

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Fishing and Boating



Tuesday, 1 December 2020

BOOSTING SOCIAL HOUSING IN BENDIGO

The Andrews Labor Government is providing safe, secure housing for young Victorians at risk of homelessness in regional Victoria.

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne and Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards today attended the official opening of the eight new social housing units in North Bendigo, thanks to a \$2.7 million grant from the Victorian Property Fund.

The two-bedroom units will serve as long-term affordable rental housing for young people fleeing family violence situations, young people leaving state care, those leaving the justice system, and others with little or no family support. The units were completed in October, with tenants gradually beginning to move in.

The grant for the units was provided to *Haven; Home, Safe*, a not-for-profit community housing association. The funds will also go towards the construction of eight additional units in Flora Hill, with building set to begin shortly.

The project involves a partnership with Amicus, a major provider of disability support services in the Greater Bendigo area. Amicus provides support services to assist the young tenants in maintaining their homes and meet everyday living needs.

Tenants will have access to a range of support programs, including services that improve opportunities to complete their education, learn life skills, and hold down employment.

The development includes a range of environmentally sustainable design features to keep accommodation affordable, including high-efficiency building fabrics, passive design features and plumbed rainwater collection tanks. Rent will also be capped at 75 per cent market rate or 30 per cent of household income.

The property is close to the Bendigo CBD, transport, schools, TAFE, community services, and employment opportunities.

Having a safe and affordable place to live has never been more important, and this project will address not only the need for additional accommodation for youth at risk of homelessness but also the need to keep young people connected to family, friends and their community.

Quote attributable to Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation Melissa Horne

“Having a safe and affordable place to live has never been more important, which is why we’re so proud to fund projects like these.”

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo West Maree Edwards

“This isn’t just about housing – it’s about investing in people to provide them with a solid foundation that enables them to rebuild their lives.”

Quote attributable to Member for Bendigo East Jacinta Allan

“Providing young people in Bendigo with stable housing, support and mentoring allows them to reach their full potential. These centrally located units will mean young tenants can easily access the range of services they need.”

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