

Press Release

Date: Tuesday, 23 June 2020

New Housing Collaboration Welcomes Two New Partners and Provides Secure Housing for Nearly 20 Homeless Women

A new housing model which involves the collaboration of property owners, domestic violence services and community housing providers is delighted to welcome two new partners to their unique housing collaboration.

Twilight Aged Care and Link Housing will join founding partners, Women's Community Shelters, PAYCE Foundation and Bridge Housing as part of their newly created Pathways Home model.

Pathways Home is an innovative 'meanwhile use' venture that provides transitional housing to women and their children and older single women escaping domestic and family violence. It does this by identifying underutilised properties and repurposing them for transitional housing.

The goal is to provide stable, supported housing for women, their children and older single women as they rebuild their lives after experiences of homelessness and domestic and family violence.

The term 'meanwhile use' originates from the UK where it was used to describe vacant land and buildings that could be repurposed for cultural or community development purposes until they could be brought back into commercial use.

Beecroft House in Beecroft is a 'meanwhile' property that has been temporarily gifted by Twilight Aged Care with the specific purpose of refurbishing it to create transitional housing for women over 55.

The property, which is coming up to its first anniversary in August 2020, provides accommodation for twenty women over 55 for a period of up to 18 months, with exit pathways in place to support them.

This project adds to the existing five properties made available and supported by the PAYCE Foundation since 2017.

Speaking about the Pathways Home model, James Boyd, Director of the PAYCE Foundation said:

“Domestic violence continues to be one of society’s most pressing social challenges. The Pathways Home model provides a proven avenue for women to rebuild their lives, free from the fear of violence.

“I am pleased to see the program growing with new partnerships which will ensure more women and children can be assisted. There remains a bank of underutilised properties across Sydney and I would encourage more organisations to join the program that makes a real difference to the lives of women and children.”

Neil Wendt, CEO of Twilight Aged Care, commented: “We are delighted that Beecroft house, formerly Jamieson House, will be welcomed under the new Pathways Home model, which showcases the benefits of turning meanwhile properties into transitional housing for women escaping domestic violence and homelessness. Twilight Aged Care has been operating for over 105 years and was originally created to support vulnerable women.

“We can see no better way of utilising our buildings for such purposes and are delighted by the success of Beecroft House, and look forward to working with the project partners on future properties to provide even more wonderful, safe and secure homes for women in need.”

The number of older women experiencing homelessness has increased 31% between 2011–2016 and the Pathways Home model seeks to create an additional 100,000 bed nights over the next three years.

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Available for Interview: James Boyd, Director of the PAYCE Foundation and Neil Wendt, CEO, Twilight Aged Care.

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Notes to Editors:

About Women's Community Shelters:

Women's Community Shelters (WCS) offers vulnerable women at risk of homelessness or domestic violence shelter, active case management, support, dignity, self-esteem and a chance to start anew, through the establishment, operation and/or supervision and support of women's community shelters and low-cost accommodation. WCS currently have seven shelters based in Manly, Hornsby, Great Lakes, the Hills, Penrith, Botany and Parramatta. WCS underwrites up to 2/3 of each shelter's funding for the first two years and up to 50% per annum in the following years, with the remainder funded by the local community and philanthropy. WCS's vision is to expand their network to at least nine shelters across NSW by the end of 2020. As a charity WCS relies on vital donations and grants to fund their important work helping women and children in need. To make a donation call them on 0432 630 359, visit womenscommunityshelters.org.au/donate.

About PAYCE Foundation

PAYCE has a long history of supporting charities, working with vulnerable individuals and communities. In 2016, this work was formalised with the establishment of the PAYCE Foundation. Its charter is to empower charities to help more people live a fulfilling life. PAYCE Foundation supports charities working to find solutions to some of society's most pressing social problems, including addiction, domestic and family violence, mental health and disability, homelessness and social isolation.

About Twilight Aged Care

Twilight Aged Care has operated for over 100-years, in the northern suburbs of Sydney, as a not-for-profit, community based aged care provider, caring for the elderly and frail. Since humble beginnings in 1915, when a group of influential women responded to a need for better provision of care for elderly women, Twilight Aged Care have grown into a nimble, professional organisation providing high quality care to both men and women across four homes: Glengarry, Horton House, Glades Bay Gardens and Hunters Hill Village.