

17 August 2017

## **WHL receives \$5.2m state government funding to build homes for women escaping family violence**

WHL this week received \$5.2 million funding from the Victorian Government towards the construction of 24 new apartments (8 x 1-bedroom and 16 x 2-bedroom) on WHL-owned land in Bayswater for women with or without children who are escaping family violence.

*Ending Family Violence* – Victoria's plan for change identified a number of key priorities to assist women and children to secure safe and stable housing.

WHL – in collaboration with women's refuges Georgina Martina, Safe Futures Foundation, Kara House Inc. and Emerge Women's and Children's Support Network – plan to directly address these priorities by helping women and children living in family violence environments to move into secure medium-term housing.

*"Our housing and homelessness investments will help more than 19,000 Victorians to access and sustain housing - but we know there's still more to do...we're working to build safe and inclusive communities." – Martin Foley MP, Minister for Housing*

*"We all know there is a pressing need for more housing for vulnerable Victorians, and WHL is delighted with the support from State Government and the City of Knox in helping us create new homes for women and children escaping family violence." – Judy Line CEO, Women's Housing Limited.*

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Critically, the planned development will be underpinned by an innovative service model that helps women trapped in violent environments to escape *before* a crisis point is reached, and provides them and their children with a pathway into sustainable accommodation where they also receive the support they need to rebuild their lives.

WHL believe that the new development and the support model will divert a significant number of women from our overstretched refuge and homelessness services and reduce many associated traumas (and their long-term consequences for both the individuals and government budgets).

100% of the new accommodation will be made available to FV families

- 75% of the total will be made available to those eligible for public housing
- The remaining 25% will be made available to those on low incomes.