

Media release
Cassy O'Connor - Minister for Human Services
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MORE ENERGY SAVINGS FOR PUBLIC HOUSING TENANTS

One and a half thousand public housing tenants and their families around Tasmania are set to benefit from the next round of Energy Champions energy efficiency upgrades with lower power bills and warmer homes.

The Minister for Human Services, Cassy O'Connor, today announced that Sustainable Living Tasmania has been selected to roll out the next stage of the Energy Champions program.

"Our previous pilot of the Energy Champions program saw 100 tenants benefit from energy efficiency upgrades such as water saving shower heads and draft proofing, which delivered households save an average of \$300 a year," she said.

"We're now extending that program to deliver energy efficiency upgrades in 1,500 public housing properties around the state."

Ms O'Connor said the Energy Champions program was part of a broader agenda to improve residential energy efficiency, which will see over \$15 million investment in this term of Government.

"We are focussing on those most in need - homes of low income families, single pensioners, the elderly and households that include people with a disability," she said.

Ms O'Connor said the upgrades would include upgrades such as installation of energy saving light globes; draught proofing doors and windows; new energy efficient shower heads and insulation of exposed hot water pipes and cylinders.

"Participating households will get an information session and a personalised power and water saving plan," she said.

"Housing Tasmania has carefully selected the households that will most benefit and has begun contacting all eligible households.

"This first phase will focus on unit complexes in both Glenorchy and Ravenswood.

"We expect that participating households will start seeing financial savings and have a warmer home during next winter.

"Up to 60 energy assessments on selected properties will be completed by Sustainable Living Tasmania by the end of this year, with the program fully underway in January 2013."