

Press Release

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For Immediate release

Unique housing partnership project to provide safe and secure housing for homeless women over the age of 55

A unique new housing initiative has been developed which will provide safe and secure housing for 18 women over 55 years of age who are experiencing housing insecurity, through the refurbishment of a former private hospital in Mosman.

Mosman House is the second collaboration between local charity, Women's Community Shelters (WCS), community housing provider Link Housing and Twilight Aged Care who have provided the facility rent free as holistic housing and support, for two years.

Mosman House will be connected to local allied health services who will deliver support onsite to the women who reside there.

Mosman House follows on from the success of a similar collaboration undertaken last year in Beecroft. Known as Beecroft House, the project saw WCS and Link Housing turn another Twilight Aged Care property - currently a vacant aged care facility - into transitional housing for 20 older women.

New to the project partnership this time, is construction company AW Edwards - who has helped refurbish the property and make it fit for purpose, Northern Beaches Women's Shelter - who will refer women leaving their emergency crisis shelter and in need of transitional housing and provide case management support, and online homewares and furniture retailer Temple and Webster - who have furnished the property throughout, ready for opening.

Women over 55 have become the fastest growing category of people experiencing homelessness in Australia. In 2017-18 over 13,800 older women accessed specialist homeless services in Australia, an increase of 63 percent in just five years*.

WCS is also delighted to announce that both Mosman House and Beecroft House will come under their new Pathways Home initiative.

Conceived by WCS, PAYCE Foundation and Bridge Housing, Pathways Home is an innovative 'meanwhile use' venture that provides transitional housing to women and their children and older single women escaping domestic and family violence. It does this by identifying underutilised properties and repurposing them to provide housing and support.



The term 'meanwhile use' originates from the UK where it was used to describe vacant land and buildings that could be repurposed for cultural or community development purposes until they could be brought back into commercial use.

Speaking about Mosman House, CEO of Women's Community Shelters, Annabelle Daniel said: "We are absolutely thrilled to be partnering again with Twilight Aged Care and Link Housing on our second housing project and also thank our new partners who will join us on Mosman House.

"Older women are often the hidden victims of homelessness and it is precisely why projects like this, that make use of empty properties, are so important in order to provide additional safe and secure accommodation for vulnerable women in need.

"We hope that additional housing developers and property owners will see the benefits of such developments and donate the use of under-utilised residential properties to the Pathways Home project."

Link Housing CEO, Andrew McNulty said: "The increasing prevalence of homelessness among older women in our society means that projects and partnerships like Mosman House are incredibly important – it demonstrates that the local community and business actually care."

"As a society we must continue to lift the discussion on homelessness and seek long term investment in long term solutions. It is brilliant to be expanding our relationship with Women's Community Shelters, Twilight Aged Care and we look forward to welcoming our new tenants in the near future."



Available for Interview: Annabelle Daniel, CEO of Women's Community Shelters

FOR MEDIA ENQUIRIES: Nathalie Peacock 0475 915089

E: partnerships@womenscommunityshelters.org.au

Notes to Editors:

About Women's Community Shelters:

Women's Community Shelters (WCS) offers vulnerable women at risk of homelessness or domestic violence shelter, active case management, support, dignity, self-esteem and a chance to start anew, through the establishment, operation and/or supervision and support of women's community shelters and low-cost accommodation. WCS currently have seven shelters based in Manly, Hornsby, Great Lakes, the Hills, Penrith, Botany and Parramatta. WCS underwrites up to 2/3 of each shelter's funding for the first two years and up to 50% per annum in the following years, with the remainder funded by the local community and philanthropy. WCS's vision is to expand their network to at least nine shelters across NSW by the end of 2020. As a charity WCS relies on vital donations and grants to fund their important work helping women and children in need. To make a donation call them on 0432 630 359, visit womenscommunityshelters.org.au/donate.

About Link Housing

Link Housing is a not-for-profit organisation with a charitable mission to provide safe, sustainable and affordable homes to enhance lives and communities. The organisation has been providing community housing for 35 years and now manages close to 4000 homes for approximately 6000 people across metropolitan Sydney.

Link Housing Media Contact: Brianna Ragel, Head of Marketing and Communications, Ph: 02 9412 5111, Email: brianna.ragel@linkhousing.org.au