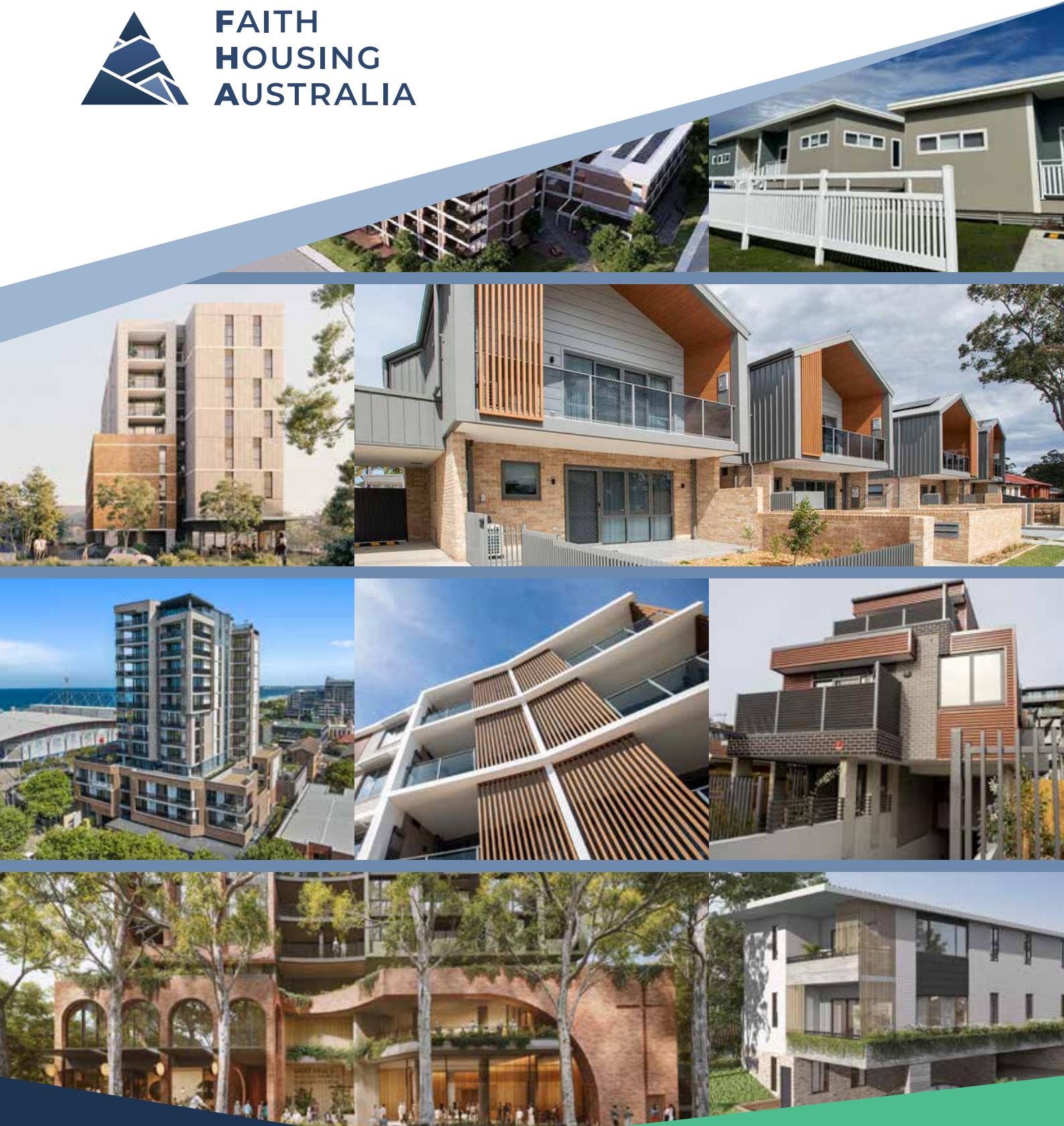




FAITH  
HOUSING  
AUSTRALIA



2024-25

**Annual Impact Report**  
**Faith in Action, Homes for All**

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*Image:* Faith Housing Australia Chair, Rob Stokes welcomes members at our Thought Leaders in Conversation event.

## Message from the Chair and CEO

Faith communities are part of a global movement responding to the housing crisis. Around the world, churches, mosques, synagogues and temples are recognising that their greatest assets are not only their moral voice, but their land, buildings, and long-term commitment to community.

In Australia, faith groups are uniquely placed to help unlock well-located, underutilised sites for housing. These places are close to transport, schools, jobs and services and have deep community connections. Adding social and affordable housing is not only possible — it is essential.

Through Faith Housing Australia, we are seeing what happens when vision meets opportunity: faith groups offering underutilised land, community housing providers delivering quality homes, and governments investing at scale. This collaboration is reshaping what is possible. It positions faith communities as indispensable partners in solving one of our nation's greatest challenges.

The task ahead remains daunting, but so too is the opportunity. With imagination, courage and trust, faith-owned resources can be transformed into homes that change lives and strengthen communities.

The Hon. Dr Rob Stokes, Chair

“

The faith housing sector is an indispensable partner in solving the housing crisis.

Nelson Mandela once said, “As long as poverty, injustice and gross inequality persist in our world, none of us can truly rest.”

Faith communities have carried that truth for generations — often quietly, as a hidden pillar of social support. Imagine a world where faith organisations withdrew their programs, housing and advocacy. The impact would be immediate and devastating.

Faith Housing Australia exists to amplify, connect and sustain this collective mission. The launch of our Creating Change 2025–2029 Strategy gives an even sharper focus to this work — to champion housing justice, connect for impact and catalyse change.

Our members' record speaks loudly. This year alone, they delivered more than 750 new homes, providing safe housing for over 1,125 people. They also secured more than 10 per cent of the homes in HAFF Round 1 pipeline — a powerful signal of the sector's capacity to scale. This momentum is built on centuries of service: from Wesley Mission's first housing efforts in 1815 to today's nationwide network of faith-based providers and the professional partners who strengthen their work.

Record investment alone will not solve the crisis. With more than 185,000 households waiting for public housing nationally, and less than 1 per cent of rentals affordable to someone earning the minimum wage. Our strategy answers this challenge with resolve — scaling models that work, strengthening partnerships, and pushing for long-term policy and investment reform.

We stand on the shoulders of those who came before us, to provide hope and homes to see communities flourish for generations to come.

Rose Thomson, CEO



## The Faith Housing Sector: A high-impact contributor to Australia's housing

### A National Engine for Scalable Growth

Faith-based Community Housing Providers (CHPs) are actively expanding, with development pipelines ready to activate across every state and territory. These providers are well-positioned to contribute to national housing targets under the National Housing Accord and the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF).

Examples of planned growth:

- Mission Australia Housing aims to double its portfolio to 10,000 homes by 2030
- Anglicare Sydney plans to quadruple its portfolio to 4,000 homes over the next decade
- Similar expansion strategies are underway in Queensland, Victoria, Tasmania, WA, and the ACT

The message is clear: capacity exists, land exists, and ambition exists – targeted investment is the missing piece.

### Why Faith-Based Providers are Ideal Government Partners

#### 1. Scale and Stewardship

Faith organisations hold land assets in every jurisdiction and operate with mission-aligned governance and long-term stewardship models

Faith-based CHPs represent just 15% of all providers, yet deliver 21% of all CHP-managed homes – a disproportionately high contribution from a relatively small cohort..

#### 2. Integrated Service Networks

Faith-based CHPs offer more than housing – they deliver wraparound support through national networks of trusted services.

These networks:

- Sustain tenancies
- Strengthen wellbeing
- Prevent repeat homelessness

This aligns with government priorities for tenancy sustainment, early intervention, and place-based service integration.

#### 3. Consistent Outperformance

Faith-based CHPs routinely exceed sector benchmarks. For example:

- BaptistCare NSW achieved a 94% tenant satisfaction score, well above the sector benchmark of 75%

This reflects strong tenant trust, stability, and service quality – key indicators for government investment.

### A Proven Partner – Ready to Scale

Faith-based CHPs are delivering more with less – mobilising land, capability, and service networks to deliver housing where it's needed most.

With targeted government partnership – through mechanisms such as the Housing Australia Future Fund, state-based land activation programs, and place-based investment strategies – this sector can unlock thousands of new homes, rapidly and cost-effectively.

Faith-based CHPs are ready to scale. With the right investment, they can deliver housing outcomes that are efficient, equitable, and enduring.

## Our members provide homes for

# 65,000

people across the housing continuum, including

# 28,000

tenants in community  
and specialist housing

# 13,000

seniors in retirement living

# 24,000

people in aged care

# 1 in 5

Community Housing homes in Australia  
is delivered by a faith-based organisation

Members also support more than

# 90,000

clients through specialist  
homelessness services each year

Through the work of

# 57,000

staff across a diverse range  
of community services and

# 40,000

volunteers making a  
real difference

## DATA ANALYSIS

### Holy Grail of Housing Solutions: Faith-owned land poised to jump-start transit-linked housing pipeline



#### QLD, NSW, SA, WA analysis of RP Data owned by faith entities

- Total land area ~28.4 million sqm across 9,850 properties.
- Large parcels (>3,000 sqm) Over 3,200 identified, presenting significant potential for housing inclusion.
- Transit-oriented opportunities 2,430 sites within 800m of train stations; 890 of these are large parcels.
- Hotspot concentrations of high-potential sites around key metropolitan centres and regional growth areas in each state.

Note: this preliminary analysis includes sites beyond Places of Worship

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**Let's turn sacred ground into shared ground—creating compact homes next to railway platforms rather than sprawling suburbs next to cow paddocks.**



Faith Housing Australia's preliminary analysis uncovers a powerful opportunity hidden in plain sight: faith-owned land within 800 metres of train stations, primed for a new wave of well-located housing.

Across NSW, QLD, SA and WA, 2,430 faith-owned properties sit inside walkable transit catchments, including 890 large parcels over 3,000 sqm—ideal for compact, mixed-use, transit-oriented precincts.

But without planning and funding reform, these sites remain under-utilised. FHA is calling for zoning flexibility, rolling HAFF rounds with staged applications, and early-stage feasibility funding to reduce risk and unlock redevelopment pathways for faith organisations.

With these changes, faith-sector partnerships could deliver 20,000+ new homes within 5-10 years on land already held in community trust.

St Paul's Bankstown HAFF project shows what's possible: a 185-home precinct co-locating housing, community space and a rebuilt church—delivered on a rail-linked site in Sydney's southwest.

*Image: St John's Anglican Darlinghurst unlocked vacant land next to a heritage church for homelessness support for older adults.*

## NEW RESEARCH

### Australians Put Their Faith in Housing Solutions – Happy to See It Built Next Door

A new national survey shows Australians overwhelmingly back faith-led solutions to the housing crisis – and want governments to unlock underused land to make it happen.

Commissioned by Faith Housing Australia, the McCrindle Omnibus Poll reveals near-universal public support: 92% agree repurposing underutilised or disused faith-owned land would help address the crisis; 88% support faith communities using their land for affordable and social housing; and 83% would welcome these developments in their own neighbourhoods.

The findings come as new analysis identifies 747 faith-owned sites near train stations across NSW alone — land that could deliver up to 20,000 affordable homes but is currently restricted by outdated zoning that limits use to religious purposes only.

Australians clearly see faith communities as trusted, practical partners, with 85% saying they are well placed to support affordable housing initiatives. The message is unmistakable: the public is ready — now governments must unlock the land.

**mcgrindle**

- **92% agree (strongly/somewhat/slightly) that repurposing underutilised and disused faith land can help address the housing crisis**
- **88% support faith communities using their land to create affordable/social housing**
- **83% welcome such developments in their own neighbourhoods**
- **85% agree that faith groups are well placed to support affordable housing initiatives**
- **88% believe this is a practical and scalable solution**

# Housing Project Pipeline

Faith Housing Australia members have an impressive pipeline of housing projects at various stages of development, all aimed at addressing the housing crisis. These projects encompass estate renewals, new affordable housing developments, and innovative initiatives tailored for specific cohorts. Here are just a few of their upcoming projects.



## Building Big in Toowoomba, QLD

Mission Australia Housing has started construction on a major new precinct delivering 185 social and affordable homes across four mid-rise buildings. Backed by the Queensland Government, the project includes 89 social and 96 affordable dwellings—contributing to the state's target of 53,500 new homes by 2044. Minister Sam O'Connor called it “the power and potential of community housing partnerships,” underscoring the urgency to grow supply statewide.



## A \$60M Partnership Powerhouse, ACT

Wesley Mission's transformative \$60 million Curtin development received approval this year, paving the way for 83 affordable rentals—kept below 75% of market rent—and 15 supported independent living units for people experiencing mental illness. Enabled by a multi-partner collaboration between the ACT Government, Housing Australia, Woden Valley Uniting Church, the MyHome committee and the Uniting Church, the project shows how faith-led land can unlock long-term community benefit.

## Safety, Security and a Fresh Start, NSW

Hume Community Housing has begun construction on a landmark project delivering 66 new homes for women and children escaping domestic violence, older women at risk, and key frontline workers. Supported by Housing Australia, Homes NSW and Parramatta Council, the multi-site development exemplifies cross-sector partnership. Homes will be allocated in partnership with Women's Community Shelters and the Immigrant Women's Speakout Association.



## Transforming a Former Church into 74 New Social Homes, NSW

Sydney Anglican Property has progressed the redevelopment of the former Regents Park Anglican Church into 74 social housing units operated by Anglicare Sydney. Designed for single women over 55 and families affected by domestic violence, the project includes more than 500 sqm of communal space to strengthen connection and belonging. Partially funded through the Housing Australia Future Fund, it aligns with NSW low- and mid-rise reforms announced in early 2025.



## Hobart Homes With Heart, TAS

Construction has commenced on St Vincent de Paul Society Housing Australia's 38-unit development in Argyle Street, providing long-term, secure housing for women over 55 on the Housing Register. The \$16.7 million project is backed by \$13.36 million from the Social Housing Accelerator Program, plus contributions from St Vincent de Paul and a Housing Australia loan. With studios centred around a vertical garden and a rooftop green space, the project strongly aligns with Tasmania's strategy to expand housing for women.



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**Faith-based providers will deliver more than 10% of successful Round 1 Housing Australia Future Fund projects.**



Images: (Left) St Paul's Bankstown - a bold Sydney Anglican Property redevelopment backed by Round 1 of the Housing Australia Future Fund.

(Right) Faith-based HAFF Project Maps by Urban Bio.

## NEW REPORT

# Unlocking Mission-Driven Housing: Strengthening the Housing Australia Future Fund through faith sector partnerships

Unlocking Mission-Driven Housing outlines a clear, evidence-based roadmap to improve the effectiveness of the Housing Australia Future Fund (HAFF) by enabling faith-based and mission-driven organisations to contribute more significantly to national housing supply. FHA members already provide homes for over 62,700 tenants and support more than 83,800 people through specialist homelessness services, yet face persistent barriers in planning, financing and program accessibility.

The report calls for HAFF program design to better reflect the development lifecycle — including staged application pathways, rolling or quarterly assessments, conditional approvals tied to DA milestones, and dedicated pre-development funding to progress high-potential sites. FHA emphasises the need for a more flexible AHBA investment mandate that recognises the public value of social housing and supports projects that fall outside traditional commercial credit settings.

Future rounds should introduce targeted allocations for regional, remote, Indigenous-led and faith-based providers, backed by multi-year investment plans to build certainty and sector confidence. The report further urges national leadership through a coordinated National Housing Plan, improved Commonwealth-State alignment, and integrated support services to sustain tenancies.

With these reforms, and by unlocking underutilised faith-owned land and adaptive reuse opportunities, FHA estimates the sector could deliver more than 20,000 new homes within 5–10 years.



## A Presbytery Reborn into a Place of Independence and Belonging

What was once a vacant presbytery in Tighes Hill is now a vibrant shared home for young people with disability – thanks to a partnership between Hunter Community Housing (HCH), St Benedict's Inner Newcastle Parish and Muru Pathways.

Justin, a talented graphic artist and the first tenant to move in after finishing his animation studies at TAFE, says the home has given him space to grow. “I’m enjoying the independence and learning routines like cooking and cleaning. I just like relaxing and doing my drawings and art,” he says.

The Parish recognised their unused presbytery could serve the community in a new way. With HCH guiding everything from tenancy regulations to safety requirements, and Muru bringing its vision for supported independent living, the historic eight-bedroom home was thoughtfully transformed – including new kitchen facilities and refreshed bathrooms.

Today, five young men call the house home. They are building routines, confidence and community – exploring their neighbourhood, nurturing their interests, and preparing for future mainstream housing.

For St Benedict's Parish, it is a living expression of mission: a historic building given new purpose, and a partnership delivering dignity, independence and a genuine sense of belonging.

**Image:** Newcastle City Pastoral Region Moderator, Father John Lovell and Travis Borg of Muru Pathways.



## Member Highlights

### 48 New Crisis Beds for Women and Families Escaping Violence

Muslim Women Australia has opened 48 new crisis beds across two Core and Cluster refuges in the Canterbury-Bankstown region, expanding essential support for women and families fleeing violence. The new sites offer secure, self-contained accommodation suited to larger and multi-generational households, backed by culturally safe, trauma-informed services. With access to counselling, legal and immigration support, residents can begin recovery with dignity. CEO Hajeh Maha Abdo OAM describes the model as providing “privacy without isolation and dignified support for recovery.”

### Toowoomba: A \$17M Development Strengthening Local Safety Nets

A new \$17 million development in Toowoomba by Salvation Army Housing has delivered 23 homes—19 one-bedroom and four two-bedroom units—co-funded through Queensland's Partnering for Growth program. Built on a long-held Salvation Army site, it includes a 100m<sup>2</sup> community care space run by Toowoomba Corps. Designed to support downsizing households and ease pressure on larger homes, the project responds to rising rents, persistent social housing demand and escalating family and domestic violence in the region.

### A Landmark Retirement-to-Affordable Housing Transition

Uniting NSW.ACT is delivering one of Australia's largest retirement housing conversions—40 villages transitioning into affordable rental communities. Once complete, the program will provide 1,700 independent living units across 68 villages, offering secure tenure and accessible design for older people priced out of the private market. This sits alongside Uniting's delivery of 600 purpose-built homes for lower-income seniors, reinforcing its commitment to housing solutions that integrate support, wellbeing and independence.

**Images:** (Top to Bottom) Minister for Social Services Tanya Plibersek, MWA CEO Hajeh Maha Abdo and Minister and Member for Bankstown Jihad Dib. Minister for Housing and Public Works, Sam O'Connor and Territorial Commander Miriam Gluyas. Uniting Pendle Hill has been identified as a rental village.





### A Bold 2030 Plan for 10,000 Homes

Mission Australia's 2030 Strategy sets an ambitious national agenda: doubling its community housing portfolio to 10,000 homes. The plan prioritises high-quality, well-designed housing for people on very low to moderate incomes, supported by five new programs spanning youth homelessness to long-term options for people with complex needs. With strong investment in early intervention and community development, Mission Australia is strengthening tenant wellbeing and long-term stability across its neighbourhoods.



### A National Merger Strengthening Housing Capacity

BaptistCare (NSW, ACT, WA), Baptcare (VIC, TAS, SA) and Baptist Care SA united on 1 March 2025 to form a single national care provider—marking a milestone in the Baptist movement's social impact. Integration is underway, supported by cross-state collaboration and system alignment. In February, BaptistCare created BaptistCare Community Housing Limited, consolidating all housing into one dedicated national entity. Tenant satisfaction in NSW reached 94%, far exceeding the 75% sector benchmark.



### A 4,000-Home Vision to Tackle Housing Need

Anglicare Sydney is accelerating its response to the housing crisis through a new Housing Business Unit led by the Hon. Rob Stokes. The organisation is advancing a strategy to grow its portfolio to 4,000 homes over the next decade, expanding beyond its traditional focus on seniors at risk of homelessness to include essential workers. The opening of Forestview in Dapto, with 51 new affordable units for older residents, signals this momentum and growing impact across high-need communities.

*Images: (Top to Bottom) Mission Australia CEO, Sharon Callister. BaptistCare CEO Charles Moore and Chair Tim Farren. Opening of Anglicare Forestview with Anglicare Sydney CEO Simon Miller, resident Fran and FHA CEO Rose Thomson.*

## Nightingale Marrickville: A year of belonging, stability and community

**In April 2024, Fresh Hope Communities opened the doors to Nightingale Marrickville – its first affordable housing project and a milestone partnership with Nightingale Housing. One year on, the impact is unmistakable. With close to 100 per cent occupancy and a resident retention rate of nearly 90 per cent, the 54-apartment development has become a place where stability translates into wellbeing, connection and pride.**

Today, 58 residents call the building home. Their most common words for the past year—secure, safe, friendly, home—reflect a profound shift after years of housing stress. For many, affordability and long-term security have eased financial pressure, shortened commutes and offered space to plan for the future. Shared initiatives such as the resident-run Giving Table, community meals and collective internet access have further strengthened financial resilience.

Community life is thriving: more than 75 per cent of residents participate in regular gatherings, from Soup Nights and Friday drinks to craft circles, film evenings and cultural celebrations. A neighbour reaches out for help or shares resources every three days—evidence of deepening trust and belonging.

Despite challenges inherent in pioneering a new model in Sydney, residents and partners alike are confident. Multiple national and global awards now recognise Nightingale Marrickville as a benchmark in inclusive design and sustainable, community-centred housing—proof of what's possible when affordability, dignity and connection come first.



*Image: Nightingale Marrickville communal kitchen, dining and terrace supplement the small footprint homes.*

## 2024-25 FHA Timeline

### Member Events & Announcements

- Jul-Sep 2024 Membership consultations for new Strategic Plan
- 15 Aug 2024 Inner West Council Forum with Mayor Darcy Byrne
- 10 Sep 2024 CEO Gathering with Rebecca Pinkstone, CEO Homes NSW
- 26 Sep 2024 Public rollout of new name: Faith Housing Australia
- 3 Oct 2024 HAFF Round 1 Debrief
- 11 Nov 2024 HAFF Alternative Capital Solutions Event
- 2 Dec 2024 AGM + Thought Leaders in Conversation with Minister Clare O'Neil & Justice Kevin Bell; launch of Creating Change 2025-2029 Strategic Plan
- 27 Mar 2025 Pre-Election Federal Budget Briefing
- 9 Apr 2025 Executive Roundtable with Senator Andrew Bragg
- 30 Apr 2025 City of Sydney Forum with Chief Planner Graham Jahn



### Policy & Submission Milestones

- July 2024 Expanding SP2 Permissible Uses Submission
- Aug 2024 National Housing and Homelessness Plan Bill Submission
- Sep 2024 National Housing Infrastructure Facility Submission
- Dec 2024 NSW Pre-Budget Submission
- Jan 2025 Homes for NSW Plan Submission
- June 2025 Inner West: Our Fairer Future Plan Submission

**Images:** (Top to Bottom) Inner West Mayor Darcy Byrne hosts workshop for FHA members. FHA Chair Rob Stokes with The Hon Kevin Bell AO KC. CEO of Homes NSW Rebecca Pinkstone shakes hands with FHA CEO Rose Thomson. Members with Minister Clare O'Neil. Minister Clare O'Neil gives the keynote address at FHA's Thought Leaders in Conversation Event.

# Meet the Board

## The Hon Rob Stokes

### Board Chair

### LLM MSc PhD (Environmental & Planning Law)

**Dr Rob Stokes** is an urbanist and recognised thought leader on sustainable urban development. He served as Australia's first-ever minister for Active Transport with the NSW Government, and also served as minister for Planning, Public Spaces, Cities, Infrastructure, Transport, Education, Environment and Heritage in a political career spanning more than 15 years.

A qualified lawyer, Rob has read sustainable urban development at Oxford and completed a PhD in planning law under a Commonwealth Scholarship. He is a regular columnist on cities and planning and has written over 20 articles in referred books and journals.

He was announced as a member of the Albanese Government's Urban Policy Forum in May 2023 and confirmed as Chair of Faith Housing Australia in July 2023.



## Hajeh Maha Krayem Abdo OAM

### B Social Work, M Soc Sc (Youth Services), Grad Dip Family Dispute Resolution

Maha is a passionate advocate for social justice and serves as the CEO of Muslim Women Australia (MWA), a representative body for Muslim women working to enrich humanity, advocating for equality and the rights of all women.

Maha represents and gives voice to Muslim women abroad as well as in Australia. She advises government on policy, services and strategies. In 2016 Maha was the NSW Seniors Week Ambassador as well as the BreastScreen NSW Ambassador. In 2015, Maha was a finalist for the Australian Human Rights Commission's Human Rights Medal; in 2014, she was the NSW Human Rights Ambassador.



## Antony Anisse

### B Economics/B Laws, Harvard Grad Program in Real Estate Investment and Development

Antony is the Co-Founder of Good Housing and acts as the Chief Executive Officer. He is an experienced public-private executive with a record of strong social and economic outcomes in major urban renewal projects, including Parramatta Square, Riverbank and the Civic Link Projects.

He has previously held senior positions in private development firms, Local and State Government, and the Urban Growth Development Corporation. Antony was elected to the Hornsby Shire Council in September 2012, an office he held until September 2017. He had oversight of the formation of new town centres and the creation of new social and recreational infrastructure, including the transformation of Hornsby Quarry and Storey Park Community Centre.



## Cheri Erai-Collins

### Treasurer

### B Sc (Finance)

Cheri is the State Manager at Salvos Housing NSW | QLD | ACT. She works with the senior leadership teams on strategy and business development at Salvation Army Australia and with external partners on new programs and property projects. Cheri is an experienced accountant with almost 15 years working in the Community and Not-for-profit sectors in the UK and Australia.

Her most recent accomplishment is the delivery of the Chermside Salvation Army Complex – a powerful partnership with a \$5.5 million donation from philanthropist Doug Corey through his charity, the Corey Charitable Foundation offering affordable accommodation to applicants who had been sleeping rough.



## Simon Furness GAICD

### BSc (Hons) Civil Engineering, MBA

Simon is a member of Uniting's Executive Leadership Team as Director of Property and Housing. He is responsible for the development and life-cycle management of Uniting's large property portfolio which supports the delivery of a wide range of aged care, disability, children and family services across NSW and ACT. He is also responsible for the operation and performance of Uniting's housing services across its 89 villages.

In his earlier career, Simon worked in a range of blue-chip corporations and government authorities whose success depended heavily on infrastructure and property assets. He has enjoyed opportunities that transform property portfolios to improve business performance and create value. His early career was as a British Officer in the Royal Engineers and later the Royal Australian Engineers.



## The Hon Graham West

### B Comm (Management Studies), B IT (Information Technology), M International Studies with Merit (Human Rights, Public Policy)

Graham is the CEO of St Vincent de Paul Society Housing Australia. With over 25 years' experience in the NFP and Government sectors as a CEO, Government Minister, Member of Parliament, Board Member and Chair, Graham has a proven track record of achieving transformative outcomes in the social sector, leading and championing change, and advocating for greater investment in social housing and homelessness support services.

He established the End Street Sleeping Collaboration, negotiating an international agreement with NGOs, NSW Government, City of Sydney and the Institute of Global Homelessness to halve street homelessness across NSW by 2025.



## New Board Members in 2025

### Anne Duggan

#### Public Officer

LLB, BBus, LLM (Hons – International Business & Construction), MBA, GradDip

Legal Practice, GAICD, CA, CPP

**Anne is an experienced non-executive director and senior executive with more than 25 years of leadership across infrastructure, social housing and construction.**

She has held executive and advisory roles spanning government, not-for-profit and commercial sectors, with a strong focus on strategy, governance and complex project delivery. Anne has led major infrastructure and housing initiatives, negotiated large-scale public-private partnerships, and driven organisational transformation across diverse portfolios including health, education, transport and community services.

Her career has included senior positions in investment banking, construction and government, where she has provided high-level guidance on capital structuring, asset management and social-impact investment. She is currently a Partner at RTG Capital, leading transaction development, commercial and financial advisory for social impact projects and more broadly across the social and economic infrastructure sectors.

Anne is passionate about building partnerships that unlock social value and create lasting community benefit through thoughtful, purpose-driven development.



### Sean Macken

#### B Arts (History), M Public Policy

**Sean is an experienced urban policy and planning professional with over 30 years' experience spanning government, industry and advocacy. He most recently served as Senior Policy Adviser to the Hon Clare O'Neil MP, Minister for Housing and Homelessness, leading work on national housing and urban policy reform.**

He has held senior roles as Managing Director of Macken Strategic Planning Solutions, Director of Government Relations at Hawker Britton, and Senior Adviser to NSW Planning and Housing Minister Dr Andrew Refshauge. His local government service includes nine years as a South Sydney Council Councillor, where he chaired the Planning Committee and oversaw delivery of the Green Square masterplan.

Sean co-authored Homes for All for the McKell Institute and chaired the Urban Taskforce Planning Reform Committee, contributing to major reforms in planning policy. He brings deep expertise, policy insight and a collaborative approach to advancing housing and planning reform across Australia.



## Retiring Board Members

We thank our retiring Board members for their service and stewardship, and for the lasting impact they have made on FHA's mission.

### Rob Burnelev

#### Immediate Past Board Chair

B Eng (Civil Engineering), MBA

**Rob is the Chief Housing Officer at Anglicare Sydney where he established their community housing operations and now oversees a large development program.**

An experienced senior manager in community housing and not-for-profit organisations.

In 2013, Rob established the community and affordable housing operations for Salvos Housing Australia across NSW and went on to expand operations to Queensland and the ACT, prior to his role at Anglicare.



### Lisa Ellis

#### Public Officer

B Arts (Community Development)

**Lisa is the Head of Housing Services and Community Engagement at City West Housing. Previously, Lisa served as Head of Community Housing at Wesley Mission, managing a portfolio of housing which includes crisis accommodation and transitional housing, through to social and affordable housing. She has over 14 years' experience working in Not-for-profit and government organisations including community housing, health services (cancer control and prevention), disabilities and aged care.**

Her roles have focussed on operational management, tenancy management, community engagement, quality assurance and risk management. Her approach includes providing community housing with a whole-of-person mindset, rather than a transactional real estate model.



### Mark Nutting

B Arch (Architecture), MTP (Town and Country Planning)

**Mark has had a long career in the NSW Government advising on housing policy, strategic resource allocation and service improvement. As a former senior officer in the Department of Family and Community Services (and its many iterations), he led the design phase of the housing common access project that is now known as Housing Pathways. He has led housing and homelessness policy reforms, inter-government negotiations, research and funding of social and affordable housing programs.**

Mark began his career in community housing helping to establish the Eastern Suburbs Rental Housing Association (now a part of Bridge Housing) in 1983. He is currently the Strategic Planning Manager of the Southern Regional of Councils undertaking advocacy and policy work on behalf of member councils.



# Meet the Team

## Rose Thomson

**Chief Executive Officer (on leave 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026)**

AD Arts (Org. Training & Devpt), M Lead (Change Leadership),  
Harvard Leadership Program

Rose worked in the higher education sector for 16 years, which culminated in a global role as Director of External Relations at the University of Newcastle (UON).

After ten years at UON, she helped establish the Institute of Civil Infrastructure as Director of Professional Programs for the peak body, the Civil Contractors Federation.

She has considerable senior leadership experience, a proven capacity to work and deliver outcomes in complex and challenging environments and an impressive track record of high-level stakeholder engagement and advocacy on a state, national and international level.



## Amanda Bailey

**Head of Advocacy and Communications (Acting CEO 1 July 2025 - 30 June 2026)**

MBA

Amanda is an accomplished public affairs executive across strategic communications, public relations and stakeholder engagement. She has more than ten years' experience delivering highly successful campaigns in both the corporate and not-for-profit sectors, focusing on social impact and advocacy.

Amanda led the team to develop Wesley Mission's renewed advocacy strategy, enabling collaborations from service experts and voices of lived experience to launch the 'Put Pokies in Their Place' platform. From a standing start, poker machine reform became a major election issue in the 2023 NSW State Election, with the campaign receiving more than 2,000 pieces of earned media coverage, an estimated reach of more than two billion and leading to significant philanthropic contributions.



## Kirsty Maher

**Membership Operations Manager**

BBus (Event Management)

Kirsty is an experienced membership and engagement professional with a strong track record in improving member experience, streamlining operations, and driving community growth.

With deep expertise in stakeholder management and member experience, Kirsty is instrumental in strengthening FHA's national footprint and enhancing value for members, sponsors and partners aligned with mission-driven housing.



## Brian Murnane

**FHA Patron**

Brian Murnane is one of the great housing advocates who helped establish Churches Community Housing in the 1990s - what was to later become Churches Housing and is now Faith Housing Australia.

Since that time, Brian has continued to play a central role with our organisation, serving on the Board for decades and as Board Chair from 2011 to 2015. He continued his service on the Board until January 2022 and now continues his support as our first Ambassador.

Brian has dedicated much of his life to improving housing services and outcomes for our community's most vulnerable and has played an instrumental role in shaping the community housing sector over the last 40 years.

We are very grateful for his long contribution and ongoing work with Faith Housing Australia.



## FINANCIAL REPORT

## Assets, Liabilities and Members' Funds

FAITH HOUSING AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED  
A.B.N. 94 142 146 245

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
AS AT 30TH JUNE 2025

2024	2025	Notes
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
113,861.53	149,527.17	2
7,641.96	20,774.35	3
3,129.50	5,500.00	4
<b>TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>175,801.52</b>	
<b>NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
8,313.57	5,845.06	5
23,813.00	6,036.00	6
1,000.00	-	7
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>	<b>11,881.06</b>	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>187,682.58</b>	
<b>CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
18,085.00	6,578.00	
35,159.03	68,557.18	8
50,000.00	-	9
-	5,000.00	10
<b>TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>80,135.18</b>	
<b>NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		
6,355.00	-	
6,355.00	-	
<b>TOTAL NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>	<b>-</b>	
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>80,135.18</b>	
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>107,547.40</b>	
<b>MEMBERS FUNDS</b>		
48,160.53	107,547.40	11
<b>TOTAL MEMBERS' FUNDS</b>	<b>107,547.40</b>	

## FINANCIAL REPORT

## Income and Expenditure

FAITH HOUSING AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED  
A.B.N. 94 142 146 245

STATEMENT OF PROFIT OR LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30TH JUNE 2025

2024	2025
\$	\$
<b>INCOME</b>	
373,978.01	Government Grants Received (Recurrent) 388,002.18
-	Other Grants Received - CHIDSP 50,000.00
-	Interest Income 523.65
24,526.00	Membership Fees Income 77,805.00
-	Other Income 77.35
398,504.01	<b>Total Income</b> 516,408.18
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>	
1,100.00	Audit Fees 1,150.00
10,500.00	Accounting Services 12,000.00
78.38	Bank Charges 169.42
21,581.64	Computer Software / Website Maintenance 17,717.00
1,489.33	Contactors & Consultants 19,600.00
5,424.55	Conferences & Meetings 10,196.63
20,818.29	Depreciation and Amortisation 20,742.51
513.18	Electricity Expenses 125.89
4,075.65	Insurance 4,464.72
1,609.00	Interest Lease 1,296.00
4,914.53	Legal Fees -
13.27	Loss on Sale of Assets -
10,974.81	Marketing & Communication 26,716.49
1,265.84	Miscellaneous Expenses 718.99
2,513.31	Office Supplies 337.76
296,003.48	Salaries & Wages 283,798.61
(1,377.07)	Provision for Annual & Long Service Leave (4,194.57)
-	Research & Survey Expenses 4,000.00
966.91	Staff Amenities, Functions & Gifts 786.80
1,807.36	Staff Development Costs 868.18
32,557.36	Superannuation 32,636.70
2,462.85	Workers Compensation Insurance 2,982.02
7,382.80	Rent 7,218.35
1,914.57	Subscriptions 8,503.43
1,301.12	Telephone / Internet Expenses 1,091.94
2,189.01	Travel Expenses 4,094.44
432,080.17	<b>Total Expenditure</b> 457,021.31
(33,576.16)	<b>Profit/(loss) from ordinary activities</b> 59,386.87
-	<b>Other Comprehensive Income for the year</b> -
(33,576.16)	<b>Total Comprehensive Income for the year</b> 59,386.87
(33,576.16)	<b>Profit/(loss) attributable to the members of the entity</b> 59,386.87
(33,576.16)	<b>Total Comprehensive Income attributable to members of the entity</b> 59,386.87

# Independent Auditor's Report



## INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT TO THE MEMBERS OF

### FAITH HOUSING AUSTRALIA INCORPORATED A.B.N. 94 142 146 245

#### Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Faith Housing Australia Incorporated, which comprises the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2025, the statement of profit or loss and other comprehensive income, statement of changes in members' funds and statement of cash flows for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of material accounting policies, and the statement by committee of management.

In our opinion, the financial report of Faith Housing Australia Incorporated has been prepared in accordance with Division 60 of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012, including:

- (a) giving a true and fair view of the association's financial position as at 30 June, 2025 and of its financial performance for the year then ended; and
- (b) complying with Australian Accounting Standards to the extent described in Note 1 and the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Regulation 2022.

#### Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the association in accordance with the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110: Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

#### Emphasis of Matter - Basis of Accounting and Restriction on Distribution and Use

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared for the purpose of fulfilling Faith Housing Alliance Incorporated's financial reporting responsibilities under the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

#### Responsibilities of the Committee of Management for the Financial Report

The committee of management of Faith Housing Australia Incorporated is responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and have determined that the basis of preparation described in Note 1 to the financial report is appropriate to meet the needs of the requirements of the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 and is appropriate to meet the needs of the members. The committee of management's responsibility also includes such internal control as the committee of management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of a financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, the committee of management is responsible for assessing Faith Housing Alliance Incorporated's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the committee of management either intend to liquidate Faith Housing Alliance Incorporated or to cease operations, or have no realistic alternative but to do so.

#### Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of this financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the association's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the committee of management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of the Committee of Management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the association's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the association to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with the committee of management regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.

THOMAS DAVIS & CO.

J.G. RYAN PARTNER

Chartered Accountants

SYDNEY,  
29 October, 2025

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## Creating Change 2025-2029

Led by the Board and developed with member input, Faith Housing Australia's five-year strategy came into effect from January 2025. This plan will focus on three key strategic priorities:

### Championing Housing Justice

**Strategic Goal** Amplify our strong, consistent voice advocating for homes for all

#### Lead Strategies

1. Advocate for a holistic human rights framework for housing.
2. Demonstrate the value of the faith housing sector to meet housing needs across the continuum.
3. Influence policy direction to deliver a thriving housing system and conditions for sector growth.
4. Promote diversity and inclusion, prioritising marginalised and vulnerable populations and addressing systemic inequities for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples.

### Connecting For Impact

**Strategic Goal** Harness the unified power of a diverse membership to build capacity and leverage collective wisdom and resources

#### Lead Strategies

1. Grow a high-quality faith housing sector through knowledge exchange, innovation and best practice.
2. Commission research and develop models from practitioner-based evidence to improve service effectiveness.
3. Convene opportunities for dynamic member partnerships and consortia to sharpen capability and outcomes.
4. Engage faith communities and provide expertise to revitalise underutilised land and assets for community benefit, including housing and services to support residents

### Catalysing Change

**Strategic Goal** Advance collaborations to deliver housing at scale and solutions to break cycles of homelessness and poverty

#### Lead Strategies

1. Attract and mobilise resources from diverse sources, including governments and agencies, philanthropic funders and private sector partners.
2. Initiate and coordinate projects and pilot programs that remove barriers to housing delivery and demonstrate replicability.
3. Build effective coalitions to shape a more collaborative, informed and sustainable housing sector.
4. Establish evaluation frameworks to track progress and ensure accountability, raising the reputation of the faith housing sector.

# Stories of Hope

Faith Housing Australia members are transforming lives every day through stories of hope that show the true impact of safe, secure housing. These stories highlight the compassion, perseverance and practical support offered by faith-led providers across the country. Each one illustrates what becomes possible when someone finally has a place to call home. Here are just a few of the lives changed this year.



## Trisha's Story

At 70, Trisha arrived in NSW with nothing but courage, fleeing violence and hoping for safety. Uniting NSW.ACT welcomed her into Edina, a once-vacant aged care home transformed into warm, temporary housing for people in crisis. With her own room, a supportive community, and space to breathe, Trisha began to heal. Over ten months she rebuilt her confidence, secured permanent housing, reconnected with her daughter, and was finally reunited with her dog, Sprocket. Edina didn't just offer a bed — it restored dignity, stability, and hope.



## Fatima and Abishar's Story

After surviving unimaginable trauma in Somalia and years of separation, Fatima and Abishir arrived in Australia determined to rebuild their lives. When Salvation Army Housing assessed their situation, they were prioritised for a safe, accessible family home close to schools, services and relatives. Today, the couple and their children — including a grandchild with disability — finally have stability, supportive neighbours and the peace they longed for. For the first time in decades, Fatima says her family feels safe, welcome, and able to plan for the future.

## Jarrod's Story

At 22, Jarrod never imagined he'd be without a home. After being kicked out by his dad and struggling to hold a job while managing bipolar disorder, he drifted between parks, cars and friends' couches — surviving day to day, with nowhere that felt safe.

He first heard about Dom's Place from others sleeping rough. What he expected to be a clinical service turned out to be a lifeline: a warm, welcoming drop-in centre run by CatholicCare Diocese of Broken Bay where he could play guitar, share a meal, talk to people who understood, and simply exhale.

"Nobody judges here," he says. "Everyone's fighting their own battle."

With the steady support of Dom's Place, Jarrod now has temporary accommodation and — for the first time in years — a sense of direction. He's working toward completing a Cert IV in Mental Health, then a Diploma in Community Services, and getting his driver's licence.

He hopes to one day help others, just as he's being helped now.



