

Media Release

The Hon Melissa Horne MP

Minister for Consumer Affairs, Gaming and Liquor Regulation

Minister for Ports and Freight

Minister for Local Government

Minister for Suburban Development



Thursday, 30 June 2022

INCREASED FUNDING TO REDUCE HOMELESSNESS IN GEELONG

A new social housing project funded by the Andrews Labor Government will help provide sustainable, long-term solutions for older Victorians in the Geelong area who are facing homelessness.

Minister for Consumer Affairs Melissa Horne attended the Highton site today to formally announce a \$6.5 million investment to build accommodation for vulnerable Victorians, \$750,000 of which was contributed by Homes Victoria.

The Victorian Property Fund (VPF) will fund the construction of 22 one-bedroom units equipped with wheelchair access and specialised hard finishes, making them functional for residents with limited mobility.

The grant will be provided to Wintringham Housing Ltd (WH), a not-for-profit community housing organisation and Registered Housing Association (RHA).

WH specialises in providing safe and affordable housing to men and women over 50 who are homeless or at risk of homelessness through an integrated service approach that includes outreach, housing, in-home aged care, and residential aged care.

The units will be cost-effective for residents as they will be equipped with a 7.5-star energy rating standard, with solar panels, heat recovery systems, solar-boosted energy efficient hot water systems, insulation, draught proofing, and double glazing.

Additionally, the rent for residents of the new project will be set at 25 percent of their income plus Commonwealth Rental Assistance.

Construction on the project is set to commence in late 2022, with residents able to move in by early 2024.

For more information on Victorian Property Fund grants, visit www.consumer.vic.gov.au/about-us/who-we-are-and-what-we-do/funds-we-administer/victorian-property-fund

Quote attributable to Minister for Consumer Affairs Melissa Horne

"All Victorians deserve access to affordable housing that is fit for purpose and meets their needs – this accommodation provides a secure and long-term home for those in the Geelong area who need it most."

Quote attributable to Minister for Housing Danny Pearson

"These new social housing units will make a significant difference in improving the quality of life for older Victorians, giving them the security and amenities they need to thrive."

Quote attributable to Member for South Barwon Darren Cheeseman

"We're looking after our older community members and ensuring they have a safe and affordable house to call a home."

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