

A growing community spirit

By Lisa Tisdell

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Successful project: Resident Vanessa Hannah (second from left) officially opens the outdoor area as Newman Senior Technical College students Jarrod Latimore, Josh Oreo and Dylan Schafer look on.

AN outdoor project built skills, a sense of community and a common area with a garden.

The project had a sense of community at its heart as Centacare supplied the materials, Community Housing provided project management and Newman Senior Technical College students gained workplace experience.

A common area, with pergola and vegetable garden, was the end result where a group of tenants grow vegetables, gather and socialise.

Residents have taken ownership of the vegetable garden.

Centacare housing spokeswoman Sue Blain said the common area was a space where the tenants could socialise and foster an interest in gardening.

"For them to be able to build their networks and community is very important," she said.

Community Housing Limited NSW state manager Frank Birkefeld praised the project for increasing collaboration between the tenants and improving their involvement in the community.

"We are here to provide opportunities for secure, affordable and appropriate housing for people but where we can we like to value add to that," he said.

Mr Birkefeld said the common area and gardens were absolutely terrific.

Newman Senior Technical College students built the garden beds and pergola under the project management of Community Housing Limited.

The college's principal, Stephen Pares, said the college was really pleased and very fortunate to be part of the project.

He said the students developed a range of skills.

"The great part of a project like this is it involves other partners in the community," Mr Pares said.

The project was officially opened on Friday.

Funding options are being explored to add a barbecue.