



PARLIAMENT OF NEW SOUTH WALES
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-SEVENTH PARLIAMENT

Community Recognition Statement

28 July 2020

PIETRO (PETER) DI GIROLAMO

Ms SONIA HORNERY (Wallsend) :

As we all know, homelessness is a complex issue in our society. One program which is assisting those sleeping in their cars at night is the Our Backyard Car to Home Project. Supported by Macquarie Care, Our Backyard provides a local private carpark space that supports men, women and families who sleep in their cars. It offers a safe place to park at night, along with bathroom and kitchen facilities and other support services.

Up until last Friday, Peter Di Girolamo was the Program Manager of Our Backyard for four years, although it's been in his blood for almost seven years. Initially, a work colleague of Peter's, who slept in her car, was his inspiration to do more.

He became involved with a community café and kitchen and later became a Hunter Homeless Connect Board member, before moving on to Our Backyard. In true style, Peter has acknowledged the great team of volunteers that will carry on the work of the Project moving forward.

Peter's tireless efforts toward establishing and running this Project to assist the homeless in our society is to be congratulated.

Thank you Peter. We wish you well with your future endeavours.