

# Media Release

**The Hon Colin Brooks MP**  
Minister for Housing  
Minister for Multicultural Affairs



Thursday, 16 February 2023

## HOUSING CO-OP TO PROVIDE SHELTER FOR HOMELESS WOMEN

More women at risk of or experiencing homelessness will have safe, secure housing as part of a new housing model and funding from the Andrews Labor Government.

Minister for Housing Colin Brooks today turned the first sod at the redevelopment of the Footscray Lions Elderly Citizens Village in West Footscray, which will provide a home for more than 40 women, as well as their partners and carers.

The Labor Government is investing \$17.3 million in the Footscray Lions Co-operative Village through the Big Housing Build's partnership approach to social housing delivery, the Social Housing Growth Fund.

The United Housing Co-operative (UHC) has partnered with the Lions Club of Footscray on the project. They will jointly own the site, with UHC to manage the tenancies. The village will use a housing co-operative model, where residents are empowered to help run and maintain the properties.

The village will feature 49 one and two-bedroom apartments, built over three storeys and will predominately house women over the age of 55 in need of secure and affordable housing. The redevelopment will include a community facility, a community garden and orchard, and solar power.

The existing residents of the old Lions Village have been relocated for the redevelopment. These residents will be given priority for a home at this site if they wish to return once the project is completed.

This redevelopment is part of a record investment in housing by Government. Through the Big Housing Build's \$5.3 billion program, Homes Victoria is on track to deliver more than 12,000 new social and affordable homes for Victorians.

In just over two years of the Big Housing Build, more than 7,400 homes have been completed or are underway, and over 1,700 households have either moved or are getting ready to move into brand new homes.

### Quotes attributable to Minister for Housing Colin Brooks

*"Everyone deserves the safety and security of a roof over their head. This development will provide women at risk of or experiencing homelessness with the shelter, dignity and support they need when they need it most."*

*"Our record investment in social housing and homelessness services is providing a life-changing helping hand to those at risk."*