

Increasing access to holistic services

Tom’s story: Help with the bigger picture

Tom* describes himself as a battler.

At 64, he lives with constant pain, uses a mobility walker and relies on government payments to get by.

He shares his Maryborough rental with his adult daughter Mary*, who also has ongoing health problems. When they were told they had to leave, Tom faced more than a tenancy problem. He was behind on bills, money was tight and he was worried about where they’d live.

Tom connected with ARC Justice through the Maryborough Therapeutic Justice Partnership. A lawyer helped with his rental problem while a social worker worked alongside him on the other pressures he faced.

That support was practical: food vouchers, replacement tyres for his car and trailer and connections to local services. ARC Justice also successfully challenged more than $2,000 in debt.

Finding another home proved harder. With weekly support from his social worker, Tom set up an online housing profile and applied for 37 rental properties over seven months.

He also received help to apply for the NDIS and connect with services that could support him longer term.



*Name changed

The threat of homelessness continued to affect Tom’s health and wellbeing. Having a lawyer and social worker working together meant he didn’t have to tackle each problem alone.

Tom came for legal help. He received support that recognised everything else going on in his life.

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