

The Northern Daily

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TEACHING THE GAMILARAAY LANGUAGE TO PRESCHOOLERS IS PRODUCING A CULTURAL RENAISSANCE AND CONNECTING YOUTH TO THEIR HERITAGE
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ANCIENT WORDS COME TO LIFE

Wiranga-LI Aboriginal child and Family Housdworth with St Mary's Preschool students Daniela, Destiny and Wynn Townsend have joined a Gamilaraay language class. Picture by Peter Hardin

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NOWHERE TO GO Priority cases on Tamworth's social housing wait list double in one year

Situation is getting worse

Jonathan Hawes

HUNDREDS of Tamworth's most vulnerable residents are waiting as long as a decade for an affordable home as increasingly unaffordable rents create bottlenecks in

the social housing system. This year the waiting list for social housing in Tamworth has added nearly 100 people, from 452 last year to 547 by the latest count.

Statistics released by the NSW Department of Com-

munities and Justice (DCJ) show the number of people in Tamworth considered "priority" has more than doubled from 29 to 68.

Homes North senior housing manager Nicholas Grimes told the *Leader* sky-

high rents and an ongoing cost of living crisis are putting strain on the not-for-profit community housing organisation.

"The priority list has grown significantly because we've got so much more demand,"

Mr Grimes said. "With more demand you're bound to have more complex issues come through as well."

He said complex cases include residents with disabilities, drug and alcohol addictions, mental health

concerns, and other issues that require a case worker.

Mr Grimes said Tamworth doesn't have enough case workers nor houses to fix the region's growing homelessness problem.

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