Healthy living practices

So far, 254 projects have been completed through the Town Camps Futures Unit housing and infrastructure program to support better health and wellbeing outcomes through housing. All housing and infrastructure investment across the town camps has been informed by the nine Healthy Living Practices.

To improve the ability of a house to support the Healthy Living Practices, attention needs to be given to improving the physical equipment necessary for healthy, hygienic living, known as ‘health hardware’. This equipment generally relates to the water supply, sanitation and food preparation areas of a house.

Research has shown that improving essential health hardware (fixing the broken toilet, electrical repairs, ensuring hot water for the number of residents, having somewhere to wash a baby or child, etc.) will lead to improvements in health and reduce the risk of disease and injury.

The healthy living practices are:

1. washing people, especially children
2. washing clothes and bedding
3. removing wastewater safely
4. improving nutrition
5. reducing the impact of crowding
6. reducing the impact of animals, insects and vermin
7. reducing the impact of dust
8. improved temperature control
9. reducing hazards that cause trauma.

Healthy living - before and after

The Town Camps housing and infrastructure approach recognises the connection between a series of healthy living practices and the quality and condition of housing. Our model supports householders’ ability to live healthier lives, which is dependent on the functionality of their house’s “health hardware”, that is items such as safe electricity and water supply, toilets, showers, washing areas and food preparation areas.
Healthy living practices