

# James Brown Memorial Trust



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### AFFORDABLE HOUSING WINS ARCHITECTS' AWARD

The James and Jessie Brown Affordable Housing redevelopment at Mansfield Park has won the Australian Institute of Architects SA Chapter *Newell Platten Award for Residential Architecture – Multiple Housing* Award. The announcement was made at the awards presentation ceremony at the National Wine Centre on Friday 2 July in front of 500 assembled guests representing the architectural profession in South Australia.

This is what the Institute of Architects' jury had to say about the development: "This project is one of those with a brief which calls for all the things architecture should bring to our community such as supported housing with respect, residential character, private space and also sense of community, contribution to the streetscape, environmental responsibility and human delight."

The jury added: "It is also one of those which invariably does not offer the budget for easy solutions and so too often ends up being a composite of project housing. This project is different."

This development also won the Aged and Community Services (SA&NT) Inc 2010 Awards for Excellence in Design announced in the previous month, and confirms its design excellence as judged by the architectural industry.

The James and Jessie Brown Cottages is an affordable housing program operating across five metropolitan Adelaide sites supporting people at risk of becoming homeless and is owned by the James Brown Memorial Trust, with its head office at Belair, South Australia.

The award was accepted by Trust Board Chairman Brian Waite and architects Douglas Alexander and Luke Willis from Flightpath Architects Pty Ltd. Well known Adelaide builder Pascale Contruction, built the project within budget and on-time. The project was funded from the James Brown Memorial Trust's own reserves and supported by the State Government with a grant from its Affordable Housing Innovations Fund, and is eligible for the Federal Government's National Rental Affordability Subsidy scheme.

The Trust's Chairman, Brian Waite said "This housing project is a great example of how the Trust approaches its commitment to quality and yet affordable housing; it's truly amazing what can be achieved when the community and the key stakeholders all works together in partnership,"

"The twenty new units have become home to people who don't yet have stable and secure housing and will give them a solid foundation to go on and achieve other things including education and employment."

The site, which used to consist of 15 single-room flats built in 1964, has been redeveloped to become 20 purpose-designed units for people at risk of homelessness. Each unit is environmentally efficient with innovative design including rain water tanks, storm water retention, drought tolerant landscaping, solar hot water, solar-voltaic cells for electric power generation, polished concrete floors and wide eaves and reverse brick veneer to keep units cool in summer and warm in winter. Recycled products have also been used for fencing.

The Trust's next Affordable Housing redevelopment project is scheduled to commence at Campbelltown in August 2010.

*More Details? Call Dennis Chamberlain, CEO James Brown Memorial Trust 0413 755 426*