

## **Western Australian “My Home” Project Shortlisted for Prestigious 2022 SHC Solar Award**

The International Energy Agency Solar Heating and Cooling (IEA SHC) Programme has released the four projects in contention for the 2022 SHC Solar Award. Along with nominees from France, Namibia and South Africa, Australia’s “My Home” project has been shortlisted.

The SHC Solar Award is given to an individual, company, or private/public institution that shows outstanding leadership or achievements in the field of solar heating and cooling and supports the work of the IEA SHC. This year's award will recognize a Solar Heating or Cooling project that reduces energy use and costs in social housing.

"My Home" is a philanthropic developer that brings together Government, Church, Private Sector, and Community Housing Providers to deliver projects using a Public Private Partnership model. Their North Fremantle project is building 18 affordable, long-term occupancy homes for older women who are experiencing homelessness. Michelle Blakeley, Founder and Chair of My Home Australasia explains “This is the first project for “My Home” and is proof of concept for future landowners, property developers and governments. Even with a low construction budget and small building footprints, we can design and deliver high performance, comfortable and enjoyable housing for people who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Importantly, the benefits of good design are ongoing with nil or very low energy bills for residents and excellent thermal comfort throughout the year.”

Each house is energy efficient and solar PV panels, and passive solar (Passivhaus) design principles providing comfort to residents in a hot climate. Houses are also water efficient and include a rainwater tank supply. Fundamental to the house designs are comfortable, joyful, and refreshing living spaces and each site includes shared facilities – outdoor gathering spaces, storage, vegetable gardens, and car parking.

Ken Guthrie, APVI member and SHC Award Committee Chair notes the high standard that the project achieved, “My Home houses demonstrate that high-quality construction, thermal comfort, and energy efficiency are achievable in compact, low-cost housing and are providing these benefits to social housing residents.”

Michelle Blakeley appreciates the honour of being included on the award shortlist, “It is a proud feeling to know that our little homes are recognised globally as exemplars of good design. The builder, our solar supplier, Positive Energy, and architect have worked closely together to design the most efficient energy system including the framework for the panels which also act as a roof for the veranda of each house.

The 2022 SHC Solar Award will be presented by award committee chair, Ken Guthrie, during the EuroSun Conference in Kassel, Germany, on 26-29 September 2022

- ends -

---

**Media Contact:** Michelle Blakeley, Founder and Chair My Home Australasia Ltd

**Phone:** 0413161641

**Email:** mblakeley@optusnet.com.au

---

#### **About the IEA Solar Heating and Cooling Programme**

Australia has been a cornerstone member of the Solar Heating and Cooling (SHC) program since its inception in the late 1970s. The SHC program works to increase the deployment rate of solar heating and cooling systems through multi-disciplinary international collaborative research and knowledge exchange, as well as market and policy recommendations.

#### **About the APVI**

The Australian PV Institute is a not-for-profit, member-based organisation which focuses on data analysis, independent and balanced information, and collaborative research. Our objective is to *support the increased development and use of PV via research, analysis, and information*. The APVI promotes solar through its live solar mapping platform [<http://pv-map.apvi.org.au>], the national solar research conference and Australia's participation in two International Energy Agency (IEA) programs – PVPS (Photovoltaic Power Systems) for solar photovoltaics and SHC (Solar Heating and Cooling), concerned with new solar thermal products and services.

[www.apvi.org.au](http://www.apvi.org.au)