

Community-funded solar system helps SEWACS support local women and children

Moruya's South East Women and Children's Services (SEWACS) has installed a community-funded solar PV system, slashing its electricity bills to help the service continue its much-needed support for women and children in Eurobodalla and Bega shires.

The 6.3kW solar system – financed by a combination of funds from the [Southcoast Health and Sustainability Alliance \(SHASA\)'s Community Facility Solar Installation Program](#) and proceeds from a raffle and musical performance from *Out of Abingdon* – will save SEWACS more than \$2,300 in annual electricity costs.

SEWACS Eurobodalla Domestic and Family Violence Service Program Manager Zoë Whymark said the significant cost reduction would have a tangible impact for clients. “SEWACS had an unsustainable electricity bill of around \$11,000 each year,” Ms Whymark said. “Our new solar system means real savings, so we'll be able to reallocate that funding towards vital relief for the local women we support – women with or without children who are at risk of homelessness due to domestic violence. “The solar PV system also provides an opportunity for conversations, with our team, clients and visitors, about the benefits of sun-powered energy.” The solar system, installed by Micro Energy Systems of Bodalla with \$8,445 in funds from SHASA, includes annual preventative maintenance services for the first five years.

SHASA President Kathryn Maxwell said: “We're thrilled to contribute this support to such a vital local service.” SHASA has helped 11 community facilities in the Eurobodalla install solar systems (with additional community installations planned) and would like to help others install solar and/or batteries. Please call 0467 558 645 or email contact.shasa@gmail.com for more information.



Steve Cornthwaite of Micro Energy Systems installed SEWACS' new 6.3kW three phase solar system