



The King's Trust Australia Limited
Royal Founding President His Majesty King Charles III

Global Founding Patron HH The Aga Khan

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STRICT EMBARGO. FOR RELEASE AT 12.10PM AEDT, OCTOBER 22, 2024

**HIS MAJESTY KING CHARLES III VISITS NSW GOVERNMENT'S SYDNEY SOCIAL HOUSING
DEVELOPMENT TODAY**

MEETS THE KING'S TRUST AUSTRALIA CONSTRUCTION TRAINEES

A digital version of this release is at: www.kingstrust.org.au/press-releases/hmkmediaoct2024

Glebe, Sydney, Australia: His Majesty King Charles III visited a sustainable social housing development in Sydney this morning.

The Cowper Street Development is a collaboration between the NSW Government and The King's Trust Australia, which has provided design and consultancy services to support the development's six-star, green-star rating; and has developed a training programme for young people.

His Majesty met three young Australians participating in The King's Trust Australia Get Into Construction programme, at the worksite.

His Majesty is the Royal Founding President of The King's Trust Australia, which has operated in Australia for 11 years, working for young people, veterans and sustainable communities.

The King's Trust Australia chair, The Hon Julie Bishop said, "The exemplary terrace houses and apartments are eco-friendly and will provide safe and welcoming homes to those who need it most. The Trust runs 'Get Into' programmes worldwide, helping young people into work, and the participants on The King's Trust Australia 'Get Into Construction' programme are thriving."

"The project is inspired by our historic woolstore buildings and Glebe's iconic Victorian terraces. As it will have the highest sustainability rating possible of Six Green Stars, it is designed to be an exemplar that can be copied across Australia," The Hon Julie Bishop said.

"The NSW Government is incredibly proud of this project - and having The King's presence here today during the official Royal visit highlights the importance of social housing in our city and state," said NSW Premier Chris Minns.

"Like His Majesty, we are equally passionate about sustainability, and the high standards achieved through this nation-leading development led by Homes NSW is testament to that.

"Everybody deserves a safe place to call home, but they should also be proud of where they live, and I have no doubt that the residents who will call Cowper St home will feel just that."

The NSW Government social housing project will deliver 75 new exemplar social homes in the inner-city, at Cowper Street and Wentworth Park Road in Sydney's inner west. The project is due to complete in early 2025, and during its life cycle, the project is expected to create more than 250 jobs.

The development features a cross-laminated timber structure, rooftop gardens, solar power, on-site bike-parking, and water retention to achieve the highest sustainability ratings possible of Six Green Stars. Cross-laminated timber ('CLT') uses glued layers of timber to create a very strong structural frame, produced sustainably in Australia. It will incorporate public art being created in consultation with the local First Nations community by First Nations artist, Dennis Golding.



Sam Amey (left), Wes Patten (centre) and John Suttie (right).

Get Into Construction Participant Biographies



WES PATTEN: Wes is an 18-year-old First Nations man and is born and bred in the inner-city suburb of Glebe. He is a skilled actor (appearing in Last King of the Cross, H for Happiness, Black Comedy and Total Control), but knows that acting is not always steady work. Reflecting on his experience, Wes said: "It's more than just job training. They teach life skills that everyone needs. I'll definitely recommend it to my friends."

Wes is considering pursuing an apprenticeship and enrolling in TAFE to further his skills.

"Everyone deserves opportunities like this," he said with a smile. "It's been a great start, and I'm excited to see where it takes me. I started with bricklaying, learning how to mix concrete and cut bricks. Then, I moved to working with cranes. I even learned hand signals used to guide crane operators – like placing a hand on my chest to signal 'left.'"

He said the opportunity allows him to give back to his community. "It's important to me to be part of the community and help others. That's half the reason I joined this program."



JOHN SUTTIE: Born in a large country town in NSW, 17-year-old John is making the most of his time at the Get Into Construction programme and over the three weeks onsite he is trying three trades - plumbing, carpentry and electrician. John's dream is to become an architect-builder in the traditional sense—the architect as the head carpenter.

"I think is a great way to get started. To be able to try different trades is excellent.

"Everyone's really nice. The guys are really good to me."



SAM AMEY: Growing up in Sydney, Sam, 20, never saw himself going to university or doing a desk job.

"I don't want to be in a career where I would be sitting down.

"My goal is to become a carpenter, then I would like to get my building qualifications, gain some project management skills and eventually have my own business

The Get Into Construction programme is giving Sam the chance to gain hand-on carpentry skills before committing to an apprenticeship.

"I'm loving it. It's excellent. There's always like something to do and I am learning a lot, it's fun."



Above: a render of the Cowper Street Development, Glebe, Sydney.

WHAT IS GET INTO CONSTRUCTION?

Get Into Construction is a four-week programme that helps young people gain a foothold in the thriving construction industry. Designed to address the growing demand for skilled labour in the construction sector while offering a pathway for young people to kickstart their careers, it is run in collaboration between the King's Trust Australia, First Choice Apprentices and Kane Constructions.

Short of signing up for an apprenticeship, there are limited opportunities to gain hands-on experience on a construction site. The programme focuses on hands-on training. Over four weeks, participants gain everything they need to work on a construction site before acquiring real experience on a live construction site under the guidance of experienced professionals.

The King's Trust Australia CEO Michelle Endacott said, "It can be difficult starting out in any new career. This offers full support, including things like White Cards, First Aid certificates and safety gear. The young men are all hard workers and keen to learn, it's a pleasure to work with them."

ABOUT KING'S TRUST AUSTRALIA

In its history, The King's Trust Australia has helped 7,900 young people, 1200 veterans and defence family members. It has completed a diverse range of projects, from helping a community restore a bushfire-devastated hall on Kangaroo Island, to training young First Nations people in the maritime industry, hosting awards for veteran businesses, and running a programme with farmers in North Queensland to protect the Great Barrier Reef.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

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