leadership
- helping young people make the transition from school to working life
- improving knowledge and access to public services.

The programs will be supported by a partnership of public, private, volunteer, charitable and community organisations who will bring together a wide range of experience and solutions.



Tenant comment about the  
Community Renewal Program

**"There has been a lot of change in this area for the better and it will also save the Government a lot of money."**

NSW Department of Housing

Prepared and published by the NSW Department of Housing's Communication and Media team JN2130

 <http://www.housing.nsw.gov.au>

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