

MEDIA RELEASE: Student tradies breathing new life into a neglected home

8 December 2021

A Housing SA property in a state of neglect and disrepair has been given a radical makeover by a team of 60 student tradies from northern suburbs schools.

The year-long renovation project has been undertaken by Year 11 students as part of the Construction Industry Training Board's (CITB) doorways2construction (D2C) program.

The 1970s three-bedroom Housing SA home on Main North Road in Elizabeth Downs was completely gutted in all rooms except for wet areas at the start of the project. It was then rebuilt from scratch by students enrolled in the D2C program, which offers hands-on experience in the construction trades.

A large shed on the property also was demolished. Students assisted trades including electricians, carpenters, tilers, plumbers and flooring specialists. The students completed all other work on site to deliver a new home before Christmas, ready for Housing SA tenants to move in.

An initiative of the CITB in partnership with the Department for Education (DfE) and Department for Innovation and Skills (DIS), D2C is a multifaceted state-wide initiative that enables students to experience a wide range of trade skills including carpentry, painting & decorating, plumbing, electrical, tiling, plaster-boarding, concreting and bricklaying.

The goal of the program is to allow students to make an informed decision about embarking on a career in the construction trades and is one of the largest and most successful programs of its kind in Australia.

Students who commence a D2C Flexible Industry Pathway in Year 11 will achieve a Certificate II in Construction Pathways and can progress into a school-based apprenticeship or the CITB supported Advance Skills Cluster when continuing Year 12.

The high school students involved in the 2021 project today celebrate their landmark achievement with the formal return of the renovated home back to Housing SA.

Today's event is the first official handover of a renovated D2C house since 2019, due to the coronavirus pandemic.



Of the 60 Year 11 students who helped renovate the home, five of them either started an apprenticeship this year or will start in early 2022.

The students are Riley Newman (carpentry/Craigmore High School), Benjamin Osborne (bricklaying/Salisbury East High School), Jayden Short (carpentry/Paralowie R-12 School), Noah Caldwell (cabinet maker/Paralowie R-12 School) and Nathan Barber (bricklaying/Salisbury High School).

A further 15 students have chosen to continue their construction career pathway in 2022 and will progress to the CITB-supported Advanced Skills Cluster to specialise in carpentry or bricklaying.

CITB Presiding Officer Maree Wauchope praised the trainers, teachers, businesses and parents who supported and encouraged the dedicated efforts of the D2C students.

“It is a significant achievement for these students to have the opportunity to enter an apprenticeship while still at school,” Ms Wauchope said.

“They would have to possess a mature attitude and reasonable skill set to be offered the role. There is no doubt that their participation in our doorways2construction program is a key factor in their success.

“The great thing about the program is that it enables those Year 11 students who are ready to get an early start on a fulfilling and in-demand career.”

Three students involved in the D2C house renovation project - Cooper Locke, Chloe Mickel and Caleb Charlton - have been nominated for a Commitment Award at The Northern Adelaide State Secondary School Association (NASSSA) VET Awards.

CITB Chief Executive Officer Andrew Fullgrabe said it was amazing to see so many talented young people completely transform a home and return it to Housing SA ready for its new residents.

“The home was in state of disrepair when the project started,” Mr Fullgrabe said.

“There is no doubt that there are a lot of talented students who have participated in this renovation, but as the trainers point out, it is not just about teaching basic construction skills.

“This program is also about developing resilience, confidence, team work and a ‘can-do’ attitude, which is a vital part of being an excellent apprentice.”



Minister for Innovation and Skills David Pisoni said South Australia has the strongest economic growth in the country and was enjoying a once in a generation boom in construction, leading to fantastic opportunities for young people wanting to get a trade.

“It’s so pleasing to see high school students getting a taste of what life as a tradie entails and the opportunities that exist for them should they choose a career as a chippie, sparkie or plumber,” said Minister Pisoni.

“The D2C program is a terrific initiative and complements the Marshall Government’s \$200 million Skilling South Australia program, which is providing high quality skills development for apprentices and trainees in businesses and industries across the state.”

The partnership between CITB and Housing SA has seen more than 50 homes renovated and returned for tenancy since 2002.

The CITB has allocated more than \$1.2 million for D2C this financial year. Since starting as a pilot program in 1999 with just six schools, D2C has grown to more than 50 schools spread across regional and metropolitan South Australia. Around 100 other schools send their students to participate in a D2C program.

During the past two decades, D2C has welcomed more than 10,000 students and produced over 3,000 apprentices.

About the CITB: The CITB is a whole-of-industry led organisation that provides support to attract, train and retain South Australian building and construction workers by providing leadership in training and skills development. Learn more [here](#)

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