

New home opens many doors



Opening the door to a new house has opened up a world of opportunities to Zona.

Zona applied to the Employment Related Accommodation (ERA) Program for a home in the Newcastle area while she studies for her degree at Newcastle University.

Without finding suitable accommodation for her family, Zona wouldn't have been able to enrol in university.

"I want to be a primary school teacher one day so I'm learning to teach others. I could never afford to move and set up a new life for my family.

"The ERA Program means not only have my family been given a home, but I have been given an opportunity to follow my dream," Zona said.

"It's not easy growing up in a remote community because opportunities are limited. I wanted to do something for myself and also set a good example for my children.

"This program means I no longer have to choose between providing a home or studying to achieve my goals. Now I can do both," Zona said.

The ERA Program is an initiative designed specifically for Aboriginal people from remote areas to enable them to engage in study or employment in large towns or regional centres.