

# Media Release



April 27, 2017

For Immediate release

## SAMARITANS HELPS TRANSFORM HAMILTON SOUTH

Samaritans has been working with the local community and artist Shane Kennedy to add a splash of colour to the Hamilton South neighbourhood.

Following a successful pilot initiative of re-designing and painting letter boxes as a collaboration with the community, Samaritans pushed for grant funding to complete more letterboxes and an additional mural.

Residents played an active role in the whole process, from designing templates to participating in the painting of the letter boxes.

“It provided a fantastic opportunity for the community, both young and old to work together to achieve a common goal and now the neighbourhood looks more inviting as well,” said Harmony Wilson, Samaritans Project Coordinator.

Residents are very happy with their brighter neighbourhood and the benefits of the collaborative project have continued.

“The letterboxes have become a focal point of the neighbourhood where residents can stop, connect and have a chat.

“It makes such a difference to see so much colour,” Ms Wilson said.

The project was made possible with thanks to Newcastle City Council for their contribution of funds through the Make Your Place Grant program, as well as Family and Community Services for providing funding under the Social Housing Community Improvement Fund program.

This is an initiative of Samaritans Tenancy Participation Resource Service, which offers advice and advocacy to social housing tenants.

Residents, Samaritans staff and artist Shane Kennedy celebrated the success of the project with a BBQ on Tuesday to enjoy the new artworks.

**-ENDS-**

**Media Contact:** Media are welcome to attend the BBQ for a photo/ interview opportunity with residents and artist, Shane Kennedy at 12:30pm on Tuesday 28 April, 2a Neill Terrace, Hamilton South. For more information phone 4960 7157 or 0438 475 772.