COMMON
GRUND
A place to
play and learn.

Common Ground is hosting a new city
playgroup to cater for a growing number of
families choosing to make their home in the
CBD. Facilitated by the Sturt Street Childrens’
Centre, the Light Square City Playgroup is
held on Wednesdays at CGA Light Square.
Julie Duncan, Common Ground Adelaide’s
Executive Manager, Business Development,
said the playgroup provided a comfortable
way for families from all over the community
to come together to learn and develop.
“Playgroups have been proven to be a powerful
platform to support both children and parents in
those crucial early years,”
Ms Duncan said.
“We are welcoming parents, carers and most
importantly, children from all over Adelaide,
including those who live at Common Ground.
“We want to ensure we not only support our
residents to go out and connect with the wider
community but also, to bring the community into
Common Ground.”
Light Square City Playgroup runs every
Wednesday (except school holidays) from
10am until 11:30am at Common Ground,
Light Square. For more information or to
register interest, phone 82051600.

Common Ground Adelaide recently hosted
South Australia’s State Cabinet at the Light
Square development. Many elements that
make Common Ground a great place to
live were showcased including an array of
paintings by residents that adorned the
walls in the room in which the Ministers
met. Led by Premier Jay Weatherill, the
group then shared lunch, provided by the
CGA cooking group, with residents, staff
and staff from Santos – Common Ground’s
foundation sponsor. The meeting also
provided CGA with the chance to outline
its commitment to the Common Ground
model while providing more affordable
housing options for people on low incomes
and those in housing stress.

CGA on display.
An agreement has now been formalised enabling Common Ground Adelaide and Housing Choices Australia to join forces. In what is believed to be the first national partnership of its type, CGA is now operating as part of the Housing Choices Australia Group. The agreement provides Common Ground with increased capacity to grow and become more sustainable without compromising its proven model of housing coupled with case managed support.

By joining forces, Common Ground and HCA now provide more than 3,700 tenancies across three states, for people who would, for a range of reasons, struggle to maintain housing in the private rental market.

Rob Martin, Julie Mitchell, Michael Lennon and Julie Duncan.

Connecting at the Joinery.

Joining forces in housing.

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Mellor Street wins excellence award.

Common Ground Mellor Street has often been touted as a top class development. Now it’s been confirmed with Hindmarsh Construction winning the Excellence in Affordable Housing Award at the 2015 SA Master Builders Association Awards for CGA’s seven-storey apartment block. The title is a well deserved honour for everyone involved.

Pen to perfect.

Home is where the heart is - and inspiration lies – if a new book featuring the work of Common Ground residents is anything to go by. Local published and widely acclaimed author Victoria Purman (Only We Know) launched Perfect – An Anthology of Poetry and Prose on August 6. The book was produced by the SA Writers Centre following a series of workshops with CGA residents funded by Community Benefit SA. David Chapple, Writing Development Manager at SA Writers Centre, said the initial grant supported the workshops with the Writers Centre and CGA contributing extra funds to support the publication of the book.

"We realised very quickly that within this group there was an extraordinary amount of talent and stories to tell,” David said.

Liz Syngajewski, Support Team Leader at Common Ground, said the initiative had exceeded expectations.

"Each one of our writers can be enormously proud of what they have achieved," Liz said.

"I know the skills they have learnt and the confidence they have gained through this experience will benefit them no end when they are pursuing further study, employment or in their personal development.”

Ten Common Ground residents have work published in the book – seven from Adelaide and three from Port Augusta.
From Canberra to Common Ground Adelaide.

Affordable housing and supporting the most vulnerable South Australians to improve their lives was firmly on the agenda when Federal Minister for Social Services Scott Morrison visited Common Ground in August. The Minister toured the Mellor Street and Light Square developments including the Dental Outreach Clinic, chatting with staff and residents.

Lifting the bar to better health.

Chi Holistic Personal Training and Common Ground have teamed up with CGA lending room within its Light Square development to the fitness group. The personal training groups, led by former AFL player Kris Massie, have offered tenants free fitness sessions in exchange for CGA support. Chi PT operates most classes on Light Square using the CGA accommodation for stretching and yoga sessions and in inclement weather. For more information, phone Kris on 0402 900 107.

Common Ground key to cook off.

Common Ground residents came to the food rescue again this year for the annual OzHarvest Think. Eat. Save. A very committed group from CGA joined some of Adelaide’s top chefs and many other volunteers who donated their time to make free meals from rescued produce. Food waste costs Australia up to $10 billion annually. The event is aimed at changing the public’s awareness and behaviour.

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