



Commonwealth
Bank

How we helped one women's shelter become more sustainable/CBA Newsroom video transcript

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Public

Transcript

TEXT ON SCREEN: CommBank Next Chapter supports a women's shelter to become more sustainable

TEXT ON SCREEN: How did the solar installation come about?

TEXT ON SCREEN: Lily Pejkić, Sydney Solar & Batteries/AWISE

LILY PEJKIĆ: As the owner and installer for Sydney Solar and Batteries and one of the founding members of AWISE, also known as Australian Women in Solar and Energy. We approached the women's shelter to see if they needed a solar and battery system installed to offset their energy needs.

LILY PEJKIĆ: This is where our conversation with the Commonwealth Bank came about, and we partnered together for CommBank to fund the project. We installed 15KW of solar on the shelter with a Tesla Powerwall 2 and through the contacts at the Commonwealth Bank were able to set them up with an Amber Electric retail account.

As Lily speaks, overlay footage shows solar panels being installed on a roof by two people.

LILY PEJKIĆ: In terms of energy savings for the shelter we estimate about 75% of energy costs with the solar and battery installed. There is also environmental and sustainability savings – reducing carbon emissions and further saving on electricity used during the day.

TEXT ON SCREEN: What impact has the installation made to the shelter?

TEXT ON SCREEN: Kylie Wilkinson, Deputy Chair & Project Manager, Women's Shelter

KYLIE WILKINSON: The solar system the Lily installed, and the battery, is going to save us around \$5000-6000 a year. Those dollars are vital for the ongoing operations on the centre.

As Kylie speaks, overlay footage pans across the roof of a house which has solar panels installed

KYLIE WILKINSON: Community organisations like the women's centre rely heavily on donations and any money that we can save goes directly to helping women in need, so our Shelter Manager and the Board are extremely pleased with Commonwealth Bank for coming forward and providing the solar that will give us ongoing savings over many, many years to come.

TEXT ON SCREEN: What's your advice for other shelters considering renewable energy?

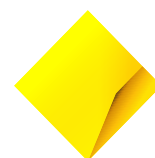
KYLIE WILKINSON: The whole process of setting up solar for our shelter has been very easy and very rewarding to be saving those dollars for our shelter.

TEXT ON SCREEN: Why are initiatives like this important to CommBank?

TEXT ON SCREEN: Nathan Barker, Head of Community Investment, Commonwealth Bank

NATHAN BARKER: In 2020 we launched CommBank Next Chapter to expand and extend our support to ensure all Australians wherever they may be could access support to respond to both domestic and family abuse and financial abuse. This is a really practical way that the shelter can reduce their costs to provide more services for their clients and extend their reach into the community.

As Nathan speaks, overlay footage shows three people installing solar panels on the roof of a house.



NATHAN BARKER: This is a really exciting way that we can bring together the work we are doing at CommBank Next Chapter to support those impacted by domestic and family abuse and financial abuse with the work we are doing in sustainability to help reduce the cost of the shelter to provide more services to help more women get the support they need.

