

## **Press Release**

**Date: Thursday, 25 March 2021**

**For immediate release**

### **Women's Community Shelters CEO Receives Impact 25 Award 2021**

Women's Community Shelters (WCS) congratulates Chief Executive Officer, Annabelle Daniel, OAM, who has been announced as a winner of Pro Bono Australia's Impact 25 Awards 2021.

Impact 25 recognises the most influential people in the Australian social sector and celebrates those individuals who work to generate positive social change and support communities of interest.

Annabelle Daniel, OAM, is the inaugural CEO of Women's Community Shelters, an Australian charity that works directly with local communities to set up crisis accommodation shelters for women and children experiencing homelessness and domestic and family violence.

The WCS model is unique to Australia's homelessness and DFV sectors because it is supported by diversified funding from corporate and private philanthropy and community fundraising. It receives minimum Government funding for its shelters and its head office is solely funded by philanthropy.

Annabelle has taken this innovative philanthropic model from an inspired idea to the successful establishment of seven women's shelters in under a decade, with two more due to open in 2021.

Her leadership, persistence, and unwavering commitment to the women and children she supports makes her a perfect recipient of an Impact 25 Award.

Kris Neill, Chair of WCS, expressed her delight at the announcement: "I could not think of a more deserving winner than Annabelle. She has spent her life advocating for vulnerable women and being a voice within the sector and across the media for those who cannot speak or advocate for themselves.

"Through Annabelle's leadership and commitment, WCS has grown into a recognised and trusted service for women and children escaping homelessness and domestic and family violence and is the only organisation to open new shelters since 2014.

"Annabelle is helping WCS create an Australia where women are safe, secure, supported and equal and we are extremely proud she has been recognised by her voting peers."

Annabelle has been a leader in the social sector for over 20 years, working in private enterprise, the Australian government and the community sector. Prior to joining WCS as Chief Executive Officer, she was a Senior Leader in the Department of Human Services, overseeing the Child Support programme.

For more information on Women's Community Shelters please visit: [womenscommunityshelters.org.au](http://womenscommunityshelters.org.au)  
To donate: [womenscommunityshelters.org.au/donate](http://womenscommunityshelters.org.au/donate)

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If you would like a photograph to illustrate the article, please contact Nathalie Peacock via:  
[partnerships@womenscommunityshelters.org.au](mailto:partnerships@womenscommunityshelters.org.au)

#### **Notes to Editors:**

- *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 has 7 shelters across NSW, based in Manly, Hornsby, Great Lakes, the Hills, Penrith, Botany and Paramatta.*
- *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.*

- *WCS's vision is to expand our network to at least 10 shelters across NSW by 2021, all linked together through technology.*
- *More than 50% of women who apply to crisis shelters are turned away as there is no room.*
- *Every night more than 56,000 women are homeless in Australia.*
- *Over 75% of homelessness is attributed to domestic violence.*
- *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](https://www.womenscommunityshelters.org.au/donate)*