



**Sharon Grierson MP**  
Federal Member for Newcastle

**Media Alert**

**LAUNCH OF WATERWISE HOUSE**  
**Saturday 25 November 2006**  
**12 noon**

**Dominican Sisters' Convent, 16 Tinobah Place, Maryland**

Two Dominican Sisters living at Maryland are on their way to achieving their dream of becoming self-sufficient in water with the help of a \$32,000 Commonwealth Community Water Grant.

Sister Diana Santleben and her 91-year-old companion, Sister Ann Walsh, will welcome the Federal Member for Newcastle, Sharon Grierson MP, to launch their WASH (Water Smart Households) project on Saturday 25 November.

"There are practical measures we can all take to reduce water consumption," Ms Grierson said. "The Dominican Sisters are leading the way, and I am pleased they have received Commonwealth funding to support their project."

The grant has been used to install water tanks (with a combined capacity of 10,000litres), a grey water treatment system which recycles bathroom, kitchen and laundry water for use in toilets, laundry and garden and diverting storm water to the garden. Rainwater from the tanks passes through filters and into the hot water system.

"Even before we received the grant we had been, of course, careful with the amount of water we used," Sister Diana said. "The two of us have been using a variety of practical, low-cost methods to save water."

"This grant allows us to greatly expand what we are able to do, and to share these ideas. It is planned that our WASH (Water Smart Households) project will sign up households wanting to help each other conserve water, sharing suggestions with our neighbours."

"This time next year we hope that our area will have turned around our water consumption to become a shining example of WASH - Water Smart Households," Sister Diana said.

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