

CASE STUDY Mark

Full-circle housing dream for Mark

Mark is one of the first tenants to call Unity Housing's new affordable and social housing development in Henley Beach South home.

He moved into his new two-bedroom rental apartment in May 2025, complete with ensuite, balcony and so much more.

"I'm the luckiest guy in the world," he says. "It's a full-circle moment."

Mark lived at this very site previously – when it was occupied by 52 SA Housing Trust units – and is grateful to be back in the beachside community.

"I've come a long way in the last 10 to 15 years and now I've come back to here, bigger and better than ever, just like this apartment," he says.

Mark was a boarding house tenant with Unity Housing for nearly a decade and knows what it's like to sleep rough.

"I'd do anything not to be in that position again," he says. "You don't feel safe. You get wet when it rains, unless you've got a covered spot. But having a base to call my own gives you confidence and purpose."

Before moving to Henley Beach South, Mark, who lives with an anxiety disorder, began looking for a place of his own, but the housing crisis locked him out of the private rental market.

"I didn't think there was any way I'd be able to get a place like this," he says. "I was sort of looking at private rentals, and they were way too expensive. For people like me, who work part time and are on a disability pension, it's almost impossible to rent. It was exhausting and tiring. It was a nightmare to be honest."

Now having stable accommodation has enabled Mark to re-engage with the community and gain valuable skills working as a BIG Issue vendor, and more recently as a delivery driver.

"Stable housing is very important," he says. "It's a foundation to get the rest of your life going."